Tseng Shu-hsien, Director General of the National Central Library (NCL), signed a memorandum of cooperation regarding “Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS)” with the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London on November 4, with the University of Leipzig, Germany on November 7 and with the National Library of Latvia (NLL) on November 8.

Signing of the NCL-NLL memorandum of cooperation on the TRCCS

These were followed by an inauguration ceremony. Furthermore, in view of expanding the benefits of resource sharing, a memorandum of cooperation on “Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books” was signed with Leipzig University Library and another with the British Library on “International Dunhuang Project, IDP.” Replicas of “The Scorched Edition of the Annotated Dongpo’s Poetry” (21-volume set) of the NCL collection were offered to each Library that signed a memorandum of cooperation.

From 24 to 30 November, Liao Shiow-man, director of the International Cooperation Division, went to Vietnam and Malaysia for the signing of the memorandum of cooperation on the TRCCS with the Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman. An inauguration ceremony followed this signing, too.

The TRCCS opening ceremony at the Leipzig University Library.

Director General Tseng, during the Europe tour, pointed out the NCL has been steadily providing the TRCCS branches with a wealth of publications on Chinese studies, and that the TRCCS branches serve the following specific functions:

1) Presenting Taiwan’s achievements and academic resources in the field of Chinese studies: The TRCCS partner organizations annually receive books, audio-visual materials and e-resources published in Taiwan. The NCL has also established an IP channel for partner organizations to search the digital resources of the library and CCS within copyright limits. In addition, the library provides a collection of links to other Sinological resources in Taiwan to further serve scholars and experts and expand research ability with win-win results.

2) Promoting international exchanges in Chinese studies: The TRCCS branches are established at prominent centers for Chinese studies and key universities with development potential. These partners are chosen to facilitate joint promotion of academic and professional exchanges supported by the research resources and influence of the collaborating organization. In addition, the NCL plans to jointly organize academic or cultural activities related to Chinese studies with partner organizations. The NCL will also add links on its website to overseas TRCCS branches and report related activities to further develop the role of the centers as an interactive platform in the Chinese studies community.

The TRCCS signing ceremony at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities.

3) Enhancing global cultural substance and inclusiveness: By the end of 2013, the TRCCS had established branches in the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, Germany, Latvia, Vietnam and Malaysia. In building up the Taiwan and Chinese studies resources at these centers, the NCL aims to jointly enrich local cultural substance with partner organizations. This collaborative process has also highlighted a strong interest in Chinese studies among non-Chinese communities. Even more encouraging has been the mutual appreciation and learning witnessed between different cultures and the significant progress it has enabled in replacing cultural conflict and opposition with reconciliation and peace.

2013 PNC Annual Conference Turns Spotlight on Digital Libraries

The 2013 Pacific Neighborhood Consortium Annual Conference and Joint Meetings were held on December 10 to 12 in Kyoto, Japan, under the theme “New Paradigms on Humanities Computing—Linking Knowledge of Human Activities.” NCL Director General Prof. Tseng presented a report on rare book preservation, sharing, cooperation and value-added services at