

### ■ **The NCL Hosts a Series of Lectures on “Imagination, Reality, and Memory in the World of Indigenous Literature”**

To promote reading in Taiwan, in 2012 the National Central Library (NCL) launched its Four Seasons of Reading lectures. Each season, a different theme is chosen for each season, and scholars are invited to give lectures. The 2018 summer lecture series took place from May 12 to July 28, with the theme “Imagination, Reality, and Memory in Indigenous Literature.” The lecture topics such as the development of Taiwanese indigenous literature, poetry and legends, maritime literature, ethnic culture, women’s writing, and music creation, will guide the public on a journey, exploring the variety and rich vitality of indigenous literature. The themes of the six lectures were as follows:

May 12 “Singing with a Pen: The Formation and Development of Indigenous Taiwanese Literature.” Sun Ta-chuan, Vice-President of the Control Yuan.

May 26 “Myths, Legends, Poetry.” Pu Chung-cheng, Director of the College of Indigenous Studies, National Dong Hwa University.

June 9 “The Ocean Takes Me on a Journey.” Syaman Rapongan, author.

June 16 “Your Name: The Many Encounters of Indigenous Literature and Cultural Identity.” Chen Chih-fan, assistant professor of the Institute of Taiwan Literature, National Tsing Hua University.

June 23 “The Finest Drops of Rain Scatter and Coalesce like Stars: A Survey of Contemporary Indigenous Women’s Writing in Chinese.” Dong Shu-ming, assistant professor of the Department

of Chinese Language and Literature, National Taitung University.

June 28 “Passing on Old and Writing New Songs: From the Vinyl Age to the CD Age.” Eric Scheihagen, radio presenter for Alian 96.3, and Liu Chih-chun, assistant professor of the Graduate Institute of Cultural and Educational Management, Central Taiwan University of Science and Technology.



*The summer lecture series attracts an enthusiastic audience.*

### ■ **The NCL’s 2018 Advanced Public Library Management Training Program**

To assist in enhancing library services and the professional knowledge of library staff, the National Central Library (NCL) held the 2018 Advanced Public Library Management Training Program series. On May 22, 2018, the first session of the series took place at Taichung Public Library. The NCL Director-General Tseng stated in her remarks that the successful development of Taiwan’s public libraries was reliant on the hard work and dedication of local library staff at the program’s opening.

A group of experts and scholars in the field of Library and Information Science were arranged to give lectures for this series of advanced training. They delivered a rich and varied program, imparting the latest trends in library development, theoretical

foundations, and their practical experience. The aim of the program was to enrich the professional knowledge of librarians, and thereby effectively enhance their libraries' services. The second and third sessions of the program were held in Hsinchu (from May 27 to June 4, 2018) and Hualien (from June 23 to July 1, 2018) respectively for the convenience of librarians working in those regions, enabling them to benefit from the program without having to travel too far.



Director-General Tseng (3rd right in the front row) poses with course participants.

### ■ The NCL Holds the Appreciation Ceremony for International Publication Exchange Donor Institutions

For many years, the National Central Library (NCL) has been tasked with the responsibility for international publication exchange on behalf of government. Every year, the Library gathers together publications produced by government institutes and selectively purchased high-quality books and periodicals, from which corresponding exchange institutions of each country can select to add to their collections. This has substantial long-term benefits for promoting Taiwan's academic research and the global visibility of its society and culture. Through this international exchange of books and periodicals, the NCL also obtains the governmental publications of other countries, greatly enriching the library's own collection, which provides

Taiwan's scholars with valuable research materials and expands the horizons of Taiwan's citizens.

To thank those government institutes whose book donations over the years have greatly contributed to these international exchanges, on May 29, 2018, the NCL held an Appreciation Ceremony for International Publication Exchange Donor Institutions and Introduction to the Inquiry System. Besides showing appreciation to government institutes for donating their books, this event also publicized the Donor Institutions' Inquiry System put in place by the Library, which enables institutions to track the books and periodicals they have donated to their final destinations.



Director-General Tseng (4th right) poses with the delegates of donor institutions.

### ■ Old and Rare Editions of Western Classics Deposit in the NCL

On April 13, 2018, a bibliophile, Cheng Ding Tang deposited 40 rare editions of its Western language book collection in the National Central Library (NCL). Many of these are extremely valuable first editions, including an 1843 edition of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, a 1762 edition of *Du contrat social ou Principes du droit politique* (The Social Contract) by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and a 1637 edition of *Discours de la méthode* (Discourse on the Method) by René Descartes.