

Donations

Donation from Five Central American Countries

As part of the Taipei International Book Exhibition this year, the embassies of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Honduras donated books to the western language departments of four universities, academic institutions, as well as to the NCL. The ambassadors of the five donor countries said they hoped that the books would help break down the cultural barriers between Taiwan and their countries. Most of the books were in Spanish, though a few Spanish-English bilingual editions were also included. Topics ranged from politics, economics, and literature to travel, history and language. The donation ceremony was held on February 16 at the Taipei World Trade Center.

Donation from Israel

In order to promote friendly relations between the ROC and Israel, Mr. Uri Gutman, representative of the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, donated to the NCL a collection of books entitled Israel Foreign Relations and two publications of the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics: Statistical Abstract of Israel (1999) and Diagrams Based on Data From the Statistical Abstract of Israel. Mr. Gutman promised that his country would continue to donate important government publications to the NCL. NCL deputy director Mr. Chien-cheng Sung (宋建成) accepted the books on behalf of the library at a ceremony held at the NCL.

Both of the donation activities provided new opportunities for broader cultural exchanges between the ROC and other countries.

(Chinese text by Ms. Hsiu-man Liao. 廖秀滿)

Collected Works of Dharma Drum

Master Sheng Yan (聖嚴法師), founder of the Association of Dharma Drum Mountain Cultural and Educational Organizations, donated 52 copies of the 70-volume Collected Works of Dharma Drum to the NCL. The donation was presented by Dr. Chi-chun Tseng (曾濟群), the director of the association's Buddhist Studies School, on March 21. A copy of the collection will be kept at the library and the Center for Chinese Studies, and the remaining 50 sets will be sent to national libraries and academic institutions around the world as part of the NCL's exchange program.

The collection comprises nine major works authored by Master Sheng Yan before June 1999. These include discourses on academic topics, a history of Buddhism, articles published in Buddhist magazines, works on Chan Buddhism (禪), a primer for Buddhist studies, an autobiography and travelogue, a modern interpretation of the Sutras, published articles on life issues, and translated works in English and Japanese.

(Chinese text by Mrs. Rei-lan Ku Wu. 辜瑞蘭)