

public throughout the county on a rotational basis under the program. The ongoing tour is one of the major projects of the bureau and is supported by donations to the county's special earthquake relief account.

On March 8, the bureau invited county teachers, primary school principles, and veteran public-reading volunteers to assist with book selection work, as well as to exchange knowledge and experience on grassroots promotion of reading and the importance of specializing the roles of the education system and county libraries in future grassroots reading promotion work.

After completing book classifications and summaries, the volumes were distributed in batches to township libraries throughout the county. Long-time volunteer story-teller Tsai Chin-man has also been visiting remote townships in Nantou to give public readings and share the joy of books, further contributing to the program's goal of enhancing the quality of life through reading.

■ Taiwan Encyclopedia Launches Online Edition

The Cabinet-level Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) launched the online version of its Taiwan Encyclopedia, or "Taipedia," (<http://taipedia.cca.gov.tw>) on January 18, 2005, providing a new channel for information about Taiwan. The Taipedia project was embarked on after President Chen Shui-bian called in May 2004 for the creation of an encyclopedia exclusively for Taiwan. The online edition is open for public submissions.

Taipedia aims to achieve five major objectives: capturing the history and development of Taiwan society, collecting Taiwan-related knowledge in order to construct a meta database for "Taiwan Studies," returning the right to knowledge to the people in order to establish cultural discourse; constructing a communication platform and expanding the space for public discussion in order to reform citizen awareness and Taiwan subjectivity; and finally, showing the world Taiwan's cultural and intellectual strength.

Unlike the Encyclopaedia Britannica, which collects worldwide information, Taipedia is devoted exclusively to information on Taiwan. The online encyclopedia draws material from published studies and the databases of CCA agencies. The encyclopedia will be continually edited, updated, and expanded as new material becomes available. Any citizen of Taiwan with a Taipedia membership ID can edit and write articles for the encyclopedia. Submitted content will be posted after it is approved by a review committee, though this process may be waived for submissions by foreign scholars and experts on scientific topics.

The encyclopedia is divided into 22 broad subject areas, including craft art, history, industry, botany, zoology, economy, diplomacy, and historical sites. The encyclopedia will contain 30,000 to 40,000 key words with descriptions of 24 million words. The print version, scheduled to be published in 2008, will comprise around 20 volumes and include 600 to 700 website links.

SEMINARS

■ GIO Hosts Publisher and Library Seminar

In conjunction with the 13th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE), the Government Information Office (GIO) arranged a seminar on the topic of publishing and libraries at the Taipei World Trade Center on February 16, 2005. The seminar sought to promote healthy exchanges between publishers and libraries so that both sides can better understand the views and needs of the other side, and thereby strengthen partnerships between the two sides. The event was organized by the Taipei Book Fair Foundation and carried out by the Library Association of China. About 275 participants engaged in enthusiastic discussions during the event. These exchanges covered the following three main topics:

- Process and Functions of Library Book Selection—By Prof. Chen Chao-chen
Introduction to library book selection mechanisms, information format development trends over the next five years, e-book acquisition and lending methods, library and