

resources, and other topics aimed at improving Korean studies reader services were the focal points of the symposium. Korean studies management and Korea's copyright law were also among the eight main topics covered by the event. The 19 participants hailing from the Netherlands, Taiwan, Germany, the U.S., Japan, Mongolia, Australia, Vietnam and the Philippines also toured the National Library of Korea and Korea University.

The NCL was represented at the symposium by Dr. Chang Wei-tung of the Special Collection Division. He delivered a report on "The Present Status of Korean Studies at the National Central Library, Taiwan (R.O.C)" and exchanged experience and views with other participants on issues related to library operations and administration. (Chinese text by Dr. Chang Wei-tung)



The NCL's Dr. Chang Wei-tung (front row, far right) with other participants during the 2006 Overseas Korean Studies Librarian Symposium

■ *NCL Group Visits Mainland Libraries*

A seven-person mission from the NCL visited libraries in China and Hong Kong from September 11 to 17, 2006. NCL Deputy Director-general Sung Chien-cheng led the group, which was joined by Li Jui-yin, Tsai Pei-ling, Chien Yueh-lien, Tang Shen-jung, Lung Hsiu-ying, and Tseng Wei-hsuan. The visitors toured the Shaanxi Provincial Library, Xi'an Library, Shenzhen Library, Hong Kong Central Library, and University of Hong Kong Library.



Shenzhen Library Director Wu Xi (front row, third from left) and Deputy Directors Wang Dake (front row, third from left) and Lu Suxin (front row, second from right), NCL Deputy Director General Sung Chien-cheng (front row, center), and other NCL members during their visit to China

All of the libraries visited had been built or expanded within the last five to six years. All of the new facilities combined cultural and artistic traits in their design. The libraries also shared a common commitment to the service principle of "putting the reader first." Another common trait was the active development of community education functions, online resource integration, and remote service at the

libraries. Apart from their special collections, the libraries had well-developed collections of resources on local history. The Shenzhen Library also provided special rooms and document services in the fields of commerce and trade, law, fashion, and ASEAN affairs, reflecting the city's position as a commercial center in China.

In the area of digital resources, Shenzhen Library, University of Hong Kong Library and Hong Kong Central Library stood out for their use of modern technology in circulation, storage management, and integrated information search services. (Chinese text provided by Chien Yueh-lien)

■ *Second Cross-strait Book Fair*

The Second Cross-strait Book Fair completed a successful five-day run on September 24, 2006, at the Taipei World Trade Center in Taiwan's capital city. Jointly organized by the Chinese Book Marketing Development Association, Publisher's Association of the R.O.C., and two other organizations, the fair attracted 180 publishers. Books on display numbered about one million volumes, divided about equally between mainland Chinese and Taiwan publications. The 500,000 or so mainland books represented Taiwan's largest and most comprehensive exhibition of publications printed with simplified Chinese characters.

Seminars organized during the fair provided ample opportunity for the publishing industries of the two sides to swap notes and share experience. Publishers also benefited commercially, as visitors turned out in force to buy their books. The mainland displays included a large number of high-quality publications. Among them were thread-bound editions of the Complete Collection of the Four

Treasuries from a Xiamen publisher, as well as various sets of classical works. Several major publishers from Taiwan also chalked up impressive sales during the fair.

The mainland displays presented a new view of traditional Chinese culture, attracting the interest of Taiwan editors. Taiwanese publishers, on the other hand, won high scores for their grasp of popular culture and strengths in producing publications aimed at daily life interests.

The fair organizing committee noted that the event set a good foundation for industry exchanges and interactions between authors and readers. This was especially the case at the "Publishing Summit," during which participants discussed and offered valuable suggestions on issues pertaining to cross-strait exchanges and the impact of digital publishing on the traditional publishing industry. The mainland visitors also toured various types of bookstores and publishing houses in Taiwan to learn more about their operations and to exchange experience.



Director Yu Hsiao-ming of the Reader Services Division (left) and Director Peng Wei of the Special Collection Division attended the opening ceremony of the Second Cross-strait Book Fair