

Program

■ *Education Ministry Adds "Points of Light" for Young Readers*

The Ministry of Education (MOE) plans to expand its "300 Points of Light" elementary school reading promotion program, supplementing the program's original NT\$50 million budget in 2007 with an extra NT\$100 million. The additional funds will be used to improve library facilities, purchase new books and carry out other measures to improve school reading resources. The ministry hopes the program will foster reading habits, creative thinking and language ability among the nation's young.

A total of 300 rural elementary schools with insufficient book resources receive funding support under the "Points of Light" program.

The MOE has also teamed up with the Public Television Service Foundation to arrange the "Joining Hearts in Reading" book donation drive as part of a series of activities to promote children's reading in remote rural areas. The ministry is also organizing exchange activities to encourage urban elementary schools to collect books for donation to needier sister schools in rural areas. (Chinese text excerpted from the Central News Agency, October 11, 2006)

■ *NCL and National Library of Mongolia Sign Exchange Agreement*

The NCL and National Library of Mongolia (NLM) signed an agreement to build closer exchange relations. The agreement signed at a ceremony in Mongolia on August 29, 2006, represents the culmination of a nearly yearlong process. It will cover

a range of items from publication exchange to joint cataloging.

NLM Director Hatagin Go Akim first approached the idea of closer cooperation between two sides in a letter sent to NCL Director General Juang Fang-rung in January 2006. In the letter, Director Akim expressed interest in forming closer ties in the areas of publication exchange, personnel training, collection digitization and other areas.

With assistance from Taiwan's Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission, the NCL arranged a delegation to visit Mongolia in late August to sign the cooperation agreement with the NLM. Director General Juang was joined by NCL Reader Services Division Director Yu Hsiao-ming during the eight-day visit, which followed a stay in Seoul, Korea for the IFLA Annual Meeting.

Director General Juang and Director Akim represented their respective libraries in signing the agreement, with over 50 distinguished guests as witnesses. After the ceremony, the NCL presented the NLM with over 400 major works on Taiwan as well as reproductions of maps related to Mongolia.



NLM Director Hatagin Go Akim (right) signed an agreement with the NCL Director General Juang Fang-rung (Photo provided by Yu Hsiao-ming)