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# Institute explores libraries and leadership

By Robin Kear

*Attendees of Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World*



## Two CALA events held in China

By CALA International Relations Committee

This summer, two CALA events took place in China, and both proved to be very successful.

From July 17th-21st, the CALAMW (Chinese American Librarians Association Midwest) Chapter delegation, which consisted of Shuyong Jiang, Xudong Jin (group leader), Haipeng Li, Haiwang Yuan, and Lisa Zhao, held a 5-day seminar on topics of librarianship at Yunnan University. The seminar, entitled "CALA Twenty-first Century Librarian Seminar Series," was co-sponsored by the Yunnan Provincial Commission of Academic Libraries (YPCAL), the CALAMW Chapter and Yunnan University. The focus of the seminar was to provide a practical way to examine librarianship in the United States. More than 100 librarians from China participated in the event. Topics covered include library management, reference and instruction, cataloging and digital libraries, library consortium and outsourcing, challenges and opportunities, and many others. Feedback from participants was very positive.

In fact the seminar turned out to be so successful that the YPCAL requested the group go back next year. After some discussions, the YPCAL and CALA signed an agreement to conduct the training project for a three year period: year one (2006) with

Yunnan University (already done); year two (2007) with Yunnan Normal University; and year three (2008) with the Kunming Polytechnic University. In addition, after sending their librarians to the seminar in Yunnan, three other institutions, the Yunnan Library Association, the Northeast Normal University in Jilin Province, and the Shanxi Agricultural University in Shanxi Province in China, also made agreements with CALA to conduct the CALA Twenty-first Century Librarian Seminar Series in summer 2007.

From July 24-26, the Library Society of China Annual Conference was held in Kunming. A 14-member CALA delegation headed by CALA President, Haipeng Li, attended the conference and was well received. The Conference was divided into the general meeting section with 5 keynote speakers, and interest group meetings on the following topics: 1. Libraries for users; 2. Building legal environment for libraries; 3. Digital libraries, building, sharing and services; 4. Literacy and society.

Proposals for presentation from nine CALA members were accepted and won the best paper awards of the conference. Eight CALA members made presentations on various issues of librarianship. The Conference provided an opportunity for participants to visit local libraries.

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The change in IRRT over the past five years has been amazing. We are now one of the largest Round Tables due to our increased membership. We have become a home for many of the ALA international members. With increased size, comes additional privileges and we have a newly elected ALA Councillor, Hector Marino, representing IRRT and IRC concerns on Council. A remarkable group of 10 young IRRT members applied for Leslie Burger's Emerging Leaders Initiative. Congratulations go to IRRT member

# 2006 Hong Kong Book Fair draws thousands

By Victoria Chu

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Hong Kong Book Fair took place at its usual venue, the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center (HKCEC), from 19-25 July 2006. The organizer behind this successful yearly event is the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). HKTDC has been working closely with the Sino United Publishing Holdings Ltd. (hereafter Sino United), the largest exhibitor at the Fair. Annual publications from Sino United and its subsidiaries account for about one-third of Hong Kong's annual publications.

The affiliation between the American Library Association (ALA) and the Fair became official in 2001 when the "Hong Kong Book Fair Free Press Program for Librarians" was formalized, and when the first ALA delegation attended the Fair. This year's ALA delegation consisted of 14 librarians from the U.S. involved with collection building of Chinese language resources. More specifically, there were seven public librarians, two school system librarians, and five academic librarians (including librarians from the Library of Congress). Once again, our delegation's leader was Frank Xu from the Brooklyn Public Library. Xu has been leading delegations from North America to the Fair since 1998, even prior to its affiliation with the ALA. Xu, together with Alabaster, reported on the 2001 Fair (2001, IL 15 (3)). Others who have attended and written on previous Fairs include Cundall (2003, IL 17(2)), Atwill & Hickey (2003, LCATSJ 2(1)), Liu (2003, JEAL 129), and Wang (2005, IL 19(4)).

## Beginning of the Fair

The HKCEC is an architecturally impressive building. The two sides of its sculpted aluminum roof resemble a seabird spreading its wings and taking flight. The current building is an expansion of the original built in 1988. The extension was completed in June 1997, in good time to host the historic



*Attendees enjoy the exhibits at the 17th annual Hong Kong Book Fair. The fair was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center from July 19-25.*

Handover Ceremony on 30 June 1997 when Hong Kong was returned to Chinese sovereignty. The HKCEC has become the venue for hosting significant events since.

This annual large-scale Fair demonstrates major efforts in promoting Hong Kong's book trade. However, it is not just a commercial one where publishers congregate and showcase their products. Local Hong Kong people view this more as a cultural event, referring to it as a book lover's paradise. The Fair is also becoming one of Hong Kong's tourist attractions. One Hong Kong tourist website, *Discovering Hong Kong*, lists this as a special event. Reportedly over 6,000 foreign visitors came to the Fair this year.

"Share the Sheer Joy of Reading" was The Fair's catch phrase. Sir Donald Tsang, HKSAR's Chief Executive, not only took part in the Fair's opening ceremony, but also participated as one of the celebrity story-tellers to help promote the reading culture among Hong Kong people, especially young people.

## Fair Statistics

The Fair has been getting bigger over the years. This year there were 434 exhibitors (compared with 392 in 2005). Not surprisingly, the majority consisted of 295 from Hong Kong, followed by 102 from Mainland China (63 in 2005), 22 from Taiwan (23 in 2005), 6 from

[Continued on Page 7](#)



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# Going global presents challenges for MUSE

By Ann Snoeyenbos

There is a lot of talk in the media about globalization in the business community, and on college campuses there is much talk about how the libraries can serve students and faculty working from remote areas of the world. I am going to tell you a little about the challenges Project MUSE has faced as we “go global.” I’m hoping my

## Hong Kong

Continued from Page 4

France, 3 from Singapore, and 1 each from Thailand, Macau, Malaysia, Japan, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

The opening hours this year were slightly longer compared to last year, with extended hours on Saturday night from 10pm until 2am Sunday morning. For this night, there were special public transit arrangements to get people home. Local news reported about 60,000 visitors entered the Fair during these extended hours. At last year's Fair, attendance was around 640,000, while this year's attendance was a record 686,490, an increase of about 7.3%. (More statistics available at <http://hkbookfair.tdctrade.com>)

### **Observations at the Fair**

Hong Kong people of all ages flocked to the Fair to get books and resources at concessionary prices. Everything inside the halls was for sale, some starting with a discount of 30-40% off on day 1 already. Some offered the deal of buy 2 and get 1 free. The halls were always crowded, and long lines wrapped around the HKCEC daily.

During this 6-day extravaganza, the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council had organized many activities at the Fair.

### Renowned Authors' Seminars

The line-up of authors at the Fair

