

(1) Penny Carnaby: New Zealand Treasures: Strategies for Preserving National Digital Cultural Assets; (2) Seddon Bennington: Breaking Through the Time-Space Limit; Embracing Museum Treasures; (3) Polyakova Olga Anatolyevna: IT Applications: Innovative Historical Displays at the Kolomenskoye Museum; (4) Noll Lev Yakovlevitch: Museum IT Applications: Traditions and Trends; (5) Martha Crawley: Recent Developments in Digital Cultural Content at U.S. Museums and Libraries; (6) Howard Besser: The Next Challenge: From Digital Acquisition to Digital Archiving and Libraries; and (7) Chris Batt: Digital Future.

The "Digital Archives and their Teaching Applications" Seminar followed on March 5. Digital archiving involves more than just the archiving of cultural and historical items. It also involves the promotion of utilization of such resources and their educational function, for example by introducing such resources into primary and middle school education. This seminar brought together experts and scholars from the business, government, academic, and research sectors to explore the following three major topics: integration of digital collections into primary and middle school education, archive organizations, and digital education; digital archives; and the digital learning industry. Local experts and scholars involved in developing digital-learning programs were invited to share their experience and provide input on the future development of digital learning applications in Taiwan.

EVENTS

■ Ku Min Elected as Eighth APLAP President

The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) met in New Delhi, India, from January 18 to 22, 2005. Sixty-eight delegates and observers from 15 countries attended the conference, which was inaugurated by Speaker Somnath Chatterjee. Among the represented countries were Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Fiji, and Kiribati.

The Conference deliberated on the theme "Changing Dimensions of Parliamentary Library and Information Services in the Third Millennium". Dr. Karl Min Ku, a former director of the Parliamentary Library of Taiwan, led a delegation that presented two papers at the conference. Dr. Ku gave a keynote address on "Parliamentary Applications of ICT in the 21st Century". He also joined Wang Shou-jung (current director of the Parliamentary Library), and Hsu Hsing-lian in a well-received country report entitled, "Applications of E-News Knowledge Management Systems in Legislator Office Services".

At the plenary session on January 21, Dr. Ku was elected as the Eighth APLAP president. New Zealand's Katherine Close and Malaysian representative Azeemunnisa Khan were elected as the new vice presidents for the Pacific and Asia, respectively. Australia's Roslynn Membrey became the new secretary, and Fiji's Rasieli Bau was elected as treasurer.

The conference adopted the New Delhi Communiqué, which appealed for humanitarian concern over the Sumatra earthquake and subsequent tsunami disaster. It also called for stronger development of parliamentary libraries in the member countries.

The APLAP was founded in Seoul in 1990. It was initiated and guided by Ms Jane Anne Lindley from the Asia Foundation, a former staff member of the Congressional Reference Service in Washington, DC. The first president was Mr. Joo Bong Kim from Korea, who is now attached to the Library of Congress in charge of the Korean collection.

At present, there are 24 member countries of APLAP, including Turkey, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia. The association holds a conference every two years, usually in May. It is a regional organization for parliamentary libraries, with a founding mission to help member libraries obtain the most accurate and reliable information on global information networks and the challenges they bring, so that the libraries can carry out their work to the best possible effect.

Dr. Ku graduated from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University in Chicago. He served as the head of the Legislative Yuan Information and R&D Service Development plan from 1985 to 1989, founded the Computer Processing Center and Law Information Center at the Legislative Yuan, and completed a full-text searchable Chinese-language law database and database on the history and evolution of law in Taiwan's Law History, for which efforts he earned a government award of excellence. In 1990, he was honored with an outstanding contribution award from the Chinese American Librarians Association, and in 1998, he was presented with a similar award from APLAP. Dr. Ku served as the fifth and sixth term president of the ROC Information Technology Management Association, the second and third term president of the APLAP, standing committee member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions under UNESCO, an information consultant to the advisor on information at the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection under the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and a long-term advisor to the National Central Library.

■ Taiwan Libraries Promote World Book Day

In 1995, UNESCO designated April 23 as World Book and Copyright Day, aiming to encourage the development of reading, publishing, and knowledge. The organization has urged schools, libraries, publishers and other non-profit organizations in member countries to arrange various activities on this day to stimulate interest in reading and respect for copyrights. In Taiwan, public libraries and reading clubs responded enthusiastically to the call this year by holding activities across the island. Below is a summary of some of these events:

