

## ■ NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng Visits Important Libraries and Museums in Israel

On January 6-7, 2020, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng visited several important libraries and museums in Israel. She learned about different approaches to running operations and shared her experiences from Taiwan.

On January 6, Director-General Tseng visited the Beit Ariela Public Library in Tel Aviv. This library was established in 1886. Renovations on the facility began in 2015 and should be completed this year. The aim is to create more public meeting places and workshop spaces so as to get more people to visit the library. Director Miriam Posner personally received NCL Director-General Tseng and showed her the library's performance achievements in automation, its consortium purchasing model for e-books, and goals in space improvement. Then a tour was given of difference service space in the library. NCL Director-General Tseng also shared with them reading promotion efforts in Taiwan.



*NCL Director-General Tseng (right) photoed with Director Miriam Posner, Beit Ariela Public Library.*

The next day, NCL Director-General Tseng visited the National Library of Israel. Director-General Oren Weinberg first spoke about the history and orientation of the National Library of Israel. Previously it was known as the Jewish National and University Library. Established in 1892 in Jerusalem, it primarily collects knowledge assets on Jews and representative works from different eras, as well as published

books within the Jewish culture. Director-General Weinberg also discussed plans for a new facility that should be completed in 2022. It will be 11 stories high, with an exterior that looks like an open book. The interior will boast more open and independent locations and spaces for patrons, while being sustainable and environmentally friendly. In addition to a tour of the facilities and services, the head of collections also showed NCL Director-General Tseng rare and valuable ancient books in their collection.



*NCL Director-General Tseng (second from right) visits the National Library of Israel.*

The last stop was at Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center. Yad Vashem is located on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. It is the largest official holocaust remembrance center by Israel. Its purpose is to remember the more than 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis. The Center's library collects published information about the Holocaust and has the world's most complete collection in this regard with over 170,000 volumes in more than 60 languages. The collection is available to the public and represents how mankind can face dark events in its history. Director of the Libraries Lital Beer gave an overview of Yad Vashem's history, conferences, workshops, and exhibitions held. A tour was given explaining the symbolism of Yad Vashem's architecture and the unique lighting in the exhibition that goes from light to dark and back to light again. It gives an overview of the history from different periods and regions, allowing observers to see and think what it would have felt like to be persecuted like that.



*NCL Director-General Tseng (left) photographed in front of Yad Vashem.*

### ■ Slovenian National and University Library Director Viljem Leban Is Invited to Lecture at NCL

On January 15, 2020, Slovenian National and University Library (NUK) Director Viljem Leban was invited by National Central Library to speak on “Public lending right (PLR) in Slovenia and the rules of its implementation & plans for the New National and University Library Building in Ljubljana, Slovenia.” The lecture was held in the International Conference Hall at NCL. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated in her remarks that NCL signed a cooperation agreement with NUK in 2017. It is an honor to be able to invite Director Leban to visit Taiwan with all the duties he has on hand to share Slovenia’s experience in this regard. This was valuable information given Taiwan began a three-year trial of public lending right in January 2020, as well as the construction of the southern branch of NCL and other large-scale libraries.

Director Leban first explained the origin of public lending right and related bills in Slovenia. Then the core of his lecture centered on quantity and quality: he first described the protocols of Slovenian public lending right, as well as the payment system that is based off public libraries’ borrowing data on the cooperative online catalog system and service. Payments by Slovenian libraries are in support of the authors, with the primary aim being increasing the creativity of

creators in various cultural fields. These fields are the creative grounds of library resources and accord with public interest. Payments by Slovenian libraries can take two forms, each accounting for half of the payments made: (1) remuneration to living authors based on borrowing data from libraries, with the Co-operative Online Bibliographic Systems and Services (COBISS) used as the source of said data; the number of pages in a book is calculated in, and the number of times borrowed have minimum and maximum ranges set based on genre type. The value of each instance of borrowing is calculated by the payment to authors for that specific genre divided by the number of times it was borrowed that meet the public lending right criteria. (2) Competitive bonuses to encourage creators, focused mainly on the following five areas: novels, translated works, illustrations and videos, music, and movies.



*Slovenian National and University Library Director Viljem Leban is invited to lecture at NCL.*



*NCL Director-General Tseng (left) presents Director Leban with a gift of appreciation.*