

■ *NCL and Youth Envision the Future of Libraries*

In 2009, the NCL jointly organized the "Library Career Development Youth Forum" in conjunction with major library and information science (LIS) organizations and eight LIS university departments and institutes. The forum provided a discussion platform for young people concerned about library development and attracted an enthusiastic response among the participants. On May 5, the NCL held the "2010 Library Career Development Youth Forum," focusing this time on the three major themes of youth values, core abilities, and career planning. The forum addressed the issue of social services through informal discussion exchanges. Ten student-teacher teams from various schools participated, including the Lanyu service team of the Department of Library and Information Science at National Taiwan University. The participants shared their experience on reading promotion and community practice, including discussion of successful case studies. A poster exhibition also was arranged during the event. Through these exchanges, the forum participants jointly outlined a future course for LIS services and drafted a library development blueprint for young people in the LIS industry.

■ *Scientists Popularize Science at NCL Lecture*

Scientific technology is advancing daily, improving our quality of life and meeting our material needs. But it also has piqued public curiosity and consideration of the infinite possibilities. In order to make scientific knowledge more accessible to the public, the National Central Library (NCL) arranged the "Science in Society" lecture series with support from the National Science Council and in conjunction with the Science Monthly 40th Anniversary Planning Committee, Wu Ta-You Foundation, Center for the Advancement of Science Education at National Taiwan University. Physicist Dr. Chih-Yung Chien, Academia Sinica fellows Dr. Chang Hsiang and



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (third from right) jointed photo with Dr. Wei-Hsin Sun, Cheng-Wen Wu, academician of Taiwan Academia Sinica, Dr. Chen Ta-yuan, Director of Beijing Science Times Honghai Liu, the chef editor of Reading weekly Mr. Xiao-dung, Ma and Prof. Cheng-gong Zhou (from left to right) after the lecture.

Dr. Chung-I Wu, and Dr. Chen Ta-yuan (winner of the 4th Wu Ta-You Golden Slip Award for Popular Science), and Dr. Chi-Chang Kao, director of the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) at Brookhaven National Laboratory, introduced difficult scientific topics in simple language for the general public.

During the lecture, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku presented a speech, in which he noted that the development of human civilization is closely related to scientific research and progress. Science is not just a branch of knowledge, but a kind of spirit that guides people in approaching the matter of life more rationally. In the present age of information explosion, people today should look at information with a scientific spirit and methodical approach. The NCL deeply appreciates the importance of scientific education and therefore strongly supports activities to popularize science.

Last year, the library arranged a major exhibition on rare works on astronomy and calendar systems in the NCL collection to mark the 40th anniversary of the first lunar landing. In April this year, the library held an exhibition of its collection of Chinese medicine rare books. These events presented the historical achievements of

the Chinese people in these fields to the world. In addition, the NCL and Chinese Society for the History and Science and Technology jointly have been holding the monthly "History of Chinese Science" lecture series to promote science education and spread the learning and spirit of science to the general public.

At the first lecture session, Dr. Chien presented a speech on "Our Universe", during which he deconstructed, constructed and re deconstructed the universe to give participants a new understanding of the cosmos in a lively and engaging way. During the second session, Dr. Chang Hsiang, director of the nanotechnology engineering center at the National Science Foundation in the U.S., gave an easy to understand introduction to material science, drawing on his personal experience in the field to present the latest knowledge on nanotechnology and negative refraction.

Last year marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, and the 150th anniversary of his writing on the theory of evolution. The theory of evolution not only changed views on religious creationism, but also brought biological research past new milestones in subsequent generations. During the third session, Dr. Chung-I Wu spoke on "Human Nature from the Perspective of Biological Evolution". His talk drew on the theory of evolution to examine human nature, noting that evolution affects not only tangible material, but also our human nature. During the fourth session, Dr. Chen Ta-yuan discussed the popular topic of cloning technology. He noted that embryologists are now actively working to extend this technology to mammals. These developments could bring the scenario described in *Brave New World* closer, though it remains unclear whether this will be a blessing or a curse.

Last but not least, Dr. Kao of the NSLS presented a talk on the "New Light Sources of the 21st Century" at the fifth session, introducing the audience to synchrotron radiation accelerators. Taiwan also has a huge accelerator at the Hsinchu Science Park, though few are aware of it. Dr. Kao

explained how special light sources are created by the accelerators, leading to many important scientific discoveries over the past decades, as well as applications in the fields of physics, chemistry, material science, biology and earth science.

■ *NCL and Tzu Chi Team up to Promote Reading*

The National Central Library (NCL) and Tzu Chi Culture and Communication Foundation signed an "Agreement on Document Material Archive Cooperation" on September 1, 2009. Based on the agreement, foundation CEO Wang Duan-zheng and NCL officials held exchanges on various areas of cooperation and finally decided to partner on the production and broadcasting of a book reading program. The NCL is in charge of selecting the topic book, additional reading list and related videos. NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku has volunteered to be the reader guide. Experts and scholars are invited for each episode to share with readers the joy of reading and background on the focus book.

The project represents the NCL's first cooperation with a television broadcaster to broaden public awareness and access to its e-collection achievements. In addition to providing a platform for bibliophiles, the cooperative project also seeks to expand media involvement in reading activities,



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and the disabled writer Xiu-zhi, Yu.