

actively displayed in realizing a southern branch has been key to the success of the project. Currently efforts are in full force to carry out the Executive Yuan's ratified plan. She believes that it will be completed on schedule and open for use at the end of 2021. This will greatly add to the library resources in Yunlin, Chiayi, and Tainan areas, as well as meet the needs of the citizens in counties and cities in central and southern Taiwan. Furthermore, it will promote scholarly research and a connection with international trends in the south of Taiwan.



The dignitaries from a variety of industries attend the foundation ceremony.

Events

■ The Grandest Reading Carnival in Taiwan Held in Da'an Park

The National Central Library (NCL) hosted a Reading Carnival- the 2018 Taiwan Reading Festival on December 1 at Da'an Park. The event began with "Forest Chapter: Start Dreaming Parade." The NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, the Ministry of Education's Director of Lifelong Education Yue-li Huang, and many other senior officials lead a procession of more than 500 ardent readers. After the parade was the opening ceremony for the Reading Carnival, as well as the award ceremony for outstanding

contributions to libraries.

The Minister of Education Jiunn-rong Yeh participated in the opening ceremony and presented the 2018 Outstanding Contribution to Libraries Awards at the ceremony. In his remarks, Minister Yeh stated that one of the most important things that supports human life is reading. He also gave his blessing on public libraries in Taiwan for their outstanding success in promoting reading. These efforts have resulted in the public relying much more on libraries.



Minister Yeh (6th right), NCL Director General Tseng (5th left) and the distinguished guests at the opening ceremony.

The activities at the primary venue for this year's Taiwan Reading Festival included a "Golden Decade of Reading Achievement Exhibition." On display were the results of reading promotion events held by libraries throughout Taiwan. In the grassy park, children of all ages listened to stories in the "Forest Story Village," "Flying. Fun with Popular Science," which gave children the opportunity to see how science affects their life; at "the Little Book Lovers" event, children were exposed to Chinese characters and books through activities such as singing children's songs, looking at pictures, reading stories, recognizing Chinese characters, and create their own illustrated book. Other events included "Save the World through Reading," "A Walk through the Forest,"

“Forest Reading Room,” “Love the Earth,” “Be Environmentally Conscious,” “the Book Market,” “Reading Bazaar,” and “Illustrated Books: Listen-Guess-Narrate,” etc. All were popular attractions that got attendees involved and ensured they enjoyed a festive reading feast.

■ **NCL Holds Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies in UK**

The NCL held two Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies in UK during November 2018. The sixth Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies of this year held on at SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies in London on November 9, 2018. Prof. Heng Su of National Chengchi University’s College of Communication lectured on “Populism, Social Media and the 2018 Mayoral Election in Taiwan.” The lecture was moderated by the centre’s director, Prof. Dafydd Fell.



Prof. Heng Su gives a lecture at SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies in London.

The seventh Taiwan lecture of 2018 was held at the University of Oxford on November 26. The director of the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy at the Academia Sinica, Prof. Siao-chen Hu, delivered the lecture, which was on the theme “Representing Ethnicity in the Ming-Qing Literary Imagination.”

With hosting Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies is not only effectively promote domestic and international exchanges on research achievements in Taiwan studies and Chinese studies, but also deepens NCL’s relationship with the international Chinese studies community.



Prof. Siao-chen Hu (2nd left) gives a lecture at University of Oxford.

■ **NCL and Leipzig University in Germany Co-hosted a Conference and Series of Events on “Daoism and Local Cults: Rethinking the Paradigms”**

In an effort to promote a dialog between the world and Taiwan research on Daoism, National Central Library (NCL) and Leipzig University (LU) Library in Germany co-hosted a series of events at LU’s Bibliotheca Albertina from November 29 to December 1, 2018.

The eighth Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies of 2018 was held On November 29, Professor Fong-mao Lee of National Chengchi University, a world-renowned authority on Daoist studies, was invited to speak on “Expelling Plagues and ‘Patrolling on Behalf of Heaven’: Two Different Explanations of Plagues between Daoism and Confucianism.”

From November 30 to December 1, an international conference on “Daoism and Local Cults: Rethinking the Paradigms” was held. Invited to the conference were experts in history and ethnology from Germany, France, Taiwan, Japan, the U.S., UK, and Hong Kong, and thirteen papers were presented. During the conference, NCL also planned an exhibition entitled “The Way of Heaven: Daoism and Local Cults.” On display were more than one hundred publications from Taiwan on related themes and