



Group photo taken in the NCL meeting room.

Chinese Studies Symposium

2016. 05. 25

The NCL's CCS organized the Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies lecture series on the 25th of May inviting one Chinese Studies Research Center visiting scholar to share his research results.

The invited speaker was Professor Peter B. Ditmanson from Oxford University Pembroke College who spoke on "Politics, Violence and Publishing in the Mid-Ming Period".

There were many publications related to political violence that exposed the dynasties' political violence in China during the late 15th century to the early 16th century. They described the atrocities committed by rulers.

Professor Ditmanson by analyzing 1401-1402 Jingnan campaign (Ming Dynasty Chinese civil war) related publications, investigated the relationship between political violence and the publishing industry. Professor Ditmanson specifically mentioned that his focus is not whether or not there were so much political violence that existed during the Ming Dynasty but rather, why there constantly appeared these violence-related narratives. Professor Ditmanson in his study of Ming Dynasty history provided a new and different perspective, exploring the creative balance between history and literature.

Many of the participants of the lecture that day were Taiwan experts and scholars of Ming Dynasty history. The discussions that followed were filled with enthusiasm and pleasant participation.



Group photo of presenters and participants.

CCS News and Activities

■ 2016 Dragon Boat Festival Luncheon for Visiting Foreign Scholars

To celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival, the CCS invited the recipients of the CCS "Research Grants for Foreign Scholars in Chinese studies" and "Taiwan Fellowship" offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), for a lunch on June 6. This allowed them to experience Chinese traditional festivities and folk culture besides making their respective research. 42 scholars and their families participated representing 21 countries.

The CCS prepared food and dishes related to the festival such as meat rice dumplings, lychee fruit and many other delicacies. The origin and significance of the traditional Dragon Boat Festival in Taiwan was also introduced.

Many scholars also shared their talents: Terez Vincze, Assistant Professor from Hungary, Lorand University in Budapest, led everyone to sing traditional Hungarian songs; Professor Yer Jeff Thao from Portland State University performed Jew's Harp which is a traditional

musical instrument of the Atayal (Taiwan aborigines); Professor Daniel Sorichette from Champagnat University, Argentina performed a tango dance.

This was an occasion for scholars to have a better understanding of each other and to exchange and share experiences of their research and life in Taiwan.



The NCL and MOFA colleagues with visiting scholars.

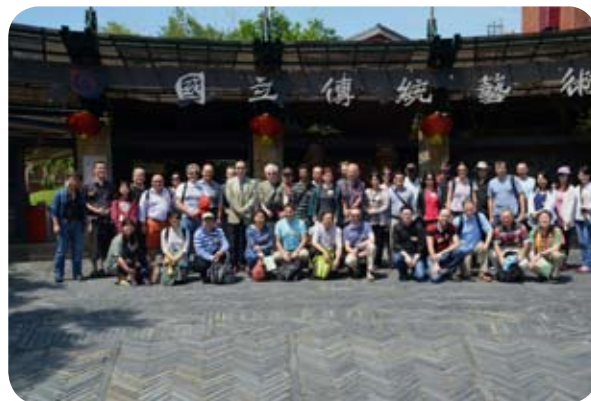
■ Visiting Foreign Scholars Taiwan Cultural Tour Experience

To provide visiting foreign scholars an in-depth understanding and exposure to the rich cultural and social customs and practices of the people of Taiwan, the CCS organized for them the “Ilan Cultural and Local Customs Tour” on May 18. They visited the National Center for Traditional Arts, Dong Shan River Park, Luodong Forestry Culture Garden, and Kavalan whiskey distillery.

Recipients of the CCS Research Grants for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies and the MOFA Taiwan Fellowship visiting scholars come from 21 countries and together with their respective families, 36 persons participated in the organized Tour.

Through this tour trip, the visiting scholars were able to experience and learn more about

Taiwan’s traditional drama, forestry railroad during the Japanese occupation and Taiwan distilled whiskey and coffee.



The NCL and MOFA visiting scholars visit the National Center for Traditional Arts.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Copyright Law of Dissertations and Theses Revised

In the past, whether dissertations and theses in Taiwan were open access or not was something that could be decided by the student. However, with the new revision of the Copyright Law submitted by the Intellectual Property Office, theses and dissertations will all be open access. Officials stated that this move can prevent widespread plagiarism and can increase their research quality.

■ The New Taipei City Library’s Main Branch Reaches One Year

The new main branch of the New Taipei City Library, the first 24-hour library in Taiwan, was opened on May 10, 2015. In the last year since its opening, it has attracted 1.77 million visitors and has lent out 890,000 books. New Taipei City currently has 102 branch libraries, and at the end of this year will have a collection of between 6.15 and 6.20 million books. That