

thanks to the National Central Library for assisting with the sending of these complete works of Master Sheng Yen to the library itself and to the Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies established around the world, as well as to international publications exchange organizations that cooperated closely with the National Central Library. He hoped that, through these complete works of Master Sheng Yen, Master Sheng Yen—in diligently promoted Pure Land and Chinese Buddhist thinking—might be disseminated to all corners of the world, so that figures around the world who understand Chinese might read and research him.



The donation ceremony and all participants.

President Chi-chun Tseng of Dharma Drum Mountain Community University thanked Director-General Tseng for her long promotion of the establishment of resource centers for Chinese studies at important overseas universities and research centers, which, he said, had actively facilitated the day's opportunity for cooperation. President Tseng also specifically mentioned the winning by Taiwan Reading Festival—an event initiated by the National Central Library—of the 2020 ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects, which affirmed the National Central Library's efforts in the promotion of reading. The well-known anchor, Mr. Chung-chi Liu, who is also the audio book narrator for this complete collection, also shared in the meeting that in the face of the current world political and economic situation and the epidemic, the environment and our states of

mind are facing challenges. He hoped, he said, that everyone might, through the study of Buddhism, Zen and Master Sheng Yen, settle their minds, and learn compassion and wisdom together.

■ Igniting the Public's Passion for Reading: Taiwan's Most Extravagant Reading Festival Starts with a Bang

In 2020, the Taiwan's most extravagant reading activity—the Taiwan Reading Festival—was held on December 5 at Freedom Square park area. Under the direction of the Ministry of Education, National Central Library hosted the carnival and started the opening ceremony with a lively performance by the Lungyun Drum Troupe from Lunghwa University of Science and Technology. Administrative Deputy Minister of Education Teng-chiao Lin and Deputy Minister of Culture Kevin Peng both spoke. The opening ceremony attracted close to three hundred adults and children. There was a lot of happiness on site, and those in attendance were warmed on the cold winter day by their passion for reading.



Administrative Deputy Minister of Education Teng-chiao Lin gives remarks.

Deputy Minister Lin stated, lifelong learning is the key to increasing public literacy and strengthening Taiwan's competitiveness in the age of knowledge economy. "Reading" is the foundation of lifelong learning. Through reading, one can cultivate language ability, learning ability, thinking skills, and improve one's ability to react, to image, and to create. Therefore, reading promotion is critical. The cultivation of a public reading atmosphere

will increase the public's ability to embrace the future, lessen knowledge gaps in society, and thus improve the nation's competitive edge. The Taiwan Reading Festival is a brand item in Taiwan's reading promotion efforts. It Taiwan's abundance of reading vigor to the world and allowing other countries to discover the deep cultural literacy that exists on this beautiful island of Taiwan.



Distinguished guests pose for a group photo at the opening ceremony of the Taiwan Reading Festival.

The opening ceremony used throwable gliders as a symbol of “Reading Takes Flight.” They symbolize the takeoff that happens to language abilities, focus, observation, reactions, memory, learning abilities, thinking skills, imagination, creativity, and competitiveness when one reads. The Netherlands Office Taipei Representative Guido Tielman also took time to introduce Utrecht's Miffy, as well as Sinterklaas who watches over children. This brought even more joy and a lively atmosphere to 2020 Taiwan Reading Festival.

Certificates of appreciation were given to participating institutions, including libraries, museums, schools, publishers, bookstores, reading groups, and foreign representative offices. It was a warm, inviting atmosphere where passion from the government, domestic institutions, and international organizations came together to support reading promotion. After the ceremony, Deputy Minister Lin transformed into a secret guest and read two stories to children in the Joyful Storytelling Villages: “My Son Threw Up” and “The Banana's Secret”. There was non-stop laughing during the reading.

2020 Taiwan Reading Festival carnival was comprised of 24 themes and more than 250 innovative reading events. Cosponsoring institutions and the size of the event were both much more than previous years. In addition to the classic favorites of Joyful Storytelling Villages, Science Flying and Crazy Bubbles, Fun to Read- Happy Gathering, Time Travel in the Ancient Books, Reading in the City, there was also the Little Book-Lovers' World, which was for children 0-6 years old that helps them listen, speak, read, write, and play. An invitation was extended to the Library Association of the Republic of China to host the event “Library, so Cute!”, which brought together schools, museums, and libraries to jointly promote the Joy Campus, Museum Wonderland, and Library Trail.



Distinguished guests hold up throwable gliders symbolizing “Reading is taking flight.”

Other booths, such as Maze and DIY with the Robot!, Wow! Amazing Painting!, Smart Financier, Tours for CKS Botanical Garden and Nanmen Market, and Birds Jigsaw Puzzle, Grasp Your Hands and Together with You to Walk on..., and Mobile Library Display were also available. The event A World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment invited the representative offices in Taiwan of the U.S., the Netherlands, German, France, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Israel, Mexico, and Japan, as well as the European Economic and Trade Office, the European Union Centre in Taiwan, and the Nederlandse School Taipei to participate. The collaborative plan was to use world cultures as the theme in designing creative and interactive

booths and games, opening an “anywhere” door for attendees so that they could travel abroad in seconds. The result was a meaningful foreign feel to their reading experience. The Netherlands Office Taipei Representative Guido Tielman personally invited Miffy to come and read stories about herself. Sinterklass also came to hand out traditional cookies from Holland to the children. Dutch illustrator Marloes Huijsmans guided children in making their own cards. All of these attracted even more parents and children, many of which took pictures and made cards to remember the occasion.



The Netherlands Office Taipei invites Miffy and Sinterklass to pose with a photo of a few distinguished guests.

National Central Library NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that 2020 Reading Festival not only supported the new curriculum outline and included the five educational trends of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) in its planning, but also incorporated dual language education and multiculturalism in its event design. It is hoped that these innovative reading promotion events and digital learning content will break through limitations in traditional reading promotion and continue to ignite the public’s passion for reading. The aim is to create a nationwide reading movement that involves everyone—from 0 to 100—in enjoying and delighting in reading.

2020 Reading Festival was the grandest Taiwan has put on. Over 150 institutions joined in, attracting a total of almost 20,000 attendees. Each of the reading event booths were filled with an endless stream of people. The park area of Freedom Square

was lively and colorful on this winter day.



Director-General Tseng reads a story for children in the Joyful Story Village.

Events

■ 2020 Taiwan Consortium of Electronic Theses & Dissertations Annual Meeting Held at Shih Chien University

National Central Library has been devoted to the acquisition and collection of theses and dissertations. To that end, the Taiwan Consortium of Electronic Theses and Dissertations was created, and an annual meeting held every year. The 2020 annual meeting was held on December 2 in the international meeting hall of the Library and Information Science Building at Shih Chien University. Dr. Zhen-rong Gan, an expert in applied ethics from National Tsing Hua University, was invited to speak. She explored the relationship between theses and dissertation e-services and academic integrity. The award ceremony for the consortium logo design competition was also held, with awards going to the top three designs as well as honorable mentions. In the afternoon, a forum was held on library operations, after which attendees toured the National Taiwan Science Education Center to increase their professional acumen. NCL hopes that through these annual meetings librarians from the various schools can exchange ideas, leading to an even smoother execution of thesis and dissertation deposits.

The main aim in NCL creating this consortium, in addition to a complete acquisition of bibliographical data and full texts of theses and