



*Prof. Guy Lavorel (center), Prof. Gregory Lee (right) with NCL Director-General Juang Fang-rung (left) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)*

### ■ *National Reading Campaign*

National reading campaigns have been one of the focal promotion areas of the Cabinet-level Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) and Ministry of Education (MOE) in recent years, and a number of programs and plans have been drafted under their policy direction to nurture interest in reading in Taiwan. One such program is the "National Reading Campaign" organized by the National Taichung Library from April 1 to June 17 this year with assistance from the CCA and MOE and support from the Taipei Public Library, Kaohsiung Municipal Library, various county and city government cultural bureaus. The campaign featured a series of activities, including book recommendations, writer lectures, literature study, online reading, and composition contests, all aimed at encouraging reading in daily life, promoting libraries as learning centers, and building a reading-friendly environment in Taiwan.

As part of the event, the CCA invited experts and scholars from the business, government and

the Taipei Public Library, Kaohsiung Municipal Library, various county and city government cultural bureaus. The campaign featured a series of activities, including book recommendations, writer lectures, literature study, online reading, and composition contests, all aimed at encouraging reading in daily life, promoting libraries as learning centers, and building a reading-friendly environment in Taiwan. As part of the event, the CCA invited experts and scholars from the business, government and academic fields to recommend 63 good literary books by local writers for children, youths and general readers. A detailed introduction to the 63 works can be accessed at the Kingstone website: [http://www.kingstone.com.tw/Event/0604\\_agood63/index.asp](http://www.kingstone.com.tw/Event/0604_agood63/index.asp).

### ■ *NCL Holds 2006 Chinese International Digital Cooperation Symposium*

The NCL held the 2006 North American East Asian Library Symposium: Cooperation in Digitization of Chinese Books in General and Rare Book Collections on April 20 to 21. The symposium, timed to coincide with the NCL's 73rd anniversary, aimed to forge closer cooperation ties with U.S. libraries by providing a forum for exchanges between representatives of leading East Asian libraries in the U.S. and local scholars and experts and in the field of rare books. Among the U.S. participants were Hwa-Wei Lee, director of the Asian Division at the U.S. Library of Congress (LOC); Hong Xu, director of the East Asian Library at Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh; Dongfang Shao, director of the East Asia Library at Stanford University; Karen T. Wei, director of Asian Library coordinator at the Area Studies Division, University of Illinois; and Peter Zhou, director of the East Asian