

## Preface

There are a numerous number of lakes in the world. As a critical water resource for the local people, the quantity and quality of the water of each lake can either provide great benefits to them or threaten their lives. At the same time, the people themselves affect the quality of the water. The development and conservation upstream also have impacts on the water. Therefore the conservation and sustainable use of the water require comprehensive measures to cope with various factors. Japan's cooperation with developing countries for such measures is important in achieving the objective of sustainable development as provided for in the Basic Law on the Environment as well as the Official Development Assistance Charter.

However, a critical problems which we often encounter when we consider such cooperation is unavailability of basic information about the state of the lakes and their conservation in the subject country. In view of this, the Environment Agency of the Japanese Government requested ILEC to prepare on their behalf reports on the state of the lakes and their conservation in specific developing countries. This is one of such reports.

This study on Argentina was conducted through (a) interviews with government officials and researchers, (b) a small workshop convened on 24 and 25 October 1997 in San Martin de los Andes, and (c) measurements of the water quality at Lake Setubal, San Roque Reservoir and Lake Lacar respectively representing a contaminated lake in a warm and wet climate, a contaminated lake in a semi-arid climate, and a scarcely contaminated glacier lake in a scenic tourism area. Because the participants in the workshop submitted excellent papers, we decided to use their papers as they are to form many of the chapters of this report. The rest were prepared by the ILEC secretariat.

The ILEC is very grateful to the officials and researchers who met with the ILEC missions and provided them invaluable information and advice, the participants in the workshop who introduced and discussed specific issues, and the officials and researchers of the National Institute of Water and the Environment, its Water Research Center of Semi-Arid Region, Litoral University and the Government of the Municipality of San Martin de los Andes who provided substantial assistance to the ILEC missions to facilitate their visits to the lakes by arranging meetings, boats and many others. The ILEC is grateful also to Ing. Alberto Calcagno who provided substantive and logistical support to it.

I sincerely hope that this report will not only contribute to Japanese authorities' action but also encourage Argentine people to further effectively conserve and sustainably use the lakes.

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