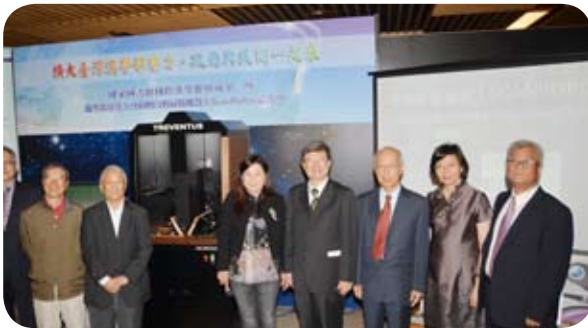


can increase the scanning speed of books. In the future, hopefully, more authorized books may be included so that the traditional Chinese characters can be easily searched online thereby promoting the advantages of Taiwan/ sinology studies. Furthermore, people can have access to Chinese Studies thereby expanding the influence of traditional Chinese characters on the internet.

The NCL held a press conference to announce this unique donation and introduce the recent concrete results in promoting globe Chinese Studies on April 21. Minister Se-hwa Wu from the Ministry of Education as well as several former Ministers of Education were present to offer their congratulations.



Group photo at the press conference

■ Director General Tseng Attends Award Ceremony for E-book Creation Competition

Director General Tseng attended the Fifth National and International Education Cup E-book Creation Competition, co-sponsored by the Taiwan E-book Association and Finder Cloud E-periodicals. The NCL and the Ministry of Culture functioned as overseers. This year's competition saw 7,217 participants from 739 schools submitting a total of 510 entries.

In Director General Tseng's remarks she stated that long-term preservation of national digital cultural assets is NCL's mission. At the beginning of last year, cooperation with related organizations was already underway, allowing for award winners to authorize their works to be

preserved at NCL. This will provide for long-term cultural preservation and for worldwide visibility.



Director General Tseng with winning students

■ NCL and SEKU Taipei co-host "Slovak Writers' Magical World Illustrations: BIB Winners Featured Roving Exhibition"

The NCL collaborated with the Slovak Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei in organizing the "Slovak Writers' Magical World Illustrations: BIB (Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava) Winners Featured Roving Exhibition." The opening ceremony was held at the NCL on May 4. From then until December 27, 28 winning illustrations of the BIB by Slovakian writers and 17 titles of illustrated books will be on display on a rotating basis at the following locations: NCL, National Library of Public Information, Kaohsiung Public Library, and Hualien County Cultural Affairs Bureau. Therefore Taiwanese readers and friends may have the opportunity to see the internationally renowned children's illustrated works.

During Director General Tseng's remarks, she noted that the works exhibited consist of many familiar story books, such as "Alice in Wonderland," Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale "Thumbelina," "The Little Mermaid," and many others. Through this exhibition, it not only allows more people in Taiwan to know Slovakia's rich traditional culture and art, one can also see the world classic fairy tales. She also encourage

schools, parents to bring their children to come and give the child a different art experience, to read together the fairy tale from other parts of the world, and to come in contact with different cultures.



Group photo at the opening ceremony

■ NCL Holds Lecture Series on Ming & Qing Classic Novels

The Ming and Qing dynasties were a time of prolific development for Chinese novels. To highlight this, the NCL invited six renowned scholars from Taiwan to lecture from May 2 to July 4, covering *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Journey to the West*, *Water Margin*, *Scholars*, *Dream of the Red Chamber*, and *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*. The aim is to renew interest in reading these classic novels. The six lectures saw standing room only, with the scholars giving moving portrayals of the stories. Attendees were taken across space and time to a better understanding of the unique characteristics of each work and its characters. The charms of these classics were once again made apparent, with the lectures ending in roaring applause.



Director General Tseng presents the lecturers



Each lecture is filled to capacity.



Book signings by the lecturers



Raffles are held after the lectures.

■ NCL Hosts Lecture and Performance of the Chinese Traditional Opera

As a way to showcase the rich and multifaceted nature of Chinese culture, the NCL teamed up with Trends Education Foundation and the GuoGuang Opera Company to host a lecture and traditional play, both entitled “Taiwan’s Re-creation of Chinese Culture.” The lecture was