

reader awareness of Taiwan's classical poetry and appreciation of how these works are closely tied to the pulse of Taiwan's history and society and reflect a love for the land of Taiwan. The covered works range in subject from the migration and settlement of Han Chinese in Taiwan, observations on indigenous culture and ethnic interaction to elegies of turbulent times, reflections on the people's life and local customs, and writings on Taiwan's natural and cultural landscapes. The lectures seek to open a new window to the classics and present a different perspective of the beauty of Taiwan.

■ ***Illustrated Book Master Tatsuya Miyanishi Shares a Beautiful World of Pictures at the NCL***

The NCL held the "Beautiful World of Tatsuya Miyanishi's Illustrated Books" seminar on February 9, 2014. Readers began arriving at the seminar venue at noon to hear best-selling Japanese author of illustrated books Tatsuya Miyanishi talk about the creative process and the life philosophy, rooted in love, that informs each of his beautiful stories.



A group photo of Master Tatsuya Miyanishi, Director General Tseng and Cheng Ming-chin taken in the lecture venue.

Miyanishi's books are much loved by readers for the spirit of warmth, humor and true feeling they capture through their illustrations and complementary stories. Renowned children's book

authors Lin Huan-chang and Cheng Ming-chin also attended the seminar to welcome this distinguished guest from afar.

■ ***NCL Announces the Results of the 2013 Survey of National Reading Habits***

The NCL released a report on "Reading Tastes in Taiwan" and announced the results of the 2013 survey on reading habits in Taiwan at a press conference held at the Ministry of Education (MOE) on the morning of March 7, 2014. NCL's Director General Tseng explained findings on literacy in Taiwan.

The report noted significant increases over 2012 in terms of number of library visitors, number of book borrowers, number of books borrowed, number of library website searches and number of library card applicants (the library received 82.13 million visits in 2013, up 9.4 million or 13% from the year before; the number of book borrowers increased to 16.63 million, up 610,000 or 4%; the number of books borrowed increased to 62.09 million, up 470,000 or 0.8%; the number of website searches increased to 74.72 million, up 9.71 million or 15%; and the number of library card applicants increased to 11.42 million, up 630,000 or 6%).



Director General Tseng is answering questions for a media interview.

Director General Tseng further indicated that, based on types of books borrowed, reading preferences in Taiwan continue to lean towards popular literature. Translated works were among the most popular children's books. The MOE and NCL therefore invited scholars and experts to compile bibliographies of books under the four themes of "Books for Youth" (8,298 vols.), "Books for Knowledge" (8,965 vols.), "Books on Culture and Creativity" (8,761 vols.), and "Books on Multiculturalism" (5,449 vols.).

The bibliographies have been provided to public libraries nationwide as references for book purchasing. The NCL is also expanding cooperation ties with the publishing industry, cultural and educational organizations, and libraries at all levels to build momentum for universal literacy.



Honored guests, participants and NCL's staff taking a photo in the event venue.

■ **Prof. Pai Hsien-yung Donates Manuscripts and Speaks on the 228 Incident**

Progressing from understanding to forgiveness: On March 30, 2014 in NCL's international conference room, Professor Pai spoke on General Pai Chong-xi's experience and influence in coming to Taiwan, as well as the most harrowing time in Taiwan history—the 228 Incident of 1947. Prof.

Pai donated seven of his manuscripts to the NCL, which had combined total 150,000 characters. These included parts of *Father and the Republic*, as well as "Teach for Two" and "Danny Boy" from his short story collection *The New Yorker*. Director General Tseng stated, the donation ceremony brought awareness to the fact that one's manuscripts and letters are better cared for in the hands of an institution equipped to archive and preserve them, rather than keeping them in one's own possession.

The NCL has established the Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscript System, where it is systematically adding full-text images of manuscripts in its possession to increase their use in social education.



Director General Tseng gives the trophy to Prof. Pai Hsien-yung.

■ **Harvard Prof. Peter K. Bol Speaks at NCL**

Harvard University Prof. Peter Bol, Chen Shih-pei and Yu Wen (a doctoral candidate at the History Department of Harvard University) were invited to speak at the NCL on March 11, 2014.

The China Biographical Database (CBDB) of the University currently comprises about 330,000 records on people from the Tang Dynasty to the