

Public Awareness Approach of JWA Lake Biwa Development

Integrated Operation and Maintenance Office

To implement water resources management efficiently and effectively, it is necessary to not only improve organizational and technical capacities in the RBO, but also to get the opinions from the people in the basin areas by making them understand our works and water resources management. Thus, the system of cooperation and the reliance with the people in the basin areas are established in efforts to exchange with them. The efforts involve opening the contents of the project through Web sites, showing them into exhibition room in office and holding various water related events led by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Local Government and River Basin Organizations such as Japan water agency.

As an example of public awareness, some approaches are introduced in Lake Biwa Development Integrated Operation & Maintenance Project.

Outline of Lake Biwa and the water resources management

Lake Biwa is located in Kansai region Japan(Fig 1), the lake area is approximately 3,848 · , and it is the biggest lake in Japan. Total shoreline length is approximately 235km. Nearly 460 rivers ranging from large river to small river flowing into Lake Biwa. While, water from Lake Biwa flows into only one river named "the Seta River". The Seta River Weir and bypass aqueduct, which regulate downstream water flow rate, is located in upstream of the Seta River (Fig.2).



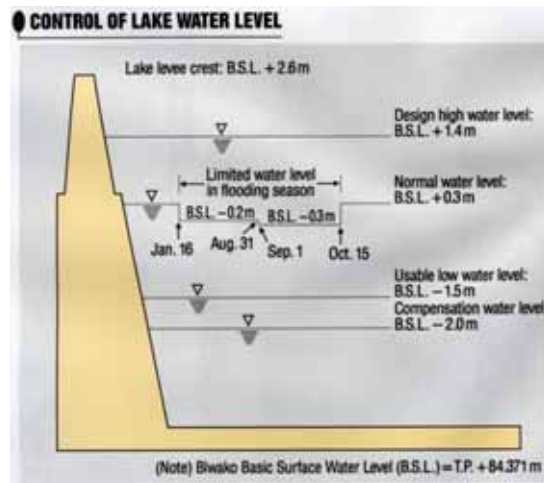
(Fig.1)



(Fig.2)

Along with the operation of the Seta River Weir, flooding in Lake Biwa area will be ameliorated by

preventive measures during the monsoon and typhoon seasons when there is a high risk of flooding, to keep the lake's water level at B.S.L.-0.2 meters from June 16 to August 31, and at B.S.L. -0.30 meters from September 1 to October 15. During this season except for flooding season(from January 1 to June 15 and from October 16 to November 31), the water level is kept at +0.3 meters(Fig.3). However when flood and draught occur, the operation is carried out so as not to affect downstream area of Seta river, then Uji river and Yodo river according to the water level.



(Fig.3)

Around Lake Biwa, the lake levees and the internal drainage facilities(pumping station) are set up in the area where inundation is expected in times of flood. Total length of the lake levees is 50.4km and the number of the internal drainage facilities is 14 units.

Japan Water Agency Lake Biwa Development Integrated Operation & Maintenance Office, which is in charge of maintaining and operating the lake levees and the drainage facilities and so on, has actively promoted activities to exchange among the people in the basin areas. Since Water Resources Development Public Corporation (WRDPC) was transformed into Japan Water Agency (JWA), Incorporated Administrative Agency in October 2003, JWA decided to provide stable supply of safe, quality water at a reasonable price and to exchange with the people in basin areas as **new** policy. These examples of the exchange from April to November in 2004 are introduced as follows:

1. "Lake Biwas' Day" clean environmental activity (July 01, 2004).

About 8,600 fishermen and the people in the basin areas participated in a campaign for cleaning shoreline around Lake Biwa. The participants collected empty cans and rubbish which amounted to approximately 700 tons. JWA staff also participated in the event together (Fig4,5).



(Fig.4)



(Fig.5)

2. Workshop on the function of internal drainage facility in Shinasahi town (July 15, 2004).

JWA held a workshop on the function of Harie internal drainage facility for pumping out water pooled inland and explained about it to the elementary school students who lives in Shinasahi town. Shinasahi town staff and the members of land improvement district (it's like irrigation association) also participated. (Fig.6,7)



(Fig.6)



(Fig.7)

3. " Rules in Lake Biwa and Manner-up Campaign" (July 07.2004)

This campaign is public relations launched by local government of Shiga Prefecture to appeal to prohibit from releasing alien fishes, to obey sailing rules of leisure boat and to take litter home based on the regulation of the prefecture so-called "The regulation on proper leisure utilization in Lake Biwa". JWA staff participated in the campaign, appealed for the new regulation to be followed by the sailing people and fisherman on the office-owned patrol boat, and gave out leaflets on appealing to vacationer in beach. (Fig.8,9)



(Fig.8)



(Fig.9)

4. "11th family studying class through experience in Lake Biwa "(August 02,2004)

The purpose of the event is to study the nature of Lake Biwa, and to recognize importance for environment. Participants enjoyed the nature of Lake Biwa, going on a cruise named "BIANCA". The event included water quality survey, observing plankton and quiz on Lake Biwa held co-sponsored by JWA , Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport ,and so on.(Fig.10,11)



(Fig.10)



(Fig.11)

5. "Lake Biwa OHTSU summer festival" (August 08,2004)

"Lake Biwa OHTSU summer festival" is held on August 1,2004 in OHTSU city, Shiga Prefecture. JWA set up the booth for exhibiting panel of JWA working activities, and explained about these activities to people who visited there. One visitor among them heard explanation enthusiastically because it is part of assigned school's summer homework (Fig.12,13)



(Fig.12)



(Fig.13)

6. " OHMI the green nature session" in Nisiazai town(October 17,2004)

"OHMI the green nature session", which is aimed for the promotion of green nature around the Lake Biwa every year, was held in Nisiazai town. This session was good opportunity to learn the importance of nature planting four hundred saplings and observing the nature in spring forest. JWA set up booths for exhibiting panel, and appealed for water importance. (Fig.14,15)



(Fig.14)



(Fig.15)

7.The event of keeping pinewoods in the Ayame beach (November 26,2004)

The event of keeping pinewoods was held to make Ayame beach pinewoods beautiful scenery in Yasu city, Shiga prefecture. A total of 70 participants including resident's association members, fishermen, private enterprise staff, Yasu city and JWA, cut trees and made wood chips of the cleared logs to prevent pinewoods from growing densely. And then the esplanade was built of the wood chips, finally participants picked up litter around the beach.(Fig.16,17)



(Fig.16)



(Fig.17)