

Venue: Providence University Luking Library

■ **Forum on Public Lending Right**

Organizer: Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) & National Central Library

Date: May 30, 2019

Venue: National Central Library

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ **International Children's Book Day: The Minister of Education Calls for Parents to End Work Early and to Read to Their Children**

April 2 is the birthday of the well-known children's author Hans Christian Andersen. It is also International Children's Book Day. The Minister of Education, Wen-chung Pan posted on his personal Facebook account on April 2 a call for parents to get off work early and to return home to read with their children.

This year is the first year that Taiwan has participated in International Children's Book Day. National Central Library invited renowned illustrator and author Mr. Bagel to design two posters, "Train a Little Book Lover in Your Life" and "Train a Little Book Lover in Your Family." These posters outline concrete ways parents can help their children develop "early literacy" abilities. Public libraries in Taiwan have in recent years set up baby and toddler reading areas, which provide a rich variety of age-specific

books, other media, and events. These areas let babies and toddlers experience and feel the joy of reading in an area all to themselves, providing an all-new experience of reading.

■ **National Taiwan Library Puts on "Joy in Diversity: Traversing a New Reading Field" Event**

National Taiwan Library, in an effort to respond to new residents in Taiwan and to coordinate with the government's New Southbound Policy, has expanded its multicultural resource area. On June 15, 2019, it held a "Joy in Diversity: Traversing a New Reading Field" grand opening and book donation event. National Taiwan Library's multicultural resource center expanded from the four official languages in Taiwan to include seven other languages, such as Burmese, Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Malay, etc. It is estimated that the new holdings will number close to twenty thousand volumes.

The reading area also expanded from four to thirty-two seats and provides computer search capabilities to patrons. Through this opportunity to understand other cultures, the public's eyes can be further opened. It is hoped that the public can better understand the different cultures in Southeast Asia and can have a broader vision. National Taiwan Library's Director Lai-chang Cheng stated, promoting cultural diversity can not only highlight the cultures of the new residents in Zhonghe and Yonghe but also can work in step

with the Ministry of Education's 2019 curriculum outlines, allowing children a chance to learn more in libraries about the cultures of various countries.

■ **New Taipei City Library Holds Event “Stuffed Animals Stay the Night at the Library”**

New Taipei City's Reading Festival formally started on April 20, 2019. New Taipei City Library held a special event called “Stuffed Animals Stay the Night at the Library,” providing children with a novel reading experience. Children brought their stuffed animals to the library and left them there overnight. The next day they returned to take their stuffed animals

home. Library staff photographed what the stuffed animals did in the library at night so the children could see what took place. This was designed to increase children's interest in books and in visiting the library. In addition, when the children returned for their stuffed animals the next day, they received a “book especially picked out for you by your stuffed animal;” the children could take the book home and read it with their fuzzy friend. The aim of the event was to use the stuffed animals to recommend great books to children so that they will get closer to books and fall in love with the library.



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