
were also introduced in a slide presentation, which attracted widespread attention and valuable feedback from the visitors. Since October 2001, nearly 30,000 people have used this system.

In the future, the NCL will continue to strengthen the E-Learning Campus by enhancing course content, publicizing the system through related online education activities, and seeking financial support to continue producing CD course material, as well as other resources and handbooks.

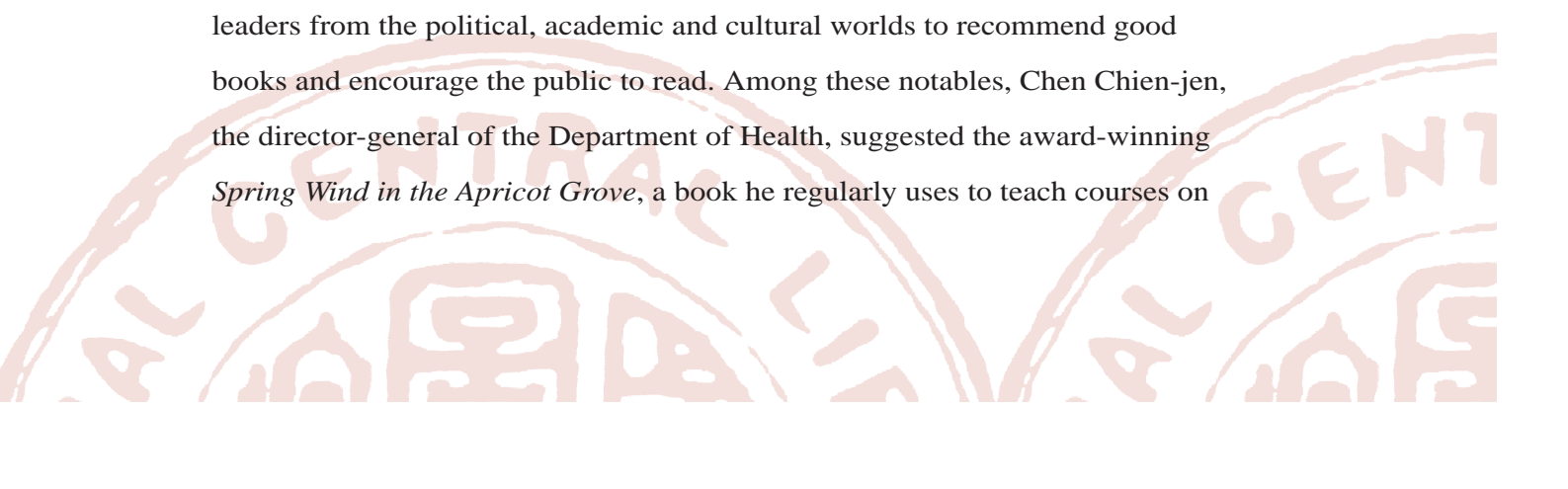
(Chinese text by Liao Hsiu-man. 廖秀滿)

Readers Rallied in Fight Against SARS

Between late April and June, Taiwan was pulled into a state of economic torpor, political silence and social anxiety by the spread of SARS. At the same time, however, this period was also marked by a vibrant renewal of interest in reading and activities aimed at spiritual growth.

Regular hand washing and temperature taking aside, the fight against SARS added a literary note as the media and publishers urged the public to beat the disease by reading up on it. At least 10 books on SARS have been published in Taiwan in the short time since the disease first emerged on the island, and more than 30 titles on the epidemic have hit the bookstores in mainland China, with many joining the list of best sellers there.

Taiwan's two biggest media groups have also organized activities and invited leaders from the political, academic and cultural worlds to recommend good books and encourage the public to read. Among these notables, Chen Chien-jen, the director-general of the Department of Health, suggested the award-winning *Spring Wind in the Apricot Grove*, a book he regularly uses to teach courses on



medical theory. Tchen Yu-chiou, chairwoman of the Council for Cultural Affairs and a former concert pianist, recommended Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence*, in which the author describes the idyllic life in the alpine regions of southern France. Liao Hsien-hao, director of the Taipei City Bureau of Cultural Affairs, suggested Herman Hesse's famed *Demian* and encouraged people to "find strength within".

Business leaders also generously offered their recommendations for books on management theories in the fight against SARS. Landis Hotel president Stanley Yen urged readers to commit to memory *The Youngest Science* by Lewis Thomas. Patrick Poon, head of Greater China Region of ING Life Insurance, recommended Joan Magretta's popular management book, *What Management Is*. Legislator Luo Wen-chia suggested Yang Chin-tai's *First Encounter: Taiwan in the 17th Century*; Father John Baptist Wu offered Li Chia-tung's *The Bell Rings Again*; and Merit Times Daily News publisher Master Yung Yun recommended a collection of editorials from the Merit Times.

During the SARS outbreak, publishers were quick to position their books in the categories of spiritual support, leisure, health and fitness, home life, non-fiction, light reading, and faith in hopes of fostering reading as a stimulating force in society. Such efforts were aimed moreover at expanding interest in meaningful cultural products and thereby minimizing the impact of SARS on the publishing industry.

New Periodicals in Taiwan

The following list is a selection of Chinese-language periodicals recently published in Taiwan and collected by the NCL between July 2002 and June 2003.