

fourth floor reading rooms; and fifth floor classrooms.

Moreover, the library has organized activities aimed at attracting volunteers and encouraging book donations to further enrich its services and collection.

■ Four-year Children's Reading Cultivation Plan Enters Second Year

By Tseng Hsueh-e, Principal of the Hsinhu Primary School in Neihu, Taipei

The Education Bureau of the Taipei City Government embarked on a four-year plan to cultivate an interest in reading among children. The program will run from 2003 to 2006 and be implemented by eight schools.

The objectives of the program are as follows:

1. To provide book information and guidance to schoolchildren to facilitate development of grade 1 to 9 curriculums
2. To expand the life experience, horizons and world view of children
3. To encourage creative reading and creative thinking ability
4. To launch reading exchanges among schools, train reading seed teachers, and share reading education strategies to enhance reading education knowledge
5. To encourage parents to actively participate in parent-child reading activities and expand resources for reading facilitators
6. To integrate information networks and share reading resources to enhance reading depth and scope
7. To develop diverse reading promotion activities, nurture the habit of reading, and establish mechanisms for independent lifelong education.

Completed and upcoming program activities for 2003 are as follows:

1. On April 23-29, 2004 (Shakespeare's birthday and World Book Day), Director Wu of the Taipei City Education Bureau gave a series of daily readings that were

broadcast live on an education radio channel and heard by students in schools around the city. Class teachers (or parents) put down their work for 10 minutes each day to read to students.

2. The Taipei City Education Bureau published a book called *Creating a Reading Paradise for Kids* to guide parents and teachers in reading activities with children. You can read a review of the book on pp.51-53 in the April 2004 issue of *New Books: Recent Publications in Taiwan, ROC*.

3. Achievements of the reading program were exhibited along with excellent literary works by children and the records of parent-child reading activities. An e-newsletter was also published with news on reading information and resource.

4. Large volumes of good books were distributed to schools to augment reading resources. They included books aimed at fostering correct life views and character. The books also provided a common topic of conversation among Taipei school kids, subtly helped to nurture intelligent and modern minded kids, facilitated the creation of a high quality reading environment, and helped establish a rich and mannered reading society.

In the third and fourth year, the program will aim to further integrate reading education resources and foster the sharing of reading education experience so as to promote a literary climate in Taiwan and nurture creative thinking among its children.

■ Audio Book Program Expands Reading Choices for the Blind

Technology Development Association for the Disabled in Taiwan plans to soon release Taiwan's first virtual "Mobile Library for the Visually Impaired" audio CD as part of its "Braille Audio Book Guide System." The CDs will contain spoken versions of 25 hot-selling books at Kingstone and Eslite bookstores. One thousand CDs will be produced initially and provided to visually impaired readers.

Association Secretary General Yang Sheng-hung noted that people with normal