



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