

■ *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

Cheng-tse. The Library and Information Science Office of the Bureau of Culture, Hsinchu City, said that the satellite library system would comprise 10 connection points (the main library and nine branch libraries of the bureau) and 70 computer terminals, or about one terminal per 40,000 city residents. The satellite library system will



*Inauguration of the Hsinchu City Satellite Library
(Photo by Bureau of Culture, Hsinchu City)*

accelerate the process of making library's more automated, community-based and information-based. It will also bring libraries closer to the people and enable city residents to easily search for information online. The term "satellite" is used to emphasize the system's integration with the main library. The system also provides a channel for inter-library linkages and emphasizes a shift from printed to digital materials. Mayor Lin said that libraries do not necessarily need to be big, but rather need to be convenient. The satellite library system may be expanded in future to reduce the number of residents per terminal to 30,000. The mayor also said that the system can support self-

education, upgrade the information ability of city residents, foster an interest in reading through online education, provide access to various types of knowledge and information, and provide opportunities for personal creative development. It can also assist community cultural development and reduce the urban-rural knowledge gap.

(Chinese text compiled from the Central News Agency, June 7, 2005)

■ *Book Lovers Share Joy of Reading at "2005 National Good Book Exchange Day"*

More than 73,000 book lovers came home from the "2005 National Good Book Exchange Day" on July 9 with books in arm, bringing the month-long exchange activity to a successful close. According to event organizer National Taichung Library, participants picked up 440,000 of the 600,000 books donated, leaving the balance for donation to resource scarce areas in the remoter parts of Taiwan. Books were donated and exchanged at 292 sites across the island. Some 350



Readers hunt for books during National Good Book Exchange Day (Photo by National Taichung Library)