

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ *Sharing a Dream: Peter Young and Karl Min Ku*

At the 1990 annual meeting of the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), association chairman Peter Young presented a "Distinguished Service Award" to ROC parliamentary librarian Prof. Karl Min Ku. Nearly 20 years later, the two men would cross paths again. During this second meeting of east and west, the two sides were both involved in vigorously promoting, strategizing and implementing digital information systems for the 21st century. They consequently had much to talk about, and their dialogue has continued to this day.

On February 24 and 25, Peter Young attended the TELDAP International Conference 2009 and 3rd Global Research Library 2020 Workshop at Academia Sinica. He also visited the National Central Library (NCL) on February 26 to discuss with Director-general Ku the digital cooperation plan launched between the US Library of Congress (LC) and NCL in 2005, as well as to view the NCL collection.

During the meeting, Mr. Young noted that in addition to his position at the LC's Asian Division, he also is in charge of the library's strategy for digital information related to science and technology. He remarked on the judicious participation of the NCL in the "World Digital Library" project in

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US Library of Congress Asian Division Chief Peter Young (center) and NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (second from left) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

2008, which is supported by UNESCO and was initiated by the LC. He invited Director-general Ku to attend the opening ceremony of the library at UNESCO in Paris this April, attesting to the value of the NCL's participation in this project. Mr. Young also proposed the NCL and LC digital cooperation project could be further promoted by establishing a page on the parliamentary website for public browsing and further sharing of cultural assets. In addition, Mr. Young expressed great admiration for the NCL's work to promote the Chinese Studies Library program at different schools and institutions, achieving a friendly dialogue on cultural resource sharing and bridging the knowledge gap, as advocated by Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington.

During the meeting with his long-time friend, Director-general Ku spoke extensively on the measures and promotion plans carried out by the NCL since his appointment as the library's director-general in August last year. He also provided a draft of the 2009-2012 NCL development strategy for Mr. Young's reference and comment. Mr. Young in turn presented to Director-general Ku a copy of a lecture he presented in Taiwan many years ago on the topic of "Global Knowledge Network Infrastructure Development: The National Library Role," indicating the high hopes and dedication of the two sides towards library affairs.

During the meeting with Mr. Young, Director-general Ku also brought out the award from that day 19 years for a photo with Mr. Young, signifying that "service" is the core value of libraries and "distinguished service" is the duty and honor of every librarian. The award was presented to Director-general Ku many years ago for his contribution to the establishment of the Parliamentary Library's "Laws System" full-text legal database, the first in Taiwan. As director-general of the NCL, Mr. Ku has now turned his attention to ways of transforming traditional resource service into knowledge support services for



Former member of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Mr. Peter Young (right) and NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku pictured at a conference in 1993

the 21st century, fully dedicated to goals and implementation of this distinguished service. (Chinese text by Dr. Katie Su)

■ ***NCL Signs Cooperation Agreements with Vietnam Libraries***

In 2007, the National Central Library (NCL) invited the directors of the National Library of Vietnam (NVL), General Sciences Library of Ho Chi Minh City, Library and Information Center at Vietnam National University in Hanoi, and the Institute of Han Nom Studies Library under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences to Taiwan for discussions and the signing of seven cooperation resolutions. In May 2008, the NLV sent two representatives to the NCL to learn about rare book restoration and preservation. During the rest of the year, the two sides remained in close contact over the signing of a cooperation agreement. From December 4 to 6, 2008, NCL Acquisition Division Director Yu Hsiao-ming and Dr. Armande Liao of the NCL International Publication Exchange Department visited Hanoi to attend the Pacific Neighborhood Consortium 2008 Annual Conference and Joint Conference. During their stay, Ms. Yu and Dr. Liao met with Ms. Chu Tuyet Lan, director of the Institute of Han Nom Studies Library, for further exchanges on the cooperation agreement. On December 7, the NCL representatives signed