



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (center), STU President Tai Chein (left), and Representative Alice Cawte (right) open the exhibition with a cake cutting.

■ **NCL Organizes Library Forum Series with Hong Kong and Macau**

In order to promote library and information science exchanges and development between Taiwan and Hong Kong and Macau, the National Central Library (NCL) signed a cooperation agreement with the Macau Library and Information Management Association on May 28. Under the agreement, the two parties will jointly hold six "Library Forums" in Macau. At the first forum, held on the afternoon of July 31, NCL Special Collection Division Director Yu Hsiao-ming presented a speech on "Library Acquisition and Collection Development: Inter-library Cooperative Digital Collection Development and Planning a Sustainable Physical Library Collection." At the second session, held on the afternoon of August 28, the NCL's Ms. Sung Mei-chen gave a talk on "Audio-Visual Resource Digitization and Services." For the third session, held on the afternoon of September 25, NCL Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei delivered a keynote speech on "Evolution of Modern Cataloging and Library Growth." At the fourth session, held on the afternoon of October 30, the NCL's Ms. Lin Shu-fen gave a keynote speech on "One-person Library Operation Modes." The other two forum sessions will be held on November 27 this year and January 29 next year. The former will focus on "knowledge support reference services" and feature a keynote address by NCL Information Division Director Wang Pei-ying. At the closing session, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku will give the keynote speech on "Library Development Trends: A Taiwan Perspective."

The forums have attracted nearly 40 participants from library circles in Hong Kong and Macau.



Director Yu Hsiao-ming (second row, fifth from left), Macau Library and Information Management Association President Wong Kwok Keung (second row, sixth from left), and forum participants.

■ **MARC21 and RDA Symposium**

The National Central Library (NCL) invited Dr. Lois Mai Chan of the University of Kentucky Libraries and College of Communications and Information Studies to hold a symposium at the library on the topic of MARC21 and RDA on the morning of October 6. Joined by 37 participants, the symposium aim to deepen understanding of international applications of MARC21 and RDA as well as respond to the internationalization of cataloging work.

During the symposium, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku noted that the NCL plans to fully convert from the CMARC cataloging system to the MARC21 system within three years, as well as consider mechanisms to unwind the CMARC system. The symposium discussed the corresponding fields for CMARC to MARC21 conversion, revisions to cataloging rules, definition and catalog exchange issues for the 9XX MARC21 field, rules for uniform title use, and the current utilization status of RDA overseas. It was estimated that the direction of RDA usage would be known



Dr. Lois Mai Chan (second from left) with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (second from right), NCL Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei (right)

by March 2011. Dr. Mai suggested that if the NCL runs into problems when converting to MARC21, it could establish a communication channel with the Library of Congress to discuss solutions. At the same time, the NCL introduced Dr. Mai to the library's efforts in the area of bibliographic record format conversion. It also introduced database systems currently under development by the library, including a wide area bibliographic database, Taiwan thesis system, daily book information system, and encyclopedia subject service system. Dr. Mai lauded the NCL's work in these areas and suggested that the NCL could share its results at international library conferences.

■ *Beiguan Music Treasures Displayed at NCL Arts and Audiovisual Center*

The Arts and Audiovisual Center of NCL and Taiwan Music Center, Preparatory Office of the National Headquarters of Taiwan Traditional Arts jointly held an exhibition on Beiguan music from October 11. This was the first music-themed exhibition to be hosted by the library.

The Taiwan Music Center is dedicated to preserving Taiwan's traditional music through the survey, collection, research, preservation, presentation, teaching, and popularization of national music. The Beiguan exhibition co-hosted with the Arts and Audiovisual Center builds on this mission by promoting Beiguan Music and research in this important area of Taiwan's music tradition.

The Han-Yang Beiguan Troupe and Yilan's Luodong Fulan Group provided items for the displays. Taiwanese hip-hop band Kou Chou Ching

contributed hip-hop, reggae, and other renditions of Beiguan scores to add a fresh note to this traditional music form. Designed by Chuang Chin-tsai and the Han-Yang Beiguan Troupe, the exhibition vividly presented Beiguan's past and present.

Beiguan music has played a very important role in Taiwanese society. Its influence can be seen in many areas, from temple celebrations to religious ceremonies. Performance styles vary from a capella to instrumental (string, wind and percussion) to opera. With rapid change and economic growth, Beiguan has lost its original place in society, underscoring the need to revive this traditional art form with new blood. The preservation of Beiguan music also depends on greater public awareness and talented teachers like Chuang Chin-tsai to pass the tradition on to the next generation so this cultural treasure is not forgotten.

■ *Chiang Fu-tsung Memorial Symposium*

September 21, 2010, marked the 20th anniversary of the death of Mr. Chiang Fu-tsung. During his lifetime, Mr. Chiang was a student of philosophy and a professional in the library field, in which he made considerable contributions. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Chiang was distinguished by his erudition in literature and other fields of knowledge. He was once described as a "Chinese encyclopedia" by a German friend visiting the National Central Library (NCL). He later remarked, "Librarians need to be in contact with different kinds of readers and deal with different kinds of knowledge. A librarian depending on professional skill, without other learning, is useless." During a half-century of service at the NCL, Mr. Chiang dedicated his full energy to assisting development of the library's operations. He was a man who acted on his words and became a paragon among peers for his contributions to the library.

During his long career, Mr. Chiang also dedicated himself to saving national documents and the planning of the NCL and National Palace Museum (NPM) to protect the country's rare historic treasures and promote Chinese culture to the world. In memory of his contributions, the NCL and NPM jointly held a memorial symposium on September 23.

The symposium consisted of two sessions: Libraries and Literature, and Museums and Historiography. The former was moderated by



Chuang Chin-tsai (middle), NCL Director-general Ku (fourth from left), Deputy director Wu (fifth from right) and all the important visitors to the Beiguan exhibition in the Arts and Audiovisual Center of the National Central Library.