

Third National Library Conference

This year the Library Association of China published a White Paper on Library Development, examining the current status of libraries in Taiwan and outlining specific strategies for future development. The White Paper was published at a time of rapid technological development and changes in the global information environment. These changes have had far-reaching affects on librarianship in Taiwan.

The White Paper appeals to the government to accelerate the development of library talent, funding, and collection resources; promote information technology; and improve library administration and guidance systems. It also advocates the planning of inter-library cooperation and resource sharing, teaching curriculums, and information education for the public.

In order to discuss the issues presented in the White Paper and plot the course for library development in the 21st century, the Third National Library Conference of the ROC will be held on December 1 to 2 this year at the National Central Library. The conference will bring together representatives from the government, library, and information technology sectors to discuss ways to implement library and information services, and draft feasible measures for execution of these plans.

The conference is arranged by the Ministry of Education and the Council for Cultural Affairs of the Executive Yuan, and sponsored by the NCL in conjunction with the LAC, Interlibrary Cooperation Association, and other organizations.

Some 250 participants are expected to attend. Topics to be discussed include: Library Organization and Management, Reading Activities, Library Information Services, Library Education, Inter-library Cooperation, Libraries and Society, and Implementation of the White Paper on Library Development.

The conference comes a decade after the last such meeting in 1990. At that time, participants drafted practical and foresighted plans for library development in the areas of regulations and standards, organization and services, information network planning, and education and human resources, greatly contributing to the promotion of library affairs in Taiwan over the ensuing years.