

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ Taiwan's Exhibition Rocks Ulaanbaatar: The Exhibition "A Look Back at the Mongolian Empire and the Mark of Chinese Culture: In Remembrance of the 750th Year of the Development of the 'Phags-pa Script" Begins

National Central Library was invited by the National Library of Mongolia to Ulaanbaatar to put on an exhibition entitled A Look Back at the Mongolian Empire and the Imprint of Chinese Culture: In Remembrance of the 750th Year of the Development of the 'Phags-pa Script. The exhibition ran from September 9 to November 9, 2019. National Library of Mongolia stated this was the most important cultural exhibition event in Ulaanbaatar this year. On the morning of September 9 an opening ceremony for the exhibition was attended by more than one hundred people. It was an unprecedentedly grand occasion. Mongolian National Broadcaster (MNB) and other media were onsite to interview people in both Mongolian and English.



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: NCL Director-General Tseng (middle) and Director Ichinkhorloo, National Library of Mongolia (second right)

The ceremony was conducted by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and National Library of Mongolia's Director Ichinkhorloo. Important dignitaries in Mongolia, including diplomats, politicians,

scholars, and cultural experts were in attendance. The dignitaries expressed their unanimous gratitude that Taiwan's National Central Library could bring the historical books on Mongolia in their collection to Mongolia so that the public could understand the historical and cultural origins of Mongolia from the exhibition. These have made a great contribution to the Chinese civilization, and even our world civilization.

Director Ichinkhorloo stated she felt extremely honored that Taiwan's National Central Library came to Ulaanbaatar to hold such a large-scale exhibition. From the items on display, one could see the replete collection at Taiwan's National Central Library. These are national treasures of Mongolia, and many rubbings are important historical records of the Mongolian people. She specifically thanked NCL for putting on such a high class cultural exhibition. This was the most important exhibition in Ulaanbaatar.

Director-general Tseng stated in her remarks that this exhibition was a joint exhibition of the Mongolian and Chinese cultures. For Taiwan, this was the first large-scale cultural exchange between Taiwan and Mongolia. The exhibition was divided into two parts: "The Mark of Chinese Civilization" had more than seventy ancient books and documents on display showing the influence of Chinese culture. Viewed together, they outlined the evolution and variegated styles of textual writing and devices. The second part was "Memories of the Mongolian Empire." On display were more than thirty scrolls of Mongolian and 'Phags-pa script rubbings and images of Mongolian emperors. In addition, attendees could view forty-three ancient books related to Mongolia from NCL's collection, covering Mongolian history, its conquest of China, the political system of the court, personal

travelogues of north and south of the Yangtze River, and collections of poems and prose of Mongolian scholars. There were also short explanations of diet and sanitary habits. These showed a complete picture of the spirit of ancient Mongolians, reconstructing various aspects of Mongolian life in the 13th century.

During the opening ceremony, Director-General Tseng represented NCL in presenting the replicas of their Mongolian collection to the National Library of Mongolia. The exhibition took a new approach by decorating the entire National Library of Mongolia. The main hall on the first floor was where the Mark of Chinese Civilization area began. It went all the way to the stairwell and upward. The museum exhibition hall on the second floor held the Memories of the Mongolian Empire area, as well as a place to experience five-color block printing. The third floor had on display modern publication on Mongolia, provided by the Mongolian and Tibetan Cultural Center from Taiwan's Ministry of Culture. The exhibition attracted a great many Mongolian scholars as well as the general public. All who attended would read with great care and discuss the various books and 'Phags-pa script rubbings. Everyone seemed to agree that Ulaanbaatar rarely sees exhibitions of this caliber and significance.

After the opening ceremony, NCL held a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies to go along with the exhibition. Professor Wang Mingsun, chair of the department of history at Chinese Culture University spoke on "Yuan Dynasty Mongolia's Rule and Control of China in the Yuan Dynasty." The lecture attracted more than fifty scholars from academia. The discussion during the lecture was very active.



NCL Director-General Tseng is interviewed by Mongolian National Broadcaster

■ **NCL and National University of Mongolia Collaborate to Establish Mongolia's First Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies**

On September 10, 2019, National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and National University of Mongolia's Vice President Ch. Lodoiravsal signed a cooperative agreement for a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS). An opening ceremony was held the same day. This is the first TRCCS NCL has established in Mongolia and marks the 32nd one overseas. Both parties also signed a cooperative agreement regarding the Union Catalog of Rare Book Database. This is a new page in collaboration on ancient Chinese books between the two institutions. It is also a significant achievement for NCL in its efforts to promote international cultural exchange.



NCL Director-General Tseng and National University of Mongolia's Vice President CH. LODOIRAVSAL sign the cooperative agreement on the Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies.

National University of Mongolia has played a critical role in the development of Chinese studies in modern Mongolia. The two famous scholars of Chinese from modern Mongolia—Chimedtseren and Jugder—both taught at National University of Mongolia. Under their tutelage, a new generation of outstanding Chinese studies scholars and Chinese language teachers have been trained. National University of Mongolia was established in 1942 and has had a leading role in Mongolian higher education. Approximately 1/3 of the scholars in Mongolia are graduates from this institution and are active in the humanities, education, and science fields in Mongolia, as well as assuming important positions in society. National University of Mongolia's library has a collection of over 360,000 volumes, along with many digital databases.

In 2012 National Central Library began establishing Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies overseas by selecting important universities or research institutions. This proved to strengthen collaboration with research institutions in Chinese studies in countries throughout the world. It also promoted scholarly exchange between scholars in Taiwan and abroad, thus disseminating the scholarly achievements of Chinese studies in Taiwan. This project was one of four to be awarded the American Library Association's 2015 International Innovative Service Award. Not only does this increase NCL's interaction with research institutions across the globe and provide new opportunities for collaboration, it also enables even more people to come in contact with and use e-resources from Taiwan on Chinese studies. This increases Taiwan's visibility and influence internationally.

In establishing this Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies at National University of