

The May 26 to 27 seminar consisted of keynote speeches, topic-related forums, and a general forum. Issues addressed included, encouraging reading interest in children, children's libraries and reading-friendly communities, children's reading in education, children's reading resources, and community reading resources for disadvantaged children and future prospects.

At the local lectures on June 1, June 8, and June 9, topics covered included the promotion of children's reading activities, selection and application of reading material, storytelling, reading illustrated books, and reading-related games for families.

The ability to read is a basic requirement and skill for one to become full engaged in society. As such, developing literacy is a critical part of a child's development. The challenge is to find ways to use limited reading facilities and resources to help children overcome the innate and imposed barriers they face in literacy development. Scholars and experts taking part in the seminar and lecture series aimed to approach this task through discussions on recent trends and studies on children's reading issues, and by sharing their theoretical knowledge and practical experience to help disadvantaged children develop their reading ability and bloom in life.

■ *Seminar on In-service Librarian Training*

A seminar on in-service librarian training was held on May 17 to 18 at the Gushan Branch of the Kaohsiung City Library, which sponsored the event with assistance from the NCL and

Kaohsiung County Government Cultural Bureau. Local experts and scholars presented lectures and shared their experience on library topics during discussion sessions, workshops, and field trips. These event provided librarians with new concepts on library management and techniques for communicating with readers in the information age. They also enabled librarians to enhance their professional knowledge, promote healthy interactions between library staff and readers, promote the function of libraries as community information centers, and promote lifelong learning. The seminar attracted about 60 participants, including librarians of the Tainan City Library; the Tainan, Kaohsiung, Pingtung, and Penghu county government cultural bureaus (including the township and city libraries under their jurisdiction); the Chiang Kai-shek Cultural Center in Kaohsiung City; and the Kaohsiung City Library. Courses offered included: (1) Reading Activities Around the World; (2) Photography Techniques for Artistic and Cultural Events; (3) Internet PR and Marketing; and (4) Planning and Design of Book Exhibitions.

■ *Virtual Archives Inauguration and E-Document Management Seminar*

On June 14, the Cabinet-level Research, Development and Evaluation Commission and its National Archives Administration (NAA) inaugurated the Virtual Archives and held a seminar on e-document management, attracting over 200 participants from government agencies, universities, information companies, foundations,