

Bio-architecture Formosana and is being managed by Cheng Hsu Engineering Consultancy.

In her speech, Director-General Tseng explained that the project includes the construction of both the southern branch of the National Central Library and the National Repository Library, thereby effectively resolving the issue of the NCL's own shortage of space. It additionally includes other dedicated spaces to house special collections for example. The project is of greater complexity than previous projects. The detailed designs have been completed and are already open for public inspection. It is hoped that the collective efforts put into this advanced project will produce a landmark that raises the bar and increases Taiwan's visibility.

Now that the two explanatory meetings for this construction project have taken place, the public inspection stage begun, and the public appraisal and selection committee established, once opinions on the project have been gathered and the tender documentation duly revised, they will be published on the government procurement web site before the end of August. Construction groups from all over Taiwan are more than welcome to submit a tender to build this world class cultural landmark for the nation.



*Director-General Tseng delivers a speech at the second explanatory meeting in Taipei.*

## ■ “Contemporary India: Talk Series” Starts with a Bang at NCL

### **First Talk “Startlingly Beautiful India: The Rapid Rise of an Inconceivable Nation”**

National Central Library and the India Taipei Association (ITA) began to cohost “Contemporary India: Talk Series” on the afternoon of July 21, 2019. The first talk was held at National Central Library's International Conference Hall. Invited to speak was James C.F. Huang, Chair of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council, who has visited India eleven times. He spoke on “Startlingly Beautiful India: The Rapid Rise of an Inconceivable Nation.” Attendance was very strong, with no empty seats left. Before he spoke, special arrangements were made for a professional dance troupe to perform two Bollywood dances. The lecture then began in an atmosphere that was full of Indian flare.

National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng spoke at the beginning of the session, stating each year National Central Library cohosts various events and activities with representative offices of other countries in Taiwan. She hopes that through NCL's domain and by integrating various holdings and resources, that the public can come to know and experience the culture and conditions of foreign countries.

ITA President Sridharan Madhusudhanan stated that India can be likened to a large library with many books awaiting the public to come and view. He hopes that this collaborative endeavor with NCL will help the Taiwan public have a deeper understanding of various aspects of modern India.

James Huang shared his knowledge of the various layers and facets of India during his

lecture. He believes that India is not only an abundant country and a melting pot of peoples, but also a museum of religion, and even more so a kaleidoscope of geographical features. In terms of its economy, India is a rising powerhouse in the 21st century. Taiwan and India have many similar sociocultural values; the inconceivable India and the mysterious Taiwan can become the most ideal partners in the 21st century. Huang emphasized that Taiwan should not be absent at the economic feast that is India.

After the lecture, ITA had prepared Indian-styled tea and refreshments, allowing the tastes buds of those in attendance a grand experience of India, in addition to the knowledge feast that had just ended on that Sunday afternoon.



*Group photo of the speaker James C.F. Huang (second row middle), Chair of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council, dancers, Director-General Tseng (second row 3rd right) and ITA President Sridharan Madhusudhanan (second row 3rd left).*

## **Second Talk “Indian Buddhist Heritage, Art and Contemporary Travel”**

On September 27, the second talk was held during this cool autumn season, Emeritus Professor Lin Bao-Yao of the Taipei National University of the Arts and Mr. Wei Er-lang, a consultant for Hero Travel Service were invited to speak.

Before the talk began, a performance was arranged of Kathak dancing, which originates from northern India. A prelude to the opening ceremony, this classical dance was performed by You Wei-ting. In a lithe and enchanting performance, she told the story of how Prince Siddhartha became Buddha. Musical accompaniment was by Chu Li-chun on the sitar and Kuo Pin-yuan on the tabla. The opening ceremony then began in this atmosphere of rich Indian Buddhist dancing.

ITA Deputy Director Song Youren stated in his remarks: Contemporary India: A Series of Talks hope to help attendees get to know India through various aspects and angles. This second talk aids attendees in gaining a deeper understanding of Buddhist heritage and art in India. It is a great honor to have Dr. Lin Bao-yao and Mr. Wei Er-lang, who have both traveled extensively in India, to aid attendees better understand contemporary India through their deep understanding of various places in India. Also, we are very grateful to have this opportunity to cohost this talk series with National Central Library. It is our hope that after hearing the talk today you will better understand Indian Buddhism and even travel to India in the future.

Professor Lin and Mr. Wei explored in their talk the continuity and conservation of rich diversity in Indian Buddhist art. The talk traced the life journey of Buddha through 8 world famous sacred Buddhist sites in India. The main focus was the cultural preservation of Buddhist artifacts in contemporary India in museums in Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Mathura and Sarnath. In addition, they spoke on the UNESCO World Heritage sites related to Buddhism in India including Caves and Stupas.

The two speakers have traveled to India many times and shared some of their extraordinary experiences with the audience. Not only were the audience members treated to a feast of knowledge on a fall afternoon, but also were treated to a Q&A session before the activity came to a perfect close.



*Group photo of the speakers, dancers, and dignitaries from ITA and NCL*

## ■ NCL Holds the 2019 Young Scholars Camp

The National Central Library's (NCL) Young Scholars Camp is a program tailor-made for Taiwan's senior high school students. The camp is led by a number of scholars and experts, who introduce senior high school students to the world of academic research. Using group work and discussion methods, the scholars impart their research experience and academic thinking, as well as their paper writing knowledge and skills to the students.

Since it was first held in 2015, the Young Scholars Camp has met with an enthusiastic response from high school teachers, students, and their parents. The camp, in its fifth year this year, ran in three successive five-day phases between July 1 and July 26 in the north, central and southern regions.



*Director-General Tseng pictured with students attending the Taipei Session of the 2019 Young Scholars Camp.*

## ■ Special Exhibition on Children's Rights in Poland Moves to Taitung

A special exhibition on children's rights in Poland has been jointly curated and organized by the National Central Library (NCL), Taitung County Government and Polish Office in Taipei with the aim of promoting children's rights and associated ideas. The exhibition opened to a noisy reception on September 5, 2019, at the County Cultural Taitung Affairs Bureau Library.

The opening ceremony commenced with a Polish waltz performed on violin, after which a storyteller told the assembled guests a wonderful story called "The Invisible Boy." In her speech, Magistrate Rao thanked Director-General Tseng for her help in facilitating the exhibition. The help of the NCL and Polish Office in Taipei had made it possible to bring this deeply meaningful exhibition to Taitung, she said. It showed Taitung's continuing dedication to protecting children's rights and emphasis of related issues, and enabled visitors to become acquainted with the culture and customs of the two countries.

The exhibition centered around the ideas of Janusz Korczak, the father of children's rights in Poland. It illustrated Korczak's work on behalf of children during the latter part of his life, as