

NCL from July 31 to September 16, 2018. Around 300 of Prof. Liang's paintings of Taiwan have been selected for display at the exhibition, including oil paintings, watercolors and sketches, and grouped according to region.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Jiunn-rong Yeh attended the exhibition opening ceremony and gave remarks. In his speech, he remarked that, as a reader, he so enjoyed being able to admire such beautiful local scenes painted by a famous artist at the library. The NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated in her remarks that Prof. Liang had donated more than 14,000 of her life's works to the library's permanent collection, adding that she very much admired by her generous spirit. Director-General Tseng also praised Prof. Liang's contribution to Taiwan's cultural diplomacy.

Prof. Liang was overjoyed that so many of her paintings are receiving appropriate care and storage at the library, and extremely grateful to it for providing staff to carry out the necessarily related management and other activities. After the ceremony had concluded, she also spent an hour giving the distinguished guests a personal guided tour of her works.



Prof. Liang (center, seated) gives a guided tour, accompanied by Minister Yeh (center, standing), with Director-General Tseng(1st left).

In addition, Prof. Liang gave a special lecture on August 11, 2018 at the NCL, entitled "My Journey in Painting." In her lecture, Prof. Liang displayed and told the stories behind some of her works. In addition, Prof. Liang also demonstrated how to most fully express ideas using the fewest available tools. This was Prof. Liang's first public demonstration outside of a classroom, attracting a packed audience.



Prof. Liang demonstrates sketching techniques during the lecture.

■ Taiwan and Turkish Representative Offices Sign a Memorandum of Understanding at the NCL

On the afternoon of September 19, 2018, Representative Tai-hsiang Cheng of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Mission in Ankara, and Representative Murat Baklaci of the Turkish Trade Office in Taipei, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The signing ceremony was chaired by the Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of National Central Library (NCL). The agreement mainly advances future cooperation between the two countries' national libraries across a broad range of areas, including knowledge and event information sharing, publication exchanges, collection digitization, ancient book restoration and preservation, staff exchanges, and joint academic research programs.

The National Library of Turkey boasts a rich collection that includes biblical and Qur'anic manuscripts written over a thousand years ago. The library also houses documents and manuscripts from the Eastern Roman and Ottoman empires, providing excellent opportunities for manuscript exchanges.

In his speech, Representative Tai-hsiang Chang mentioned that, in the past five years, Taiwan and Turkey had signed ten MoUs establishing areas cooperation between the two countries. He eagerly anticipated further academic exchanges between the two national libraries in future. Representative Murat Baklaci expressed how gratifying it was to witness the signing of the first cooperative MoU between Taiwan and Turkey of his term of office, while also wishing the two libraries well in developing a multifaceted partnership.



Representative Murat Baklaci (from left), Director-General Tseng, and Representative Tai-hsiang Chang at MoU signing ceremony.

■ NCL Director-General Tseng Led a Benchmarking Delegation of Taiwan Public Librarians to the U.S.

The Ministry of Education, in a desire to expand the vision of those in charge of overseeing and managing public libraries in Taiwan and to promote a deeper understanding of international library

developments, organized a delegation of fifteen public librarians led by NCL Director-General Tseng Shu-hsien. On September 9, the delegation traveled to the U.S. for seven days of learning and touring.

The aim of the trip was to understand the operations and innovative services of the two large public library systems in New York City, as well as to engage in professional exchanges with and learn from each of the following libraries: the Central Library in Queens, the Flushing Library, the Elmhurst Branch Library, the Forest Hills Branch Library, the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building (New York Public Library), the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, the Hamilton Grange Library, the 53rd Street Library, the Grand Central Library, and the Free Library of Philadelphia-Parkway Central Library. The understanding and experience gained on this visit will be used in the preparations for a project starting next year—Creating a Collaborative and Sharing-friendly Library System. This will aid efforts in reorienting libraries in their socio-educational roles and services.



The delegation takes a group photo at the Central Library in Queens.