

■ *French Culture and Local Authors Highlighted at "Lire en Fete a Taiwan"*

The French Institute in Taipei teamed up with the National Taichung Library, cultural bureaus and township and city libraries across Taiwan to bring the "Lire en Fete" reading event to Taiwan on October 13 to 15, 2006. Adopting the theme "Une Ville, Une Oeuvre," the activity comprised a number of reading-related events at local libraries, bookstores, department stores, and hotels throughout Taiwan, introducing French culture and the joy of reading to hundreds of participants.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Taoyuan County Government also pitched in by holding a "Une Ville, Une Oeuvre" reading activity from October 11 to 21 in conjunction with the Taoyuan Municipal Library and Jhongli Culture and Book Management Office.

The 2006 "Lire en Fete a Taiwan" activity highlighted publications related to French cities and literary works from Taiwan. All of the participating townships and cities displayed works or featured authors with close connections to the community, raising awareness of the major works of local writers.

The "Lire en Fete" program was created 18 years ago by the French Ministry of Culture to promote interest in reading and heighten attention to reading-related policy.

■ *Taiwan's first "Green" Library Opens in Taipei*

The Taipei Public Library inaugurated a new branch in the northern district of Beitou in late October 2006. The new branch is touted as the first "green" library in Taiwan with an eco-friendly design, including solar power, a wood exterior and water

recycling system.

Located in Beitou Park, the branch was designed by experts from the U.S. State of Oregon and architects from Taiwan. The building meets nine major environmental protection indexes, including biodiversity, greening, water retention, water resources, daily energy savings, carbon dioxide reduction, interior environment, solid waste reduction, and wastewater and trash amelioration.

Taipei Public Library director Tseng Shu-hsien stressed that recycling, site greening, environmental engineering and other methods were employed in building the Beitou branch. Resources on ecological conservation also feature prominently in the library collection of over 20,000 volumes. The new library not only provides a warm learning environment for kids and families, but also sets a benchmark for Taipei's development as a healthy city. (Excerpted from the Epoch Times, August 27, 2006)



Exterior view of the Taipei Public Library's new Beitou branch

■ *Sanwan Library Reaches Out to the Community*

The Sanwan Library in Miaoli County is a