

■ *BCC Donates Audio Recordings to the NCL*

The Broadcasting Corporation of China (BCC) was established in Nanjing in 1928 and was relocated to Taiwan in 1949 with the central government to continue its mission of culture broadcasting. In May 2008, BCC contacted the NCL about donating radio broadcast recordings and cooperation on digitization work. After several exchanges between BCC and the NCL's Reader Services Division and Acquisition Division, the NCL and BCC signed an agreement on August 28. Under the agreement, the NCL will provide a suitable place for the donated broadcast recordings and handle the arrangement, cataloging and digitization to facilitate the preservation of these historically and culturally significant resources.

The donated recordings arrived at the NCL on October 15. The donation included 10,393 reel-to-reel tape recordings on cross-strait issues, interviews of notable figures, miscellany, children's programs, and programs on education, local opera, news collections, speeches, national music, and Mandarin songs; 10,878 CDs of radio plays, cultural plays, novel excerpt readings, and Beijing opera; 2,097 MD and audio tape recordings of late-night programs, Golden Bell winning programs, and radio lectures; about 20,000 vinyl records of Mandarin, Hoklo (Taiwanese), instrumental, and classical music; and about 20 boxes of play scripts and reference books. Among the more historically significant recordings were a 1924 speech by Dr. Sun Yat-sen and a 1968 speech by President Chiang Kai-shek announcing the introduction of the compulsory nine-year education system. (Chinese text by Sung Mei-chen and Chen Hsiao-ping)

■ *Naohiko Fukada, Former President of Osaka University of Arts*

On February 5, 2009, the NCL received a letter from Mr. Naohiko Fukada, formerly the president of Osaka University of Arts and currently professor emeritus at Doshisha Women's College of Liberal

Arts in Japan. In his letter, Mr. Fukada informed that there are many Chinese classical works of literature in Japan and also many such works in his possession, however he was unable to locate original texts of the Spring and Autumn Annals, Book of Odes and Dhammapada.

Many years ago, Mr. Fukada presented a well-received lecture at the "International Asia-Pacific Innovative Art and Design Symposium" at the National Taiwan Normal University. During his stay, he was deeply moved by the academic enthusiasm, beauty and customs of Taiwan. He also purchased copies of the Four Books, Journey to the West and Tending the Roots of Wisdom and was highly impressed by the high quality of printing and paper in Taiwan's publishing industry. He was thus inspired to write a letter to NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku to request advice on purchasing books.

A devoted researcher, Mr. Fukada, now 85, has retired from academia yet he continues to read tirelessly. He enjoys the elegant and beautiful verse of the Chinese classics, yet was troubled by the difficulty in obtaining such works. From the letter, Director-general Ku could sense Mr. Fukada's passion for learning and love for classical Chinese culture. He therefore promptly selected appropriate editions of the volumes and sent them to Mr. Fukada with the wish of building bridges of friendship through books and gaining a new international friend in academia.

On February 24, Director-general Ku received a second letter from Mr. Fukada thanking the director-general for his kind gift. He wrote: "Director-general Ku, I deeply treasure the classics that you sent. In fact, I have three volumes of the Japanese version of the Dhammapada, but I did not have the commentary, annotated or original language versions, making it impossible to enjoy the sound and rhyme of the original text. I am truly and deeply moved to receive the folded-page classics that you sent. The Japanese method of reading Chinese anthologies is to first read the kanji and then the

pronunciation, so that after reflecting on the meaning the simple and succinct sounds can turn into music. As a boy, I heard of the *Thus Have I Heard*. But it was only after reading the Aparimitayur Sutra and Amitabha Sutra that I could truly appreciate "Thus Have I Heard," and the preciousness of Chinese culture. China has made many inventions, such as paper, gunpowder, the compass and woodblock printing. Long live Chinese culture!"

In the letter, Mr. Fukada also shared his thoughts on education. He wrote: "As I see it, education is not the passing on of knowledge. Knowledge is the writing and past events of others. The purpose of education is to appreciate the delight of knowledge. Ignorance is the prelude to knowledge. It is only people who know who come across things they don't know. Education is invention and cultivates inventive people. Knowledge is a static state and ignorance the state of motion. From there come knowledge and ignorance is dispelled. People with things to do and things they love are what make our society alive. I have been moved by many books. Possessing knowledge is not the same as having the ability to think. I am moved by this philosophy of life." Mr. Fukada closed his letter with words of strong approval for Taiwan, writing: "Taiwan is indeed a great state!" (Chinese text by Lin An-chi)

Exhibitions

■ *Beautiful Libraries, Libraries of Beauty: NCL Joins the 17th TIBE*

In August 2008, administration of the National Taichung Library (NTL) was shifted from the Council for Cultural Affairs to the Ministry of Education (MOE). The reorganization has enabled closer horizontal contact between the NTL and other national libraries under the MOU, facilitating the professional development of library operations in Taiwan.

At the instruction of NCL Director-general Karl



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (fourth from left) and National Taichung Library Director-general Su Chung (fifth from right) visited the joint library display at the 17th TIBE.



The NCL exhibit attracted a lot of interest from visitor at the show.

Min Ku, the three libraries organized a joint exhibit at the 17th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) on February 2 to 4, 2009. Focusing on the themes of "attention, innovation, abundance and diversity," the exhibit aimed to foster closer links between national libraries and publishers, as well as promote the image and functions of national libraries in serving readers and researchers.

The title of this year's exhibit was "Beautiful Libraries, Libraries of Beauty." Displays highlighted the architectural and collection beauty of the national libraries. The three libraries also displayed their high-quality publications and introduced their major information systems and websites, including the NCL's Rare Book Information Net, NCL Taiwan Branch's Japanese Occupation Period Document