

subject, helping those attending reach a deeper understanding of this extensive and penetrating work. On this trip she also visited the National Central Library, gathering documents in the Rare Books Reading Room to use in her research. (translator / Darren Martin Davies)



Prof. Marie Bizais (center) with the Center for Chinese Studies Director Karl Min Ku (right).

CCS News and Activities

■ *EACS Biennial Conference and Book Exhibition*

The European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS) held its 18th Biennial Conference on July 14 to 18 at the University of Latvia (UL) in Riga, Latvia. The event was chaired by EACS President Brunhild Staiger and opened with a welcoming speech by Frank Kraushaar, dean of the Research Institute of Asian Studies (RIAS), University of Latvia.

Reflecting Riga's position as a crossroad for European and Russian culture, the conference chose as its theme this year: "Culture is a Crowded Bridge." The four-day event consisted of nine sessions during which there were discussions on 16 topics, 212 papers presented, and 68 panels.

Prominent Russian Sinologist (and 1997 Center for Chinese Studies grant winner) Prof. Irina F. Popova gave a keynote speech at the opening ceremony on developments in Russian Sinology over the past decades. She also mentioned representative scholars and traits in major related areas, as well as talked about major trend-setting

factors, illustrated from her extensive studies in this field. Chu, Yun-han president of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (CCKF), which provided sponsorship for the conference, also presented a speech at the opening ceremony.

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) arranged a "Sinology Book Exhibition" at the Small Hall upstairs from the Great Hall of the conference venue. Personnel from Latvia's National Central Library and the RIAS assisted with the display, which comprised dozens of boxes of publications on Chinese and Taiwanese studies published in Taiwan over the past three years. The works covered the humanities and scientific fields, as well as numerous government and university publications. The 687 publications (729 volumes) were divided into eight major categories, including: 1) philosophy, thought, and classical studies; 2) history and geography; 3) religion, customs and people; 4) society, education, economy, politics, law, and diplomacy; 5) language, literature and drama; 6) art, music, architecture, and archeology; 7) selections from the classic bibliography, such as "One Hundred Volumes from East Asia", and 8) DVDs. The UL arranged a projector and screen to play the DVD on rotation during the event, generating significant interest among the participants.

Turnout from the academic sector was especially strong on the opening day of the conference and book exhibition. Among the participants were several former recipients of CCS grants, including Olga Lomová and Lucie Olivová from the Czech Republic, Jana Rošker and Natasa Vampelj Suhadolnik from Slovenia, Uffe Bergeton of Denmark, and Dinu Luca from Romania. The CCS alumni highlighted the major contribution of the CCS through its visiting scholar grant program over the past 20 years. They also paid high attention to developments in Taiwan's academic sector and showed a strong interest in related Taiwan publications.

After the opening ceremony, CCKF representatives visited the Latvia National Central Library's "Castle of Light" facility now under-



From left: CCS Assistant Editor Liao Chen, Research, Development and Evaluation Commission(RDEC) Specialist Lin Kang-min, Dean Frank Kraushaar of the RIAS, CCS Division Chief Keng Li-chun, and RDEC Department Director Li Wu-yu at the construction site of the new National Library of Latvia building.



Taiwan's official representative in Latvia David C. Y. Wang (left) presents the donated books to the Latvia side, represented by Dean Frank Kraushaar (right).

construction. The new 13-floor, 40,455-square-meter building is expected to be completed in 2012 and will be able to accommodate 3,000 visitors daily and hold 6.5 million books. The new library is poised to become a new landmark in Latvia, with facilities for reading, education, conferences, exhibition, view watching, and food service.

On the morning of July 16, Taiwan's official representative in Latvia David C. Y. Wang and Secretary Huang Tai-mou visited the conference and praised the Taiwan delegation for its work. They selected the "Album on Taiwan's First Special Exhibition," which documents the proud history of the Taiwan, as a sample book for the book donation ceremony. Representative Chiu chatted with Sinologists at the event and was impressed by

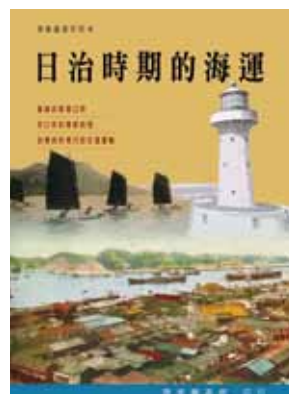
the fluency of their Chinese. At the book donation ceremony, Representative Wang announced that the CCS book exhibit played a significant role in promoting international academic and cultural exchange and that the 700-plus books displayed would be donated to the UL's Library. At the donation ceremony, National Library of Latvia Director Andris Vilks and the dean of RIAS, UL Frank Kraushaar received the gift on behalf of the Latvian side. On the Taiwan side, Representative Wang and CCKF President Chu presented the donated volumes. UL's Vice Rector Indriķis Muiznieks also presented a speech at the ceremony.

The association's biennial conferences provide an excellent opportunity to connect with major European Sinologists, up-and-coming young scholars, and Chinese studies researchers from across the globe. Through participation in this year's conference and book exhibition, the Taiwan side reaped considerable fruits in terms of internationally promoting its academic achievements, recent developments in education, culture and publishing, and exchanges and interactions with world-class scholars and academic institutions.

Established in 1975, the EACS is the largest academic organization dedicated to the promotion of Chinese studies in Europe. The association currently has over 700 members.

NCL Publications

■ *Maritime Transport in the Japanese Period*



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The National Central Library (NCL) published the fourth installment of its "Images of Taiwan"