

throughout Taiwan to participate in this event is to increase the marketing channels and promotional effects through a joint effort in promotion and support. This will allow the general public to experience the joys of reading and develop reading habits in their daily lives. The posters and bookmarks that Ms. Lee designed will be shipped to libraries across the island, so that a reading ambiance can permeate each locale and that the public can follow protocol by not going out as much and staying home to read instead.



On World Book Day, we are at home reading.



A poster for We're at Home Reading.

As the pandemic continues to ravage across the globe, “quarantine” and “social distancing” have become everyday words, causing no small anxiety in people. During this time, Director-General Tseng encouraged the public to stay at home and read while waiting for the pandemic to subside. In this way, not only can people let go of their worries and infuse themselves with the energy of knowledge, they can also effectively reduce the unease and stress of facing this stark pandemic. To help the public feel again the wonderful feelings of a tranquil life, NCL used “We’re at Home Reading” as the central design idea for the bookmarks to portray the enchanting experience of reading and to encourage the public to stay at home and read more. Pleasantly meandering through the beautiful world of books and words, letting reading accompany people in the gentlest manner through the highs and lows of life—this is reading at its best.

To help more people experience the wonder of reading and to enable them during the pandemic to be able to purchase books they like on online bookstores so they can begin a reading journey at home, NCL sought out many well-known online bookstores to collaborate in this project. A united response to this yearly reading event was created with the promotion “We’re at Home Reading: Free Bookmark with Online Purchase.”

■ **Summer Reading: Bringing together Millennial Authors—Images of New-Gen Authors**

In recent years, the summer reading lectures that National Central Library has put on regarding Taiwan studies have been well received. From May 23 to July 11, 2020, NCL and the sponsor Lam Research Corp. hosted six lectures on “Bringing together Millennial Authors—Images of a New Generation of Authors.” Issues discussed ranged from ethnic groups, society, history, to literature.

The general public in Taiwan is relatively unfamiliar with the current writings of the new generation of authors. Yet, authors born after the 1980s are already a core part of the literary circles in Taiwan. Millennial authors—those born between 1980 and 2000—grew up in a mature economic environment, with access to global information, the rapid development of digital technology. Due to this, their style and subject matter carry some heritage from previous authors, but at the same time have their unique generational differences. The lecture series invited millennial authors Chongkai Huang, Salizan, Yuchin Chen, Yu-jia Luo, Fumin Yang, and Shuang-zi Yang to participate. Each session featured a scholar who specialized in Taiwan studies research to speak with an author. The audience was given a peek at the thoughts behind the creations of this new generation of authors, as well as the 21st century Taiwan reflected in their writings.

This lecture series was in the planning stages for close to a year. A total of six sessions were held, all on Saturday afternoons. The first three sessions could only permit 115 participants due to the need to leave every other seat empty because of the coronavirus pandemic. However, with the easing of the pandemic in Taiwan, starting on June 13, the remaining three sessions accommodated 400 participants.



NCL Director-General Tseng (2nd from right) with Chong-kai Huang (2nd from left) and Professor Minxu Zhan (left).

The themes of the six sessions were “The New Island in the Writings of Taiwan Millennial Authors,” “Mountain Forests on the Backs of New Aboriginal Authors,” “Taiwan Ethnology in Writings of New 2nd Generation Authors,” “Poetry, Resistance, and the Internet Generation Poets’ Social Participation,” “Sanheyuan Creative Writing Classes for Children Born after 1987,” “When the New Woman Passes through to Old Taiwan.”



2020 Summer Reading lecture series poster.

■ The First EUTW Forum for 2020 Was Held at NCL

The first European Union Centre in Taiwan (EUTW) Forum for 2020 was on “The EU’s Integration in a Time of Global Crisis.” Scholars and experts in European and international affairs and political science were invited to present and discuss important issues regarding the development of the EU’s political economy. The forum was held on June 19 at National Central Library. It was hosted by National Central Library, the European Union Centre in Taiwan, and the EU Jean Monnet Teaching Module Program at National Chengchi University.