

■ *National Taichung Library Holds International Symposium on Reading Promotion in France*

Since its launch by the French Ministry of Culture in 1988, the "Lire en Fete" reading promotion activity has flourished largely without public funding. The activity has adopted a variety of approaches to promoting its cause, earning global support and widespread public participation in the process. It is a model of success from which Taiwan's library world could learn much, and indeed this was the aim of the International Symposium on Reading Promotion in France, held at the Vitalon Welfare Foundation in Taichung on May 3 and 4 by the National Taichung Library. With assistance from the French Institute in Taipei, Jean-Marie Arnoult, Inspecteur Général des Bibliothèques under the Ministry of Culture in France and a key mover behind the "Lire en Fete" activity, and Director Marie-Therese Pouilhas of the La Bibliothèque Municipale de Rennes were invited to Taiwan to share their experience on reading promotion during the symposium.

County, city and township library personnel, university library department professors, and reading club organizers from Taiwan participated in the exchanges, which addressed such topics as French policies on reading promotion, ways that local libraries can coordinate with central government promotion of "Lire en Fete" activities, and introductions to reading promotion activities. The symposium also highlighted the experience of Taiwan in reading promotion, the encouragement of reading interest in Taiwan, and the strengthening of cultural exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and France.



Inspecteur Général des Bibliothèques Jean-Marie Arnoult (third from right) Director Marie-Therese Pouilhas of the La Bibliothèque Municipale de Rennes (fourth from left) with NCL Deputy Director-General Sung Chien-cheng (Photo by National Taichung Library)

■ *OCLC Opens Online Window to Taiwan's Academic Achievements*

With support from the Ministry of Education (MOE), the world's biggest non-profit online library inked an agreement to assist the dissemination of Taiwan academic journal content in electronic format for global access. Under an agreement signed on May 11 with government-backed digital content provider Airiti of Taiwan, the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) will help make Taiwan journal data accessible to its more than 50,000 member libraries around the world, providing a channel for Taiwan's academic research achievements to reach a global audience. Universities and other organizations can purchase content, to be supplied through Airiti's network via the OCLC platform, from the OCLC at a fee of NT\$3

make it freely available to their students for unlimited downloads within a specified period of time. The agreement was signed by Airiti and the content management representative of OCLC, witnessed by MOE secretary-general and Library Association of the Republic of China president Huang Hong-chu. Airiti has gained copyright authorization for online dissemination of material from 500 journals and other academic works, and it hopes to get authorization from other outstanding journals so that Taiwan's research achievements can be accessed from libraries around the world. (Chinese text excerpted from an article by Weng Tsui-ping published by the Chinese News Agency on May 10, 2006)

■ *Taipei Public Library Opens First MRT Branch*

The Taipei Public Library (TPL) opened its first branch on Taipei's mass rapid transit (MRT) system on May 12, bringing new convenience to the city's readers. The branch is located in the underground mall connected to the Ximen Station. The move follows the July 2005 opening of TPL's first "Open Book Smart Library," a highly successful and popular branch at the Carrefour store in Taipei's Neihu District.



Opening ceremony of the Taipei Public Library MRT branch

The nearly 200-square-meter MRT branch is stocked with 15,000 volumes, including titles popular with the young people that frequent the mall area. The library hopes the new branch will encourage an interest in reading among young people. TPL director Tseng Shu-hsien said that the age group from 15 to 19 has the lowest interest in reading. In addition to general titles, the abundant collection of the MRT branch includes "network literature," comics, detective and mystery novels, martial arts novels, popular science titles, Chinese and Japanese periodicals, and other titles of interest to young people.

The library is fully automated with an RFID book loan and return system. Books can be checked out and returned with the swipe of a card, making it easy to grab a book on the go. The library is open during MRT operating hours (daily from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.).

