



June 2012

Biennial report from the Publicity Committee, June 2012

The Publicity Committee has consisted of Hege Hisdal (Chair of the Publicity Committee), Dan Rosbjerg (the head editor of Hydrology Research until January 2012), Chong-Yu Xu (the head editor of Hydrology Research from January 2012) and Karin Nyström (the web-editor of www.nhf-hydrology.org)

The action points of the Publicity Committee for the period August 2010 – August 2012 are:

- 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

The web-pages are updated regularly, including uploading revised versions of the flyer. The last update of the flyer was made in November 2010. The e-mail addresses of members from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania and Latvia have been collected. Addresses to members in Sweden, Iceland and Estonia are still missing. The NHC 2012 and the GA has been announced on the web-page and through available e-mail addresses.

Suggested change of the statutes

The Publicity Committee 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 suggested changes were approved at the GA in 2010.

The old statutes:

§ 8 -Publicity Council

The Publicity Council consists of one Head Publicity Councillor, 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 Councillor 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. 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

In 2010, the web site moved from www.vannetinorden.com hosted by Glesys, to www.nhf-hydrology.org, hosted by Squarespace (web hotel) and Loopia (domain). www.vannetinorden.com is still registered by NHF (also moved to Loopia) but not currently linked to any web page. The new web-site has been regularly updated during the last years. Action points regarding the web-site from the board meetings in 2010 and 2011 have been amended. A web page group was formed in connection to the board meeting in March 2011. Members are Karin Nyström, Dirk-Ingmar Müller-Wohlfeil, David Gustafsson and Riitta Kamula. On the 8th July 2011, the web page group held an online meeting to clarify the needs and priorities regarding development and maintenance of the site and also decide on some details regarding the structure and layout. Possibility of national pages within the NHF site has been investigated. Within current contract it is possible to create separate pages for all countries but not provide separate login and read/write permissions.

The journal, Hydrology Research

In January 2012 Professor Chong-Yu Xu (University of Oslo) replaced Dan Rosbjerg as the Editor of Hydrology Research. Dan Rosbjerg has served as the Editor of Nordic Hydrology since 1986 and Hydrology Research since 2008. The journal has published 6 issues each year since 2008 (including a double issue), and this is also foreseen to continue in the near future. This year an issue with upgraded papers originating from the last Nordic Water conference in Latvia will be published. This is a rewarding contribution from the hydrological community in the Nordic and Baltic countries to the international hydrological community. It has been agreed that this year's Nordic Water conference in Oulu will again lead to a special issue. The number of ordinarily received papers has increased remarkably this year. Up to June 2012 the journal has received more than 100 submissions, which is an increase of about 50% compared to previous years. The rejection rate has been increasing due to many less qualified contributions. There is clearly a need to increase the share of high quality papers reflecting the scope of the journal, including papers from the Nordic/Baltic countries and from the UK. In order to speed up the review process and yet maintain the high quality, the two editors from this year started to do a pre-review of all the submitted manuscripts. Papers that do not fit the scope of the journal or have too low quality are returned to the authors without further processing.



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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 depends on particular efforts to attract a sufficient number of qualified papers. Good news is that both the Italian and German Hydrological Societies (IHS and GHS) have formally signed agreements to adopt Hydrology Research as their societies' official journal. This has been approved by the board of NHF and BHS and IWA. IWA is now in the process of appointing two representatives from each country to the Editorial Board and links to the journal websites will be added from the IHS and GHS websites. It is also agreed that IHS and GHS will not have a partner status with IWA, as do NHF and BHS.