

archeological site of an old Spanish church, and the New Taipei City Government Gold Museum.



*Scholars tour an archeological dig on Heping Island.*

National Central Library is one of the important channels through which foreign scholars are invited to Taiwan. From 1989 to present, these two research grants have been awarded to over 1,500 individuals from 48 countries. This excursion was headed up by NCL Deputy Director-General Ying-mei Wu and MOFA's Department of Policy Planning Director-general Klement Ruey-Sheng Gu. A total of 50 scholars attended, coming from 26 countries, including the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Peru, France, England, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Poland, Russia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, and South Africa.

The activity began at Heping Island in Keelung, where they toured the archeological site of an old Spanish church and gained an understanding of Taiwan's maritime history. Scholars from European countries, especially from Spain, felt a special cultural and historical connection between their home country and Taiwan. Then they enjoyed unique scenic views and oceanic history at Heping Island Park. Arrangements were also made for them to make their own sea glass. This helped them understand the innovative ways that Taiwan deals with trash in the ocean and guides the public in thinking about environmental issues. They also toured National Museum of Marine Science and Technology - Regional Exploration Building, where

the museum director Su-fen Chen made time during the noon hour to give a special introduction to the museum's holdings. She welcomed NCL's foreign scholars and was happy that they could get a better understanding of the museum's rich holdings and exhibitions, especially during the pandemic.

In the afternoon, the scholars braved the wind and rain as they traveled to the New Taipei City Government Gold Museum, where they viewed local ecosystems, old mines, scenic views, historical memories, and cultural assets. They also got to experience the old ways of panning for gold and heard the story of the mining industry's development. The excursion was a wonderful way for scholars to experience the natural beauty of Taiwan, the diversity and exquisiteness of its culture, and its unique history so that these can be shared with those back home.



*Scholars get to experience the joy of panning for gold.*

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ Taiwan-Original Picture Book Integrates AR Interaction Visits Kaohsiung Public Library with Mino!

Kaohsiung Public Library's self-developed AR parent-child interactive games have scored another success. This time, the library is cooperating with Taiwan's first winner of the Bologna Ragazzi Award, picture book author Shin-Yu Sun, in launching Mino's Fantasy Journey. In the game, children and the character Mino, from Mino And His Bag, make

new friends and travel to the library to enjoy a special digital reading experience, which is open to the public for free in the International Picture Book Division within the main library.

From one generation to the next, libraries play a multi-faceted role of enlightenment with knowledge, and provide more diverse public services. In order to promote new generation reading to four to eight-year-olds, Kaohsiung Public Library, since October 2019, has successively launched two self-developed parent-child AR interactive games: Marine Environmental Protection Campaign and Animal Forest Library. Combining technology with stories, they are loved by parent and child readers. So far, more than 5,000 people have participated in their operation. The latest game, Mino's Fantasy Journey, is based on Taiwan-original picture books, and the picture book author Shin-Yu Sun was especially invited to participate in its production, presenting Mino, from the picture book Mino And His Bag in 3D, and developing a story from his Day Trip picture book story, enabling children to enter the world of picture books with Mino. The wonderful story and its painting style attracted many parents and children to enquire and sign up when it was first released.

The story starts with Mino, who misses his busy dad. While playing alone, he opens the picture book Day Trip, only to follow a magic paper plane as it flies into the fantasy main library of Kaohsiung Public Library. He meets Brother Hippo in the library and helps him find his legacy. Following Crocodile Brother and chatting with Da Vinci along the way, he solves different problems, collects many medals, and meets many new friends. Amid beautiful picture book scenes and the characteristics of each floor, he completes a day trip around the main library of Kaohsiung Public Library.

With AR code technology, children can use the mobile app to follow in the footsteps of Mino and experience the fantasy adventures that take place in the library, so that picture book reading is not limited just to one dimension; one can also interact with the real scene. During the game, the children find that the story scene is now the main library in which

they are located, and can happily share with family, providing the fun of parent-child interactive play, and enabling participants to understand and enjoy the beauty of the library. With AR interactive games, readers can experience reading in different ways and more people can be attracted into the library for fantasy exploration.

