

Diversified Services of Delivering The Passion of Reading to Campuses: The Kaohsiung Public Library

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Living in a world of television, computer games, and a visual online world, children and books become more distant. Reading habits of the next generation determine the future of the nation. Many nations in the world promote a reading environment, raising reading ability as policy priority. The Kaohsiung Public Library has been the landmark of effortful and proactive promotion of reading in southern Taiwan. In recent years, in order to complement school education, and raise national competency, the Kaohsiung Public Library has, based on the principal of “Customer Center, Proactive and Progressive”, reached out to numerous campuses, providing diversified services to promote and raise the level of literacy of school children. Mayor Ju-lan Ye, a great enhancer and promoter of reading, in addition to founding the “Reading with the Mayor: the Chrysanthemum Reading Club” to read with under-privileged groups, has added 5,000,000 NT dollars to the originally allocated budget for the purchase of books for elementary and middle schools to enrich the library collections. Through the various strategies to promote children’s reading, the Kaohsiung Public Library has disseminated the seeds for reading in every corner of campuses where students can read and enrich their lives in the world of books.

Introduction

In the diversified and ever changing society of Taiwan, school education and public library services are the two main aspects of the social education. While schools emphasize systemized education, public libraries provide citizens with a “Since Birth” dimension for self education.

Knowledge is the most productive and competent instrument of the economic society. The premium and innovation of knowledge can make possible the complete progress of society. The library is the best channel for the integration of the products of knowledge. The Kaohsiung Public Library (referred below as the Library) has been the landmark of effortful and proactive promotion of reading in southern Taiwan. In recent years, in order to complement school education, and raise national competency, the Kaohsiung Public Library has, based on the principal of “Customer Center, Proactive and Progressive”, outreached out to numerous campuses, providing diversified services to promote and raise the level of literacy, aimed at disseminating the seeds of reading in every corner of the campuses.

Deliver the passion of reading to elementary schools

I. Promote and process library cards at the elementary school level.

Outreach to potential readers:

Today’s society is a sales society. Sales are a “customer oriented” administrative theory which originates in a world of enterprise. Based on the concept of sales, a world of enterprise intends to achieve customer satisfaction to reach its organizational goal. From the perspective of the library, the customers are the readers and the potential readers of public libraries are mainly pre-school and elementary school children, especially those just finishing kindergarten and entering first grade. Based on this awareness, at the end of August 2006, during the first grade registration period, the library provided a proactive service and organized a promotional task called “Heading for Library-I am a little book lover”, by means of processing library cards for all new students. The purpose of this activity was to encourage elementary school students to go to the libraries to fully utilize library resources. This opened a window for the children, serving, at the same time, as the first step to promote children’s reading. Since the inauguration of the “Moving Library” in November 2006, in preparation of the arrival of the “Moving Library” on campuses, the Library staff has been going to schools to process library cards. Thanks to this initiative, in recent years the amount of our library cards issued has increased on a great scale. The libraries processed 19,712 cards in 2005 and 22,692 cards in 2006. On May 7, 2007 the figure reached 10,006. It is estimated that 25,000 cards will be processed the year to actively attract potential readers to become real readers.

II. Reading starts at the family level. Introducing Family Library Cards.

The British children literature writer Aiden Chambers indicated in *Children's Reading Environment* that if there is a trustworthy adult providing assistance, sharing his/her reading experience, then the child can overcome all kinds of reading obstacles. (1). Therefore, to expect children to enjoy reading, the role of adult in the environment cannot be ignored. In Taiwan, among adults with the ability to help, parents eventually play the most important role. Only if there are book-loving parents can there be book-loving children. Mr. Gu-Zi Shun, former owner of the Fukuinkan Shoten Publishing, indicated in his work *The seed of happiness* that "reading to the children is like taking a journey hand in hand with children to the kingdom of stories, share a happy time together filled with warm language. The exchange of a language between father and child is the biggest fortune in a family." (2) Therefore, in April 2006 the Library started to issue the "Family Library Card" and each family is allowed to check out up to 20 books and 5 periodicals. More library resources are provided to promote and encourage parents to read with their children and lead them to enter the world of books. Currently, 6,500 families already hold these library cards.

