

summer vacation to set reading goals and write down their feelings and views, creating a personal history they can look back on later.

LSA chairman Liu Kan recounted the story of Liu Sia to encourage children. He noted that during her short 61 years of life, Liu Sia constantly pursued self-study and reading, despite suffering from rheumatoid arthritis for 49 years and being consigned to a wheelchair for over 30 years. Though she only had an elementary school education, she wrote over 20 books and hundreds of essays, making her life one great book.

### ■ "Hopeful Reading" Bookmobile Hits the Road

A bookmobile service organized by the "Hopeful Reading Alliance" set off for its first stop—Bengang Elementary School in Sinwu Township—at a ceremony attended by Minister of Education Tu Cheng-sheng and other dignitaries. The service, supported by the Common Wealth Magazine Educational Foundation, China Motor Corp. and other sponsors, will visit 100 elementary schools in remote areas of Taiwan to promote reading activities.

Minister Tu was joined by Taoyuan County, Taoyuan County Commissioner Chu Li-lun and project sponsors Diane Ying, chairwoman of Common Wealth Magazine Group, and Su Ching-yang, president of China Motor, as well as County Councilor Huang Chin-te, and many parents and students. Ying said that Common Wealth formed the "Hopeful Reading Alliance" to prevent Taiwan's income gap from translating into a knowledge gap. The alliance encourages children on the path of reading to foster talented youth and strengthen Taiwan's competitive ability.

Minister Tu thanked Common Wealth and the other sponsors for launching the bookmobile project. He noted that over the last three to four years, the Ministry of Education has invested NT\$400 million to buy books for schools, and this year the ministry will join hands with the Council for Cultural Affairs, Government Information

Office and other agencies to promote reading. He expressed hope that the mobile library service would complement the government's efforts and urged communities to take part in the program.

The "Hopeful Reading Alliance" was formed by several major corporations and educational foundations to donate resources and funds for promoting reading at 100 schools in remote areas of Taiwan. The alliance has donated about 20,000 new books for children, trained 600 seed teachers, and recruited college volunteers to support various reading activities.

China Motor President Su presented the NT\$10 million bus to Common Wealth Educational Foundation at a donation ceremony.

### ■ **Puli Library Reopens with Five-star Facilities**

The public library in Puli, Nantou County has re-emerged from the rubble of the 921 Earthquake, bigger and better than before. The newly rebuilt library not only boasts a larger collection of books, but also has a café, restaurant and spacious reading areas that distinguish it from the typically cramped township libraries in Taiwan. In fact, the local residents proudly compare the library to Eslite, an upscale local bookstore chain.

The original Puli Library was damaged by a major earthquake on September 21, 1999. In order to revive the area's literary climate, Puli town mayor Ma Wen-chun worked to get NT\$12 million in funding from the Cabinet-level Council for Cultural Development to support the town's library redevelopment plan.

Now opened to the public, the new library features well-equipped facilities, large full-length windows, comfortable sitting areas, and LCD-screen computers. It has also has an expanded collection of 80,000 publications and other amenities, all carefully arranged like a five-star bookstore.

The new library occupies five floors, including a first floor periodical and newspaper area; second floor children's reading area and performance stage; third and