Development of Lake Biwa - Yodo River Basin Area Renaissance Project

The Conference of Promotion for Lake Biwa – Yodo River Basin Area Renaissance
1. Background and designing of the project
1.1 Historical background of Lake Biwa - Yodo River Basin

- Heian-kyo (AD794-1868)
- Nagaoka-kyo (AD784-794)
- Otsu-miya (AD667-672)
- Naniwa-miya (AD744-745)

Main rivers
Lake Biwa
Lake Biwa – Yodo River Basin
Lake Biwa – Yodo River Basin Area
1.2 Problems in Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin

A) Natural environment
• There is need to rehabilitate degraded/degrading natural ecosystem damaged by excess land exploitation

B) Urban environment
• There is need to reconstruct a relation between water and town (people) which is currently fading.

C) Traditional culture
• There is need to hand over water culture that has been fostered till present time.

D) Collaboration in the basin
• There is need that related regions, citizens, NPO, enterprises, official organizations in Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin Area shall work together towards the above problems.
1.3 3rd World Water Forum

- The 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Shiga, Osaka Prefecture was held at March 2003.
- An importance of integrated approach in the basin towards water environmental conservation and necessity of further collaboration in the basin were recognized.
1.4 Time table of the plan

- **May 2001** Office of Urban Renaissance Headquarters was established in the cabinet
- **June 2002** Headquarter was positioned by the special measure law for Urban Renaissance
- **Nov. 2003** 6th Urban Renaissance Plan “Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin Area Renaissance” was decided
- **April 2004** Conference of Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin Area Renaissance was established

**Ministries (Land, Infrastructure and Transport; Justice, Cultural Affairs; Health, Labour and Welfare; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Forestry Agency; Fisheries Agency; Economy, Trade and Industry; Environment; Cabinet Office Urban Renaissance Headquarters Secretariat [an observer],**

**Prefectures (Mie; Shiga; Kyoto; Osaka; Hyogo; Nara; Cities (Kyoto; Osaka; Otsu)**

- **March 2005** “Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin Area Renaissance Plan” was settled on
2. Make-up of the plan and organization

2.1 Principle ideas of the plan

◆ Basic policies

- Utilization of history and culture
- Succession of water culture
- Promoting cooperation
- Reconstructing water circulation
- Recovery of ecosystem and water environment
- Conservation of original landscape
- Town design utilizing water
- Secure safety water
- Construction of protective region against natural disaster
- Creation of vital and attractive water basin area

◆ Plan period

The plan aims at embodying in about 5 - 10 years from now on, while holding prospect in longer term (20 - 30 years)
2.2 Organization for project promotion and coordination in the water basin

Conference of Promotion for Lake Biwa - Yodo River Basin Area Renaissance (administration)

Ministry’s Bureaus (Kinki Regional Development Bureau; Kinki District Transport Bureau; Kinki Regional Agricultural Administration Office; Kinki & Chugoku Regional Forest Office; Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade & Industry; Min. of Environment),
Prefectures (Mie; Shiga; Kyoto; Osaka; Hyogo; Nara; Cities (Kyoto; Osaka; Otsu), An observer (Cabinet Office Urban Renaissance Headquarters Secretariat)

Working group

1. Water front promenade network
2. Water front ecosystem conservation/rehabilitation network
3. Activation of water front
4. Restoration of water basin environment
5. Examination on integrated water basin management
2.3 Collaboration in the Basin

• To promote widely collaboration and communication between entities including NPO, we will open up regular meeting, and Lake Biwa -Yodo River Basin Collaboration Group for exchange of information among NPOs and for deepening the communication, will be established.
• As a neutral position between administration and NPO, “Organization of Promotion Lake Biwa -Yodo River Basin Area Renaissance” will be established for linking two entities.
3. Contents of restoration plan and current condition

3.1 Waterfront promenade network

- In order to reinstate sound relationships between people and waterfronts in the basin area, we reestablish space for people’s movement in water fronts where provide chances for people to use and to be familiar with water fronts.

- Establishment of water front networks through river transportation, bicycling and walking along the river and around the Lake Biwa
- Development of ‘river stations’ and ‘lake stations’
- Making a guidebook for water fronts
- Approach as social experiments
3.2 Revitalization of waterfront ecosystem and network

- Making spaces with a high biodiversity (Conservation and restoration of side-cavity ‘wando’ open channels)
- Establishment of network which facilitate living creatures meet each other (Ensuring continuity between river and paddy field)
- Protection of indigenous species living in Lake Biwa - Yodo River Basin area
3.3 Activation of water front

- To reestablish sound relationships between people and waterfronts in the water basin, we promote city development based on water around the water promenade area.

- Introducing streams in urban areas
- Restoration/creation of spaces around waterfronts which are familiar with people

Introducing streams

Current condition

Image of creation
3.4 Restoration of water basin environment

- Water is fundamental for Lake Biwa and the Yodo River area. Water is, as it were ‘water for life’ which is essential for the ecosystem and for the people.

1. In order to manage water properly, the plan for improvement of water environment will be developed.

2. Action plans for restoration of ‘water for life’
   1) Conservation of water holding capacity
   2) Improving water quality
   3) Maintaining steady water levels
3.5 Integrated water basin management

• To every participant conserve “water for life” as common property,
  – integrated management of water environment under one’s recognition and mutual understanding is necessary,
  – while maintaining efficiency, equality and sustainability of the water basin is also necessary.
• Then, providing the working group in which administrative organizations perform discussion and cooperation each other for constructing proper water basin environment.
• In this working group, the plan to make an agreement and to control each profit toward integrated water environment management is discussing and coordinating.