

activities between the people of both countries. Economic growth and a rise in the standard of living in the Mainland have left people there with a greater thirst for knowledge. As a result, the cultural publication industry has flourished and publishers from all provinces in China have come to Taiwan in groups, putting on various kinds of promotional activities. In an expression of friendship, copies of the books on exhibit were presented to NCL. This not only deepens cross-strait relations, it also gives Taiwan readers more channels with which to understand China. (translator / Trever B. McKay)

### ■ *Forum on Legal Information in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau & Book Donations in Hong Kong and Macau*

On May 28, the Faculty of Law at Macau University and the Macau Library and Information Management Association (MLIMA) co-hosted the Forum on Legal Information in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. In attendance were more than ten legal experts and scholars from these four regions. NCL Director-general Karl Ku was invited to represent Taiwan at the meeting.

When Macau went back under the jurisdiction of the Chinese government, MLIMA already had plans to host a law forum. More than 10 years later, issues such as changing the Portuguese sections of Macau's law and establishing a law database require input from other regions on technical aspects, function, and content. They hoped to cull experience from other regions in order to augment the exchange of legal information from experts and scholarly research cooperation.

Opening ceremonies began with five high-level dignitaries cutting the ribbon. José Chu, Director of the Public Administration and Civil Services Bureau at Macau S.A.R. Government gave the opening address. Before the discussion meeting began, Director-general Ku signed a cooperative agreement termed "The Library Science Classroom" with MLIMA Executive Director Wang Guoqiang, in which every month starting in July, NCL will arrange for library personnel to go to Macau and either lecture or hold a conference on

training topics for library staff at Macau Library.

The conference was replete with informative presentations, including "Current Status and Analysis of Law Libraries in China" (by Yu Liying, Assistant Director of the Law Library at Tsinghua University in Beijing), "Access to Legal Information and Effective Use of information Technology: The Case of Macau LITES Project" and "Facilitation of Legal Research on Greater China and the Role of Regional Academic Institutions: The Scope of the Practical Guide to Legal Research in China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Project" (by Muruga Perumal Ramaswamy, Professor of Law at Macau University), "Introduction to the Input Solicitation System for Drafts of Laws and Regulations" (by Kong Xiangqing, Manager of Legislative Affairs Office Information Center of China's State Council), "China Law Database and the Digitalization of Legal Information" (by Zhao Xiaohai, Director of Peking University Center for Legal Information); "Personal Views of Development of Legal Information Platform: With Emphasis on the Law System of the Legislative Yuan" (by Karl Ku, NLC General-director); "The Drafting and Publication of Hong Kong's Legal Code" (by Emma Wong, Senior Government Lawyer in the Hong Kong Department of Justice's Law Drafting Division); "Introduction to Hong Kong's Laws Information System and Research on Composite Use of Legal Information by Government Departments" (by Yam Wing Ming, Manager of Information and Communications Technology at InvestHK), "Review of and Prospects for Macau's Law Information System: A Case Study of LegisMac" (by Cai Zhilong, General Assembly Deputy Chairman at MLIMA), "Searching Taiwan's Law System: An Introduction" (by Chen Li-ling, Assistant Editor at NLC), and "A Look Back at the Range of Legal Publications in Macau over the Last 10 Years" (by Wang Guoqiang, Executive Director of MLIMA and Assistant Director of Macau University Library). These topics reveal the urgency for and sincerity of interaction between China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau in developing library regulations.

It is worth noting that the establishment and digitalization of Taiwan's information systems (including legal information systems) happened much earlier than those of the other three regions. Additionally, representatives from the other regions were keenly interested in replicating Taiwan's stellar achievements in this regard. General-director Ku spoke of the Legislative Yuan's Law System, recounting changes, developments, and functions. He went on to discuss the current development status of the system, as well as the process and significance of Taiwan using this system to join the Global Legal Information Network. Commentators said his remarks were worth learning from, especially those on cross-database searching and increased search capabilities. Due to the fact that the Legislative Yuan functions as an important promoter of publicizing government information, Taiwan's law databases are also linked with international law, and as such possess a high level of professionalism, guidance, and foresight. Those in attendance gave high praise to this system.

