

NCL Conference Room. Over the next three months, the organizers will select 50 books (nearly 300 copies) to stock a "Mobile Heart and Soul Station." The books will be taken to various locations in the Sichuan disaster area to help children rebuild emotional health.

■ *E.Sun Program Helps Kids Discover the Joy of Reading*

Jointly organized by the E.Sun Volunteer & Social Welfare Foundation and E. Sun Bank, the "E.Sun Golden Seed Program" aims to establish 100 "E.Sun Libraries" at schools in remote rural areas of Taiwan. The program hopes to encourage kids to make greater use of library resources. The first E.Sun Library opened last year at Shuangsi Elementary School in Puzih City, Chiayi County. Similar libraries were subsequently opened at Fu-an Elementary school, Wugou Elementary School in Pingtung County, and Baojhang and Jianyang elementary schools in Yunlin County.

The "Golden Seed" program is financed with donations through an E.Sun Bank cardholder charitable donation plan. Cardholders can choose to make charitable donations from their NT\$12,000 or NT\$6,000 annual fee or through a donation of 0.3% of the amount of card purchases.

E.Sun is fully in charge of the design, facilities and maintenance of the E.Sun Libraries. The library décor uses warm colors and fun murals to create a happy reading environment, and experts help in the selection of new books suitable for children.

Special Report

■ *NCL Honors Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee on Retirement from the US Library of Congress*

At the end of March this year, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee retired from his position as chief of the Asian Division under the US Library of Congress (LC) after five years of distinguished service. During his tenure, Dr. Lee reorganized the Asian Division,



Acting NCL Director-general Sung Chien-cheng presents a retirement gift to Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee (left). (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

founded the Asian Division Friends Society, and energetically promoted the establishment of an Asian-American collection. He also created a platform for bridging closer links between the LC and the world and presenting different cultures to the public.

Over the years, Dr. Lee has also enthusiastically participated in international symposiums and seminars held by the NCL. He has presented several lectures at the NCL and shared his professional knowledge with the library. During his years at the LC, Dr. Lee promoted cooperation between the NCL and LC in the digitization of rare books, making Taiwan the LC's first cooperative partner country in Asia and raising the NCL's international visibility. In memory of the close bonds of friendship between Dr. Lee and the NCL, the NCL presented a congratulatory letter in the name of the library director-general to Dr. Lee on the eve of his retirement. Dr. Lee was also invited to visit the NCL on June 4, 2008. During the visit, acting NCL Director-general Sung Chien-cheng presented a retirement souvenir and photo album to Dr. Lee and arranged a slide show on Dr. Lee's activities with the NCL in recent years. The souvenir gift was engraved with phrase: "Advancing Sino-American Cultural Exchange, Bringing Books and People Close Together," in gratitude of Dr. Lee's contributions to cultural exchange between the Taiwan and the United States. After the congratulatory event, Dr. Lee presented a lecture and engaged in exchanges



Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee (front row, left) and NCL staff

with NCL colleagues. (some content excerpted from the North American edition of the World Journal, Feb. 19, 2008)

Events

■ *NCL Holds Workshop on Rare Book Restoration and Preservation for Overseas Librarians*

On July 16, 2007, the NCL approved a three-year (2007~2009) program to promote international exchanges with overseas librarians and information professionals to strengthen the library management and service abilities of NCL personnel and foster closer contacts and cooperation with organizations around the world.

As part of the program, the NCL arranged a three-week workshop from May 5 to 25 this year to introduce the library's rare book restoration and



NCL Director-general, Dr. Huang Kuan-Chung (right) greets the workshop participants. (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

preservation operations to three participants from the National Library of Vietnam (NLV) and the Sinological Institute Library at Leiden University.

During the workshop, the participants, including two librarians from the NLV and Mr. Koos Kuiper of the Sinological Institute Library, learned about restoration and preservation of various types of rare books on both theoretical and practical levels. An expert from the NCL Special Collections Division led a class on restoring rare books. The visitors also attended a weeklong hands-on course on rare book restoration work taught by Mr. Yang Shih-rung of the NCL Taiwan Branch. Arrangements were made for the participants to visit various libraries and archives as well, including the NTU Library Special Collection Division, Fu Ssu-nien Library, Joint Library of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, the archive restoration office at



Ms. Yeh Mei-chue at Academia Historica explains archive restoration and preservation work



Workshop participants with NCL colleagues (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)