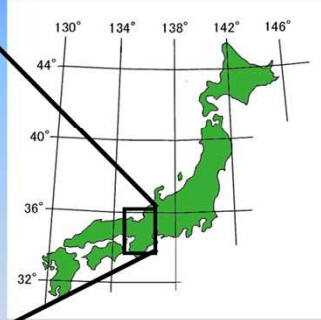


Celebrating Thirty Years of World Lake Conferences Since 1984, and Introducing Shiga's Initiatives for the Conservation of Lake Biwa



September 1, 2014
Perugia, Italy



Taizo Mikazuki
Governor
Shiga Prefecture, Japan

滋賀県、日本からやってまいりました滋賀県知事の三日月大造です。この歴史ある世界湖沼会議の開会式でご挨拶でき大変嬉しく思います。
世界各地の湖沼研究者や行政、市民団体等の関係者が一堂に会するこの湖沼会議は、1984年に我が県、滋賀県で始まったもので、今回が15回目を数えます。
滋賀県の琵琶湖畔で生まれ育ってきたこの国際会議が、世界各地を巡りながら30年に渡り開催され、世界の湖沼問題の解決に向けて貢献してきたことに、世界湖沼会議を提唱した滋賀県の知事として、この上ない喜びと誇りを感じるとともに、関係者の皆さんの絶え間ない努力に深く敬意と感謝を申し上げます。

Good morning, everyone. I am Taizo Mikazuki, governor of Shiga Prefecture. I traveled here all the way from Shiga, Japan. It is a pleasure and an honor to meet everyone and to make a speech at the opening ceremony of this historic World Lake Conference. This marks the fifteenth conference since it was first held in Shiga in 1984, inviting researchers, government officials, and citizens from all over the world together.

This international conference, born by the shore of Lake Biwa, has been held in various locations around the world for thirty years, and has contributed to resolving numerous issues faced by the world's lakes. As the governor of Shiga Prefecture, which advocated for the first World Lake Conference, I feel tremendous pride and joy in the continuing efforts of everyone who has been involved in this undertaking.

Humans and Lake Biwa: A Long History of Coexistence



Ruins found under the water



People used lake water in their daily lives in this manner until the 1950s

我が県滋賀県には、400万年もの歴史を持つ世界有数の古代湖の琵琶湖があり、湖底からは住居跡や壺なども見つかっています。またほんの60年ほど前までは、湖岸に棧橋を築き、飲料水や炊事、洗濯などをする光景も見られました。このように人々の生活と湖の関係が密接であったため、文化や宗教、歴史などが、琵琶湖と共に育まれました。

Within our prefecture, Shiga, lies Lake Biwa—one of the oldest lakes in the world, with four million years of history. Ruins of habitation sites, vases, and other signs of human settlements have been discovered at the bottom of the lake. As recently as sixty years ago, people constructed piers by the lake shore, using them for drawing drinking water, and for cooking and washing. With the lake so deeply connected to people's everyday lives, the culture, religion, and history of Shiga all developed together with Lake Biwa.

The 1st World Lake Conference in Shiga (1984)



これは1984年に第一回世界湖沼会議が滋賀県大津市で開かれた時のスライドです。世界湖沼会議は、湖沼環境問題を単独で正面から取り上げた国際会議としては初めてのものであり、また、研究者だけではなく、行政、住民といった3者が一堂に会して議論するといったコンセプトは当時としてはたいへん画期的なものでした。

開会式で基調講演をされた、国連環境計画(UNEP)事務局長のM.K.トルバ氏は、湖沼と人間のつながりを親子関係に例えて、「湖沼はまさに『思春期』であり、開発、経済成長とのはざままで心を痛めている」と言われました。そして環境を保ちつつ持続性のある開発の必要性を訴えるとともに、この湖沼会議の成果を継承発展していくため、「国際滋賀委員会」の設立を提案されました。

湖沼問題を考えるにおいて、トルバ氏の言葉は未だに色あせず、湖沼会議のコンセプトとともに、現代においてより重要性を増しています。当時の県知事やトルバ氏、湖沼関係者の将来を見通した確かな先見の明に敬服するとともに、地表の淡水の9割以上を占め、人々の生活と密接する湖沼が抱える問題の解決を図ることがいかに人類にとって重要であるかを再認識したところでもあります。

This slide is from the first World Lake Conference, held in the city of Otsu, Shiga in 1984.

