

and a more vibrant development as a platform for Chinese studies both in Taiwan and abroad.

Events

■ *Fifth Council Meeting on the Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources Comes to a Successful Close*

The Fifth Council Meeting on the Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources was held on November 3 at National Central Library. More than ten representatives were in attendance from Macao, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China. During the meeting, the council secretariat reported on activities during 2010 and 2011, as well as reviewed minutes from the previous meeting.

Discussion then moved to planning the 9th Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources in 2012, including assigning a host and selecting a time and location. In addition, Taiwan proposed two new projects this year, namely the construction of a Collective Archive Site for Chinese Academic Institutions proposed by National Taiwan University, and Chinese Music Repository Project proposed by the Taiwan Music Center, Center for Chinese Studies, National Taiwan Normal University's Music Digital Archives Center, and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music's library.

Both proposals were met with welcome and support by the council. After the meeting, council members were given a tour of the new environmentally-friendly Beitou Branch Library and the Solar Library and Energy-optimized House. They also got to see traditional Taiwanese culture and customs at the Center for Traditional Arts.

The Conference on Cooperative Development

and Sharing of Chinese Resources is an international meeting held every two years for the purpose of promoting the development and sharing of Chinese resources worldwide. Related issues and policies are discussed, reports are given on the status of various projects, new cooperative endeavors are proposed as a way to increase sharing and exchange of resources. In 2007 a governing council was established. That year the first council meeting was held in Macao, and from then on it has focused on cooperative creation and use of library resources. It has also actively promoted new projects to preserve Chinese culture. Currently, 12 projects are underway with three of them already completed: the General Catalog to Chinese Genealogy, Chinese Standardized Name Database, and the Sun Yat-sen Digital Library. The first stage of the Worldwide Chinese Ancestry Web has also been completed.

■ *“100 Years of R.O.C.: Enjoying the Classics Exhibition” -108 organizations promoted reading Chinese ancient classics*

Chinese classics have a long history and are imbued with the timeless wisdom of sages and reflect their refined writing skills. They are beneficial to readers in order to broaden their horizon and improve their reading literacy. For this reason, the National Central Library together with 108 cultural and educational institutions organized a series of activities from September to December 2011 on the theme of “100 Years of R.O.C.: Enjoying the Classics Exhibition” to promote the reading of Chinese classics and an appreciation of the aesthetic life style of the ancients.

The activity successfully attracted more than sixty thousand persons around the country to participate in more than two hundred multi-field

activities. At the same time, educational-oriented Foundations, large number of publishers and Government research publications department also donated more than three thousand books to fifty public libraries and twenty high school libraries.

A good number of news media reported the variety of activities. This event is the first ever reading promotion activity in the history of Taiwan that gathered the most number of organizations to cooperate, that took place during the longest times span and that had the most number of participants. It is also the most successful of this year's reading promotion activities. We are very grateful and full of esteem for the full support of each participating organization. Everyone is most welcome to go to the website. We also appreciate comments and suggestions.

■ *A Sketch of NCL's 2011 Workshop on Evaluating Ancient Books*

National Central Library hosted the 2011 Workshop on Evaluating Ancient Books on November 7-11 and invited internationally-renowned expert Professor Jin Shen to speak.



From left: Lei Wang (Sun Yat-sen University Library's Special Collection Division), Professor Pao-san Chang Professor Jin Shen, Director-general Tseng Shu hsien, Li Ni (Sun Yat-sen University Library's Special Collection Division), and Director Hsiao-ming Yu (NCL Special Collection Division).

To address the knowledge gap among attendees, workshop classes were first arranged by the Special Collections Division at NCL, Professor Jin-tang Lin and Kuo-liang Wang from National Taipei University, and Professor Pao-san Chang from National Taiwan University, and then revised by Jin Shen. Four main themes were decided on, as well as a general discussion forum: 1) Writing bibliographies, cultivating research talent, auctioning and cataloging ancient books; 2) Evaluating Ming and Qing wood block versions; 3) Ming and Qing manuscripts and hand copies; 4) Evaluating editions and books in private collections; and 5) General Forum: Cultivating professions to evaluate editions of ancient books and their future.

On the last day, Director-general Tseng Shu hsien stated, National Central Library has realized that in recent years, library training has tended toward cultivating information skills. Ancient books and editions have thus been gradually neglected. As such, NCL wants to provide ways for the development of new talent in dealing with ancient works and for the development resources and cooperative institutions for these books. Through this workshop with Jin Shen, NCL is able to further exchange between ancient book researchers in libraries and increase the dissemination of knowledge and evaluation ability of ancient books.

To benefit those who were unable to attend the workshop, NCL will post video of all courses on its E-learning Campus site (<http://cu.ncl.edu.tw>). These are freely available to all.

■ *The American Footprints in Taiwan*

NCL, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), and the Library Association of the Republic of China cohosted the International Conference of