Map of Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin

Outline of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin
Water Quality Preservation Organization

Uniting Efforts for the Future of Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin

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### Imparting Abundant Blessings from Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin to Future Generations

Lake Biwa and the Yodo River, both gifted with beautiful nature and the bounty of water, have brought us healing and enriched our lives through the ages, and together they continue to give us immeasurable benefits as a fountain of life, as well as the source of business activities. However, due to rapid social development and alteration of lifestyles, the quality of water has deteriorated, causing many different problems in providing drinking water and in the natural environment. What we can do now is improve the hydrological environment of Lake Biwa and the Yodo River, to ensure the health of this valuable asset and leave it to future generations.

As the only organization in the basin tackling the water quality preservation issues of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River system by joining hands with local residents and governments, the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Water Quality Preservation Organization plays a central role in fostering a vibrant society in the basin.

### About the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Water Quality Preservation Organization (BYQ)

#### Purpose of Establishment

The Lake Biwa-Yodo River Water Quality Preservation Organization is a nonprofit foundation formed in 1993 under the authority of the Ministry of Construction for the purpose of allowing the local governments of the areas that make use of the water from Lake Biwa and the Yodo River to work together to take consistent measures to maintain water quality. Supported by funds from 124 private companies and the governments of six prefectures and three ordinance-designated cities around the lake and river, and by supporting membership fees, the organization carries out numerous activities to ensure that the waters are kept clean.

#### Purpose

The organization’s goal is to support water purifying activities and research and development as water purification technology for the waters of the streams, lakes, and marshes. By doing this, it can help maintain the quality of the waters and thus contribute to a better society for the region and a higher quality of life for its residents.

#### Research and Development in Water Purification Technology

- **Research concerning Conservation of Hydrological Environment**
  - The BYQ's Science Committee takes the initiative in investigating and reviewing timely subjects related to the hydrological environment of Lake Biwa and the Yodo River, and the results are published to allow universal access to all.
  - **Major Research Products So Far**
    - Environmental impact assessment of 1994 drought on Lake Biwa-Yodo River
    - Lake Biwa comprehensive conservation planning study
    - Survey on measures to reduce plane source load of Lake Biwa-Yodo River
    - Survey on measures against eutrophication of Lake Biwa-Yodo River
    - History of water quality improvement of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River system in the 20th Century – Formulating new strategies for water preservation in the 21st Century
    - Current status and measures against trace toxic substances and pathogenic microorganisms in Lake Biwa-Yodo River

- **International Information/Technology Exchange**
  - The BYQ is placing emphasis on interchange in the fields of water quality preservation research, and technology used in foreign countries. Four investigative missions have been sent to Europe, America and Canada so far, to study the aquatic improvement measures and water purification technologies used in foreign countries. After these investigative missions, realizing the importance of continuous exchanges, the BYQ signed agreements concerning research and technical interchange on water quality preservation with the following organizations. The BYQ and these organizations have also been jointly holding international symposiums.
    - International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine
    - Balaton Association in Hungary
    - Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission

#### Lectures and Symposia on Aquatic Conservation

The BYQ gives lectures and holds symposiums on aquatic conservation covering such topics as water purification technologies used in the Yodo River system.

#### Main Operations Activities

- **Research and Development in Water Quality Preservation**
- **Promotion of BYQ Network**
  - "To Connect" "To Support" "To Inform"
- **Lectures and Symposia on Aquatic Conservation**
- **International Information/Technology Exchange**
Development of BYQ Network
Enhancement of Partnership between Diversified Entities

To improve the water environment of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River system, it is necessary for the local residents, NPOs, and other organizations to act together. To assist smooth information exchanges between people, such as local residents, groups of local residents, schools, research organizations, and firms, who are involved in aquatic conservation of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River basin, in 2004 the BYQ set up the "BYQ Network" to link people by providing them with useful information, with the intention of supporting people’s voluntary activities, enlivening their exchanges, and fostering partnership among them.

In the framework of the BYQ Network, the BYQ has been promoting and giving financial support to the following activities. To "connect," the "BYQ Stamp Rally" triggers participation by residents in aquatic conservation activities; to "inform," informative magazines and a website provide information regarding the water environment in the basin; and to "support," the "Exciting WAGU!" Expedition offers local residents opportunities to conduct water quality surveys in their neighborhood rivers and streams, the "Junior River School" gives children hands-on learning experiences, and the "Clean-up Campaign by 10,000" boosts the beautifying of lakes and rivers by the residents.

