

Biennial report from the Publicity Committee, August 2014

The Publicity Committee has consisted of Zenonas Gulbinas (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)

The action points of the Publicity Committee for the period August 2012–August 2014 are:

- Keep the website updated
- Keep the flyer updated, make it downloadable from the website and distribute
- 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 is updated regularly, including uploading revised versions of the flyer. The last update of the flyer was made in August 2012. During the last two years, e-mail addresses to members have been collected from all the member countries. The NHC 2014 and the GA 2014 have been announced on the website and through available e-mail addresses. NHF also has a Twitter account, NHF Hydrology, which has been used sporadically. NHF would like to have more followers at Twitter. The NFH members were informed about the new strategy and encouraged to use Hydrology Research actively through a newsletter in June 2013.

The change of statutes § 8 Publicity Committee was approved by the GA in 2010 and 2012.

The website, www.nfh-hydrology.org

Background: in 2010 the website was moved from www.vannetinorden.com, hosted by Glesys, to www.nfh-hydrology.org, hosted by Squarespace (web hotel) and Loopia (domain). The website www.vannetinorden.com is still registered by NHF (also moved to Loopia) but not currently linked to any website.

The existing website has been updated regularly. Since the previous GA in 2012 following amendments have been done:

- The member application form has been improved and a separate category for student/retired hydrologist has been added.

- Each member country has provided links to hydrological institutions and organizations in their country. Board members are asked to send news to the web-editor for publishing.
- An overview of all the Nordic Hydrological Conferences has been published.
- Logos and links to some of institutional members are published already on the website. This is a good opportunity for the institutional members to promote themselves.

The journal, Hydrology Research

The 27th Nordic Water conference was held in Oulu, Finland on 13–15 August 2012. The conference attracted a record number of participants from the Nordic countries, Baltic States and many other parts of the world where cold climate hydrology plays a role. In total 55 papers were submitted and 20 accepted. Of which 15 papers are published in a special issue in Hydrology Research 2014 Vol. 45 No 3, other 5 papers will be published in standard issues. Great thanks to Bjørn Kløve for the excellent work in editing the issue. It has been agreed that this year's Nordic Water conference in Stockholm will again lead to a special issue. During the conference in Oulu the best paper award for the papers published in HR during 2010–2011 was presented to Wei Yang et al. from SMHI Sweden 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 2012–2013 is now on process, and result will be reported to NHF before the Stockholm conference.

The number of ordinarily received papers has increased gradually this year, but the good quality papers are remaining in a very low percentage. More than half of the papers are in so poor quality that has 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. 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.

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. Hege and Chong-Yu have participated in the last two years meetings as the president or the represent of NHF and the editor of NHF. 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.

The journal is in good shape, impact factor increased last year and is expected to increase again this year. The biggest challenge is to attract a sufficient number of qualified 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.