

industrial backbone is agriculture which emphasized the revitalization of sugar and tea industries. Taiwan also supplied mainland Japan with rice.

The north-south railway opened in 1909 and Japan increased its investment in Taiwan to stimulate the rise of industries. In 1930, Japan's agriculture was affected by world economic crisis. In order to safeguard the interests of Japanese farmers, Japan started to limit Taiwan's rice exports to Japan in 1931. Taiwan thus switched from rice-centered policies to military-industrial complex to bring about the rise of new industries. In 1934, the construction of Sun Moon Lake power plant provided low-cost electricity and thus help the development of light metal industry, chemical fertilizer, anhydrous alcohol, and castor oil. In 1936, the Government House established the Taiwan Takushoku Co., Ltd. as the operation and financing backing. After the Sino-Japanese war broke out, Taiwan increased the rice production in line with military mobilization and began to develop iron and steel and manufacture machinery. After the war, Japan ended its occupation of Taiwan. These pre-war industry is still influencing Taiwan's economic development. (Chinese text excerpted from National Central Library, Taiwan branch)

■ *Southern Taiwan University and NCL jointly open "Sinology Study"*

Southern Taiwan University (STU) in cooperation with the NCL opened a "Sinology Study" at the STU on December 24, 2009. NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku, STU president Tai Chien participated in the opening ceremony. The Sinology study is located inside STU's library and collects books and materials from 1. NCL's Center for Chinese Studies; and 2. Sinology, Taiwanese literature research, and digital archives of STU's general education center. People in the southern Taiwan can have access to library materials for Chinese studies at STU, without making a long-distance journey to NCL in Taipei.



Opening ceremony of the Sinology Study at STU



Sinology Study at STU

■ *National Taichung Library Start Digital Public Services*

National Taichung Library started digital public services on January 5, 2010, including opening the digital experience area and declaring the "Central Taiwan Public Library Alliance System" come into operation. National Taichung Library, Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau, and district libraries can share one library card. National Taichung Library started a new relocation work in 2006 and moved toward a digital library. More district libraries will join the alliance system in late 2010. In the digital experience area, there are domestic and foreign e-book readers, 55-inch large touch applications, touch table-style interactive applications, interactive puzzle games (using physical sensors), and the latest Augmented Reality showing an interactive experience. (Chinese text from Now News)