It was the first international conference which focused entirely on lake environmental issues, and the concept of holding discussions not only among researchers, but also including government officials and citizens was groundbreaking and unique at that time.

In his opening ceremony speech, the Executive Director of UNEP,

Mr. M.K. Tolba compared lakes and people to a parent and child, saying that “Lakes are in adolescence, and feeling pains between exploitation and economic development”. With the hope of realizing the trans-generational succession of the conference, and to help the world develop a rational management plan for lakes and their catchment basins, he proposed the establishment of the “International Shiga Committee”.

When we consider the issues facing our lakes, Mr. Tolba’s words resonate strongly with us even today. I believe these words and the conference’s concept are both more important now than ever. I hold the highest admiration for the then-governor of Shiga Mr. Takemura, for Mr. Tolba, and for the considerable foresight of all involved, and have reaffirmed how important it is for mankind to solve the issues of our lakes, which occupy over ninety percent of surface freshwater on Earth, and are so deeply connected to our lives.

The Historic “Soap Movement”

Grass roots campaign to ban the use of synthetic detergent and encourage the use of powdered soap



Housewives led the movement!

Phosphorus-containing synthetic detergents were exchanged for powdered soap



“Lake Biwa Eutrophication Prevention Ordinance” (enacted in 1979)

Occurrence of freshwater red tide dramatically decreased the following year.

滋賀県には、住民が主体となり行政を動かし条例の制定までに至った、草の根自治の歴史があります。

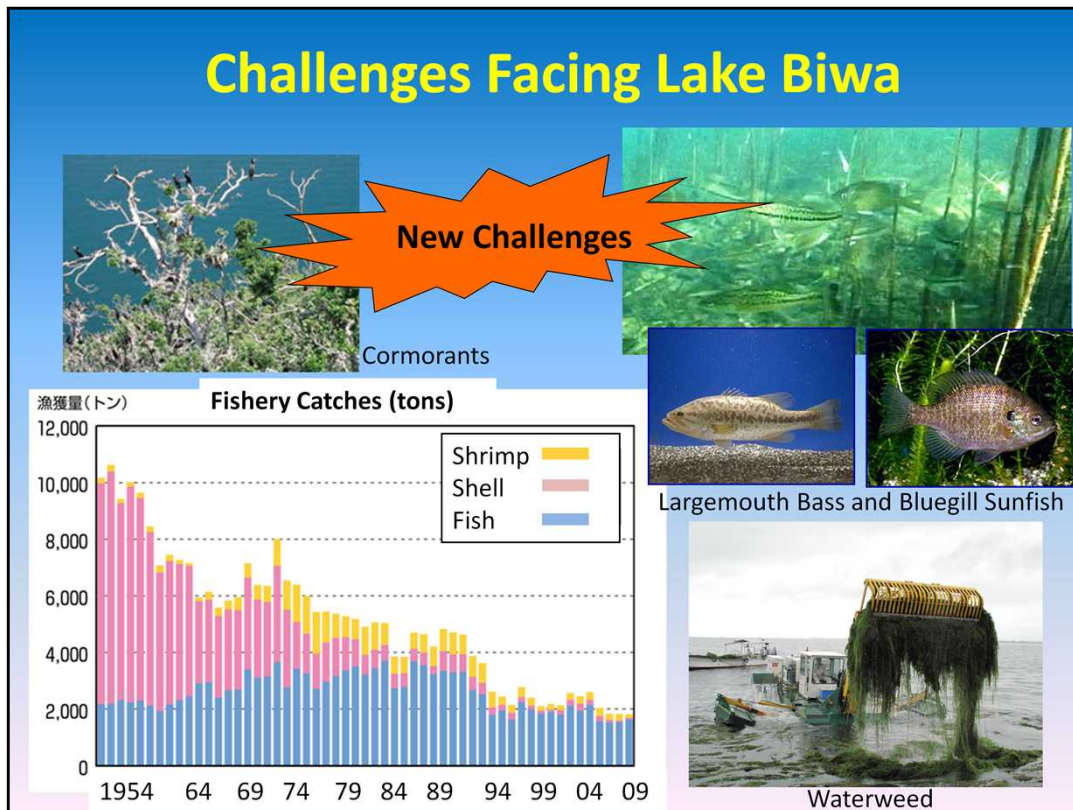
「せっけん運動」と呼ばれるこの運動は、琵琶湖で赤潮が1977年に初めて発生し、その原因がリンを含む合成洗剤にあることを知った主婦たちが、合成洗剤を使わず、粉石けんを使おうと呼びかけました。この運動は県下で一斉に広がり、行政も一緒になって運動を繰り広げました。車の中央に乗っているのは、当時の武村知事です。そしてそれから2年後の1979年に全国で初めてとなる富栄養化防止条例が制定され、翌年には赤潮が17回から4回へと劇的に減少しました。

