

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ *Taiwan Reading Garden Opens in Mongolia*

The National Central Library (NCL) signed a cooperation agreement with the National Library of Mongolia (NLM) on August 31, 2006, to continue exchange visits and interaction with the NLM and Book Palace Children. On July 9, 2009, the two sides opened the "Taiwan Reading Garden" at the Book Palace Children.

ROC Ambassador to Mongolia Tseng Yeemin hosted the inauguration and book donation ceremony. Director-general Karl Min Ku presented the books for the reading room collection on behalf of the NCL. The gift was received by Book Palace Children Director Oyunbileg Damdinsuren on the Mongolian side. A total of 585 books were donated, including over 200 bilingual (Chinese-English) government publications on art and culture and illustrated children's books, as well as stationery materials and educational building block games. The donation represented the sharing of Taiwan's knowledge, experience and friendship with Mongolia. The Taiwan Reading Garden occupies a 98-square-meter space neighboring the U.S., German, French and Swiss reading areas. The collection includes children and adolescents books introducing the technology, culture, education, creative industries and other aspects of Taiwan. In the future, the reading area will host book exhibitions displaying important historical stories related to

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Director-general Karl Min Ku signed the cooperation agreement. (Photo provided by Lin Taihong)

children and young adults in Taiwan, as well as anthologies, maps, posters, multimedia materials on tradition arts in Taiwan, English translations of Chinese-language books and bilingual (Chinese and English) titles. The reading room will also provide access to a digital database and online resources.

The opening of the new reading room represents a major step forward in the NCL's efforts to expand international cooperation ties and contribute to the endeavor of global cultural resource sharing. It also continues in a trend of steadily deepening relations between Taiwan and Mongolia in recent years. Today, Taiwan is an important trading partner of Mongolia. In addition to trade and investment ties, the two sides have also strengthened cooperation in the fields of education, science, technology, and tourism. Education exchanges and cultural studies have helped Taiwan and Mongolia to foster mutual awareness of their society, history and customs, deepening understanding and cooperation between the two sides.



Taiwan Reading Garden at the Book Palace Children. (Photo provided by Lin Taihong)

During the ceremony Director-general Ku noted that "Children are the jewels of humanity and the hope of the future. Ensuring that they have the resources to learn is a mission that we cannot ignore. The Taiwan Reading Garden was established at the Book Palace Children on this concept. And the NCL will continue to sign cooperation agreements with Vietnam, Mongolia and other countries so that, through resource sharing, dissemination of information and study, we can win international

recognition, heighten our international visibility, and let the world see our efforts."

■ *NCL Donates Books for Taiwan Studies Center at Korea University*

The Institute for Asian Studies at Korea University officially opened the Taiwan Studies Center on April 8, 2009. The center will focus on research related to cross-strait and North and South Korea relations and Taiwan-Korea relations. Korea University has formed sister school relations with six universities in Taiwan. In addition to ongoing student exchanges in cultural fields, the university also plans to intensify academic exchange visit and cooperation with Taiwan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) coordinated 21 organizations in Taiwan, including the NCL, Government Information Office and National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, to donate 1,080 books and periodicals on Taiwan history and geography, society, medicine, art and culture to the Taiwan Studies Center. The NCL donation included nearly 100 volumes in a variety of fields, including *Taiwan Socio-cultural Models in Transition*, *A Century of Baseball in Taiwan*, and *Journey to Taiwan*, presenting the culture of Taiwan in words and pictures to the reading public in Korea.

■ *NCL and University of Hong Kong Sign Cooperation Agreement*

The NCL and University of Hong Kong (UHK) Library signed a cooperation and exchange agreement on May 13, 2009. NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and UHK Library Deputy Librarian Peter Edward Sidorko represented the two sides in signing the agreement. The agreement covers: 1) exchanges on general or specialized books, periodicals, documents and other publications; 2) digital conversion of Chinese documents and rare books in the library collections; 3) cooperation on establishing a bibliographic database for Chinese documents and rare books; 4) cooperation on publishing monographs consistent with the expectations and interests of the two sides; and 5)