

CODE OF ETHICS FOR AUTHORS:

Prologue: In 2014, the congress had received 48 paper submissions that were in clear violation of common *CODE OF ETHICS FOR AUTHORS*. These 48 papers were found to include various levels of plagiarized materials or unauthorized uses of copyrighted materials. The 48 papers were detected by the congress referees at the very early stages of evaluation. These papers were rejected and copies of the reports of the violations were provided to the authors' supervisors and employers. Since the vast majority of the authors who violated the code of ethics were either students or young scientists, their employers/supervisors arranged for them to participate in an ethics course/workshop offered/organized by their institutions.

Unfortunately, author violation of code of ethics is becoming more common. Although, many consider such codes to be common knowledge, most major publishers, journals, and conferences have decided to post a common *CODE OF ETHICS FOR AUTHORS* on their web sites; see examples at:

http://www.ieee.org/documents/Level_description.pdf

<http://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/editors>

<http://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics>

http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/plagiarism_policy

In our last committee meeting (July 20, 2014), it was decided unanimously to follow the practice of the above publishers by making available the congress's *CODE OF ETHICS FOR AUTHORS* and all related issues to stake holders. Please see below.

Authors who violate the *CODE OF ETHICS FOR AUTHORS* shall be subject to a graduated scale of penalties which may include: reporting to the author's supervisor; reporting to the author's employer; providing a copy of the author's formal letter of apology to the stake holders; reporting to other publishers; prohibition of publication for one to three years (depending on the seriousness of the violation.) Authors will be fully accountable for their violations (including any and all costs associated with such violations.)

In order to take corrective actions against authors who violate the publication ethics, the congress requires that the Contact/Corresponding authors of papers provide (in the manuscript), their professional email address (i.e., on institution's/employer's servers); if an author has to use a freely available email address such as gmail, hotmail, ... then the provided email address must have web footprints to the author and to his/her institution on the web: such as the homepage of the author at his institution's servers which includes the author's email address, ...).

Author violations include but not limited to:

- The use of any diagrams, figures, pictures, tables, or illustrations that belong to third parties without permission from the owners.
- The use of copyrighted materials without permission.
- Plagiarism at various levels: un-credited verbatim, significant self-plagiarism; un-credited and improper paraphrasing of pages or paragraphs that have already been published; ...
- The paper/manuscript/poster submitted by the author is NOT a legitimate scientific article and/or violates common ethics. Examples include, but not limited to: topics are not relevant; falsified results/work; results are not reproducible; commercial article; use of profanity; inclusion of inappropriate pictures; inclusion of pictures of faces of people without their permission (in particular, for papers that present "face recognition" algorithms).
- Falsification of any kind.