III. Promote an environment of reading in the classroom. Make reading a campus-wide event.

Reading is the core of education and learning. According to a study completed in the U.S., if a child does not possess basic reading abilities by the end of third grade, he will encounter difficulties learning other subjects in the future. The Library offers teachers and students these convenient services:

A. *Provide a "Classroom Library Card" service.* In order to serve teachers and students of the entire county, and to promote reading on campuses, the Library has, since September 2005, provided "Classroom Library Cards" to facilitate teachers' library card application with an I.D. or certificate of service. Each classroom can check out up to 50 books for two months. As most teachers are females, carrying 50 books is an arduous task. Through the President Transnet Corp. the books are delivered to the classrooms for children. Because of its effectiveness and convenience, the service was extended in March 2007 to kindergarten and middle school students to enhance reading habits in children of ages 4-15. In May 2007, a total of 767 "Classroom Library Cards" were issued.

B. *The planning of "Send books to Classrooms".* The budget for elementary school

book purchases is insufficient and book collections are limited. In order to support teachers who intend to promote reading at a young age, the Library took the initiative to cooperate with the Kaohsiung Teachers Association and President Transnet Corp., and provided 100 boxes of quality children's reading materials. There were 50 books in each box (a total of 5,000 books). Reading materials included 50 boxes for grades 1-3, and 50 boxes for grades 4-6. The Library at the same time issued "Classroom Library Cards" as part of the activity. Since October 2005, through the Fast Delivery Service (fees covered by the Library), the Library automatically delivers books to the "Book Corners" in the classrooms for use of school children. A reward system has also been established. For each book read, students will receive a point marked on a point card. For every 20 points on the card, which equals to 20 books read, students can receive a "Little Doctor Reader" certificate and a prize (donated by the Shangen Culture Co.) to encourage students to read. Since March 2007, the Library has expanded the "Classroom Library Card" to both the city's public and private middle schools and kindergartens. 649 boxes of books have been delivered to date and 20,000 students have benefited from this activity.

C. Foundation of "Shiao Ding Dong Children's Reading Club" and "Classroom Reading Club". Due to the fact that Taiwan has long stressed academic excellence, students often spend much time reading textbooks, missing out the real pleasure of reading. Since March 2005, Children's Reading Clubs have been founded in each branch library. Reading-devoted volunteers have been invited to assist children in reading illustration books (The Library purchased 20 volumes of reading materials, nearly 50 different types, to be shared alternately in libraries.) Through sharing, discussion and fun games, children can learn the joy of reading, ultimately, forming a life long reading habit. Nearly 400 children have participated annually in this activity.

Since April 2006, in another effort to expand reading effectiveness in the classroom and to promote children's reading clubs on campuses, following the model of the "Classroom Library Card" and President Transnet Corp., teachers were provided with rich library resources (the Library has provided 100 different kinds of reading materials, 35 volumes each) Through classroom reading, discussion, exchange, and sharing, students are encouraged to express themselves and read many kinds of materials, expanding their lives and acquisition of knowledge.

Since March 2007, the target of Classroom Reading Club has been extended to middle schools. 138 kinds of reading materials appropriate for elementary students

(a total of 238 kinds now), each kind 35 volumes have been purchased. 135 kinds of reading materials, appropriate for middle school students (50 volumes each kind) were also purchased to encourage the establishment of reading clubs. On the reading list for middle schools, local writers in different areas and themes are included as the main subjects, incorporating humanities, social studies, literature and animating prose, etc. as well as translated works of world literature to help teenagers to learn, reflect and discuss their thoughts.

The reading list for elementary schools is based on the different levels of children's literary knowledge and stages which include illustration books (books that incorporate illustration as main content, and words as supplements), bridge books (books that utilize words as the main content, and include illustrations as supplements), and words (complete works of text). The selection of book themes includes creative thinking, self-assurance, learning development, and life themes, aimed at increasing the reading interest of elementary students, and ultimately, establish a reading habit. Currently the reading materials provided for the Classroom Reading Clubs are well received by teachers and students.

IV.. "Story- Telling Mom" to build a city reading landmark.

In order to integrate the city resources for "Story- Telling Moms", and establish human resources for story telling, in 2005, the Library founded for the first time a "Certification of Story-Telling Mom", providing certification training. After initial training (18 hours of course works, 15 hours of practice), and advanced training (12 hours of course work, 15 hours of practice) a certificate is issued. A certified "Story-Telling Mom" can, not only tell stories in the Library, but also in all the communities, schools, and kindergartens in the city. The promotion of this certification system can expand the service capacity of story-telling moms, raise their sense of pride and quality, and promote diversified reading activities. This activity infuses new elements of reading in the city with its ultimate goal of forging "Story Telling Mom" as a landmark for city reading.

