

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

(Würzburg Public Library), shared her experience in managing public libraries in a keynote speech on "Doing Right in the Right Way: Success Strategies for Public Libraries."

Dr. Vogt described how libraries can reposition and win back readers, drawing on the example of the Stadtbücherei Würzburg, which has won multiple awards, including Germany's 2003 Library Award. She emphasized the importance of staff enthusiasm and initiative in moving libraries forward. Libraries should design reader-oriented activities and place the operational focus on readers and library personnel. Dr. Vogt also introduced activities at her library to promote reading and education, approaches to building a good image, network establishment, cooperation with different types of partners and educational institutions, and activities aimed at different age groups.

■ *AIT Inaugurates "American Shelf" in Kaohsiung*

The Kaohsiung Branch of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) unveiled an "American Shelf" at the Baochu Branch of the Kaohsiung Public Library. Director Stephen M. Young of AIT Kaohsiung, Vice Mayor Chiu Tai-shan, and Kaohsiung Public Library Director Shih Chun-fu jointly presided at the opening ceremony.

The Shelf introduces users to American society and culture via its collection of books, pamphlets, and DVDs covering topics on American culture and society, American history, and travel to the USA, and through various speaker and cultural activities. Additionally, it features an online student advising program, which connects students in Kaohsiung with advisors in Taipei who can answer questions about study in the U.S.

Seminars

■ *International Symposium on Innovation Leadership and E-Learning 2.0*

Organizer: Industrial Development Bureau, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Date: October 2 to 3, 2008

Venue: National Taiwan University

■ *Adolescent Literacy: Reading for Understanding*

Organizers: Taiwan Reading Association; Taipei Public Library

Date: October 18 to 19, 2008

Venue: Taipei Public Library Main Branch

■ *2008 TANET Symposium*

Organizer: Computer Center, Ministry of Education

Date: October 20 to 22, 2008

Venue: I-Shou University

■ *Symposium on Digital Archives and Geography Information Systems*

Organizers: Project of Academic and Social Promotions and Applications for Digital Archives and E-learning—Geography Information Applications Sub-project; Department of Geography, National Taiwan University

Date: October 21, 2008

Venue: National Taiwan University Library

■ *2008 Digital Dissertation Consortium Annual Meeting and Symposium on Information Services for Academic Communities in the Web 2.0 Era*

