



Plaque to the Hong Kong Library Association

Forward: Asian Libraries in the World of Information," the conference discussions focused on the issues of library professional development in Asia, the function of libraries in promoting learning, challenges for library services in the digital age, and library buildings and learning spaces in Asia. There were a total of 45 sessions at three venues. Director-general Ku gave a keynote lecture on "Moving Towards 2015: New Librarianship in Taiwan." The lecture offered new perspectives for experts and scholars attending from Europe and the US, while also broadening understanding of library operations and professional training in Taiwan.

During his visit to the Hong Kong Central Library, Director-general Ku learned about the function of the library as a central system and information center for Hong Kong's 66 district libraries and 10 mobile libraries, with assistance from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Director-general Ku also called on three university libraries, where he reviewed advances made in the areas of e-book collections, special collection management and RFID systems, Learning Commons, initiatives to facilitate book lending and bring libraries and readers closer together, and knowledge sharing among readers, professors and peers, providing a useful reference for Taiwan's library community. At the visited libraries, Director-general Ku also discussed the feasibility of establishing Taiwan studies collections. The proposal generated considerable support and consensus on further exploring the possibility of signing cooperation agreements. (Chinese text by Dr. Katie Su)

■ 2008 PNC Annual Conference and Joint Conference

The Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) held its 2008 Annual Conference and Joint International Conference on December 4 to 6, 2008, at the Ta Quang Buu Library, Hanoi University of Technology (HUT) in Hanoi, Vietnam. Ms. Yu Hsiao-ming, director of the NCL Director-general's Office, represented Director-general Karl Min Ku at the conference. The theme of the 2008 conference was "Information Technology for a Creative and Sustainable Humanosphere." The discussion content at the various conference sessions covered a broad range of topics, from climate change and global warming to the Human Development Index, from Taiwan's digital archive plan and Vietnam's digitization work to Japan's Digital Silk Road project. The keynote speakers and participants brought a wealth of expertise and experience to the exchange during the sessions, resulting in a highly productive outcome.

Over 160 representatives from 20 countries in Asia, Europe and the Americas attended the conference. Hosted in the culturally and historically rich city of Hanoi, the event also raised the visibility of assistance to developing countries and laid a foundation for further cooperation between Taiwan and Vietnam.

The NCL planned the e-library session on "Cooperation and Digitization of Libraries in Taiwan and Vietnam on Southeast Asia Collection." In 2007, the NCL invited representatives of the National Library of Vietnam (NLV) and three other Vietnam libraries to Taiwan to hold seminars and build consensus on exchange relations. In order to further strengthen cooperation ties with Vietnam's library world, the NCL invited Chu Tuyet Lan, director general of the Institute of Han Nom Studies Library under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, to chair the NCL-arranged session. Keynote speakers during the session included NLV Director Pham The



Participants at the Pacific Neighborhood Consortium 2008 Annual Conference (Photo provided by Academia Sinica)

Khang; Nguyen Huy Chuong, director of the Library and Information Center, Vietnam National University of Hanoi; and Virginia Jing-yi Shih, head of the Southeast Asia Collections at the South/Southeast Asia Library, University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Shih (represented by Director Chu Tuyet Lan), Director Khang (represented by library colleague Dang Thi Mai), and Director Chuong, respectively, presented papers on Han Nom Document Digitization at the NLV, E-library Establishment and E-resource Development at the NLV and Current Status of Public Library Systems in Vietnam, and Digitization Work at Research Libraries in Vietnam. Dr. Armande Liao of the NCL's International Publication Exchange Department presented a paper on "Recent Development of Southeast Asia Research Collections and International Collaboration in Taiwan."

In conjunction with the annual conference, the Taiwan delegation held a book exhibition and book donation activity and signed a cooperation agreement with Vietnam libraries. The delegation also visited the NLV, Library and Information Center, Vietnam National University of Hanoi, and General Sciences Library of Ho Chi Minh City. From the visits, it was apparent that, despite collection shortages, Vietnam libraries serve a large base of readers. Digital archives in the country are still in the early development stages and lack of funds and technology has hampered progress in this area. Korea's SK Telecom has helped to address these shortfalls by providing funding to refurbish reading rooms and establish "Window on Korea" areas at

libraries. Taiwan should also consider the feasibility of closer cooperation with Vietnam libraries from the perspective of cultural exchange. (Chinese text by Yu Hsiao-ming and Armande Liao)

■ *NCL Holds Symposium on Libraries and Blogs*

The NCL and Shih Chien University Library jointly held the "Library Road Home: Communities, Blogs, and Libraries Symposium" on January 16, 2009, at the NCL Conference Hall. Over 300 representatives of Taiwan's library world attended the symposium, which explored issues related to the library applications of blogs. The event was also webcast live for those unable to attend in person.

At the opening ceremony, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku presented a pair of glass carps to former Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) chairwoman Dr. Lin Cheng-chi in appreciation of her support and contribution to the library world. During her tenure at the CCA, Dr. Lin teamed up with the Min Sheng Daily and the Evergreen Group to collect books for donation to children in areas devastated by a major earthquake on September 21, 1999, and to convert a shipping container into a bookmobile serving the quake-affected areas.

At the opening ceremony, Director-general Ku presented a speech on the topic of "New Libraries in the Digital Age." Prof. Michael Hsiao delivered a speech on "State, Community and Individual Identification in the Age of Cultural Globalization: A Macro View of the Asian Experience," in which he looked at the sociological significance of popular youth culture today, such as blogs, engendered by