Because the official script of Macau is traditional Chinese characters, after the Forum on Legal Information, Director-general Ku and Chen Li-ling hastened to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's Memorial House to donate government publications for their collections and for circulation. Following the donation of books, Director-general Ku spoke on "New Libraries in the Digital Era: Pleasure in Reading, Pleasure in Listening, and Innovative Information Workshops" at a lecture entitled "A Survey of the Development of Taiwan Libraries" hosted MLIMA. Director-general Ku elaborated on how 21st century libraries and society have an intertwined, multi-faceted relationship regarding social memory, information dissemination, and knowledge management. Assistant editor Chen Li-ling spoke on "Using Information Searching Capabilities at National Central Library." She gave an overview of NCL's catalog search system, Index to Taiwan Periodical Literature System, NCL Gazette Online, Government Statistics Online, etc. She also announced the imminent availability of the National Digital Library of Theses and

Dissertations in Taiwan.

Before his lecture, Director-general Ku was interviewed by the local media, including Macao Daily and the Jornal Va Kio. His advice on Macau authorities plans to reestablish a national library included consideration of including e-books and promotion of e-reading, as well as the need to plan early for the library's future growth and development.

After planned activities in Macau were finished, Director-general Ku and Chen Li-ling proceeded on to Hong Kong. NCL and the City University of Hong Kong have exchanged books and periodicals for some time. In addition to this, NCL donated to the University's Run Run Shaw Library a collection of legal and financial government publications from Taiwan as a way to increase mutual development of collections. A book exhibition was also held the same day, at which the donated books were on display. High-level executives were in attendance, including Luo Chi-cheng, Director of the Kwang Hua Information and Culture Center's Hong Kong Offices, Ling Yu Shih, senior researcher at Hong Kong's Central Policy Unit, and the vice-president of City University of Hong Kong. The books were received by university librarian Hsianghoo Steve Ching.

After the ceremonies, a discussion was held on future cooperative plans. Director Luo from the Kwang Hua Information and Culture Center and Ling Yu Shih from Hong Kong's Central



*Director-general Karl Ku speaking at the book donation and exhibition ceremony at Hong Kong City University's Run Run Shaw Library*

Policy Unit both mentioned the significance of the government publications that were donated for academic research. Director Luo even promised to set up a computer and related accessories at the Kwang Hua Information and Culture Center so that residents in Hong Kong can access NCL's government information databases. This is a positive extension of our government's influence. (translator / Trevor B. McKay)



*Group picture of dignitaries who attended the forum.*

## ■ Visitors

2010.05.04: A four-person group including Library of Renmin University of China Director-general Liu Dachun, Deputy Director-general Xiao Qunzhong, and Library of University of Science and Technology Beijing Deputy Director-general Ji Shujuan visited the NCL, accompanied by Fu Jen Catholic University Library Director Huang Tian-cheng.

2010.05.07: A 10-member cultural exchange mission from Haiyan County, Zhejiang Province in mainland China visited the NCL, led by Haiyang County Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Vice-Chairman Zhu Zijun.

2010.05.12: Mr. Gautam Bambawale (second from left), director of the East Asia Division at India's Ministry of External Affairs, and Mr. Arun Chatterjee (center), deputy director of the ministry's Finance Division, visited the NCL accompanied by India-Taipei Association Director-General Pradeep Kumar Rawat (second from right). Director Hsiao-Ming Yu (left) and Director Li-Jen Ku (right) hosted the Indian guests on behalf of NCL.



2010.05.14

- (1) A four-person group from Mongolia's Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia visited the NCL accompanied by Secretary Hsu Kuan-hai of the Department of West Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- (2) Tsinghua University Library Deputy Director Jiang Airon, Sichuan University Assistant Director Han Xia, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library Director Sun Yi visited the NCL.

2010.05.25: National University of Singapore Chinese Library Assistant Librarian Sim Chuin Peng visited the NCL.

2010.05.26: Ms. Hsi-Chu Bolick, director of the East Asian Collection at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, visits the NCL to exchange views on the focus and methods of e-resources development at the two libraries.

2010.05.28: Dr. Khaled Kakhaleh, president of Jordan's El Hassan Science City, visited the NCL accompanied by Secretary Ma Chun of the Department of West Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



*Dr. Khaled Kakhaleh (left) and NCL Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei.*