

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.*

drawing on the visual aspect of television to spread the concepts and spirit of the benefits of reading.

### ■ *"Say No to Drugs" Film Showing and Discussion*

The National Central Library (NCL) and Tzu Chi University jointly held a "Say No to Drugs Film Screening and Post-viewing Discussion" on July 10. The two sides also signed an agreement on academic cooperation. The event was attended by Dean Hsu Mu-chu, Professor Chen Chin-mu, and Ms. Li Liu-hsiu of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Tzu Chi University; Professor Hsiao Shui-yin of the Graduate Institute of Pharmacology at the College of Medicine, National Taiwan University; Director-general Huang Yi-chun Department of Prevention, Rehabilitation and Protection, Ministry of Justice; Section Chief Wu Shi-hsien of the Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Justice; Examination Yuan Minister without Portfolio Tsai Liang-wen; Taipei City Lin Chung-yun Cultural and Education Foundation President Kao Shu-mei; Guoji Electronics Chairman Fred Lin; and Ms. Hsiao Chu-chen and Mr. Huang Rui-fang of the drama department at DaAi TV and several hundred other general public participants.

In a welcoming speech, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku noted that the "Taiwan Memory" system is one the NCL's popular e-information services, with multimedia content on Taiwanese society and history. The NCL hopes that people will make greater use of the library's knowledge resources to encourage the development of an enlightened and caring society. In future, the NCL and Tzu Chi University will share resources and jointly promote reading, lecture and exhibition events and provide the public with even better school and community education resources. After the signing ceremony, there was a showing of the film "Unfilial Son", which examined the mental and physical health consequences of taking drugs, as well as the social problems created by drug addiction. The film sought to raise viewer awareness of the harm caused by drugs and to

discourage drug use. Director-general Ku and Tzu Chi University President Pen-Jung Wang co-chaired a post-showing discussion, which looked



*NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (right) and Tzu Chi University President Pen-Jung Wang (left) signed the academic cooperation agreement.*



*VIPs at the signing ceremony (from left): Taipei City Lin Chung-yun Cultural and Education Foundation President Kao Shu-mei; Guoji Electronics Chairman Fred Lin; Examination Yuan Minister without Portfolio Tsai Liang-wen; Professor Hsiao Shui-yin of the Graduate Institute of Pharmacology at the College of Medicine, National Taiwan University; Ms. Li Liu-hsiu; Tzu Chi University President Pen-Jung Wang; NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei; and Dean Hsu Mu-chu and Professor Chen Chin-mu of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Tzu Chi University.*

at drugs from historical and medical perspectives, including pharmacological, legal, preventive, cultural and social views and case studies. The event reinforced the urgency of preventing drugs from entering campuses and communities, and the need to work together to create a drug-free society.