In 2005, a total of 200 persons were trained, and 203 trained in 2006. Currently there are 55 certified Story-Telling Moms. It is expected 100 persons will be trained yearly. It is estimated that by 2009, when the World Games is held in Kaohsiung, there will be more than 600 Story-Telling Moms working in every corner of the community, becoming the navigator of the children's reading movement.

Aside from certification training, in order to expand services to Story-Telling Moms, the Library sponsors continuing education courses, such as advanced courses on story telling techniques. The library has also designated a special library area for Story-Telling Moms, and has purchased 2200 illustrated books as story telling materials. The development of the “Story-Telling Mom Train” in November 2007 delivered Story-Telling Moms to any location in need. All of these activities are special services provided by the Library for them.

The Story-Telling Moms in the city are strongly united and productive. In addition to engaging in storytelling activities on Saturday mornings, they assist and participate actively in morning storytelling times at schools, and were well acclaimed by teachers and students. They also participated in the “Kaoshiung International Container Art Festival, 2005”, presenting the “Holiday Container Story House”, and provided illustration books to display for the Container Children Library during the Container Art holiday season (December 17, 2005-Jan. 15, 2006). 100 Story Telling Moms participated in the event and attracted 10,000 parents and children. The events are well received. These events are very significant since they showcase the capacity of Story-Telling Moms and extend the children’s experience to the wonder of the story and reading.

In 2006 the Caterpillar Philosophy for Foundation and the Library Association of the Republic of China(Taiwan) gathered 10,000 Taiwanese reading volunteers on the eve of World Reading Day. On April 21 “Ten Thousand People Tell Stories-Ten Thousand Good Wishes” was organized and the Library also participated in this event. Story Telling activities were conveniently held in 12 branch libraries, attracting thousands of children. The performance of the Story-Telling Moms was critically acclaimed. They have been invited to perform regularly in big bookstores, communities, schools, social welfare offices, and hospitals. They also participated in the Architecture Expo of Kaohsiung city, Zuoying Wan-Nien Festival, Cijin Coastal Park Sunday Story Telling Plaza, 2007 Pingtung BlueFin Tuna Cultural Festival Story Telling, and other events.

In order to gather Story-Telling Moms of the entire nation for the interaction and sharing of experiences, on November 16 and 17 of 2006 the Library sponsored an activity called “2006 National Story-Telling Moms Team Working” in the Chung Shing Auditorium of the Library. 250 volunteers came from 22 counties, including Lienchiang County, Penghu County, Yilan County, Hualien Country and Taitung County. Courses included: love story, mom award ceremony, team work contest,

and team work secret, etc. A night time visit to Love River was also organized. Story-Telling Moms from elementary schools also sent representatives. One Story-Telling Mom was sent to represent a school with less than 24 classes, two for schools with 25-29 classes, and three for over 60 classes. Awards for individual and groups were also given to Story-Telling Moms with many years of service. Awardees included 26 Story-Telling Moms from Kuang-Jung Elementary School and other schools, and 8 groups from BoAi-Elementary School and other schools. It was a great honor to receive an award in such a national gathering, which reflects the city's respect and appreciation for Story-Telling Moms. In November 2007, Kaohsiung city will continue to sponsor "Story-Telling Moms Working Together" in the nation, hoping to help Kaohsiung city become the center of Story-Telling Moms. It is also our hope to continue our efforts in opening the windows of beauty and happiness for children, bringing Taiwan to springtime of learning and knowledge.

V. Planning Mobile Service: take the initiative, build libraries without walls

In order to facilitate citizens in remote areas in utilizing library resources and shortening the differences in learning, the Library planned service proposals, solicited a donation of 1,800,000 NT dollars to purchase "Moving Library" and two Story-Telling Mom Trains to transport 2,000 children's books (including illustration books) to the schools, bring educational stories to children, deliver books to all the communities, kindergartens, elementary schools, orphanages, hospitals, let children enjoy reading in the sun, and utilize library resources and service without having to go to the library. This is the new century's "Library without Wall."

On November 1, 2006 the Library organized the "Moving Library and Story-Telling Mom Train Inauguration" and invited the interim mayor Ju-lan Ye to preside at the ceremony. 23 appreciation certificates were given to 23 offices. Mayor Ye remarked with excitement that the inauguration of the "Moving Library and Story-Telling Mom Train" represented the fulfillment of a dream city. She allocated 2,500,000 million NT dollars for Bureau of Cultural Affairs of Kaohsiung City Government to establish the "Moving Music Museum" with anticipated inauguration date of December 25, 2006.