In addition, aiming at closer exchanges and cooperation by people involved in local aquatic conservation, the BYQ has been sponsoring "BYQ Networking Events" since 2004. A considerable number of people take part in them, for activity reports and exchanges of information and ideas.

BYQ Networking in 2006

Map showing Sponsors (as of February 28, 2006)

Providing Information on the Water Environment

The Lake Biwa-Yodo River Water Quality Preservation Organization (BYQ)’s website makes data and information on the basin’s water environment and the activities of the BYQ Stamp Rally sponsors available 24 hours a day. In addition, the BYQ has periodicals such as the "BYQ Water Environment Report," a compilation of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River basin’s water quality data, and "BY BLUE," which discusses the water environment in everyday language.
Financial Assistance and Projects Supporting Water Environment Improvement Activities

Financial Assistance for Water Environment Improvement Projects in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River System

The Lake Biwa-Yodo River Water Quality Preservation Organization (BYQ) gives financial assistance for various projects which are deemed to contribute to enhancement of the effect and to higher efficiency of the projects, when coupled with the national and local government-sponsored water environment improvement projects in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River system. With the aim of promoting water environment improvement in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River system, the BYQ also gives grants to water purification projects and research carried out by public-interest corporations, universities and research organizations in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River basin.

Financial Assistance for Lake Biwa-Yodo River Waterfront Protection

With the aim of promoting improvement in the water environment of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River system, the BYQ financially supports "river purification and protection activities" as well as "activities to enhance understanding of the water environment" carried out by local residents and residents' groups in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River basin.

Exciting WAQII Expedition

In hopes of increasing people's interest in their local rivers, the "Exciting WAQII Expedition," since its formation in 2004, has been offering local residents opportunities to turn their eyes to their local rivers and spend time thinking about the water environment.

Using a pack-test kit which enables them to easily measure the level of contamination, all members of the Expedition test the water quality of their nearby rivers together on the same day.

There are 5 items in the water quality test: COD, ammonia nitrogen, nitrite-nitrogen, nitrate-nitrogen, and phosphoric acid.

The tests are conducted 4 times a year: spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

A water quality map and other related documents are prepared using the results of the survey conducted by the members of Expedition.

Nature Watching Event at the Biyo Center

Nature Watching Event

The Joint Experiment Center for Water Purification on Lake Biwa-Yodo River (Biyo Center) has a "biotope" developed by mixing water channels simulating various aspects of nature, and a Lake-Biwa-type pond, both built by connecting to Lake Biwa and the Hayama River. At the Biyo Center, which is conveniently situated on the Lake Biwa waterfront, numerous kinds of fauna and flora can be seen, with the changes of the four seasons. As an extension of this, the Biyo Center holds an annual Nature Watching event, designed around the on-site observation of its fauna and flora. A considerable number of people, young and old alike, have participated in the event so far, to learn about Lake Biwa and the water environment in general, and to exchange ideas and opinions.

"Junior River School"

In an attempt to familiarize children with Lake Biwa and the Yodo River, and further to encourage them to think about the importance of lakes and rivers, the "Junior River School" provides pupils (4th to 6th graders in elementary school), potential future-generation leaders, a hands-on, outdoor learning environment experience.

Organization of Lake Biwa-Yodo River Water Quality Preservation Organization

Organization Fund

3 billion yen, including 2 billion yen from the following governmental prefectures: Hyogo, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo and Nara, as well as the cities of Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe, and the remaining one billion yen from the private sector (124 companies).

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Chairman: Masaki Nishigaki Research Planning Officer, Lake Biwa Environment Research Institute

Description of Operations

The Lake Biwa-Yodo River Water Quality Preservation Organization (BYQ) carries out the following operations to attain the organization's objectives:

(1) Research and development concerning water purification technology and related technologies in the Yodo River system
(2) Support of water purification projects in the Yodo River system
(3) Collection, treatment, processing and provision of information on water quality in the Yodo River system
(4) Support of river purification and protection activities by local residents and residents' groups in the Yodo River system
(5) Public enlightenment on water purification in the Yodo River system
(6) Collection and provision of information on water purification technologies in the Yodo River system
(7) Commissioning of activities in regard to projects listed in (1) to (5)
(8) Other operations necessary to attain the objectives of the organization

Water Quality Map (COD) surveyed in August 2005
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