

there. They visited the remote countryside and got to experience the unified atmosphere that is there during New Years, visit the home of the famed author Sanmao, and the historical figure Peter H.L. Chang. Lunch was eaten at the surreal farm in Wufeng Township. The scholars were at an elevation of 1,200 m (3,900 ft) walking along the mountain trail and enjoying the dreamlike pink cherry blossoms. Strolling amongst the many tall trees, ohs and ahs were a frequent sound. Passing over the bright red Cingcuan Suspension Bridge No. 1, they arrived at Sanmao's old residence, as well as the wood home of Peter H.L. Chang. The group could not help but to reminisce on what had happened in the past. At the end of the excursion, the scholars all expressed their appreciation to NCL for the pleasant and rewarding trip.



The visiting scholars take a group photo in front of the main door of National Central Library before departing.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ **New Main Tainan Public Library Officially Opened on January 1, 2021**

The new Main Tainan Public Library held an opening ceremony on January 2. It offers the first ever 24-hour checkout and return system. It also has a City Kitchen and Coffee which brings together food, drink, and reading at the public library. In this way the library is promoting food culture.

It has special spaces for different age groups, making it a public space where education,

entertainment, business, and innovative industries can develop. Its sizeable spaces for different purposes include space for e-learning, co-working, cooking classroom, and a computer classroom. There is also the Tainan Memorial Exhibition, which has on display the stories and works of more than two hundred famous artists, authors, and others from the Tainan area. The library also has a children's experimental theater and an international conference hall.

Some unique features of the new main library include the largest 24-hour checkout and return area, which can hold up to 2,400 volumes. With no time restrictions on checking out or returning books, using the library is even more convenient. It also boasts the first City Kitchen and Coffee, which brings together food, drink, and reading to promote food culture. There is also a co-working space, providing tools for leather carving, sewing, and videography in an effort to encourage the trend of maker culture.

In addition, the main library also has a Tainan Memorial Exhibition, showcasing the lives and contributions of 203 persons of prestige. With regard to public library space aesthetics, the library provides a children's reading garden where they can get close to nature. In the e-learning area, the library provides software for illustrating, editing audio video, and writing. The public can use these to teach themselves digital skills. An independent bookstore has also been invited to set up shop in the library, bringing together books, coffee, and a literature salon.

■ **Pandemic Exhibition at Providence University's Luking Library Displays 700+ Custom Face Masks**

COVID-19 changed life on this planet. It also accelerated the digitization of resources and their use! From March 28 to April 12, Providence University's Luking Library held an "Pandemic Outbreak Book Collection: Reading to Fight COVID-19 Book and Face Mask Exhibition." On display were the books, e-books, and e-magazines

on the history of infectious disease, pandemic prevention, medical humanities, post-pandemic economic development.

The exhibit had on display more than 700 customized face masks with pictures on them. These piqued the interest of the faculty and students and gave inspirations for thought on post-pandemic changes in humanities and society. Face masks have become a necessity as well as a fashion statement, and most importantly a tool for stopping the virus!

A staff from the Luking Library Yi-tai Chiang stated, while the pandemic has caused many changes and anxiety, it has also provided a great opportunity for spiritual growth and more knowledge! The book exhibition provided patrons with an opportunity to have in-depth understanding about the history of infectious disease, reports on COVID-19, disease prevention, post-pandemic economic growth, and methods on how to lead a good life physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Mr. Yi-tai Chiang was especially grateful that two mask manufacturers donated over 700 pictured face masks. The mask display was divided into different sections: plants, animals, cartoons, Taiwan gods, Chinese New Year, and Christmas. In addition, there were special masks showing the River of Wisdom, Chinese Taipei Ice Hockey Federation, the mountains of Taiwan, and souvenir masks from the 2021 German Stories exhibit. These face masks not only prevent virus spread but are also fashionable.

■ **Zuojhen Library's Slovak Exhibition: Little Children Enjoy Story Time**

The Zuojhen District Library in Tainan, in response to the city government's initiative to engage in city diplomacy, held a Friendship Box event. For the first time they collaborated with the Slovak Economic and Cultural Office Taipei to put on a themed book exhibition. They also invited a storyteller to read Slovakian children's books. The first session was on March 23, with 20 students from

Guang Rong Elementary School's kindergarten coming to hear stories and fold origami. The exhibition lasted until the end of March.

Slovak Economic and Cultural Office Taipei Martin Podstavek and his wife took a trip to Zuojhen in 2019 to visit the library there. They were surprised at how beautiful the little library was in this rural town. Consequently, they contacted the Tainan Department of Information and International Relations to arranged to have a Slovakian story time at the library. This is how the collaborative relationship started.

Representative Podstavek and his wife Dr. Lika Podstavek are translators of children's books. In recent years, they have been active in translating Taiwan children's books into Slovakian and publishing them. At the same time, Slovakian children's books are being translated into traditional Chinese and published in Taiwan. This is actively promoting cultural exchange between the two countries.

Taiwan and Slovakia have had much success in the exchange of children's literature. In just two years, a total of eight Slovakian books have been published in Taiwan and nine Taiwan children's books published in Slovakia. The translator for all 17 books has been Martin Podstavek's wife, Dr. Lidka Podstavek. She has also accompanied many authors of children's books in Taiwan to Slovakia to visit.

It is hoped that through the Slovakian Children's Book Exhibition by Zuojhen Library and promotional materials display of Slovakia's regional culture that the library can expand the horizon of the students in this little town. March 23 & 24 invited Teacher Orange to come and read the Slovakian children's books Mimi & Liza and Emma and the Pink Whale.



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