During week days the "Moving Library and Story-Telling Mom Train" serves elementary schools and kindergartens in the city. During weekends, activities are based on the promotion of communities. Remote areas as well as the participation wish of the institution are taken into consideration. Among schools, Nan Tse area,

Chien Cheng area and Hsiao Kang area are given priorities since they are in remote areas and lack of library resources.

The planning of the event starts with telephone communication with the Director of Education of the schools. The nature of the Moving Library and Story-Telling Mom Train is explained, and an oral invitation is made. After receiving a response from the schools regarding their willingness to participate, an official invitation is sent via email. The planning of the activity is confirmed upon the receipt of the survey of participation willingness. The Library will then go to the schools to issue library cards two weeks prior to the event. The “Moving Library and Story-Telling Mom Train” has reached 28 campuses and has served 13,753 children. It has even reached as far as Christian Mountain Children’s Home in Kaohsiung County and Lao-Lun Elementary School to show our support for disadvantaged children. When Doulos arrived at the port of Kaohsiung during its journey to Taiwan in March 2007, the Moving Library and Story-Telling Mom were present as well.

VI. Sponsor “Education on the Use of Library”, let children become book lovers.

“Education on the Use of Library” has become increasingly important in elementary education due to the fact that, in recent years, the educational models have transformed and encouraged students to utilize libraries to search for information to be used with classroom instructional needs and academic problem solving. This is building students’ ability in conducting independent research. Therefore, instruction and education on the use of libraries is a mission in need of promotion. In 2005, the Library started a series of unit courses (such as “Visit the Big Library in my house”, “How to search for information”, “Introductory on-line resources”, etc.) Fun activities such as “Little Publisher – Manual Book DIY”, in conjunction with McDonald (prize donations), also take place. Approximately 300 children participate in these events every year.

“Library Visitation Class” is one of our most important library “crash-course” events. The branch libraries sponsor more than 20 visitation events in line with the off-campus visitations sponsored by the elementary schools. In addition to offering guided visitations, the Library also designed lively and active content to encourage children’s interest in exploring the library and facilitating a reading habit.

vii. Sponsor reading-seed-teacher development activities.

Often the Library organizes reading related professional development activities to encourage librarians and teachers to participate in study plans, to expand and promote children's reading. More than 100 elementary school teachers from the city participated in the "Creative Illustration Seed Teacher Workshop" held on September 20 and October 11, 2006. Mei-ching Lin from Tainan Community University was invited to present "Easy Little Book Creation and Teaching Application" and "Creation, Invention and Making of Illustration Books.", hoping to apply the created easy small book in future classroom instruction to pique student interest in learning and eventually developing an interest in reading through their own creation of illustration books.

On December 12, 2006, the Library Association of the Republic of China authorized the Library to organize "Middle School Librarian Operation and Knowledge Acquisition Camp". 38 librarians participated in this program. The Director of the Library delivered a speech titled, "Cosmopolitan Reading: the Creative Service and Promotion of the Kaohsiung City Library." Dr. Wan-ling Lai, Professor of Social Studies Education from National Taichung University, was invited to deliver "Establishment of Middle School Library and Content of Operational Standards", and "Operational Strategies for Middle School Librarians", to enhance operational knowledge of middle school libraries, promote the raising of multifunctional middle school libraries. The event aimed to provide an understanding of the establishment and the content of standards of middle school libraries.

On February 5, 7, and 9, 2007, We entrusted Bureau of Human Resource Development, Kaohsiung City Government to organize "City Reading Development Workshop—Parents and Children Reading Together Personnel Seed Training Class". 19 of the Library staff and 100 teachers from city elementary schools participated in the program. These courses include: "The Neurotic System of Reading" delivered by Lan Hong, "The Study of Children's Reading and Treatment of Book Cataloging" by Su-mey Chen and "Selection, Appreciation and Guidance of Children's Reading Materials" by the expert of children's illustration Shi-Ren Lin, etc. Course content includes introduction to train elementary school teachers and librarians to become effective enhancers and promoters of Parents and Children Reading Together.

