



*The CCS holds a year-end gala banquet for visiting scholars.*

Before the banquet, NCL Director General Tseng and Deputy Director General Liu Ching-yan of the Department of Policy Planning at MOFA welcomed the scholars and family members and wished them a happy Lunar New Year. The CCS also arranged a self-introduction by the scholars during the banquet to encourage exchanges and sharing on their research in Taiwan. The participating scholars were greatly impressed by the CCS' meticulous arrangement of the banquet.

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ *Libraries Go the Extra Mile to Woo Youth*

In an age when young people are glued to their mobile phones, the National Library of Public Information and other libraries in Taiwan have been setting up "Mobile Phone Rooms." In a departure from the traditional "keep quiet" library policy, New Taipei City Youth Library, Taiwan's first library designed for young people, has set up an interactive discussion area, graffiti area, outside dance area and other facilities that have made it a popular new meeting place for young people.

The Zhonglun Branch of the Taipei Public Library (TPL) has also become a hot spot for

young people thanks to its collection of 85,000 comic books. The library lends out more than 160,000 volumes on average each year, ranking it first among the TPL branches in book lending. The branch also often holds educational activities and theme exhibitions related to comic books.

### ■ *80-year-old Grandma Marks Third Decade of Volunteer Book Repair*

The books in the collection of the Hualien City Library are frequently damaged due to high volume borrowing. Fortunately there is a "professional book doctor," 80-year-old book repair volunteer Sun Hsueh-chieh. For more than 30 years, Sun has restored countless worn out and damaged books. A lover of books, she decided to volunteer at the library in her later years and began to learn about book restoration. "Live, work and, of course, read into old age!" Sun says. In addition to her direct volunteer work, Sun has, with praiseworthy dedication, called on young people to read more and take good care of public property.

### ■ *Philanthropic Library Brings Special Children's Day Gift to Students in Remote Townships*

Pingtung County opened its tenth Philanthropic Library this year at Xinpi Elementary School. The new facility aims to further enhance the benefits of books through the library's shared reading resources, as well as help students to broaden their horizons and develop competitive skills for their future through reading. Xinpi is a remote township in Pingtung County, located about 30 kilometers from the county seat.

The students here depend mainly on the school

libraries for access to books, but such resources are limited. The teachers and students at Xinpi Elementary therefore rallied a passionate petition that prompted the Taiwan Reading and Culture Foundation to establish the Philanthropic Library.

### ■ *NTL Offers Age- and Group-focused National Services*

The National Taiwan Library (NTL) was established in 1914, during the Japanese occupation period, as the Imperial Taiwan Library. It is a national-level public library with an extensive collection of more than 1.6 million volumes, as well as digitized resources on Taiwan studies and the country's most complete special collection of Taiwan historical materials. The library also holds a lecture series on Taiwan studies every month on the morning of the second Saturday.

In addition, the NTL provides professional, national-level service with age- and group-specific

focus to the local community. The library's Parent and Child Information Center is stocked with books suitable for infants to junior and senior high school students. The library also promotes the Bookstart plan, providing libraries across the country with access to its rich collection of children's books for newborns to five-year-olds, as well as promotional assistance.

In addition, the library arranges activities integrated with class reading, library tours and other events, as well as a worksheet service offered in conjunction with schools. The NTL also provides age-specific services, including senior services at its book and periodical reading room and monthly lifelong learning lecture series. Moreover, the library offers certification of study hours for teachers and civil servants continuing their education.



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