

Biannual report from the Publicity Council, July 2010

The Publicity Council has consisted of Hege Hisdal (Head Publicity Councilor), Dan Rosbjerg (the head editor of Hydrology Research) and Karin Nyström (the web-editor of www.nhf-hydrology.org)

The Publicity Council has suggested a set of action points Publicity Council

- Keep the web-pages updated
- Keep the flyer updated, make it downloadable from the web-page and distribute
- Announce NHC through the web-page of the Association and through e-mail (requires updated e-mail address list of all members)
- Produce a biennial report about the activities of the Publicity Council for the General Assembly

Apart from the e-mail list of the members that need to be updated, all action points are carried out. New web-pages have been created and have been updated. The NHF-flyer, downloadable from the web-page, has been updated several times and the latest update was made in February 2010. NHC and the GA have been announced through the NHF web-page.

Suggested change of the statutes

The Publicity Council has suggested a revision of § 8 in the Statutes of the Association to be approved, according to § 12 of the Statutes, by the GA in 2010 and in 2012.

The old statutes:

§ 8 -Publicity Council

The Publicity Council consists of one Head Publicity Councilor, the head editors of the Association's publications and other Council members. The Publicity Council shall actively promote the dissemination of the Association's publications and other information activity

The General Assembly elects the Head Publicity Councilor for a period of 4 years at the time and the Board of the Association appoints the other members of the Publicity Council. The Publicity Council shall be composed in a manner that makes reasonable consideration of the nationalities of Association members.

Suggested new statutes:

§ 8 - Publicity Committee

The Publicity Committee consists of a chair who should be a board member, the NHF editor of the Association's journal and the web-editor. The Publicity Committee shall actively promote the dissemination of the Association's journal and other information.



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Relevant dissemination channels are the Association web-site, flyers and e-mail. The biennial report of the Publicity Committee includes information about the Association's journal and the web-site.

The General Assembly elects the chair of the Publicity Committee for a period of 4 years. The Publicity Committee shall be composed in a manner that gives reasonable consideration of the nationalities of Association members.

The web page, www.nhf-hydrology.org

At the NHF board meeting in Reykjavik 13 August 2008, Karin Nyström (SMHI) was appointed as the technical editor of the NHF web-page. It was also decided that Karin Nyström, Troels Kærgaard Bjerre (Danish board member), Per Grønvald (Danish deputy board member) and Riitta Kamula (Finnish board member and chair of the board) would constitute a project group for a renewal of the web-pages. Later David Gustafsson (Swedish board member) has joined the group.

Troels Kærgaard Bjerre has written a note about the design and content of the new web-page. This was used as the basis for discussions about the new web page at meetings in the working group in May 2009 and August 2009. The new web-page can be found at: www.nhf-hydrology.org.

The journal, Hydrology Research

Hydrology Research has both in 2008 and 2009 published 6 issues (each year including a double issue), and this is also foreseen for 2010. This year we have in early summer published a double issue with upgraded papers originating from the last Nordic Water conference in Iceland, a rewarding contribution from hydrology in the Nordic and Baltic countries to the international hydrological community.

The number of ordinarily received papers is not sufficient, but due to intensified efforts to attract special issues we have been able to expand to the level of six. Altogether we receive about 125 papers per year. The rejection rate has been increasing due to many less qualified contributions, a great part of those coming from developing countries. Before electronic submission was instituted, the rejection rate was below 40%, now it is above 60%. There is clearly a need for increasing the share of papers with western origin, including papers from Nordic/Baltic countries and from the UK.

The cooperation with IWA Publishing runs smoothly and the joint editorship with BHS (British Hydrological Society) is also functioning well. The journal is in good shape, but still depending on particular efforts to attract a sufficient number of qualified papers. Hopefully this year's Nordic Water conference can again lead to a special issue even if the conference is now based on extended abstracts instead of short conference papers.