

## 2nd Cross-strait Library Seminar

On October 21 to 27 last year, library scholars and professionals from Taiwan and mainland China met for the Second Cross-strait Seminar on Public Library Infrastructure Development in Shanghai. The seminar, sponsored by the Bureau of Social Culture and Libraries of the mainland Ministry of Culture in conjunction with the Shanghai Library, discussed such topics as: library laws and regulations; the unique service role of public libraries; library automation, networking and digital development; public library development and construction; and continuing education for librarians in the information age.

The seminar was the first large-scale cross-strait public library meeting to be hosted in the mainland. A total of 180 scholars and experts attended the event, including 160 from the mainland and 20 from Taiwan. NCL director Juang Fang-rung (莊芳榮) delivered a speech on the “Development of Library Laws: Theory and Practice,” on the opening day. Shanghai Library director Ma Yuanliang (馬遠良) also spoke on the subject, “Library Associations and Resource Sharing in Shanghai.” Other keynote speakers were Miao Guoqin (繆國琴), chairman of the Shanghai Library Board of Directors, Zhou Xiaopu (周小璞), representative of the Ministry of Culture, Zhang Long (張龍), and Liang Xiaozhuang (梁曉庄).

Speakers at the closing ceremony included National Chengchi University professor Nancy Oulan Chou (胡歐蘭), Director Ma of the Shanghai Library, Chinese Society for Library Science vice chairperson Sun Pei-yin (孫蓓欣), and Ms. Zhou of the Ministry of Culture.

The NCL delegation also comprised Circulation Department head Chen Chao-chen (陳昭珍) and editor Cheng Pao-mei (鄭寶梅), who respectively delivered papers on “Public Libraries and

Universal Reading” and “Public Library Cooperation in Taiwan: Current Status and Future Prospects.”

The visitors were also treated to a tour of the Shanghai Library, the new Songjiang Library, Beijing’s Shoudu Library and Xicheng Library.

The first cross-strait seminar on public library development was hosted in Taiwan in September 2000 by the National Taichung Library under commission of the Council for Cultural Affairs, Executive Yuan to promote exchanges between library and information science professionals in Taiwan and mainland China. The next seminar will be hosted in Taiwan.