

while Yuanlin City in Changhua County was in third place with 5.7 volumes. Sanwang Township's figure of 14.07 volumes puts it close on the heels of Helsinki (15.57 volumes) and Vancouver (15.28 volumes), and ahead of Toronto (12.25 volumes), and neighbors Singapore (7.09 volumes) and Hong Kong (7.82 volumes).

### ■ The NCL Hosts a Series of Lectures on "Following the Traveling Poet"

In 2012 the National Central Library (NCL) began holding the Four Seasons of Reading lectures to help promote reading in Taiwan. A different theme is chosen for each season, and scholars are invited to give lectures. The 2018 Spring Poetry Reading Festival took place from February 24 to April 28, with the theme "Following the Traveling Poet." A series of seven lectures were held in the International Conference Room at the NCL, inviting the reader to follow famous poets down the ages, and observe how they interact with the landscapes and people they encounter, letting their poetic imaginations run free.

The themes of the seven lectures were as follows:

Feb 24 "Discussing Qu Yuan's Sorrowful Journeys." Prof. Liao Tung-liang, Department of Chinese Literature, National Chengchi University.

Mar 3 "Pale Blue Sky, Deep Blue Sea, and the Common People: Li Bai's Use of Poetry to Portray the World." Prof. Liao Mei-yu, Department of Chinese Literature, Feng Chia University.

Mar 17 "The Hard Travels and Poetic Artistry of Du Fu, the Poet-Sage." Prof. Hsu Kuo-neng,

Department of Chinese, National Taiwan Normal University.

Mar 24 "Singing and Tracing the Accidental Journey of Su Dongpo's Life." Prof. Wang Wei-yung, Department of Chinese Literature, National Cheng Kung University.

Mar 31 "Huang Zunxian's Boundary- and Border-Crossing." Prof. Ko Chia-cien, Department of Chinese Literature, National Taiwan University.

Apr 14 "The Heart is a Reflection of the Universe: Yang Mu's Pursuit of Travel." Prof. Chen I-chih, Department of Chinese, National Taiwan Normal University.

Apr 28 "Battlegrounds and Other Regions: Luo Fu's Experience of War and Self-Exile." Prof. Chen Fang-ming, Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature, National Chengchi University.

The seven lectures spanned from ancient times to the present day, and expounded by renowned professors from Taiwan's Chinese Departments, these wonderfully rich lectures attracted packed audiences, who found them very rewarding.



*A series of lectures for the Spring Poetry Reading Festival have attracted enthusiastic participation of the audience.*