

"2009 National Central Library Service Year." Afterwards, everyone went to the nearby NCL Arts and Audiovisual Center for a performance of "Dance of the Three Kingdoms: Chinese Sliding-Block of the Battle of Red Cliffs." The activity came to a successful close with an impromptu hand puppet performance of the generals "Kong Ming and Chao Tzu-lung" by Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng and NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku.

In addition to the celebration activities, several high-quality publications produced by the NCL were presented, including *Agrarian Life in Early Taiwan, Taichung during the Japanese Occupation Period, Bibliography of Works on the May Fourth Movement, 1949-2009*, and the *National Central Library 2008 Annual Report: Celebrating 75 Years*. (Chinese text by Wu Ying-mei)

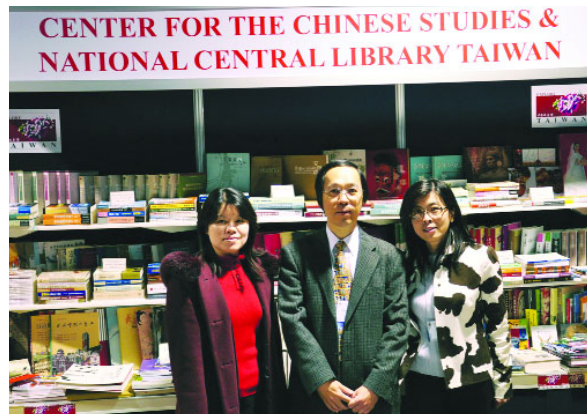


Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng (left) and NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku give an impromptu performance of the generals "Kong Ming and Chao Tzu-lung".

■ ***NCL Attends AAS Annual Meeting and Book Exhibition***

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) held its 61st Annual Meeting on March 26 to 29, 2009, at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. A total of 2,951 people attended and 249 papers were presented by scholars from around the world, reaffirming the event's central position in the field of Asian studies.

Mr. Chuang Chien-kuo, head of the Materials



Mr. Chuang Chien-kuo (center) and staff of Taiwan's representative office in Chicago

Division at the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) represented the NCL at the meeting and gave a presentation on the current status of Chinese Studies in Taiwan. He also presented a paper by NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku on "Bibliographic Information Services at the NCL: Current Status and Future Development" at the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) meeting. The paper introduced the most recent developments at the NCL to the attendees, representing the international library and Chinese studies communities.

At this year's book exhibition, 98 organizations presented publications at 128 booths. Books, periodicals, databases, and other digital resource on East Asian studies accounted for the majority of the resources on display during the three-day exhibition. Exhibitors came from the Europe, the US, and Asia. The NCL and CCS displayed a selection of over 300 books and CDs, including everything from general studies to academic monographs. The titles on display presented a representative view of the contributions made by government agencies in Taiwan to the field of Chinese studies.

The Taiwan exhibitors grouped their displays together as a "Taiwan Pavilion," successfully raising the profile of the exhibits. Other exhibitors apart from the NCL and CCS included Academia Sinica, Transmission Books and Microinfo Co., Linking Publishing Company, Tudor Tech System Co,



Speakers at the CEAL meeting

Hyweb Technology Co., and Mandarin Library & Information Services Co.

After the meeting, the NCL representatives visited the Chicago Public Library and University of Chicago Library. At the University of Chicago, the visitors inspected the library's fully automated high-density stack system and also toured the site of the Joe and Rika Mansueto Library (<http://mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/>) now under construction. (Chinese text by Chuang Chien-kuo)

■ *Seminar on Liu Ka-shiang's Nature Books*

Disseminating new knowledge, encouraging reading, and providing food for thought have long been major objectives of the National Central Library (NCL). The library therefore has established the "New Knowledge Dissemination and International Culture Service Strategy Subcommittee" to plan a "Books and People" series of activities integrated with the NCL's theme book exhibitions, NCL E-Learning Campus, Contemporary Authors Full-text Image System, New Books: Recent Publications in Taiwan, ROC and ISBNnet.

The Books and People series kicked off in 2009 with a seminar entitled, "Liu Ka-shiang Writes the Story of Nature." Winner of the first-place award in the novel category of this year's Taipei International Book Exhibition, nature writer Liu Ka-shiang was invited to the NCL on March 12 to speak about his new book *Eternal Albatross* and talk about his literary career. In his opening speech, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku noted that March 12 is Tree

Day and compared the book release event to the planting of a tree to lay down roots and promote reading. The activity also marked the start of the NCL "Service Year" and the building of closer cooperation ties with authors and publishers to strengthen reader services.

During the two-hour session, Liu Ka-shiang presented insights on the environment from different perspectives. The event was also joined by Golden



A Dialogue between Books and People (from left): Prof. Chen Chao-ming, President Li Wei-wen, Editor-in-chief Wang Chih-hung, and Liu Ka-shiang. (Photo by Chen Sen-feng)



Liu Ka-shiang with seminar guests (from left): President Li Wei-wen, Editor-in-chief Wang Chih-hung, Prof. Chen Chao-ming, Liu Ka-shiang, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku, and Yuan-Liou Publishing Group founder Wang Jung-wen. (Photo by Chen Sen-feng)