

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)

The cooperation agreement covers exchanges of general and specialized books, periodicals, documents and other publications; digitization of documents and rare books; joint creation of catalogs for documents and rare books; joint promotion of monographs of mutual interest to both sides; exchange of experience on library services and activities; exchange visits by library personnel, and joint arrangement of international seminars.



NLM Director Hatagin Go Akim (left) and B. Chadraa (center), President of Mongolian Academy of Sciences, with NCL Director General Juang Fang-rung at the signing and book donation ceremony (Photo provided by Yu Hsiao-ming)

In addition to signing the agreement, the NCL visitors toured libraries and major document repositories in Mongolia accompanied by Director Akim, NLM Exchange Department Director Ganjavyn Gansukh, and Mongolia Association for Cooperation with Pacific Countries Secretary Ulambaatar. The itinerary included stops at the National Library of Mongolia, National Archives of Mongolia, Book Palace for Children, Ulaanbaatar Public Library, Nomgon Sum Library, Dalanzadgad Library, Sangiin Dalai Khiid, Gangdan Tekchen Ling Library, and the Kharkhorin Cultural Center Library,

Sangiin Dalai Khiid, Bogd Khan Palace Museum), Monastery-Museum of Choijin Lama, and the Jebtsundamba Fine Arts Museum. The tours left the visitors with a deep impression of the operations and religious documents and relics in the various collections viewed.

Established in 1921, the National Library of Mongolia currently has a collection of over three million volumes, including more than one million classical texts and manuscripts in Mongolian. It is the largest such collection anywhere in the world. (Chinese text by Yu Hsiao-ming)

■ *NCL Opens "EU i": European Union Information Center*

NCL Director Juang Fang-rung and European Economic and Trade Office's (EETO) Director Brian McDonald signed an agreement on September 26, 2006, to establish a European Union (EU) Information Center (EU *i*) at the NCL, reflecting the ever closer relationship between Taiwan and the EU.

This is the second such center to be established in Taiwan for the dissemination of information on Europe. The first was the European Documentation Centre, Taiwan, which opened at Tamkang University in 1979 to provide material for research use. Since that time, local interest in the study of European culture and affairs has grown dramatically in Taiwan, while the EU has placed growing importance on developing relations with Asia. Addressing both of these interests, the NCL met with EU representatives and proposed that an "EU *i*" be established at the library. The project won the approval of the European Commission, which aims to expand the storage and dissemination of EU documents and build new channel for communication between the EU and