

■ *TECO Canada Donates Chinese Books to Ottawa Public Library*

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO), Canada donated Chinese language books, Taiwan movies on DVD, and CD musical recordings published in Taiwan to the Ottawa Public Library (OPL). Statistics Canada recently announced that Chinese is the third most widely spoken language in Canada after English and French, creating a large demand for Chinese-language books and information.

The donation was presented to the library at a ceremony hosted by TECO on December 7, 2007. TECO Canada Representative Dr. David Tawei Lee presented the donation to OPL, which was represented by OPL City Librarian and CEO Barbara Clubb. The donation included C\$3,000 (over NT\$96,000) to the library for book acquisition, as well as 148 books and DVDs on Taiwan movies. Overseas Taiwanese living in Ottawa also added 133 books and CDs of Chinese music and folk songs. TECO Canada also donated 28 DVDs and animated films introducing Taiwan. The OPL said that the library's collection is rotated among branches to provide broader better public access to reading materials. It said the newly donated materials would enable the library to expand services to Chinese speakers.

■ *Republic of Panama and Chen Feng-tian Memorial Library Donation*

The National Central Library (NCL) signed a cooperation and exchange agreement with the ROC-Panama Cultural Center Chen Feng-tian Memorial Library on January 13, 2006, to promote

exchange and cooperation between the two sides. In addition to working together on cooperation plans and activities in the field of library and information science, the two sides will also develop book exchange relations to provide Taiwan publications for the overseas Chinese community in Panama, which accounts for about 5% of the country's population. The ROC-Panama Cultural Center will also provide publications with academic reference value to the NCL.

Under the cooperation agreement, the NCL will begin to send publications for selection by the Chen Feng-tian Memorial Library at the ROC-Panama Cultural Center to augment the library's Chinese-language collection. On December 5, 2007, ROC-Panama Cultural Center President Fermin Tomas Chan entrusted Panama's ambassador to Taiwan Julio Mock C. to donate to the NCL books on Panama and other publications



Panamanian Ambassador to Taiwan Julio Mock C. (second from the left) represented the ROC-Panama Cultural Center at the book donation ceremony. NCL Director General Dr. Huang Kuan-Chung (second from the right) accepted the books on behalf of the library.

by overseas Chinese writers in Panama. Included were volumes on the development of the Panamanian government over the past century (1903~2003), indigenous plants of Panama, Panamanian cuisine, the Panama Canal and Panama's national parks. The book exchange will add to resources on Panama studies in the NCL's foreign language collection, enabling readers to further understand Panama's history, politics, economy, society and culture. NCL Director General Dr. Huang Kuan-Chung thanked the donors and expressed hope that the NCL can further advance culture exchanges with Panama.

Opened in August 2005, the Chen Feng-tian Memorial Library is the first library in Panama with a collection focusing on Chinese studies.

■ Taichung City and North Shore, NZ Hold Book Exchange

Since 2005, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (CAB) of Taichung City has been collecting English-language children's books from English-speaking sister cities and promoted its plan to establish English reading rooms (areas) for children through get-togethers with international friends.

At the end of 2005, the Children's Room under the CAB established central Taiwan's first English book library, called "Fun Fun ABC." With assistance from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Auckland, New Zealand, the bureau first received book donations arranged by Mayor George Wood of North Shore City in New Zealand. The US city of Tacoma and the North American Taiwanese Women's Association (NATWA) also enthusiastically raised books for



Books donated to North Shore City, New Zealand, including works by Taichung City writers, Da Dun Literature Award-winning publications, and art books (December 2007)



The North Shore City welcome banquet and a display of books exchanged between the city and Taichung (September 2006)

the plan. As of December 2007, the CAB's English children book collection comprised about 14,000 titles. Since the library opened in November 2005, these books have been provided on loan 68,284 times, averaging over four loans per title and indicating the strong demand for English books among city residents.

In September 2006, Taichung Mayor Jason Hu led a delegation to visit North Shore City for a book donation exchange with Mayor Wood. The two sides also signed a two-year book exchange agreement. In 2007, a total of 110 works by Taichung City writers and artists were donated to North Shore City through TECO in Auckland.