VIII. Cooperation with the Education Bureau: Organization of Multifaceted Reading Activities.

In order to lead children to explore the world of reading, the Library and the Bureau of Education cooperated, inviting all elementary schools to participate in a series of reading contests:

A. Creative story telling contest: On April 22, 2006 the Library sponsored a competitive “Creative Story Telling Contest”. 40 participating teams were comprised of elementary school students. The contest was highly competitive and the competition was severe. Competition items included creative ideas, content and props. Students came from as far as PingTung County and Tainan County. The contest was packed with an audience of over 500 parents and children. The first three finalists were awarded 4000, 3000 and 2000 NT dollars of book gift certificates. Six honorary mentions were awarded 600 NT dollar book gift certificates. Winners also received a certificate which was given publicly in the schools.

In 2007, the Library cooperated with the Education Bureau, Kaohsiung City Government and expanded the contest. Each school sent at least two teams to participate, with 1-3 participants in each team (not to exceed 3 persons in each team). The team was formed by parents and children, or teachers and students, with at least one student in each team. On June 2 and 3, the Library held the primary competition in 8 branch libraries. Each branch library sponsored competition for 11 elementary schools, with a maximum of 30 teams. The first and second finalists of each branch library entered the final competition held on July 7. The finalists were awarded 4000, 3000 and 2000 NT dollar book certificates, 5 honorary mentions were awarded 100 NT dollar book certificates. The Library also recommended that the faculty mentors of the finalists .granted an award by the Bureau of Education.

B. Competition of Illustration Books: In order to raise children’s reading interest, habit, and express children’s creativity, on May 27, 2006 the “Contest of Illustration Books” was held at the “Kaohsiung Municipal Social Education Center. The competition was held in groups of lower grades and higher grades. Competitors were asked to create an illustration book instantly. Nearly 100 groups participated. All the participants were engaged actively and creatively in the creation of an illustration book under the theme of “Our Beautiful Kaohsiung”. Through easy making of the illustration book, children had opportunity to create, and use manual skills to create artistic work. 700 students participated in the event. Three finalists were selected in each group, each awarded 3,000 NT dollar book certificate and a certificate. Three honorary mentions were awarded 1,000 NT dollar book certificate each and a certificate. Certificates were given to six merits.

In 2007 “Creative Manual Illustration Book Activity” was held under the theme of “How Fun is Reading!”. The contest was held in groups of parents and children, and social groups with two persons maximum for each art work. The activity was held between May 1 and June 15 (postage marked). Evaluation criteria was based on creativity, expression, and artistic presentation. First prize was awarded a library (stationery) certificate of 4000 NT dollars book certificate. Second prize was awarded 3,000 NT dollars book certificate. Three third prizes for each group were given 2,000 NT dollars book certificate each. Ten honorary mentions were awarded 1,000 NT dollars book certificate. All the awardees received a certificate and their works were exhibited at the Lobby of the Cultural Center between July 6 and 15.

IX. Promote reading for under-privileged, building a bridge of Hope through reading.

Due to the ever changing globalization, the renovation of modern technology, and the knowledge differences as a result of wealth discrepancies, many children have been deprived of opportunity for knowledge growth. Education is the only way to avoid poverty. Reading is the soul of education. The promotion of reading can enhance the changes. The Library stressed the right of the under-privileged to reading, and applied for library funding to the Ministry of Education and the National Library. The “October Reading Month” event was held during “2005 Life Learning Festival of Social Education Institution”. The event was mainly held for the underprivileged population of aboriginal children, low-income families, single parent families, foreign spouses and families with children being raised by grandparents. The United Charity Association Kaohsiung, Ming-Jeng Elementary School and Chung Chou Elementary School co-sponsored the “Befriends with Books” event. A series of reading courses were held. Transportation was available for participants to visit the library, apply for a library card, pay visit to the Eslite Bookstore, and select a favorite book to read at home. Each participant was given 300 NT dollars for book purchase. This amount was co-subsidized by the Library and Eslite Bookstore. The generous sponsorship of the Eslite Bookstore provided each participant with an enriched and unforgettable trip to the Library and bookstore. This significant event opened a window of reading for under-privileged children..

