

In the basement level are a 500-person capacity auditorium and 1,000-square-meter national gallery, which will be used to hold events in cooperation with local art, cultural, and historical organizations.

On the third basement level is a 500-car parking garage that will be privately managed and made available to local residents at preferential rates. The fourth and fifth floors will have four 50-person capacity classrooms for holding various library courses and activities. The rooms will also be made available for public use on Mondays when the library is closed.

The surrounding park area is illuminated with artistic lighting on the road-facing sides, making this a good place for an evening stroll. There are also several outdoor plazas, with the largest situated in front of the library's main entrance and smaller squares near the roads, as well as outdoor performance stages, a water area, rear corridor and artificial waterfall, creating a high-quality leisure space.

■ **MOE Kicks Off Summer Reading Contest**

The Ministry of Education will hold an online reading activity for kids from July 1 to August 31 this year. Minister of Education Tu Cheng-sheng was joined by children in announcing the "Four Does and One Don't" guideline of the activity: "Enjoy Good Books with Your Family", "Save Money by Reading Good Books at the Library", "Be Cool by Reading Everyday", "Be Smart by Choosing Good Books", and "Don't Read Trash!"

Students that sign up for the activity online via the Liu Sia Association (LSA) website (www.lsa.org.tw) will be given a contest code and participation number. The contest is limited to books read during the summer and registered according to the competition rules. Contestants will be scored by experts of the Society of Children's Literature of the ROC and the top 100 readers will be presented awards.

Minister Tu noted that despite the development of the Internet and electronic media, printed books are still irreplaceable. He encouraged students to make time during their

summer vacation to set reading goals and write down their feelings and views, creating a personal history they can look back on later.

LSA chairman Liu Kan recounted the story of Liu Sia to encourage children. He noted that during her short 61 years of life, Liu Sia constantly pursued self-study and reading, despite suffering from rheumatoid arthritis for 49 years and being consigned to a wheelchair for over 30 years. Though she only had an elementary school education, she wrote over 20 books and hundreds of essays, making her life one great book.

■ "Hopeful Reading" Bookmobile Hits the Road

A bookmobile service organized by the "Hopeful Reading Alliance" set off for its first stop—Bengang Elementary School in Sinwu Township—at a ceremony attended by Minister of Education Tu Cheng-sheng and other dignitaries. The service, supported by the Common Wealth Magazine Educational Foundation, China Motor Corp. and other sponsors, will visit 100 elementary schools in remote areas of Taiwan to promote reading activities.

Minister Tu was joined by Taoyuan County, Taoyuan County Commissioner Chu Li-lun and project sponsors Diane Ying, chairwoman of Common Wealth Magazine Group, and Su Ching-yang, president of China Motor, as well as County Councilor Huang Chin-te, and many parents and students. Ying said that Common Wealth formed the "Hopeful Reading Alliance" to prevent Taiwan's income gap from translating into a knowledge gap. The alliance encourages children on the path of reading to foster talented youth and strengthen Taiwan's competitive ability.

Minister Tu thanked Common Wealth and the other sponsors for launching the bookmobile project. He noted that over the last three to four years, the Ministry of Education has invested NT\$400 million to buy books for schools, and this year the ministry will join hands with the Council for Cultural Affairs, Government Information