

incorporate the newest technology, enabling strong digital archives and digitization services. With a well-rounded facility, the library will be able to create a strong reading atmosphere that will be inviting to the public. He also made clear his hope that this project will be completed in the quickest time possible so that results can be seen.

Deputy Minister Tsai stated in his remarks that this new project not only enriches library resources available to mid and southern counties and meets the needs of the people there but also alleviates the lack of archive space in NCL and public libraries.

Director-General Tseng's briefing began with the aims of the project and the features of building in Hsin-ying District. It then went on to compare other advanced nations' experience in developing national libraries as a basis for planning this southern branch and union archive center. In all, it allowed the dignitaries and citizens in attendance to gain a deeper understanding of the concept behind this project.



*Director-General Tseng's briefing.*

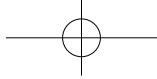
## ■ 2017 Taipei International Book Exhibition

The 2017 Taipei International Book Exhibition (TiBE) ran from February 8-13 at the Taipei World Trade Center's exhibition hall. National Central Library used this yearly exhibition to share its abundant resources with both Taiwanese and foreign readers. This year, NCL also invited National Taiwan Library and National Library of Public Information to join in a joint exhibition entitled "Libraries: The Wonderland."



*All dignitaries attending the opening ceremonies pose in front of the "Libraries: The Wonderland."*

On February 8, an opening ceremony was held at the exhibition, with Deputy Minister of Education Teng-chiao Lin (林騰蛟), NCL Director-General Tseng, National Taiwan Library Director-General Lai-Chang Cheng (鄭來長), and National Library of Public Information Director-General Chung-Ching Liu (劉仲成) speaking. Deputy Minister Lin said the joint exhibition's use of sound, images, and books to represent the history of reading was truly wonderful.



*The opening ceremony of 2017 Taipei International Book Exhibition.*

Director-General Tseng stated in her remarks that the first TiBE was actually held at National Central Library. Because of this, NCL has viewed participating in TiBE each year as a grand occasion. This year marked the first year that these three libraries co-organized a joint exhibition marketing the rich collections and resources available.

The exhibition space was divided into different themes: a main exhibition area, a publication and cultural creation area, an interactive experience area, and a stage performance area. In addition, the stage performance area put on 30 magnificent activities that helped attendees better understand library resources available.

The idea for the exhibition entrance this year was a giant book wall design using distinctive books from the collections of three national libraries. The design won the silver 2017 Taipei International Book Exhibition Best Booth Design Award in the Large Booth category.

## ■ A Report on Taiwan's Reading Tastes

Every year since 2011, the NCL has issued a report on Taiwan's reading tastes. This year, a press conference was held at the Ministry of Education on February 17, 2017, to present the findings of a survey of reading tastes and celebrate model book-borrowers.

Director-General Tseng broke down the survey findings: in 2016, there were over 76 million visits to Taiwan's public libraries. Books were borrowed on over 20 million of these visits, with a total of over 71 million volumes borrowed. This represents an increase of 3.99% on last year's total. The number of borrowers also increased by 6.49% in 2015, while the number of volumes borrowed increased by 3.24%. The most popular subject among readers was language and literature, representing over 35 million volumes borrowed, or 49.15% of the annual total.

Finally, model readers from around the country, parents, special guests, MOE



*NCL Director-General Tseng presents a brief report on the survey findings.*