



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

globalization. Charlie Wang offered a practical view of the "Significance of Blog Culture" and introduced the 2007 YouTube "Did You Know?" video education series. He also provided an in-depth analysis of the cultural impact of "bottom-up" web document participation.



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku presents a pair of glass carps to former Council for Cultural Affairs chairwoman Dr. Lin Cheng-chi (left) in appreciation of her support and contribution to the library world.

Speakers during the afternoon session included National Taiwan Normal University Library Director Chen Chao-chen, who discussed the topic of "Web 2.0 and New Library Service Trends"; Mr. Wu Feng-chia, who provided a "Comparative Analysis of Blog Development Tools"; and Mr. Le Yi-wen, who spoke on "Blogs: A New Approach for Libraries." The most closely-watched session was on "Blogger Talk on Library Blogging Communities," which was covered by popular local bloggers, such as Debra, Ted, XXC, and Old Librarian before and after the event, generating enthusiastic responses and interaction from the web community. (Chinese text by Ms. Yu Hsiao-ming)

■ *NCL and Presbyterian Church Team Up to Digitize Historical Materials*

The National Central Library (NCL) and Church History Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) signed a cooperation agreement on December 16, 2008, to enhance the preservation and public accessibility of books and

relics in the PCT Historical Museum. NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and PCT General Secretary Rev. Andrew T.C. Chang represented the two sides at the signing ceremony. The agreement calls for cooperation between the NCL and PCT on digitally converting the letters, manuscripts, books, periodicals, bulletins, and other historical resources left by early missionaries in Taiwan. In digital form, these valuable resources can be better preserved and made more widely available to researchers and the general public.

The cooperation plan covers document restoration, reproduction and digitization, recording of oral histories by elders on historical documents, and establishment of the history of related document usage. The main emphasis of the project is to reproduce and digitally convert the documents for public access and academic research, including display and dissemination through the NCL website and other channels.

For 143 years, the PCT has made notable contributions to Taiwanese society, especially through its pioneering work in the fields of education, medicine, and care for the disadvantaged. In recording these achievements, the historical documents of the church have tremendous research value.



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (right) and Presbyterian Church in Taiwan General Secretary Rev. Andrew T.C. Chang sign a cooperation agreement. (Photo provided by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan)