

Foreword

THE FIRST YEAR OF BILINGUAL TEKNİK DERGİ

In line with a decision taken in 2017 to convert Teknik Dergi into a bilingual periodical, bilingual publication has started with the January 2018 issue, following a period of preparatory arrangements. Initially, the Board had been concerned about the possible complications caused by this conversion. Fortunately, no complications have taken place and the first year of bilingual publication could be completed smoothly and successfully.

One major concern was a sustainable inflow of English manuscripts. First year observations indicated no need for concern. Two thirds of the manuscripts received that year were in English. In other words, the number of English manuscripts doubled the Turkish ones. However, it is not granted that this tendency will continue. The Board has the impression that the potential authors were initially enthusiastic to submit English manuscripts without paying the due attention to the quality of contents and the drafting rules. Consequently, the decline rate was higher for the English manuscripts compared to that for the Turkish ones. These fluctuations are expected to settle gradually and the authors to observe the Teknik Dergi principles and paper drafting rules more carefully. Consequently, the number of submitted manuscripts will possibly decrease a little and the manuscript quality will probably improve.

Most of the manuscripts submitted by foreign authors had to be declined probably because of their authors underestimating Teknik Dergi publication policies and standards. Originality is another concern for the scientifically high quality manuscripts submitted by foreigners. The Board may sometimes be in doubt if the paper might have been published elsewhere. However, the “Statement of Originality” signed by the author(s) is expected to warn the authors about the ethical requirements of Teknik Dergi.

An important objective of the bilingual publication policy is to enlarge Teknik Dergi audience by reaching the international civil engineering community and thus to increase citation and the impact factor. Although a short term observation is not a reliable indication, the Board tends to interpret the minor improvement recently observed optimistically.

Besides its printed copy distribution, Teknik Dergi has also been published electronically for a considerable while. Realising the popularity and effectiveness of electronic publishing, the Board has recently decided to limit the printed copy distribution to a list of selected bodies including university libraries and civil engineering chairs in Turkey. All members of the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers will be notified about the publication of each issue and a link will be given, since Teknik Dergi is a free access publication.

With our best wishes...

Tuğrul Tankut

On behalf of the Editorial Board