

Programs

■ *MOE to Promote "Reading Roots Program"*

In 1996, the United Nations (UN) designated April 23 as World Book and Copyright Day. For World Book Day in 2008, the Ministry of Education (MOE), National Central Library (NCL), Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan), various county magistrates and mayors, and library representatives signed a "Reading Declaration" at the MOE. The representatives also presented to the MOE a "Reading Wish" of people across Taiwan, calling on the government and public to place more attention on reading.

The "Reading Declaration" reads: "Reading is the foundation of a culture, society, and economy. Reading enables us to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and to see even higher and further. Reading allows us to feel the joy and happiness of life, to discover the world and to share love. Reading is the key to opening the temple of knowledge. Through reading, all students can learn and not be left behind."



Director Chu Nan-hsien of the Department of Social Education at the MOE (third from right), Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) President Chen Chao-chen (center), county magistrates, mayors and library representatives



People from across Taiwan presented a "Reading Wish" to the Ministry of Education



NCL Director General, Dr. Huang Kuan-chung speaks at the signing ceremony

In order to understand the public's "Reading Wish," 319 townships library throughout Taiwan met with the people and jointly signed reading declarations, including statements of "My Reading Wishes." About 100,000 statements were received in just 10 days. Most expressed hope that libraries could acquire more new books for the public to enjoy.

Director Chu Nan-hsien of the Department of Social Education at the MOE said that over the next three years, the ministry would spend NT\$3.7 billion on a "Reading Roots Program" aimed at improving the reading environments at townships public libraries and expanding the diversity of library collections. The ministry will also plan fun activities to encourage library use by students.