



■ Special Exhibition on “The Mother of Cities: Prague” Opens

The Czech Economic and Cultural Office and NCL cohosted a special exhibition on “The Mother of Cities: Prague” from March 14 to April 26. The opening ceremony was held on the first day of the exhibition and was hosted by Representative Václav Jílek. Deputy Minister Chi-chung Wu (吳志中) from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister Tzu-bao Yang (楊子葆) from the Ministry of Culture, and Ms. Anna Maria Madeleine Majorenko from the European Economic and Trade Office were in attendance.



From right: Representative Václav Jílek, Director-General Tseng, Deputy Minister Yang, Deputy Minister Wu, Ms. Anna Maria Madeleine Majorenko and Mr. Song-ming Kao toast the opening of the exhibition.

Representative Jílek stated in his remarks that Prague is called the Mother of Cities and is the heart of Europe. There are many reasons to visit the enchanting city of Prague. He represented the Czech Republic in welcoming the Taiwan public in visiting the exhibition and hoped they will have an opportunity to

personally visit the city. The exhibition was filled with many images and accompanying explanations, as well as rotating a video on the scenery, architecture, eating culture, and city sites in the Czech Republic. Additionally, the Representative Office provided four ancient books with historic pictures on social customs in the country.

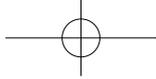
Mr. Song-ming Kao (高嵩明) was invited to give all the participants a guided tour. He is the only Taiwanese to be awarded the Gratias Agit Award by the Czech Republic and the author of *Czech: The Classic*.



Both text and images display the richness of Czech culture.

■ Seeing Happiness in Illustrated Books: US Children’s Book Illustrator Jessixa Bagley Speaks at NCL

NCL and TaoSheng (道聲) Publisher cohosted a Face-to-Face with US Children’s Illustrator Jessixa Bagley on February 18. Ms. Bagley was invited to share her creative journey and to have a discussion with renowned editor Neal Porter.



Jessixa Bagley shares her backstory behind her creativity with the audience.

Jessixa Bagley first read her newest work *Laundry Day*, which depicts two ordinary badgers who are brothers and quite playful. Their interaction with their mother is both cute and interesting in a mischievous way. The ending is most entertaining. Neal Porter recalled his feelings when he first received the submission for *Boats for Papa*. It is a moving story that brought tears to his eyes. Bagley and Porter both shared the details of editing a children's book and the interaction that occurs between author and editor. The most moving part of the event was when at the end they both did a reading of *Boats for Papa*.



Jessixa Bagley and Neal Porter in a discussion.

NCL Publications

■ Reading Happiness: Taiwan's 2016 Reading Habits Survey Results Press Conference and Model Patrons Award Ceremony Events Handbook



Published in Feb. 2017
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This handbook is a compilation of the 2016 reading habits survey results and model patrons' reflections on reading. It analyzes over 6.3 million records of books borrowed so as to understand the reading habits of Taiwan's citizens. Results are provided as a reference to libraries in generating strategies for innovative rolling service.

NCL International Exchange Events

On Jan. 6, 2017 Dr. Ondrej Klimes, a faculty member at the Czech Academy of Sciences, was in Taiwan on a research trip. During his trip, he came to National Central Library and met with Director-general Tseng to discuss the possibility of co-hosting a Chinese studies conference and exhibition.