

Andrea Bach from Seoul's Goethe Institute Library. Bach also spoke, offering her well wishes to the success of the future project and hoping it will bring about more cultural and knowledge sharing.



Deputy director general Klaus Ceynowa (5th from left), the head of the Digital Department Markus Brantl (center), NCL Director-general Tseng Shu hsien (4th from left), Hsiao-nee Chang from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Europe (4th from right), and Andrea Bach the head of the Goethe Institute Library in Soul (5th from right).

Because this ceremony was an international exchange between NCL and an important library in Germany, over one hundred library professionals in Taiwan were also in attendance. They not only were favored to hear Ceynowa's creative, inspiring, and moving talk, they were also first-hand participants in this historic event.

■ *Libraries: Photographs by Massimo Listri*

The NCL held the opening ceremony for "Libraries : Photographs by Massimo Listri," a world libraries photo exhibition, on a rainy spring afternoon (2:30 to 5:00 p.m. on February 2). Over 100 people attended, including foreign ambassadors and representatives to Taiwan, scholars and experts, art lovers, and the general public. Participants eagerly lined up for autograph and photos with the Mr. Listri, bringing the event to a successful close.

Foreign ambassadors and representatives of Italy, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Switzerland, Austria, Slovakia, Chile, Thailand, Mexico,



Mr. Massimo Listri (right), Director-general Tseng Shu hsien.

Hungary, Spain, Mongolia, Japan and Poland were present. After the opening ceremony, some of the representatives expressed to Director-general Tseng Shu hsien their interest in cooperating with the NCL on similar activities to expand cultural exchanges with Taiwan.



Director-general Tseng giving an opening ceremony speech.

In her opening ceremony speech, Director-general Tseng noted that libraries are the treasuries of human civilization. They also are indicators of a country's or region's strengths and cultural attainments. In both ancient and modern times, people have treated books as spiritual things and created ornate and beautiful buildings to house them. Over the millennia, the nature and functions of libraries have evolved, yet the view of library design has remained the same: a library should be a landmark cultural building. Both ancient and modern library buildings are like persevering works of art, inscribing the story of civilization at

different times and in different regions.



Italian Economic Trade and Cultural Promotion Office Director Mario Palma.

Next to speak was Italian Economic Trade and Cultural Promotion Office Director Mario Palma, who greeted the guests in Taiwanese and proceeded to introduce in fluent Chinese the background and achievements of artist Massimo Listri.



Attendees queuing up for Mr. Listri's autograph.

Mr. Listri personally introduced his work to the guests and answered questions, such as how he managed to present his subjects so beautifully (he said it was all natural light, but it took time to wait for the best light); and where his photographic equipment was produced (mostly from Germany). As the tour drew to a close, the participating guests lined up for photos with the artist and to get his autograph. The opening ceremony closed on a joyful note in an ambiance of classical art.

Events

■ *Searching, for Poetic Traces of Spring:*

National Central Library Unites the Public in Celebrating World Book Day

In 1995, UNESCO proclaimed April 23 World Book Day, underscoring the urgent need to emphasize and promote reading. This day is a call for countries throughout the world to hold events and activities that will increase reading awareness, entice the public to become passionate about reading, and develop a habit of reading daily.

Creating a culture of reading requires the strength of the government and the public. National Central Library (NCL) has always been active in leading libraries, schools, and communities in promoting a passion for reading throughout society. Because of this, World Book Day for 2012 in Taiwan will take the form of a nationwide reading promotion activity, with a theme of reading poetry. Through these activities, the public will become aware of the diverse number of poetry anthologies in Chinese and other languages, which will increase people's ability to appreciate reading, create an atmosphere of life-long learning and of classical reading, and encourage the public to develop an interest and a strong ability in reading.

The NCL unites the strength of cultural/educational organizations throughout Taiwan to undergo diversified and attractive activities. More details could be found at the program's accompanying website (<http://101read.ncl.edu.tw/>). Seven activities will be held from February to June all over Taiwan. It is estimated that over 100,000 people will attend. Details of each core activity, Spring Poetry Reading Day, and announcements are as follows:

World Book Day Core Activities:

1. Searching, for Formosa in Poetry: Poetic References of Counties and Cities

Time: April 23 to June 23.

Venue: NCL and public libraries throughout Taiwan.

Starting in April, 319 townships and towns will hold activities encouraging the public to find references to their town, community, or school