第14巻2号「巻頭言」へのコメント

We respond to the recent article on ILEC by Dr Kawanabe in this journal. We do so as the Chairman (SEJ) and Vice-Chairman (WDW) of the Scientific Committee of ILEC.

Our immediate response to the article was of surprise and disappointment. Our surprise is that a Japanese scientist as eminent as Dr Kawanabe should evaluate an important Japanese initiative so negatively despite its success. Our disappointment is that Dr Kawanabe appears unwilling to acknowledge the significant contributions made by ILEC to the field of lake and reservoir management and conservation.

In responding to most of the points made by Dr Kawanabe, we have considerable difficulty because of their anecdotal nature. How can we respond seriously to criticisms of the World Lake Conferences from someone who acknowledges that he has never participated in them! Some points, however, are less difficult to respond to. We consider all of his points *seriatim* below.

1. Data book It is certainly true that the data in the Data book series published by ILEC are now old. This, however, could scarcely be otherwise given that the books were first published over a decade ago. It is also true that the data in G.E. Hutchinson's four-volume *Treatise on Limnology* (published 1957–1993) are old! Considerable updating of the Data book series is beyond the financial capacity of ILEC, but in response to the need to follow changing patterns in lake status, ILEC has recently initiated Lake Watch 25, a project which will continuously monitor the current status of some of the world's most important lakes.

2. World Lake Conferences At all World Lake Conferences held so far, determined efforts have

been made to include a wide a selection of stakeholders (bureaucrats, citizens, scientists) as possible. Of course, the balance between groups has changed from conference to conference, but since the detailed organization of each conference is left to the host country this is to be expected. In any event, the conferences have always set out to be a place and time when all groups concerned with lake and reservoir management and conservation can interact. In our view, they have succeeded in this aim.

3. Environmental Education and Training Courses The success of ILEC courses held in developing countries, as indicated by Dr Kawanabe, is noted. Anecdotal comments from engineers that until five years ago technologies introduced into the courses did not meet needs are noted.

4. Guideline Books The comment that the Guideline books are limited to considering water quality and quantity, with no discussion of biological and social scientific viewpoints is not acceptable. It is quite untrue that the Guideline books have ignored biological and social issues. We note, for example, that the second volume of the Guideline series was devoted to social issues. Large parts of the sixth volume dealt with biological aspects of salt lakes. And a recent volume (published 1998) focussed on environmental education.

5. Criticism of ILEC by SIL We wish to respond to one further point raised by Dr Kawanabe. This is his point that ILEC has been criticised by the International Association of Limnology (SIL). One of us (WDW) has been a member of the Executive Board of SIL for the past six years (1994–2000). At no time have any criticisms of ILEC been raised by the Board of SIL.

We should like to use this opportunity to draw

attention to some of ILEC's successful activities. Before doing so, we acknowledge that ILEC's activities have not stopped the degradation and mismanagement of all lakes, but we do know that they have at least helped to alert the wider community to many issues concerning lakes and reservoirs, have proved useful to many water resources managers and others involved in lake and reservoir management and conservation, and have highlighted many gaps in our knowledge. Amongst ILEC's activities we mention:

- ILEC's survey of the world's lakes;
- the organization of a World Lake Conference every two years (the last one in Japan attracted some 8000 participants!). ILEC has funded the attendance at these conferences of a large number of participants from developing countries;
- the publication of a Newsletter and an international journal (*Lakes and Reservoirs: Research and Management*). The journal is covered by several citation awareness services, is published by Blackwell Science, a highly respected international publisher of scientific journals, is in its sixth year of publication, and monthly 'hits' on its home page vary from 500 to 4,000;
- the organization and running of many training sessions and workshops in several countries;
- the publication of a series of Guideline books on

lake and reservoir management and conservation which address a range of issues including biological, ecological, economic and sociological issues;

- cooperation with the United Nations Environmental Programme on many projects;
- participation in numerous international conferences to underscore the continuing importance of lake and reservoir issues in both developed and developing countries; and
- the development, with another organization, of a second generation of lake model software (Palo-mare).

Many other activities are presently being considered or under active development. Further information on any of these or other activities of ILEC can be obtained directly by contacting ILEC. A good place to start is <http://www.ilec.or.jp>

We hope that these remarks will serve to indicate that whilst ILEC is an international organization, it is a Japanese initiative of which Japanese scientists and all citizens can be proud. Its good reputation has been gained by much hard work and should not be lightly brought into disrepute.

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