

Many dignitaries attended the event; the room was completely full. There were more than sixty dignitaries, including Professor Huang's friends and relatives, colleagues, students, and those in the medical humanities field in Taiwan. Director-General Tseng extended special thanks in her remarks to Professor Huang for his selfless donation, which greatly added to NCL's collection of manuscripts by famous persons. She hoped that the event would be a catalyst for other experts in attendance to want to donate their manuscripts and teaching materials to NCL's collection.



Professor Kuan-chung Huang donates his manuscripts to NCL.

Due to the unique nature of the donation, after the ceremony NCL invited scholars and experts with a long history of promoting medical humanities in Taiwan to hold a workshop on the teaching philosophy and curricular praxis of medical humanities. The first lecture was hosted by Professor Tung-sheng Chen from the Department of Sociology at National Taiwan University. Director of the Koo Foundation Sun Yat-Sen Cancer Center Chi-wan Lai was invited to speak on "A Look Back and a Future Vision of the Promotion and Professionalism of Humanities in Medical Education in Taiwan."

The second lecture was hosted by Professor Chi-tsun Fang from Chang Gung University. Professor Kuan-chung Huang was invited to lecture on "The Praxis of Medical Humanities Teaching: The Design and a Report on the Course 'Scholars and Chinese Culture.'"

■ Witnessing the Reading Energy in Taiwan: The Grandest Reading Festival Event in Taiwan Starts off with a Bang

The grandest reading activity of the 2019 Taiwan Reading Festival was held on December 7 at Daan Forest Park. Under the direction of the Ministry of Education, National Central Library hosted the event, with its opening ceremony attracting over 500 adults and children. There was a high-spirited feeling at the ceremony, and a warm passion for reading that stood in stark contrast to the cold weather of winter.

Ministry of Education Chief Secretary Nan-Shyan Chu attended the opening ceremony and gave a few remarks. He said that reading is the basis of all learning and is intellectual nourishment essential to life. Through reading one can foster language arts ability, learning ability, critical thinking, better responses, imagination, and creativity. The Taiwan Reading Festival is Taiwan's brand for promoting reading. It shows Taiwan's copious reading energy and lets countries of the world see the deep cultural cultivation the people of Taiwan have.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng specifically pointed out that this year's reading carnival incorporated the educational trend of the five disciplines comprising STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), as well as the new curriculum outline. The hope is that through innovative reading promotion and e-learning content, breakthroughs can be realized.

This year's Taiwan Reading Festival was comprised of 16 different themes, with over 250 reading events. In addition to the core activities of "Forest Story Village," "Forest. Bubbles. Popular Science Fun," "The Various Joys of Reading: Happy Group Drawings," "A Stroll through the Forest," "The Little Forest Reading Room," and "The Book Market," several new events were held. "Travel the World through Reading" is a collaboration with

Polish, Slovenian, Mexican, Italian, and Israeli Representative Offices in Taiwan, showcasing a world culture themed interactive game. “Tiny, Tiny Book Lovers” is especially designed for children 3-6 years old, with reading activities to help them improve listening, speaking, reading, writing, and playing. Also, this year marks the first year of “Our Distance to the Library,” which the Library Association of the Republic of China was asked to put together. Also available were “Museum Island,” a joint effort between museums and libraries, “Shortcut to the Library,” as well as others like “Playing Games with Robots,” “Pleasant Faces, Pleasant Reading—I Love Drawing,” “Smart Money Manager,” “A Kaleidoscope of Ancient Books,” and “Brain Power Games.” These unique and innovative events attracted many parents and children, who participated with enthusiasm, took pictures, and got their books stamped to remember the experience.



Dignitaries from different industries gather for the opening ceremony of the 2019 Taiwan Reading Festival.

■ National Library of Mongolia Director Ichinkhorloo Visits National Central Library and Gives a Talk

National Central Library invited the Director of the National Library of Mongolia Bayarkhuu Ichinkhorloo to visit NCL and give a talk on December 17, 2019. The topic was “The Past, Present, and Future of the National Library of Mongolia.” The talk was held in NCL’s

International Conference Hall on the third floor.

Director Ichinkhorloo is one of the most revered and popular modern poets in Mongolia. Twice she has been awarded the Mongolia Crystal Cup at their Poems, Songs, and Music Festival. As the 21st director of the National Library of Mongolia, she is also the fourth female director. During her tenure, major plans have been put in place for the development of the library.

During her opening remarks before the talk, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng expressed her thanks to the Ulaanbaatar Trade and Economic Office in Taipei, the Mongolian and Tibetan Cultural Center, and the National Library of Mongolia for their strong support and assistance. They effectively brought about the close exchange and cooperation between the two national libraries in holding this event. NCL was very honored that Director Ichinkhorloo accepted an invitation to come to NCL for a talk, sharing and reviewing the developments of the National Library of Mongolia, its current level of development, and its future prospects.



A group photo after the talk: front and center is NCL Director-General Tseng, to her right is the Director of the National Library of Mongolia.

During Director Ichinkhorloo’s talk, she explored the 100-year developmental history of the National Library of Mongolia, introduced its document and records research center, as well as its special collections. The latter has such rare items as the Kangyur Sutra, the Altan Tobchi, the Tengyur, and the Sacred Akasha. She also spoke of a digital library and the future plans and designs of their new library facilities.