

2013.05.17

The Center for Chinese Studies invited Khor Boon Eng, assistant professor of Chinese at Tunku Abdul Rahman College in Malaysia and current recipient of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Fellowship presented a lecture. Professor Eng spoke on "Female Taiwan Writers' Experience in and Writing of the South Seas: Case Studies of Su Xuelin, Xie Bingying, Zhong Meiyin."



Prof. Khor Boon Eng (first from left, front row)

In his lecture, Professor Eng gave an in-depth analysis as to why these three authors traveled to the South Seas, where they went while they were there, what activities they engaged in, and what scholars and other people they contacted. His main focus was to explain their writings while in the South Seas from a local vantage point, in writings such as Su Xuelin's diary-like prose, Xie Bingying's novels about local topics, or Zhong Meiyin's and Xie Bingying's travelogues. Through an examination of an overlooked aspect in the lives, lifestyles, and writings of these three female Taiwan writers, Professor Eng has added to their personal histories and given us a better macroscopic view of their place in the history of literature in both Malaysia and Taiwan.

CCS News and Activities

■ *The Center for Chinese Studies Visiting Scholar Culture Activity: A Trip to Yilan*

To help visiting scholars to gain a deeper understanding of the local conditions and social customs in Taiwan, on May 10th the Center for Chinese Studies arranged a trip to Yilan. Both CCS grant recipients and Taiwan Fellows supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as their families, attended the trip. In all, 32 people from 20 different countries participated. Colleagues from the CCS accompanied them to Yilan to tour the National Center for Traditional Arts, to stroll through Luodong Forestry Culture Park, and to experience the joy of hot springs in the Jiaoxi National Park.



A group photo taken at the National Center for Traditional Arts.

While at the National Center for Traditional Arts, the visiting scholars were treated to a traditional Taiwanese opera performance, giving them an initial understanding and experience of the traditional arts in Taiwan. At the Luodong Forestry Culture Park, they saw the logging railway

on Taiping Mountain that was built during the Japanese occupation. The Jiaoxi hot springs was another whole new experience for the scholars, as they interacted with the toe-nibbling minnows indigenous to the springs.

■ *2013 Dragon Boat Festival Luncheon and Research Presentation for Visiting Foreign Scholars*

On June 10, the Center for Chinese Studies held a Dragon Boat Festival luncheon and research presentation for CCS grant recipients and Taiwan Fellows from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Held on the night before the Dragon Boat Festival, it was a successful event, with 36 scholars from 17 countries attending with their families.

As part of the program, musician Hou Guangyu performed three classical pieces on a Chinese flute, giving the visiting scholars a first-hand taste of the beauty of traditional music. The scholars and their families also enjoyed rice dumplings and mung bean pastries. During the luncheon, Dr. Hardina Ohlendorf, from Germany, was invited to discuss her research on Taiwan issues influenced by Chinese nationalism, Ms. Aurelie Saillard, from France, shared insights from her research on Taiwan puppet shows. In addition, Dr. Agita Baltgalve, from Latvia, entertained everyone with her guitar and vocal skills as she sang songs from her homeland. The atmosphere was extremely open, with scholars enjoying chatting with each other. As the scholars introduced themselves, any sense of unfamiliarity dispersed and they were able to identify those with similar research interests.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ *Taipei Public Library Invites You for Cloud Reading with Millions of Readers Reading Simultaneously*

The Taipei Public Library, in conjunction with 7500 other libraries around the world, has initiated the “Reading Project in Big Libraries”, with a hope to introducing to readers a new way and tide of reading. It ran until June 1. Readers who have a cell phone or an iPad with free App software going to Taipei Public Library’s Audio-visual Digital Platform were able to download Michael Malone’s e-book “The Four Corners of the Sky,” the winner of the Edgar Allen Poe Awards and Emmy Awards.

The Taipei Public Library also prepared a hard copy of the book, translated into Chinese, for readers to borrow. The Library announced that currently there are more than 1000 e-books and more than 500 movies on the Audio-visual Digital Platform ready for downloading and browsing.

■ *Action and Interest in Reading the 90th Anniversary of National Library of Public Information Gets Start*

The National Library of Public Information (NLPI) celebrates its 90th anniversary on May 14. The NLPI has been designated as a national digital library. It’s the first digital library in Taiwan. The new main library opened its doors on June 3, 2012 and within one year of its opening, the library had had 2,500,000 visitors to the building and 3,000,000 persons using its on-line services.

The NLPI initiated iLib Reader, the reading action electronic platform, and iLib Go service App