

## **Biennial report from the Publicity Committee, August 2016**

The Publicity Committee has consisted of Dirk-Ingmar Müller-Wohlfeil (the chair of the Publicity Committee), Chong-Yu Xu (the head editor of Hydrology Research since January 2012) and Karin Nyström (the web-editor of [www.nfh-hydrology.org](http://www.nfh-hydrology.org))

The action points of the Publicity Committee for the period August 2014–August 2016 have been:

- Keep the website updated
- Keep the flyer updated, make it downloadable from the website and distribute it
- Announce NHC through the website and e-mail
- Produce a biennial report about the activities of the Publicity Council for the General Assembly

### **The website, [www.nhf-hydrology.org](http://www.nhf-hydrology.org)**

The website is updated regularly, including uploading revised versions of the flyer, news about upcoming activities – mainly NHC 2016 - and minutes from the board meetings. The last update of the flyer was made in August 2014. During the last two years, e-mail addresses to members have been collected from all the member countries. The NHC 2016 and the GA 2016 have been announced on the website and through available e-mail addresses. The NHF Twitter account “NHF Hydrology” has been used frequently to announce NHF related activities.

### **The electronic dictionary for hydrology**

The Nordic Glossary of Hydrology (1984) has been digitalized and published as a web dictionary by the Swedish Hydrological Council (SHR). The dictionary is available at the SHR website: [www.hydrologi.org/hyd\\_lex](http://www.hydrologi.org/hyd_lex). Before publishing, the copy rights were discussed between SHR and the NHF board. Of the original copy right holders, only the Norwegian and the Swedish Hydrological Councils remain. The web dictionary enables searches on hydrological terms in Swedish and English, and explanations are given in all the Nordic languages following the Nordic Glossary of Hydrology. Further extensions and updates of the dictionary should be discussed with SHR.

### **The journal, Hydrology Research**

The 28th Nordic Hydrological Conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden on 11–13 August 2014. The conference attracted 114 participants from the Nordic countries, Baltic States and other parts of the world with presentations from a wide spectrum of current research. This is a fair number of participants, though considerably lower than the record number of about 250 participants at the Oulu conference in 2012. In total, 40 papers were submitted to the special issue, of which 22 accepted. 15 papers are published in a special issue in Hydrology Research 2016 Vol. 47 No 4, while the other 7 papers will be published in standard issues. Journal expressed great thanks to Linus Zhang and David Gustafsson for the excellent work in editing the special issue. It has been agreed that this year's Nordic Water conference in Kaunas again will lead to a special issue.

The number of ordinarily received papers has increased gradually in recent years, submissions in 2014 and 2015 were 321 and 333 respectively. In the first 7 months of 2016, the submissions reached 360 (including special issues' papers). But the good quality papers are remaining in a very low percentage. Many papers are in so poor quality that they have to be rejected directly by the editors, which increased remarkably the amount of work for the editors, since they need to do a pre-review for all the submitted papers. The rejection rates are 87 and 78% for 2014 and 2015 respectively. 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, Germany and Italy.

In order to maintain a quick and high quality review and publication process, it was discussed and decided during the last year's annual meeting involving IWA, BHS, NHF and the two editors, that 5 Associate Editors will be assigned from 2016, and the selection of Associate Editors is going on now. At least 2 of these 5 Associate Editors will be chosen from the (Editorial Board) members of NHF. The Associate Editors will assist the Editors in handling special Issue papers as well as some of ordinary papers within their specialty.

The cooperation with IWA Publishing runs smoothly and the joint editorship with BHS (British Hydrological Society) is also functioning well. There is an annual meeting (normally in December) involving IWA, BHS, NHF and the two editors where all the issues related to the journal are discussed. David and Chong-Yu have participated in the last two years meetings as the president or the represent of NHF and the editor of NHF, while Dirk, as the chair of the publicity committee participated in the 2015 meeting. The British Hydrological Society has asked the members' opinion about the journal, Hydrology Research. The NHF board decided to follow the British example and ask the NHF members as well. The NHF also discussed the possibility for authors in Hydrology Research to provide free access to articles at by paying a fee. Discussion on this issue continues.

The journal is in good shape, impact factor increased last year from 1.555 to 1.779. The biggest challenge is to attract a sufficient number of good quality papers. It is hoped that BHS, NHF, and the Italian and German Hydrological Societies (IHS and GHS) can encourage their members to submit their good work to Hydrology Research. The number of papers per issue has doubled from 2012. Until 2012, 6 issues were published in 5 books with one of the books contains 2 combined issues. From 2013 the combined issue is separated into two issues, which means the number of books published is increased from 5 to 6 since 2013.

Since 1980 there has been a tradition for awarding the best paper published in Hydrology Research (previously Nordic Hydrology) and the prize has been awarded every second year at the Nordic Hydrological Conference (NHC). The winning paper is chosen according to science and research quality standards. During the conference in Stockholm the best paper award for the papers published in HR during 2012–2013 was presented to Morten Larsen et al. from Asiaq–Greenland Survey, Greenland by the Editor. The selection is usually done by the Editorial members of Nordic and Baltic countries together with the editor, Chong-Yu. The selection of the best paper published during 2014–2015 is now on process, and result will be reported to NHF before the Kaunas conference.