

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ The “Conference on Direct Presidential Election and Democratic Taiwan”

Six presidential elections have been held in the two decades since Taiwan began directly electing its president in 1996. On September 23-24, 2017, the Taiwan Research Foundation and National Central Library (NCL) jointly hosted the “Conference on Direct Presidential Election and Democratic Taiwan” at the NCL. A special lecture on the theme “The Cabinet System is not Necessarily Bad” was written by former President Shui-bian Chen (陳水扁) and read out on his behalf by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng (曾淑賢).

Themes for discussion at the conference addressed six main aspects of the elections carried out since 1996: Review of the Successive Presidential Elections and Competition between Political Parties; Implementation and Review of the Three Peaceful Power Transitions; The Six Presidential Elections and the Change of the Public Opinion; A Critical Review of Presidential Constitutional Status and Practical Use of Power; The Influence

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Director-General Tseng with honored guests at the NCL's International Conference Hall, where the conference takes place.

of the Directly Elected Presidential System on Cross-strait Relations; and Reflections on the Direct Presidential Elections from the Perspective of Taiwan's Democratic Development.



NCL Director-General Tseng reads out former President Chen's special lecture on his behalf.

Over 700 people registered for the conference, and could submit questions online. First day speakers of the conference were former Secretary-General of the National Security Council, I-jen Chiou (邱義仁), former Secretary-General of the Presidential Office, Chun-po Chan (詹春柏); former Premier of the Executive Yuan, Chun-hsiung Chang (張俊雄), former Secretary-General of the Presidential Office, Yung-chuan Tseng (曾永權); former chairman of the Central Election Commission, I-chou Liu (劉義周); and former Deputy Minister of the Executive Yuan's Research, Development and Evaluation Commission, Ying-lung You (游盈隆). The speakers shared their personal experience of different aspects of participating in such a fundamental reform of Taiwan's system of constitutional government as the direct presidential elections.



The auditorium is packed out for the first session of the conference.

The speakers on the second day of the conference were former Premier of the Executive Yuan, Yi-huah Jiang (江宜樺), former Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party, Hsin-liang Hsu (許信良), Academia Sinica Academician, Yu-shan Wu (吳玉山), former Secretary-General of the National Security Council, Chi Su (蘇起), former acting Secretary-General of the National Security Council, Chung-hsin Chen (陳忠信), Academia Sinica Academician Yun-han Chu (朱雲漢), and former member of the Control Yuan, Huang-hsiung Huang (黃煌雄). They gave talks on three themes: A Critical Review of Presidential Constitutional Status and Practical Use of Power; The Influence of the Directly Elected Presidential System on Cross-strait Relations; and Reflections on the Direct Presidential Elections from the Perspective of Taiwan's Democratic Development.

It is hoped that the proceedings of this conference, recording the thoughts of the above experts, scholars, and politicians with practical experience of Taiwan's direct presidential elections, will help guide Taiwan's democratic future.

■ A New Prototype System for Taiwan Memory

On July 31, 2017, the National Central Library (NCL) held an announcement campaign, building a new prototype system for Taiwan Memory, which was a cooperative project between the NCL and Research Center for Digital Humanities of National Taiwan University (臺灣大學).

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng (曾淑賢) explained that Taiwan Memory was a website that gathered together digital resources, and was popular both among literature and history scholars and in the publishing industry. The Ministry of Education's 2016 digital humanities plan incorporated the idea of providing the ability to explore digital humanities resources into historical materials databases.



NCL Director-General Tseng gives an opening speech at the announcement campaign.

Director-General Tseng continued that in the age of co-operation, a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture's (MOC) National Memories Database Project and NCL's Taiwan Memory would be even more ideal.

At the announcement campaign, project manager Prof. Jieh Hsiang (項潔), Research Center for Digital Humanities of National Taiwan University, and project coordinators Prof. Tzu-heng Chiu (邱子恒) from Center for General Education of Taipei Medical University (臺北醫學大學) and Dr. Chiung-min Tsai (蔡炯民) from Research Center for Digital Humanities of National Taiwan University were invited to speak.



Director-General Tseng (2nd right) with honored guests (right to left): Prof. Tzu-heng Chiu, Prof. Jieh Hsiang, Dr. Chiung-min Tsai, and MOC's Ting-yu Lien (連丁幼, MOC's Department of Cultural Resources).

Events

■ The National Central Library and Sayling Wen Cultural and Educational Foundation Join Forces to Promote Reading

The National Central Library (NCL) and Sayling Wen (溫世仁) Cultural and Educational Foundation co-hosted the 2017 Elementary and High School Composition Competition Award Ceremony at the NCL on July 8. The aim of the competition is to foster reading in Taiwan. The foundation is dedicated to promoting reading and, through the competition, aims to encourage the strengthening of