

■ *Australia's Nan Tien Temple Donates 8,000 Youth Books to Taiwan*

In conjunction with the “Collecting Books from Overseas, Letting Love Grow” charity activity sponsored by Foguangshan and the Humanistic Culture and Education Foundation, Australia's Nan Tien Temple, IBAA Parramatta, and International Buddhist Progress Society (IBPS) in Sydney, collected 8,000 English-language books for young people with support from city libraries, overseas Chinese schools, community police stations, private organizations, and Sydney chapters of the Buddha's Light International Association. The two-month book drive concluded on June 12. About 30 volunteers from the Sydney IBPS and Buddha's Light Youth Subdivision gathered at IBAA Parramatta to arrange and package the books for shipment back to Taiwan. One of the volunteers was Australian Tony Gomme, a Christian who has come to appreciate the teachings of Buddhism. Mr. Gomme donated 1,000 English books and thanked the sponsor for the opportunity to serve society. He said that Buddhism had brought fortune and joy to Australia. The book donation activity, he said, was a rare experience. Nan Tien Temple's Venerable Master Man Hsin said that the activity was supported by many different organizations in Sydney, attesting to the charitable nature of the Australian people. (Chinese text compiled from Merit Times Daily News June 14, 2005)

■ *HP Taiwan Creates Taiwan's First RFID Elementary School Library*

Hewlett-Packard (HP) Taiwan created the first RFID library at an elementary school in Taiwan. The RFID system, installed at Taipei City's Dongmen Elementary School, enables students and teachers with special electronic identification to complete the three-step book check-out process in just three seconds. Compared with the old barcode and manual methods, the new system slashes the time, personnel cost, and errors involved in the library's book lending administration. It has also reduced library closure time for inventory taking from 30 days to only 30 minutes.

Dongmen Elementary School and HP invited Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jiou to take part in a June 3, 2005, exhibition highlighting the achievements of a program integrating student IDs with “Smart Cards—a prepaid payment card for public transportation and other functions. The cards can be used for school access management, attendance taking, purchases, bus/MRT fare, fee payments, e-publications, public phones, copy services, and vending machines. The cards can also be used by parents to keep track of their children's whereabouts and safety. (Chinese text compiled from the Central News Agency, June 3, 2005)

■ *Hsinchu City Opens Taiwan's First Satellite Library*

The Hsinchu City Government inaugurated Taiwan's first satellite library system on June 7, 2005, at a ceremony hosted by Hsinchu Mayor Lin