世界湖沼会議のコンセプトである、研究者、行政、市民の3者がスクラムを組み、湖沼問題に取り組んだ象徴的な事例がこのせっけん運動ではないかと思えます。

In Shiga Prefecture, we have a history of a grass roots movement that influenced the government, leading to the enactment of an ordinance. Called “The Soap Movement”, it was led by housewives who found out that the freshwater red tide outbreak that occurred for the first time in 1977 was caused by phosphorus-containing synthetic detergents. The housewives campaigned throughout Shiga, appealing not to use synthetic detergents, but to use powdered soap instead. This movement grew larger and larger, with the Shiga government eventually joining the movement as well. See the photo at the top. The man in the middle of the car is then-governor Takemura. Two years later, in 1979, the Lake Biwa Eutrophication Prevention Ordinance was enacted—the first such ordinance in Japan—and the occurrence of the red tide dropped dramatically from 17 to 4 times the following year.

I believe that this historic “Soap Movement” is a symbol of what can be accomplished with the concept of the World Lake Conference, with researchers, government officials, and citizens teaming up to solve the issues facing our lakes.

Challenges Facing Lake Biwa



現在においては、琵琶湖の水質は改善し、富栄養化は抑制されていると言えますが、新たな課題もたくさん生じています。

ブラックバスやブルーギルといった外来魚の繁殖、カワウによる在来魚の食害やフンによる樹木の枯死、水草の大量繁茂による悪臭や航路障害、漁獲量が大きく減少するなど、様々な課題があります。これらの課題について、滋賀県は行政や研究者だけが対応するのではなく、市民の方たちと問題を共有し、NPOや関係団体などと一緒に考え行動することを心がけています。

Nowadays, the water quality of Lake Biwa has improved and stabilized. However, new problems can be observed.

These problems include: rampancy of foreign fish species such as largemouth bass and bluegill sunfish, cormorants eating fish and damaging the forests, excess waterweeds causing unpleasant smells and obstructing waterways, decreasing fishery catches, and more.

To address these new challenges, the Shiga government is working together not merely between government and researchers, but also sharing these problems with citizens, and working together with NPOs and related organizations,

Mother Lake 21 Plan

Lake Biwa Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Basic Theme

Coeexistence between Lake Biwa and humans

Two Pillars

- Conservation and revitalization of the Lake Biwa Basin's ecosystem
- Restoration of the connection between our lives and the lake

Ten-year plan

1st stage 2000~

2nd stage 2011~

Mother
Lake

そこで、県では2000年に琵琶湖総合保全整備計画であるマザーレイク21計画を策定し、50年後の琵琶湖のあるべき姿を念頭に置き、琵琶湖の恵みを子や孫の世代に大切につないでいこうとしています。また、2011年には第2期計画としてリバイスし、琵琶湖流域を一連のつながりとしてとらえ、水質保全、水源涵養、自然的環境・景観保全を一体的に取り組む「琵琶湖流域生態系の保全・再生」の柱に、「暮らしと湖の関わりの再生」の柱を加え、人と琵琶湖の関わりを再生することを目指して取り組んでいます。

