

■ *Mr. Karl Min Ku Appointed as 12th Director General of the NCL*



Acting NCL Director-general Sung Chien-cheng (left) and 12th-term Director-general Karl Min Ku (right) attended the hand over ceremony On August 1, 2008, with Minister of Education Dr. Cheng Jei-cheng presiding.

Mr. Karl Min Ku was appointed as the 12th director general of the National Central Library, effective from August 1, 2008. Director general Ku graduated from the Graduate School of Library & Information Science at Dominican University in Chicago and is an internationally prominent expert in the field of library and Chinese information application.

For many years, director general Ku has researched and published papers in his field of expertise and been energetically involved in library and information science organizations. In 1990 the North American Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) presented him an award for outstanding contribution.

In addition to his library expertise, director general Ku has extensive administrative experience as a former NCL advisor, director general of the Legislative Yuan Secretariat, director general of the Parliamentary Library, chief secretary of the Legislative Yuan's Education and Culture Committee, and Foreign and National Defense Committee, and president of the APLAP (Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific) for three times.

Programs

■ *Taiwan's Library World Brings Bibliotherapy to Sichuan Children*

The NCL and Department of Library and Information Science at National Taiwan University jointly organized an event to donate illustrated books to children in earthquake-struck Sichuan Province. The mental health, children's literature, library and information, publishing and corporate sectors of Taiwan joined resources to collect illustrated books designed to help kids overcome the grief and emotional trauma caused by the disaster and through "bibliotherapy" techniques. The donation also highlights the role of library and information resources not only for building knowledge, but also in providing emotional comfort and providing the public with accurate understanding of reading and mental health issues.

Studies have shown that children's literature, such as illustrated books, can help children with emotional difficulties or trauma to escape the sadness of their situation and get emotional relief. By sharing their thoughts about books, children can also increase social interaction and learn valuable social skills, true to the spirit of interactive bibliotherapy.

The donation event was announced at a press conference on the morning of June 19, 2008 at the



Acting NCL Director-general Sung Chien-cheng (from right), NTU Department of Library and Information Science Associate Prof. Chen Su-may Sheih and Director Clarence Tsa-kang Chu