

Finally, Secretary of the Chinese Cultural Exchange and Education Association, Mr. Pan Junren performed in full costume the role of Ms. Du Liniang from the Kun opera “Youyuan jingmeng,” taking the performances of the evening to a climactic ending. Scholars enjoyed wonderful conversation amongst themselves about experiences living in Taiwan, as well as resources and insights from their different fields of research.



Mr. Pan performs in full costume the role of Ms. Du Liniang.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ New Taipei City Library Study Buddy Service Uninterrupted; Disadvantaged Students Issued Meal Vouchers

New Taipei City Library began offering after-school study buddy services in November 2013. Now two years and seven months later the service is becoming increasingly widespread. It began with 14 service centers in 12 regions, but now has 34 service centers in 28 regions serving approximately 27,300 students.

It also issues 8,546 meal vouchers. This summer the service extended to the entire city, and the NTD 80 meal vouchers were issued in greater numbers to students with physical and mental disabilities. The summer also saw new free art courses, as well as crafts, DIY science experiments, reading and writing, creative math, drawing, intellectual board games, summer movies, and story activities—providing these students with a rich summer break.

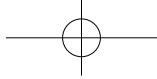
■ National Huwei University Library Begins Use of Its Automated Electricity Control System

In an effort to reduce carbon use and protect the environment, National Huwei University Library was renovated into an energy-saving, environmentally-friendly building. It was reopened in September of this year. More than 25,000 people visit the library each year, so demands on electricity are large.

After installing the automated system, the library has realized the following benefits: 1) enabled the library to reach its goal to centralize energy-saving controls; 2) when the CO2 index reaches its preset threshold, fans are automatically switched on to ensure high quality air; 3) introduced LED lighting with timed turn-off. Over 30% reduction in electric usage has been realized in lighting alone.

■ Beitou Branch of the Taipei Public Library Included in Top 10 of the Most Beautiful Libraries in the World

This year *Business Insider* selected the best designed libraries throughout the world and the Beitou Library in Taipei made it into the top 10. Beitou Library’s full length windows not only



provide optimal lighting but also allow patrons to enjoy the natural scenery outside. The library is constructed primarily of wood so that library visits feel like a trip to the forest.



Photo of the Beitou branch library (taken by the Beitou branch library).

Constructed in 2006, it is Taiwan's first green architecture library. It was built in the Beitou Park, which boasts a dense forest and rich ecological environment. The three-story

edifice (one underground) has a total area of 2,150 sq. m.. The roof is equipped with solar panels, which provide a portion of the energy needs of the library. Its architectural designed earned it a spot on the "25 Most Beautiful Libraries in the World" list in 2012 by Flavorwire.com.



A mixed atmosphere of nature and building (taken by the Beitou branch library).



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