



Debra of the Sound of Fall blog speaks at National Chengchi University.

online symposium, students of the participating schools were able to freely express their views on various related subjects, as well as take part in discussions on topics proposed by the hosting bloggers. The forum currently has 12 threads and 121 replies.

Staff from the NCL's Guidance Division attended each of the symposiums as observers and distributed copies of the "National Central Library Strategy Plan (2009~2012)" to symposium participants. (Chinese text by Huang Ching-hua)

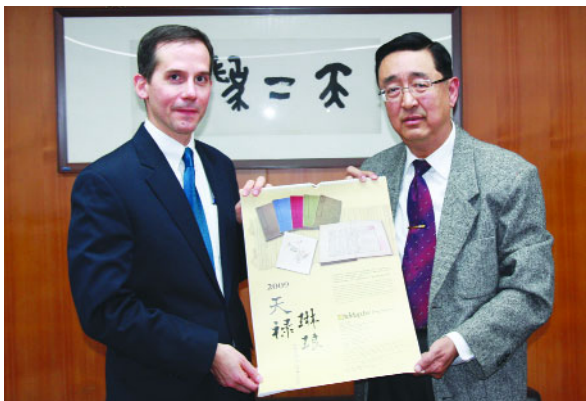
NCL International Exchange Events

Jan. 8: Taiwan Foundation for Asia Pacific Development president Lin Tien-kuei visited NCL Director Karl Min Ku for exchanges of views on cooperation affairs.



President Lin Tien-kuei (left) with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Jan. 9: Mr. Thomas Hodges, head and spokesperson of the Public Affairs Section at the Taipei Office of the American Institute in Taiwan visited the NCL accompanied by Ms. Wang Pei-chi, director of the American Cultural Center Resources Service, Public Affairs Section.



Mr. Thomas Hodges (left) with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Jan. 13: Mr. Andrew H. Wang, director of OCLC Asia Pacific services, and Ms. Shu-en Tsai, OCLC Asia Pacific marketing executive visited Director-general Karl Min Ku for discussions on cooperation affairs.



Mr. Andrew H. Wang (third from left) with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (fourth from left) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Feb 2: Ms. Diana Liu Wen-ling, librarian for East Asian Studies at Indiana University, East Asian Collection visited the NCL for talks on strengthening publications exchanges.



Ms. Diana Liu Wen-ling (second from right) with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (second from left) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Feb. 6: Mr. Yin Yaoquan and Ms. Angela Ko, director and deputy director, respectively, of the Fung Ping Shan Library at the University of Hong Kong, and former Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Center Library Director Catherine Su Koeng visited the NCL. They also attended the 17th Taipei International Book Exhibition and visited the NCL booth at the exhibition.



Mr. Yin Yaoquan (second from right) and Ms. Angela Ko (center) with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (second from left) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Mar. 4: Mr. Thierry Coste, attaché of the French Institute in Taipei visited the NCL to understand operations related to publication exchanges and ISBN new book publication.



Mr. Thierry Coste (second from left) with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (second from right) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Mar. 11: Ms. Peg Walther, an advisor at the Information Resource Center of the US Embassy in China visited the NCL for talks and exchanges with library colleagues. She was accompanied by Director Wang Pei-chi and Ms. Liu Nai-wei of the American Corner in Taipei.



Ms. Peg Walther (left) with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Mar. 16: Dr. Frank Kraushaar, director of the Research Institute of Asian Studies at the University of Latvia visited the NCL accompanied by Kaspars Eihmanis, Ieva Haas and Iveta Buzijana. Dr. Kraushaar also represented the National Library of Latvia in exchanging a cooperation agreement.



Dr. Frank Kraushaar (second from left) and colleagues with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (first from right) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ *CCS Seminar*

The Center for Chinese Studies held a seminar on May 1, 2009, for the visiting scholar Professor Poul Andersen, an Associate Professor in the Department of Religion at Hawaii University, U.S.A. Professor Andersen spoke on "The Scripture of the Jade Pivot and Daoist Iconography." Professor Li Feng-mao, a research fellow at the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, chaired the seminar.

The seminar focused on the Scripture of the *Jade Pivot* (Yushu jing), one of modern Daoism's most important texts, and the main scriptural expression of the Thunder Rites of the Shenxiao tradition. The scripture is the central vehicle of the Celestial Worthy Who Transforms All through the Sound of Thunder, Leisheng puhua tianzun, the supreme Daoist god of thunder, and appears to have been written around 1200. It was revered throughout the Ming and Qing dynasties, not only by Daoists, but also by self-declared Confucians, and not least in circles dedicated to self-cultivation framed by the notion of the unity of the Three Religions. To this day, it continues to be one of the most important scriptures chanted, and indeed performed, as part of many different kinds of Daoist liturgy. Professor

Andersen researches several aspects of this scripture, notably textual variants and the dating of the various editions of the text; the local context in which the scripture originated and the question of the specific religious affiliation of the text; and the significance of the illustrations of the text, both for this historical work and for Daoist iconography in general.

The seminar attracted many research students and scholars specializing in Daoism from several institutions, including Academia Sinica, the National Palace Museum, universities, and religious groups.



Professor Poul Andersen (second from left, front row) (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

CCS News and Activities

■ *NCL Visiting Scholars Visit Miaoli for Cultural Tour*

Visiting scholars at the NCL were treated to an up-close look at traditional customs and ways of life in Taiwan during a field trip to Miaoli County on April 10.

The group stopped first at the Sanyi Wood Sculpture Museum for a guided tour introducing the rise and fall of the timber industry in Sanyi and the subsequent revival of the township as a center of wood art.

The visitors then continued on to the Hwataoyao Botanical Garden, Ceramic Studio & Wood Kilns, which sprawls over six hectares on Huoyan Mountain in Yuanli Township. From its hillside perch, Hwataoyao commands a bird's-eye