

■ *National Taichung Library Holds International Symposium on Reading Promotion in France*

Since its launch by the French Ministry of Culture in 1988, the "Lire en Fete" reading promotion activity has flourished largely without public funding. The activity has adopted a variety of approaches to promoting its cause, earning global support and widespread public participation in the process. It is a model of success from which Taiwan's library world could learn much, and indeed this was the aim of the International Symposium on Reading Promotion in France, held at the Vitalon Welfare Foundation in Taichung on May 3 and 4 by the National Taichung Library. With assistance from the French Institute in Taipei, Jean-Marie Arnoult, Inspecteur Général des Bibliothèques under the Ministry of Culture in France and a key mover behind the "Lire en Fete" activity, and Director Marie-Therese Pouilhas of the La Bibliothèque Municipale de Rennes were invited to Taiwan to share their experience on reading promotion during the symposium.

County, city and township library personnel, university library department professors, and reading club organizers from Taiwan participated in the exchanges, which addressed such topics as French policies on reading promotion, ways that local libraries can coordinate with central government promotion of "Lire en Fete" activities, and introductions to reading promotion activities. The symposium also highlighted the experience of Taiwan in reading promotion, the encouragement of reading interest in Taiwan, and the strengthening of cultural exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and France.



Inspecteur Général des Bibliothèques Jean-Marie Arnoult (third from right) Director Marie-Therese Pouilhas of the La Bibliothèque Municipale de Rennes (fourth from left) with NCL Deputy Director-General Sung Chien-cheng (Photo by National Taichung Library)

■ *OCLC Opens Online Window to Taiwan's Academic Achievements*

With support from the Ministry of Education (MOE), the world's biggest non-profit online library inked an agreement to assist the dissemination of Taiwan academic journal content in electronic format for global access. Under an agreement signed on May 11 with government-backed digital content provider Airiti of Taiwan, the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) will help make Taiwan journal data accessible to its more than 50,000 member libraries around the world, providing a channel for Taiwan's academic research achievements to reach a global audience. Universities and other organizations can purchase content, to be supplied through Airiti's network via the OCLC platform, from the OCLC at a fee of NT\$3