

to invigorate public libraries throughout Taiwan.

In order to consolidate authority over library affairs, the MOE assumed jurisdiction over the National Taichung Library (NTL) from the Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) on August 1, 2008. The ministry also handed over jurisdiction for cultural centers in Hsinchu, Changhua, Tainan and Taitung and the GuoGuang Opera Company to the CCA.

The NTL was established in 1923 during the Japanese occupation period as the "Taichung Prefectural Library." In 1946, it was renamed as the "Taiwan Provincial Taichung Library"; and in 1947, the library came under the administration of the Department of Education of the Taiwan Provincial Government, at which time it was the only provincial-level public library in Taiwan. In 1997, the library was brought under the jurisdiction of the Cultural Affairs Department of the provincial government. As part of a provincial government streamlining program, the library became part of the CCA in 1999 and was renamed as the National Taichung Library.

The National Central Library (NCL) and National Taiwan Library have always been under the jurisdiction of the MOE. The inclusion of the NTL under the ministry creates a more comprehensive library assistance and guidance system to provide professional leadership for the country's 547 townships libraries and effectively integrate library resources.

■ *Mobile Library Brings Books to the Kids of Taijiang*

Tainan's first bookmobile hit the road on September 3, 2008, bringing more than 1,000 books to readers in the city's historic Annan District. Known as the "Taijiang 1," the bookmobile was funded with an NT\$1 million donation from the Haiwei Chaohuang Temple Committee. The bookmobile was donated by the temple to the Tainan Municipal Library and will be used to promote

reading in 27 neighborhoods of Annan District.

Haiwei Chaohuang Temple and the Taijiang Branch of Tainan Community University have teamed up to arrange various community learning and cultural activities. At the start of the year, they established the Taijiang Youth Learning Center and a reading room to encourage reading in the community.

■ *Kun Shan University Library Brings Launches RFID System*

Kun Shan University (KSU) Library pioneered new ground with the launch of Taiwan's first RFID (radio frequency identification) book return and classification system. The system applies information technology to the library's collection development, reader services, and academic production and dissemination operations. The system enhances educational services for information facilities and reader access and further automates collection circulation and management with RFID technology. KSU Library is also the first library in Taiwan to adopt the open source DSpace platform for collection management. It has also teamed up with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and National Taiwan University to promote the IR30 plan. Over the past two months, the library has held two IR seminars and five training courses at for dozens of colleges and universities in southern Taiwan.

■ *Stadtbücherei Würzburg Librarian Shares Experience on Promoting Reading*

The German Cultural Center Taipei, Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages and Informations und Lernzentrum Deutsche Kooperationsprojekt in jointly held a seminar on "Lifelong Reading and Continuing Education" at Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages on September 11, 2008. Dr. Hannelore Vogt, head librarian of the Stadtbücherei Würzburg