

## ■ NCL Works with the University of Edinburgh to Establish Scotland's First Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies

On November 22, 2018, National Central Library (NCL) Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, and Director of Library and University Collections of the University of Edinburgh, Mr. Jeremy Upton, signed an agreement for Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) and held a ceremony marking the occasion. This is the first TRCCS in Scotland and the 31st center to be established.

The University of Edinburgh was established in 1583, and is one of the most important academic institutions in the UK. The Library has collections of more than 3.5 million books and 40,000 valuable rare books and archives, including a Chinese book printed in woodblock in 1440 - *Zhou yi zhuan yi da quan*. The amount of collections is next to University of Oxford and University of Cambridge, and ranked 3rd in the UK.

During the establishment of a TRCCS at the University of Edinburgh, Director General Jason C. C. Lien from the Taipei Representative Office in the U.K., Edinburgh Office, personally attended and shared remarks. He gave his blessing on the endeavor and testified of the various exchanges that have occurred between Taiwan and the University of Edinburgh. Director of Library and University Collections Mr. Jeremy Upton stated his pleasure that they could join the ranks of universities with a TRCCS and emphasized that doing so will enable them to effectively expand their East Asian holdings. The Assistant Principal of the University, Professor Natascha Gentz, was also

in attendance. In her remarks, she welcomed the establishment of the TRCCS. The collaborative feeling in the air was palpable. It is hoped that in the future both libraries can have even more opportunities for exchange.



*The first TRCCS in Scotland established at University of Edinburgh (from left: Assistant Principal Natascha Gentz, NCL Director-General Tseng, Director Jeremy Upton, and Director General Jason C. C. Lien of Taipei Representative Office in the U.K.)*

## ■ The Foundation-Laying Ceremony of Southern Branch of the NCL Held in Tainan

The foundation-laying ceremony of the project to construct a Southern Branch of the National Central Library (NCL) and National Repository Library was held in Tainan on November 13, 2018. Central and local government officials, legislators, and dignitaries from a variety of industries were in attendance. Administrative Deputy Minister of Education Teng-chiao Lin stated in his remarks that this foundation ceremony marks the official beginning of the construction phase of the Southern Branch Library. He is also excited for the Southern Branch to infuse southern Taiwan with a new burst of energy for knowledge and research.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that the determination and resolution which the Ministry of Education and NCL have

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,"