

Taipei Public Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Taipei Public Library (TPL) celebrated its 50th anniversary with a series of month-long activities that kicked off in late October.

On October 23, the celebration ceremony was held at the TPL main branch in conjunction with a retrospective exhibition recounting the development of the library over the last five decades. The day was also marked with an international public library exhibition, which continued through November 23.

The celebration coincided with the opening of the “Small World” foreign language book library, which was established in cooperation with America’s J&V2000 Foundation. The foundation provided the funding for the library, and the TPL contributed space and staff. The library occupies an area of about 5,400 square meters on the B2 level of the TPL’s main branch. The Small World Library has an initial collection of 15,000 books, mostly U.S. and British children’s books, including six award-winning children’s literature series. Most of the volumes were acquired by the TPL, though some were donated by Chinese-Americans and the San Francisco Public Library. TPL director Tseng Shu-hsien (曾淑賢) noted that in the coming age of the global village, Taiwanese children will need to foster foreign language ability from an early age. They will also need to understand foreign cultures in order to be part of the global community. These are the main goals of the Small World Library, she said.

Other anniversary activities included an international conference on public library management from October 24 to 26. Local and overseas scholars and experts were invited to present papers and speak on such topics as: reader services, administrative management, and information services at public libraries. The conference was jointly hosted by the Bureau of Education of the Taipei City Government. Among the visiting speakers were University of North Carolina professor Ms. Evelyn H. Daniel, Boston Public Library president Mr. Bernard Margolis, Vancouver Public Library director Ms. Sue E. Yates, UT-Austin Assoc. Prof. Ms. Irene Owens, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill professor Ms. Barbara Moran, San Jose Library director Ms. Jane Light, National Library Board of Singapore assistant CEO Ms. Ngian Lek Choh, Surratts-Clinton Public Library branch manager Ms. Harriet Ying, and Queens Borough Public Library Elmhurst branch manager Ms. Linna C. Yu.