

Taiwanese enjoy reading popular literature, which negatively affects balanced development and reading quality. Also, it is not conducive to improving reading habits.

NCL Director General Tseng pointed out that cultural and educational institutions should work hand-in-hand to promote quality reading and to encourage the public to read a variety of books besides popular literature. Improving personal and overall reading habits should mirror advice on a healthy diet: variety is what leads to a healthy body and mind.

To help the public develop a more well-rounded approach to reading on a variety of topics, the NCL brought together cultural and educational foundations and public and university libraries from across the country on April 19 (just four days before World Book Day) to hold “An Ode to Reading: Oral Readings by Famous Persons.”



*Oral Readings by all the honored guests*

Invitations were extended to scholars from Taiwan and abroad, the Italian representative in Taiwan, famous authors and illustrators, celebrities, musicians, librarians, school principals, famous acting troupes, and bands. The 94 performers put on 22 performances of oral reading, acting, and singing. This event had the largest array of performers and text performances since Taiwan

began celebrating World Book Day in conjunction with the rest of the world. Content included new poetry, classical poetry, prose, stories, music, songs, and children’s plays; each performance was simple yet exquisite, helping over 600 people understand the benefits of balanced reading.

This year’s unparalleled reading carnival had five main attractions: authors and poets reading their works, teachers and students from different schools doing oral reading, authors of children’s literature combining their voices with frolicking children, the voices from foreign friends and scholars, and the sonorous sounds of heads of education and libraries combining together. Each voice was enchanting and enabled the audience to experience different flavors of reading.

To encourage the public to read broadly and to develop healthy reading habits, the NCL held a drawing at the end of the event to give away roses and books, which represent beauty and wisdom on World Book Day. The air was soon filled with the fragrance of flowers and books, and an endless and changeless energy that comes from reading.

### ■ *A Report on the Routes/Roots in Southeast Asia & Oceania Symposium*

On June 20, 2014, the NCL co-hosted Routes/Roots in Southeast Asia & Oceania: World Austronesia Symposium. A total of four sessions were held, each showcasing a different topic: development and subjective culture, re-creating tradition and reconnecting broken links, barkcloth and the diaspora of Austronesian groups, and objects, artistry, and museums. Ten papers were read in all, many by young scholars who had received funding from the World Austronesian Studies Project to do field work or conduct further studies overseas.

In the afternoon Ms. Lin You-zhen used a

survey film to introduce dances in the Indonesian palace and Ms. Zheng You-zhao spoke on Gamelan music in Indonesian religious ceremonies. As a final activity, scholars exchanged ideas on Austronesian museums, environmental protection, economics, consumerism, religion and other topics. In conjunction with the symposium, the foyer area contained several exhibits: Austronesia cultural artifacts, the peoples of Oceania, and wall posters and video clips of research done by graduate students.



*Political Deputy Minister of Ministry of Education Huang Pi-twan (middle) observes the cultural artifact exhibit while project coordinator Prof. Tong Yuan-zhao (far left) provides explanation.*

■ ***NCL Has a New Group Discussion Room on the Third Floor!***

As a way to facilitate patrons engaged in group research or discussion, beginning in January 2014, the NCL set up a group discussion room on the second floor. Patrons can reserve the room online or request use of it at the front desk. Due to a strong favorable response, the NCL has added another group discussion room in the periodical reading area on the third floor. It opened for use on July 1. The room is equipped with a long table, eight chairs, and a projector, and can accommodate 3-8 users.

Those desiring to make use of this new room

must have a group of at least three persons and submit an online reservation request within seven days of intended use. Patrons can also inquire about available time slots for that day.

**NCL Publications**

■ ***Anthology on Librarianship in Taiwan***



*Published in May 2014  
ISBN: 9789576785849*

This book is an anthology of 50 quintessential essays authored by Mr. Wang Chen-hu over a 50-year academic career. Written between 1962 and 2013, the essays cover a broad spectrum of topics and are arranged by subject matter into four major sections: Overview of Librarianship, Operational Concepts and Practice, Professional Education and Research, and International and Cross-Strait Exchanges.

■ ***Guide to Multicultural Services at Public Libraries in Taiwan***



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GPN: 3810301045*

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