And so, the Shiga government developed the Lake Biwa Comprehensive Conservation Plan, also known as the Mother Lake 21 Plan, in the year 2000. The plan envisions the ideal condition of Lake Biwa fifty years in the future, endeavoring to pass on its natural blessings to our children and grandchildren's generations. In 2011, we revised the plan as its second stage, and established two pillars: the first being the "conservation and revitalization of Lake Biwa basin's ecosystem" which aims for integrated ways of water quality conservation, water source cultivation, and the preservation of natural environment and scenery, and the second being the "restoration of the connection between our lives and the lake." We aim to restore the relationship between human beings and Lake Biwa.



マザーレイク21計画では、県民、事業者、NPOなど、多くの人たちと心をつなぎ、協力していく仕組みとして、マザーレイクフォーラムをつくりました。毎年、このように多くの人々が参加して、琵琶湖の保全のために何をすべきかなどを議論する「マザーレイクフォーラムびわコミ会議」を実施しています。この会議は、一人ひとりが琵琶湖のために何をするかという「コミットメント」を行い、自らが主体的に考え、取り組んでいくというところに、この会議の特徴があります。こうした会議の場などを通じて、人々との「つながり」を広げていくことが、湖沼の保全にとっての重要なカギとなると考えています。

As part of this plan, we created a system by which to bring citizens, businesses, and NPOs together, which we call the Mother Lake Forum. As seen in this picture, many people gather to discuss current issues facing Lake Biwa and what should be done to preserve the lake in a gathering called the “Biwa-Comi” meeting.

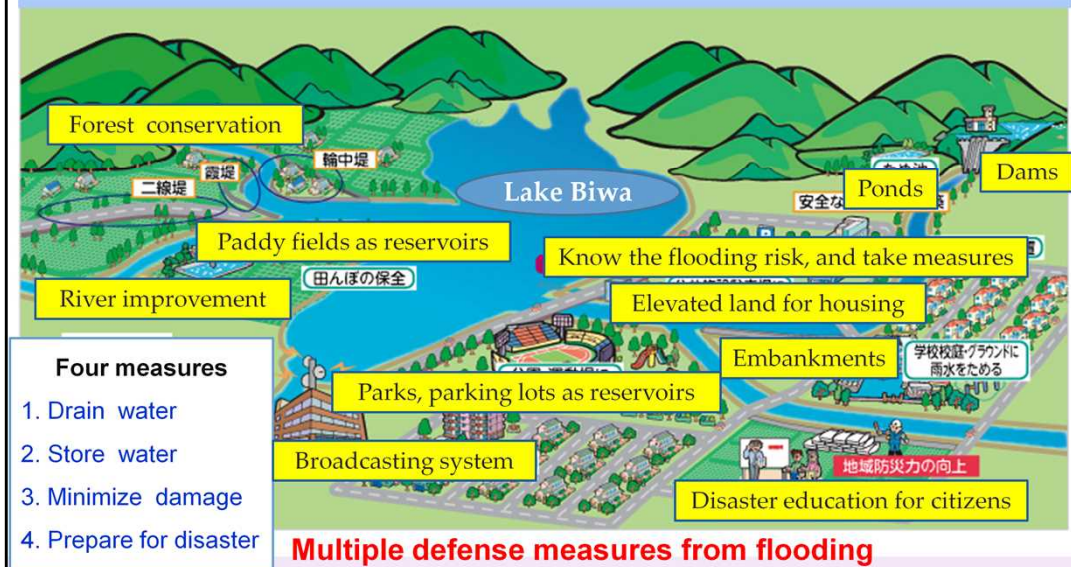
The name “Biwa-Comi” was chosen to represent Lake Biwa together with the ideas of “community,” “communication,” and “commitment”.

