Turkish Polar Encyclopedia Project

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Background Paper submitted by Turkey

Summary

This paper presents information on the encyclopedia project for polar terms in Turkish which aims to create a unison in the written Turkish literature and a source of knowledge for the young generation, public and as well as researchers.

Introduction

Research on the polar regions has gained considerable momentum in Turkey in recent years. Especially in 2019, after the establishment of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Marmara Research Center (MAM), Polar Research Institute (PRI), remarkable research was conducted on the polar regions in both applied sciences and social sciences. In the polar science literature in Turkish, a lack of unison was observed both in terms of meanings and writing techniques. For this reason, it has been considered that an encyclopedia of polar terms is essential in order to create unity in terms, to use the terms correctly and to easily provide awareness about polar regions with the native language. A project supported by TUBITAK Science and Society Department and TUBITAK MAM PRI was initiated involving different sub-disciplines of polar sciences.

Polar Encyclopedia Project

Within the scope of the Polar Terms Encyclopedia, a study covering “life sciences”, “physical sciences”, “geosciences”, “health sciences”, “social sciences & humanities” and “general terms” including popular terms targeting for public and young generation particularly, has been started. The project will be conducted with an editor, two coordinators, six-section editors and several article authors consisting of experts of polar research disciplines.

The encyclopedia, which is planned to include approximately 1800 articles, is designed to involve a dynamic structure that can be continuously developed and updated in the digital environment. It is estimated that “the general terms” section will be completed in 12 months and the other sections in 15 months. The articles of the encyclopedia will not only contain the Turkish equivalents and lexical meanings of terms, but also further explanations, translations of the terms in other languages and, if available will be enriched with visual expressions, geographical features and locations. The encyclopedia is planned to be accessible online in order to increase public interest in polar research especially the awareness of the young generation on polar sciences.