

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

cooperation agreements with the General Sciences Library of Ho-chi-Minh City, Library and Information Center, Vietnam National University of Hanoi, and the Institute of Han Nom Studies Library. The agreements were signed in triplicate, with Chinese, Vietnamese and English versions.

According to the agreements, the cooperation between the two sides will include: 1. Exchange of general and specialized books, periodicals, documents and other publications; 2. Digitization of documents and rare books; 3. Cooperation on bibliographic resources and a rare books bibliographic database; 4. Cooperation on the publication of monographs on topics of mutual interest to the two sides; and 5. Exchanges of experience on library services and activities, exchange visits, and joint international symposiums. The involved libraries also agreed later to formulate the details of joint research plans based on individual cases.



Group photo was taken after signing a cooperation agreement. General Sciences Library Deputy Director Duong Thi Hoang Thu (second from right) and Research and Counseling Department Director Le Thi Thanh Thuy (far right) with NCL Acquisition Division Director Yu Hsiao-ming (second from left) and Dr. Armande Liao (far left) of the NCL International Publication Exchange Department.

■ **NCL Promotes Chinese Studies Library**

A national library is a symbol of a nation's cultural attainment, serving the important dual

functions of preserving a country's cultural roots and expanding into new realms. A national library not only provides information, but also plays an active role in society. A national library also serves as a link and communication bridge between libraries and academic institutions to support cooperative development of academic research and library affairs.

The "Chinese Studies Library" is a plan recently initiated by the National Central Library (NCL) to expand external services in cooperation with academic research organizations and various institutions. The Chinese Studies Library will extend the scope of knowledge services and cooperation ties of the library in the field of Chinese studies.

The objectives of the Chinese Studies Library plan are as follows:

1. Providing spatial planning and assisting with the establishment of an environment for the Chinese Studies Library:

The NCL will assist with the planning of spaces and resources for the Chinese Studies Library and provide areas for resource sharing and the display of rare book images.

2. Integrating information services and establishing a special website with search functions:

A high-quality website with bilingual and barrier-free content will be established to access the services and resources of the Chinese Studies Library. The website will integrate all NCL databases, including databases for periodicals and thesis papers, government information, Chinese studies, rare books, recently published books, union catalogs, digital archive, etc. The site will also provide consulting services on new books, periodicals and thesis papers for Chinese Studies.

3. Arranging lectures by international and local Sinologists and promoting "Global Chinese Studies Lectures":

In addition to supporting research in Taiwan by outstanding visiting Sinologists, the NCL invites international and local Sinologists to present lectures at the library. The NCL will recommend these