

■ 2021 German Stories Book Exhibition and Four Events Held

National Central Library, the Goethe-Institut Taipei, and Frankfurt Book Fair collaborated to put on a select book exhibition on German books called “German Stories.” It opened on March 9, 2021, at the National Central Library. The opening ceremony was co-hosted by Director-General Shu-Hsien Tseng of the National Central Library and Ms. Hui-Mai Wang of Goethe-Institut Taipei. Many dignitaries were in attendance to wish the exhibition success amidst a warm and lively atmosphere.



NCL Director-General Tseng invites the public to visit the “2021 German Stories Book Exhibition”.

Features and Content of the Exhibition

The in-person exhibition of 2021 TIBE was cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, making this book exhibition even more meaningful. The content of the books on exhibition includes the coronavirus pandemic, lifestyles series, Germany’s most beautiful books award series, a selection of children’s books, English translation series of German books, and major award-winning German books series. Taiwan readers can use this opportunity to view a vast variety of German books and increase their understanding of foreign culture.



A corner of the “2021 German Stories Book Exhibition”.

Multifaceted interaction in the opening ceremony adds to book exhibition’s richness

Director-General Tseng stated in her remarks that she was pleased the public could have a chance to understand foreign cultures on a deeper level through this book exhibition. The first Taipei International Book Exhibition was put on by the National Central Library many years ago. Each year, NCL carefully designs a booth for TIBE and strives to increase public reading habits in Taiwan, as well as highlight the value of library holdings and transmit the meaning in these books. Through the cooperation, NCL would like to introduce German publications to the readers in Taiwan, and make them have better knowledge about Germany via writing, publication, and design, etc. Ms. Hui-Mai Wang spoke and thanked National Central Library for providing such an amazing exhibition space and creating a mutually beneficial collaborative model. Director of Taipei Book Fair Foundation, Ms. Hsiu-Yin Wang, also expressed her gratitude for the support of National Central Library in the past years, and was pleased to see the physical book fair. Also invited to the opening ceremony was Professor Shou-Huey Chang from Wenzao Ursuline University. She spoke briefly on “German influence swirling again: On the development and current status of German literature in Taiwan.” Her talk brought both substance and depth to the exhibition opening.

This book exhibition was on display at National Central Library’s Reading Room on the second floor until April 11.



Group Photo of honorable guests at opening ceremony for the “2021 German Stories Book Exhibition”

A Glance of Four Events Held for the 2021 German Stories Book Exhibition

In conjunction with the 2021 German Stories Book Exhibition, National Central Library, the Goethe-Institute Taipei, Frankfurt Book Fair, and the Trade Office of Swiss Industries cohosted the following four events:

Event 1: Professor Hui-min Chou Talked on Fritz Bauer: oder Auschwitz vor Gericht

On Saturday March 13, the first lecture was held in NCL's presentation room. It was given by National Chengchi University's Center for Humanities Research Director, Prof. Hui-min Chou. He gave a guided reading of the book Fritz Bauer: oder Auschwitz vor Gericht.

At the beginning of the guided reading, Prof. Chou pointed out that the lecture would focus on not just the book Fritz Bauer: oder Auschwitz vor Gericht. He would also discuss "beyond the prosecuting attorney." That is to say, what were the methods that other countries used in transitional justice. He wanted to think together with the audience how such a major issue should be addressed.



Prof. Hui-min Chou talks on Fritz Bauer: oder Auschwitz vor Gericht.

Prof. Chou's lecture began by clearly defining Jews, the history of migration, anti-Semitic feelings in European history, important anti-Semitic events, the fleeing and hiding that the Jews were forced to do after the Nazis' anti-Semitism movement. Then he outlined how the prosecuting attorney Fritz Bauer overturned German history, how this brave prosecutor used his courage to impel Germans in the 50s and 60s to rethink that unbearable part of their

past. The lecture helped those in attendance come to a deeper understanding of anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and Israel's Holocaust memorial, as well as to ponder how Germany transitioned to justice and the future after the war. It was a very meaningful event.

Event 2: Stop Motion Workshop "Us under the Threat of the Pandemic"

On Saturday March 20, a stop motion workshop "Us under the Threat of the Pandemic" was held in National Central Library's Arts and Culture Center, Room 301.

The workshop was hosted by Together Studio, which has invested much in promoting animation education. Attendees were instructed on how to use smart phones and free apps to create animations. Many parents came with their children, as well as other adults. Through the step-by-step instructions of the teacher, each group successfully made their own animation. Throughout the filming and animating process, the teacher explained how to use the functions of the app to control lighting, sharpness, speed, cyclic action, and cartoon animation. The latter two are controlled by the cycle function after the stop motion is completed.



Group photo of attendees at the "Us under the Threat of the Pandemic" Stop Motion Workshop.

To have an opportunity during the pandemic to have a hands-on learning environment for parents and children, as well as other adults, where they can make their own creation brought a lot of joy to those in attendance as they took their creations home with them. Indeed, it was a very meaningful workshop on science education.

Event 3: Friedrich Dürrenmatt: Let the World Read Swiss Literature

On Saturday March 27, a lecture on “Friedrich Dürrenmatt: Let the World Read Swiss Literature” was held in NCL’s presentation room. The lecture was given by Assistant Professor Hui-Chun Cheng from the Department of German at Tamkang University. She presented a deep reading of Friedrich Dürrenmatt four most important works and related paintings.