### ■ Ji-an Township Library Creates "Picture Book Candy House" for Seniors and Children to Learn Inclusively

Through the Public Library Optimization Project, the Ji-an Township Library in Hualien County has organized a number of activities that have greatly increased both public willingness to enter the library and the book-borrowing rate. The reading rate has also been ranked "first in Taiwan." At the same time, it has also created the county's first Picture Book Candy House, providing a variety of picture book guides to overcome the problem of inclusive learning on the part of seniors and children, so that in addition to lending books, the library is a space for learning all kinds of knowledge.

Section Chief Yang of the Library Information Section of the Hualien County Cultural Affairs Bureau said that during the implementation of the Hualien and Taitung Public Library Optimization Plan, the Ji-an Township Library was the most effective library in the process of tutoring 13 township libraries, and therefore became the county's 2020 Public Library Benchmarking Implementation Plan model library, and that it had been visited by 13 township and municipal library staff.

The Ji-an Township Library organizes many activities to increase the enjoyment of reading, and has greatly increased the public's library admission rate and book-borrowing rate. The reading rate stands out among those of the 536 township public libraries in Taiwan and is acclaimed as the highest in Taiwan; in addition, the first Picture Book Candy House in the county is also here, bringing the community and schools together in organizing various enjoyable activities, bilingual and picture

book guides, story mother training and various creative activity courses to overcome the problem of inclusive learning among seniors and children.

Creating a high-quality reading environment is one of the key tasks of the township government. The township office allocates funds to purchase good books every year to meet the different reading needs of people of all ages. In the future, it will continue to strive for funding and use the township kindergarten classrooms to build a "cultivation library" and newly established library space to serve the people in the northern district of the township, allowing everyone to study nearby, and creating "pleasant reading" in Ji-an Township.

### ■ **New Taipei City Library Reader Services win ISO Recognition Affirmation for Compliance with Global Standards**

After undergoing strict auditing, New Taipei City Library recently won ISO international quality management certification, making it a new model for the upgrading of services among public libraries. New Taipei City Library recently won ISO9001 international quality management certification, further affirmation of its innovative reading services' compliance with international standards. The library's director, Chin-Har Wang, said that, amid constantly changing times, and as people's expectations and requirements of government institutions increase by the day, New Taipei City Library strives constantly to strengthen each of its services, in the hope of making it more humanistic and its services more diverse. Its winning of the ISO 9001:2015 International Quality Management System Verification, he said, not only provided readers with excellent and standardized service quality and international compliance, but also represented an important milestone in the upgrading of New Taipei City's reading services.

The New Taipei City Library has actively promoted various software and hardware upgrades in recent years, and promoted reading in innovative ways. The overturning of the service model of the

traditional library has been affirmed and praised by all parties. After winning the highest honor of the first Government Service Award in 2018, it received, in 2019, a competitive subsidy from the Ministry of Education's Plan for Improving Municipal Library Operation Systems guided by the National Central Library, and introduced the ISO 9001 quality management system. This was reviewed and approved by a third-party verification agency in 2020 and complies with internationally recognized quality management system standards.

In hopes of strengthening the organization's quality performance and public satisfaction, New Taipei City Library follows a proactive "Visible Actions, Unrestricted Service" quality policy involving seven major internationally verified management principles: "reader-centered," "leadership," "full participation," "process method," "continuous improvement," "evidence-based decision-making," and "partner management."

Chin-Hua Wang said, "Our being customer-driven enables the public to experience more convenient, high-speed and attentive service. It's the first duty of government institutions in serving the people." In the face of a daily-increasing diversity of reader needs, and in addition to continuing to create unique and characteristic libraries in various districts of New Taipei City, the library enables citizens to enjoy reading. In conformance with trends in science and technology, it combines modern smart technology to create a diversified and interactive smart approach to reading, and adopts interdisciplinary cooperative means to meet the various needs of citizens.



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