



to our stand were high in numbers. Workers, staff, or visitors all felt this year's exhibition was an excellent learning opportunity. Not only could visitors view an abundance of new publications and interact with authors, they could also understand more about NCL's knowledge services. Our staff was able to promote our services by directly interacting with users and discussing our systems.

■ ***"Mapping and Unmapping the Pacific" - International Pacific Studies Conference; a dialogue between Taiwan and international research***

The Pacific world can be seen as an "oceanic continent," mapped throughout the ages by migrations and exchanges. In its midst, islands are the vantage points from which different mapping strategies have been taking and are still taking place, offering a variety of viewpoints on the Pacific, its contours and its dynamics.

In view of exploring Taiwan and the Pacific Austronesian's present and future history, the National Central Library and Taiwan Society for Pacific Studies, the Taipei Ricci Institute co-organized an international symposium on "Mapping and Unmapping the Pacific: island perceptions of an "oceanic continent ". The objective of this conference is twofold: (a) accounting for the diversity of the "mappings" of the Pacific continent so as to challenge and renew historical, geographical and ethnographic insights on this part of the world; (b) allowing a younger generation of scholars to compare the insights they have gained in confronting local and global knowledge. Researchers from Taiwan — the island between the Asian continent and the Pacific, believed to be the starting point of Austronesian expansion into the Pacific, being the

periphery and the core at the same time — will also present their perceptions of this oceanic continent as it is observed and imagined from Taiwan.

To achieve the aims of the conference, the Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> has covered the following topics: 1. Tracing the Austronesian Migration Route with Different Approaches; 2. Mapping the Pacific: Austronesian Arts, Cultural Life and Education; 3. Alliances and Conflicts: Space Politics, Environmental and Territorial Issues; 4. Sacred Spaces-Times: Religions, Society and History; 5. Looking South: the Russian and Japanese Outlooks on the Pacific; 6. Young Scholars' Session. And also four prizes were awarded at the end of the conference to grassroots leaders or communities that have made a significant contribution to cultural diversity, sustainable development and spiritual empowerment in the Pacific world.



*The keynote speakers of the "Mapping and Unmapping the Pacific" International Pacific Studies Conference.*

■ ***Modern Chinese Novel Month in NCL***

In 1967, world-renowned writer Nieh Hualing and her husband Paul Engle (1908-1992), a famous poet, established the International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa. Now it is a gigantic cultural organization with a reputation throughout the world. Every year, ten or more authors are invited from Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe to come to learn the writing skills by interaction and create together for a period of time. It is also an opportunity for culture exchange. Because of this the University of Iowa has become fertile soil in which young budding authors from overseas grow and develop. The city has become an important literature hub, as well as a gathering place of the literati.

After China opened up in 1979, Nieh Hualing out of concern for the development of Chinese literature in China and Taiwan began holding "China