Before the lecture began, NCL Director-General Tseng, Deputy Director of Trade Office of Swiss Industries Ms. Béatrice Latteier, and the Director of Goethe-Institute Taipei Ms. Theresa Hueimmer all spoke. Director-General Tseng presented the institute and trade office with certificates of appreciation and expressed her thanks for the deeply meaningful collaboration as the three entities have worked together to put on this series of events.

During Director-General Tseng’s remarks, she stated that NCL is honored to be able to work with the Trade Office of Swiss Industries and the Goethe-Institute Taipei to present the lecture Friedrich Dürrenmatt: Let the World Read Swiss Literature. This year marks the 100th year of famed Swiss author Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s birth. The Trade Office of Swiss Industries, in an effort to remember this great playwright, joined with the Goethe-Institute Taipei and NCL to plan today’s lecture on Dürrenmatt. In conjunction with the lecture, a flash book exhibition was also on display outside the lecture hall, showcasing Dürrenmatt’s twelve representative works so that Taiwan readers can have an opportunity to better come to know this national treasure of Switzerland. International exchange and collaboration are important parts of NCL’s mission. For some time now, NCL has been actively nurturing long-term and close collaborative relationships with foreign institutes in Taiwan and expand various cultural-educational collaboration. The aim is to provide many different cultural experiences for the Taiwan public and to assist in promoting bilateral cultural exchange. This year NCL and the Goethe-Institute Taipei have already planned a series of

cultural and educational events, including the 2021 German Stories Book Exhibition currently on display and its four accompanying events. In May, a lecture will be held by a German library and information science expert on “From a Space of Learning to a Coworking Space” and an exhibition “Think Again: Learning from Nature.” NCL is extremely honored to begin a collaborative relationship with the Trade Office of Swiss Industries through this lecture. It is hoped that NCL, the Trade Office of Swiss Industries and the Goethe-Institute Taipei can enjoy even more collaborative opportunities in the future, and thus bring about more cultural exchange and learning between Taiwan and both Germany and Switzerland.



Group Photo of NCL Director-General Tseng with Deputy Director of Trade Office of Swiss Industries Ms. Béatrice Latteier and Director of Goethe-Institute Taipei, Ms. Theresa Hueimmer.

In the lecture, Prof. Cheng analyzed four of Dürrenmatt’s works: “The Judge and His Hangman,” “A Dangerous Game,” “The Visit,” and “The Physicist” and related paintings. This gave those in attendance a deeper understanding of the man and his writings. They came to understand what concepts he held dear and what his worldview was.

Event 4: Online Talk Forum between Taiwan Author Zifan Hsie and German Author Leif Randt on City Love and Life

On Friday April 9 from 7:00-8:30 pm (1:00 pm Germany time), the National Central Library, the Goethe-Institute Taipei, and the Frankfurt Book Fair jointly held the final event for the 2021 German Stories Book Exhibition in the NCL International Conference Room—a face-to-face online talk forum.

This final event was arranged by the Goethe-Institute Taipei and the Frankfurt Book Fair. They invited German author Leif Randt and Taiwan author Zifan Hsie to be the discussants. The event was moderated by Ms. Meng-ju Yang, and Mr. Chun-te Chang, a professional translator from Germany handled interpretation between German and Chinese. The online talk forum arranged for Randt to participate via webcam so that the two authors could speak to each other. One was born in the 80s and one in the 60s, but both experienced something similar: life seemed set for each of them, so why would things turn unpredictable? Regarding this interesting development, the two authors opened up and began speaking candidly about things. Even though the Covid-19 pandemic was still going on, patrons and friends in Taiwan were able to hear the two authors speak about life for those born in these two decades. The authors also shared their views on the world pandemic and the influence it has had on people's lives. This unique author online talk forum brought the 2021 German Stories Book Fair events to a perfect ending.



The Taiwan-German authors online talk forum.

Events

■ “2021 TIBE Korean Guest of Honor Exhibition” and the “Remembering Going to School: Digital Humanities Experiencing Event and Exhibition” are on Display at NCL for a Month Starting on February 18

2021 TIBE Korean Guest of Honor Exhibition

With a global pandemic at large, the 2021 TIBE was still held online. This caused some to remember back on the amazing sights of previous years. The first TIBE was held in December 1987 at the National Central Library. The theme was “Finding Wisdom in Knowledge; Using Tradition to Start a New Phase.” NLC Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that last year and this year TIBE was affected by the pandemic and force to cancel physical exhibitions. However, in an effort to satisfy the public's passion for the international book fair and to help the public remember when TIBE was held at NCL, Korea's Country of Honor exhibition at TIBE was put on display on February 18 at NCL's Cultural Art Center exhibition room. It was on display for one month. This was a great opportunity to collaborate with the Korean Publishers Association.

The President of the Korean Publishers Association Yoon Chul-ho said, “It is extremely significant that the 2021 Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) remains a physical event, particularly when the publishing industry worldwide is now facing the threat posed by COVID-19.” Because of this, they teamed up with the Literature Translation Institute of Korea to design their country booth for 2021. They were excited to introduce Korean books and culture, as well as to echo the current Korean publications. The exhibition showcased a selection of XYZ books, planned by the book designer Seong-eun Cho. The theme was to show that while environmental pollution, climate change, COVID-19 pandemic, and other crises are worse than they have ever been, we all are living on the same planet. There are several layers of meaning behind “XYZ”: gender, a