

TIBE 2000

Some 400,000 visitors packed the Taipei International Trade Center for the 2000 Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) , held from February 16 to 21. True to its theme, "Asia, the Way," the fair brought together 885 publishers from 45 countries, including first-time participants Macedonian, Estonia, and Egypt, and put the spotlight on Asia's publishing industry and Taiwan's in particular. President Lee Teng-hui spoke at the opening ceremony, which was also attended by foreign diplomats in Taiwan and over a thousand representatives from the publishing world.

The event outdid the successful 1999 TIBE not only in the sheer numbers of participants and exhibitors, but also in the amount of copyright deals that were signed. Leading publishing agents from England, Germany, and other countries all remarked on the increased business activity at the exhibition.

The success of the event has confirmed TIBE's place as the leading book exhibition in the Asia-Pacific region. Publishers from France and Japan both expressed their interest in setting up national theme pavilions at next year's exhibition, and Czech and Polish exhibitors noted that they would promote the event among publishers in their countries.

Exhibits were divided into the following theme areas: International Exhibitors, General Books, Children's Books, Comic World, and the Electronic Publishing Plaza. Other special exhibits included the U.K. national pavilion, human technology pavilion, Golden Tripod Award pavilion, and a pavilion exhibiting translations of Chinese books.

The Publishers Association and British Council jointly organized the national exhibit for the United Kingdom, this year's country of honor. Twenty-one U.K. publishing houses and organizations displayed over a thousand publications highlighting British history, culture and publishing.

Guests speakers included U.K. authors Jonathan Mantle and Timothy Garton Ash and British Architect Chris Wilkinson. British foreign trade minister Richard Caborn and Publishers Association president Adrian Soar were also present at a ceremony inaugurating the U.K. Exhibit.