

## Personnel

Topic: Library and Information Science Study Methods and Organizational Culture in View of Practical Needs in the Private Sector

### Session 3: Career Planning for Library and Information Science Personnel

Topic: Service Characteristics and Career Planning for Female Librarians

Topic: Career Planning for Public Library Personnel

Topic: Continuing Education for Librarians and Sustainable Library Development-Librarian Career Planning

Topic: Career Planning for Library and Information Personnel

### Session 4 (General Discussion): Development of Library and Information Science Education and Curricula in Taiwan

## Taiwan Holds First Trial of "Bookstart" Reading Activity

Taiwan's first trial of the "Bookstart" reading activity kicked off at the Taichung County town of Shalu. The event, co-organized by libraries and health agencies, aims to promote parent-child reading activities and foster an interest in books among children from an early age.

Under the program, which was pioneered in the U.K., parents are given a free book gift pack when they take their infants for regular health checkups. The program also includes parent-children readings, discussions, book clubs and other reading-related activities to help parents that have little contact with books to understand the benefits of reading and help their children develop a love for books.

According to Hung Ching-feng, the director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Taichung County Government, the U.K. Book Trust, the School of Education at the University of Birmingham, health agencies, and libraries first proposed the "Bookstart" in 1992. Under the Bookstart scheme, a parent is presented with a

pack containing two free baby books, reading advice, information and an invitation to join the local library. This pack is presented at the time of the baby's 7-9 month health check. In the initial trial of the Bookstart program, the Bookstart pack was given to 300 families. The University of Birmingham continued to monitor the original Bookstart families and discovered an increased interest and involvement in parent-child reading. The parents of these families were several times more likely to buy books for their children or take them to the library as a result of the Bookstart program.

Bookstart babies also performed noticeably better than their peers on the U.K.'s Baseline Assessment test. The results of Bookstart have since attracted widespread interest, with 92% of the local governments in the U.K. currently participating in the program and giving away over 100,000 books a year. The organizers of the Taichung trial Bookstart reading activity hope to achieve equally outstanding results in Taiwan.

### Taiwan Rolls Out First Mobile Library

Taiwan's first "mobile library" hit the road in the central Taiwan township of Puli thanks to support from Chan World of Chung Tai. In order to further encourage the development of a climate of culture, literary pursuits and social virtue in Puli following the establishment of a community library in the township by Pu Tian Ching She Monastery, Master Wei Chueh of Chan World of Chung Tai donated an NT\$800,000 vehicle to the Puli town hall to serve as a mobile library. The mobile library will visit remote areas of Puli to provide convenient access to books for residents in these areas. The project was designed especially for children in the hope that every child in the township can experience the joy of books as they grow up.

Master Wei Chueh said that Chan World of Chung Tai is a part of Puli and