One of the unique characteristics of this meeting is the emphasis on what we as individuals can do for Lake Biwa through our “commitment.”

Meetings such as this emphasize the importance of bringing people together in order to conserve the lake.

River Basin Flood Management Ordinance (2014)

Measures to prevent or mitigate damage from flooding



さらに、この世界湖沼会議でも「統合的湖沼流域管理 (ILBM)」が大きなテーマとなっているように、湖沼流域管理は、環境、治水、利水の観点を、統合的に捉える必要があります。滋賀県では、治水の観点からの取組として、今年3月に「流域治水条例」を制定しました。これは、河川改修やダムといった「川の中の対策」(ながす)に加えて、「川の外の対策」である(ためる)、(とどめる)、(そなえる)を、総合的に進めていく治水対策です。このように、滋賀県は今、マザーレイク21計画や流域治水条例により、琵琶湖とその流域を舞台に「人と自然が共生する社会」の実現に向けて取り組んでいるところです。

As one of the main themes of this year's World Lake Conference is ILBM, environment, flood control, and water use must be taken into consideration to realize truly integrated lake basin management .

In Shiga prefecture, we enacted the “River Basin Flood Management Ordinance” in March of this year for flood management. This ordinance contains measures not only to work within rivers to drain water through river improvement and dams, but also measures to work outside rivers to store water, minimize damage, and prepare for disaster as part of a comprehensive flood management system.

In this way, through the Mother Lake 21 Plan and River Basin Flood Management Ordinance, Shiga prefecture is working to realize a society in which humans and nature can live together in harmony.

A Call to the Future: World Lake Conservation



第1回の世界湖沼会議において、この会議の開催を提唱した武村知事は、「水は人の心を映し出す鏡である」と言われました。

琵琶湖には、周りに住む人々の暮らしや、産業活動の全てが反映されます。琵琶湖を健全で恵み豊かな湖として、次の世代に引き継いでいけるかどうかは、今を生きる私たちの「心」にかかっているといっても過言ではありません。

私は今年の7月に滋賀県知事となり、こうした思いのもとに、県民の皆さんに「一緒に琵琶湖を守っていきましょう！」と呼びかけています。

そして、このことは琵琶湖だけでなく、世界の全ての湖に共通です。

私は30周年を迎えるこの第15回世界湖沼会議の開会にあたり、改めて世界中の皆さんに、「一緒に湖沼を守っていきましょう！」と呼びかけたいと思います。

滋賀県は、第1回から第15回までの全ての湖沼会議に参加しています。今回も私だけでなく、滋賀県議会から赤堀議長をはじめ、行政職員や研究者、NPOや企業の方など、多くの方が参加しています。湖沼会議を提唱した滋賀県の責任として、このようにチームとして、はるばるイタリア・ペルージャの地まで来させていただきました。滋賀県の関係者は是非その場に起立してください。(拍手)

私からの挨拶はこれで終わります。

At the first World Lake Conference, then-governor Takemura, who advocated the conference, said “water is the mirror of the human heart.”

People’s way of life and industrial activities in the basin are all reflected in the water of Lake Biwa. It is no understatement to say that whether or not we can pass on a healthy and bountiful Lake Biwa to future generations is dependent on the hearts of those of us who live now.

I became governor of Shiga this July, and it is with this belief that I say to my fellow citizens, “Let us conserve our lake together!”

I believe this is true of all lakes around the world. And so, at this opening

ceremony, which marks the thirtieth anniversary of the World Lake Conference, I would like to say to the citizens of the world, “Let us conserve our lakes together!”

Shiga prefecture has participated in each World Lake Conference from the first to this, the fifteenth time. This time, in addition to myself, the Chairperson of the Shiga Prefectural Assembly, Mr. Akahori, as well as my government staff, researchers, and representatives of NPOs and businesses have all come from Shiga Prefecture as a team. I would like to ask everyone from Shiga to please stand for a moment’s recognition. This concludes my address. Thank you very much.