

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ *NCL and National Library of Latvia Sign Cooperation Agreement*

With the global economy in the doldrums, the NCL remains as committed as ever to promoting international exchange activities and thereby contributing to the foundation of knowledge on which national strength depends. On March 16, the library further extended its international reach with the signing of a cooperation and exchange agreement with the National Library of Latvia (NLL).

Dr. Frank Kraushaar represented the NLL in signing the agreement with the NCL, which was represented by Director-general Karl Min Ku. Dr. Kraushaar was also accompanied by three scholars from the University of Latvia on the visit from the Baltic state.

Since his appointment in August last year, Director-general Ku has energetically promoted cultural exchanges between the NCL and counterparts around the world. In addition to stepping up cooperation with the US Library of Congress on a rare book digitization plan launched in 2006 and participation in the UNESCO-supported World Digital Library project, Director-general Ku has promoted the establishment of "Taiwan Collections" in Hong Kong, Mongolia, Vietnam, the Netherlands, Latvia and other parts of Europe and Asia, as well as providing a wealth of resources on

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NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and Dr. Frank Kraushaar (left), representative of the National Library of Latvia. (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Chinese studies to these and other countries. Since the NLL will complete its new "Castle of Light" library in 2012, the NCL offered to help the library establish a Taiwan collection with donated books at the new facility.

The new NLL building will also be home to the Research Institute of Asian Studies, which is currently based at the University of Latvia and directed by Dr. Kraushaar. Dr. Kraushaar said he was honored to represent NLL Director Andris Vilks in signing the agreement with the NCL and hopes soon to welcome NCL representatives to Latvia for exchanges. He noted that the NLL is particularly in need of the NCL's assistance for its collection of Mongolian rare books.

Director-general Ku said that the most important matter after signing the agreement is to carry out the contents of the agreement. In his double capacity as director of the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) at the NCL, he also encouraged more Latvian Sinologists to take advantage of the annual CCS grants to conduct research in Taiwan. (Chinese text by Katie Su)

■ *Building Bridges of Cooperation: Open scholarship and free exchange of information*

At 11am on 7 April 2009, the National Central Library (NCL) and National Taipei University (NTPU) held a ceremony in Sanxia campus at which they signed a cooperative agreement. Those present at the meeting included the NCL's Director-general, Professor Karl Min Ku, NTPU President Charles Chung-Weun Hou, as well as a number of official representatives and colleagues from both organizations.

In his address, Director-general Ku praised the excellent advances made at the Sanxia campus over the last ten years, and called the agreement between the two organizations an "AA," for "academic alliance." Director-general Ku also mentioned that this special form of alliance is the first in Taiwan of its type. At the "Taiwan e-Learning & Digital



National Central Library and National Taipei University signed an agreement for academic alliance. (photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Archives Program (TELDAP) International Conference" held at Academia Sinica in February, he discussed the project with Library of Congress Asian Division Director Peter Young and Catherine Harboe-Ree, University Librarian at the Monash University (Australia). The two chiefs each independently and wholeheartedly approved of rapidly expanding NCL's cooperation and trust with university campuses.

NTPU's president Hou expressed his deep appreciation of NCL's commitment to the ideals of open scholarship and freedom of information, also commending NCL for fearlessly breaking through obstacles, striving to forge new academic relationships with other scholarly organizations, and creating a new channel for the expansion of knowledge.

The primary cooperative events planned by the two partner organizations are this year's "Global Chinese Studies Lectures," a joint instructional course on the use of library information, and joint development of library performance indicators. The first event planned by the two partners is a conference exposition of MA and PhD research, to be held at the NCL's international conference hall on May 13. NCL is currently preparing agreements with other cooperative partners. (Chinese text provided by Ching-fen Hsu)