In 2007 “Reading Take Off—Give Me five with Books” was held. The event was organized in the same way as “Befriend with Books”. The planning of creative and diversified reading activities aimed at raising reading interest of underprivileged

students, extended their world of exploration and enriched the depth of their reading capacity. The activity was enlarged with the participation of 5 elementary schools, including: Feng-Lin Elementary School, Hua-Shan Elementary School, Chung-Chou Elementary School, Ming-Jeng Elementary School, and Shih-Chuan Elementary School. Participants were middle grade and upper grade students. Thirty participants were available from each school, with a total of 150 students. The activity was held between April 11 and May 30. Activities included: 1). Group Learning and Sharing: a. reading of an interesting illustration book. b. conversation with characters from illustration books. c. hand-on illustrations. d. script writing. e. role playing. f. completion of illustration Book. g. sharing of illustration book. 2). visitation to the Library and the Bookstore, providing the participants with opportunity of contacting books and building good reading habits. 3). Reading and sharing of selected books: a. selected favorite books with assistance of teachers. b. read self-selected books. c. sharing of reading. d. select deep reading (reading together) materials and share one's own interpretation. e. peer evaluation and teacher evaluation to select best five reading interpretations and five honorary mentions and awards were given.

Deliver the passion of reading to High School.

I. Deliver Literature to high school.

In order to raise students' writing ability, passion for literature and encourage youth's interest in creative writing, the Library organized a series of lectures called "Deliver Literature to Campuses" to deliver literature to high school campuses starting April 2005. (Honorarium for guest speakers, transportation and other related expenses were covered by the Library). One lecture was held monthly. Six were held annually (except during summer and winter vacations). Youth acclaimed writers and textbook writers, like on-line writer Ten Ging-shu, famous poet Lu Han-Shu, Country writer Wu Chen, shared their life experiences and literary insight and interacted with students. Since 2006, 8 lectures have been held, marking the third year since the event's inauguration. A total of 16 high schools, including vocational schools, and 4,925 students participated in the events. In May 2007, this event continues and has outreached middle school campuses. The Library welcomes interested campuses to co-sponsor the event. Priority was given to interested schools for event scheduling aimed at promoting students' literary reading environment.

II. Sponsorship of "Youth Writing Solicitation"

In view of the decreasing writing ability of students, the Library organized actively “Youth Writing Solicitation” activity to promote appreciation for literary works. The Library provided honorarium for written works and opportunities for publication to encourage youth to write creatively, to express their own literary interpretation, and encourage future potential writers. Since April 2005 the publication “Outdoor Café Literary Gazette” (monthly), has provided four pages of creative writings (poetry, prose, short stories, etc.). In 2005, 560 creative works were received and 56 selected (510 received in 2006, of which 60 were selected). Under the collaboration of The Vista Publishing CO., 56 were published under the title, *The Melody of the Sunny Day—Literary Selection of Kaohsiung Youth*. The event will continue through 2007 and will enhance collaboration with school teachers. The Library will ask the Education Bureau, Kaohsiung City Government to award the faculty advisers of students in order to encourage middle and high school students to submit creative writings. All the selected works will be published in two volumes to publicize these future writers.

Conclusion: Happy Reading Opens Future Hopes

Living in a world of television, computer games, and a visual online world, children and books become more distant. Reading habits of the next generation determine the future of the nation. Many nations in the world promote a reading environment, raising reading ability as policy priority. For instance, the New York Public Library (NYPL), the promotion target was to “increase the quality of out-of-school time programs for children and teens by testing new models of service delivery and expanding successful models to those branches that identified youth services as a top priority”. (4) Therefore, the Library promotes children’s reading environment with great effort. Compared with The New York Public Library’s services mainly focused on after school time, we provide more active, convenient and diversified after school services to children and youth, making books available in the classroom for children, helping children to read in the wealth of library collections to build future dreams and hope in reading. In addition, the Library will collaborate with educational institutions such as the Education Bureau, Kaohsiung Teachers Association, and Compulsory Education Advisory Group of the Kaohsiung Municipal Department of Education to meet the needs of both teachers and students. We believe that where there’s a will, there’s a way, and we will meet our goals.

Luckily, our mayor also stresses the importance of reading. Upon her inauguration, Mayor Chen Gi assigned the Culture Bureau to plan “Read with the

Mayor: the Chrysanthemum Reading Club” where the Mayor read along with under-privileged groups. Between April and December of 2007, a reading event was organized every two months, with a total of 5 events being held. On the 21st of April, the first “Chrysanthemum Reading Club” took place with more than 100 aboriginal children to share reading interpretation of “Pig, Mouse and Sha Ko Nu”, and answered questions from peers. The mayor also encouraged these children to read more in order that aboriginal tradition cultures and values be embedded and promoted. In 2007, Mayor Ju-lan Ye added 50,000,000 yens to the original allocated budget for the purchase of books for elementary school libraries to enrich the library collections for children to read. The friendly happy city of Kaohsiung has disseminated the seeds for reading in every corner of campuses where students can read and enrich their lives.

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