

The Fun Fun ABC library organizes activities to promote public use of the library's English-language reading materials. The library has been especially beneficial to families unable to buy English books for extracurricular reading. The book donation drive has also been highly successful in promoting cultural exchanges through sister city ties, overseas government offices, NATWA and other channels. (Chinese text provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Taichung City)

■ *16th TIBE Spotlights Australia*

Australia's publishing industry stole the spotlight at the 16th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) from February 13 to 18, 2008, at the Taipei World Trade Center. The Australia National Pavilion showcased the youthful energy, natural attractions and cultural diversity of the land Down Under. Australian books, art, children's literature, travel destinations, life and cuisine were also introduced at the theme pavilion.

Among the special guests invited to the pavilion were Tony Wheeler, founder of the Lonely Planet series of travel guides, and his wife Maureen Wheeler; Markus Zusak, author of the bestseller *The Book Thief*; and multiple international award-winning book illustrator Shaun Tan. Twenty-five major Australian publishers also attended the exhibition, organizing a display of nearly 1,000 publications.

As a warm-up for this year's TIBE, the "World in Books: Huashan Book Fair" was held on February 2 to 3 at the Huashan Culture Park in Taipei. The fair featured a number of activities that challenged traditional ideas about book exhibitions, such as the "Handmade Reading:

Creative Competitive Bidding Fair." There was also an educational area with displays of various illustrated books and children's literature.

■ *NCL Highlights History at the 16th TIBE*

The National Central Library (NCL) presented a glimpse of yesteryear Taiwan at its exhibit during the 16th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE), held from February 13 to 18, 2008. The NCL display highlighted rare books, historic contracts, old photographs, woodblock prints, postcards and historic maps of Taiwan in the library collection, opening a door to the beauty of Taiwan in former times. The two display signboards further underscored the exhibit theme with a collage of historic images of Taiwan.

Under the theme, "The More You Taste of Yesteryear, the More the Flavor Lingers," the NCL display provided an overview of its extensive collection of research resources. This collection includes over 2,600 historic contracts, about 8,000 genealogical records, over 4,000 scenic postcards from the Japanese occupation period, and a complete set of all 1,171 "Patriot Lottery Tickets" issued in Taiwan. The NCL has also obtained reproductions or usage authorizations through digitization cooperation projects with domestic and overseas libraries. These new collection materials



Visitors check out the NCL booth at this year's TIBE.