

exchange and reading services, the publication of various Sinology books and periodicals, the center's yearly academic activities, an introduction to its databases, scholarships for foreign scholars, etc. In addition to introductory texts, many photographs are included.

## Chinese Studies Symposium

### ■ Cultivation and Growth: Retrospect and Prospect of 40 Years of Chinese Studies in Taiwan Academic Forum Comes to a Wonderful End

This academic forum was planned and organized as an important event celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center for Chinese Studies. The Center's previous assistant director, Li-chun Keng, was asked to serve as the editor in charge of compilation of a book entitled *Cultivation and Growth: Retrospect and Prospect of 40 Years of Chinese Studies in Taiwan*. Over the course of 18 months, she was responsible in planning for the structure of the book, call for papers, and final editorial works. With the diligent help of 23 authors, a timely completion of the monograph was realized. It contains 20 essays on important aspects concerning Chinese Studies in Taiwan. Each author dedicated their knowledge and time to complete a very sophisticated article in their research field respectively.

The invited speakers for the Forum are renowned international scholars in Chinese studies. Dr. Peter K. Bol from Harvard University gave an online lecture on "The Last 40 Years and One Pandemic: What Does Current International Scholarly Exchange Signify?" Dr. Rur-bin Yang from Tsinghua University gave a lecture on "Has Today's Chinese Studies Reached the Age of Certainty (40)?" Discussants for these lectures were Professor Kuan Chung Huang and Academician Yu- Yu Cheng, respectively.

As a conclusion to the six events, 18 scholars were invited to present their papers, which covered classical studies, unearthed documents and philology, linguistics, classical literature, modern and contemporary literature, Taiwan literature, Taiwan history, *Ming-Qing* social history, intellectual history,

gender history, medical and health history, art history, the pre-*Qin* masters, *Song-Ming* Confucianism studies, Buddhism studies, Daoism and folk religions, anthropology, and international Chinese studies. Discussants for the forum included Professors Sher-shiue Li, Yu-Yu Cheng, Kuan-chung Huang, Jo-shui Chen, Chao-heng Liao, and Ying-chun Tsai.



*A group photo of dignitaries attending the forum.*

Over the two-day forum, whether it was listening to lectures by Professor Bol and Professor Yang, or what seasoned scholars who were in attendance presented—including Chiu-hua Chiang, Hsiu-Sheng Chi, Jen-kuei Li, Dongliang Liao, Weitung Chien, Chia-ling Mei, Mei-e Huang, Hsueh-chi Hsu, Hung-tai Wang, Miaw-fen Lu, Ching-cheng Liu, Shi-yung Liu, Ching-Fei Shih, Han-ni Chiu, Chi-ping Lin, Tsai-chun Chung, Lawrence Lau, Fong-mao Lee, Feng-chuan Pan, and NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng—and regardless of whether developmental prospects of Chinese studies in Taiwan are cautiously optimistic or even more hopeful, in the minds of the audience members appeared vista after vista of a dialog on cross-discipline Chinese studies. They also fully sensed the passion and professionalism that these scholars have in regards to Chinese studies in Taiwan.

During her closing remarks, Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that through the scholarly insights shared in each presentation, we can notice that many issues require the government, colleges and universities, and our society to come together to find solutions so that we could turn crises to opportunities for growth. Such issues include changes in scholarly norms, challenges in

digital research, the decline of a core foundation in scholarly talent in Chinese studies, a lack of research in humanities research and educational funding, weak influence from professional scholarly groups, disparity between professionals' education and actual job duties, the international status of Taiwan's Chinese studies, too much focus on same research topics in disciplines, the break off of long-term exchanges between associations, a lack of ability for doing cross-disciplinary research, and even the problem of commercialization and open access to scholarly resources.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng also pointed out that for many years, NCL has stood firmly in its belief that scholarship is public property. Consequently, in addition to digitizing ancient books and opened the associated databases for use, over the last ten years NCL has been promoting useful high-quality resources through 'Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies.' Through the 37 Centers in collaborating libraries overseas, as well as a few hundreds of exchange partners in eighty countries, it has been making endeavors to promote Taiwan's Chinese studies and Taiwan scholars' research outcomes to countries in the world. On the other hand, the NCL has been providing partner institutions with its primary databases, in addition, subscribing good-quality and important commercial databases and provided for use. The Library also expanded the service scope and exercising a foreign scholars grant program to effectively facilitate researches and exchanges for foreign scholars.

Through the researches and reminders presented in the forum, it is believed that all attendees and the librarians are inspired in some way, and have learned about important issues that deserve more attention. The library communities, the academia circles, and the government are expected to have the passion and commitment for working together firmly for a promising future of Taiwan Sinology researches.



*A group photo of important guests and scholars at the closing ceremony.*

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ Providence University Luking Library's Summer Creative Online Reading Camp Acclaimed for Integrating SDGs

Providence University Luking Library and Literacy Center for Creative Writing and Course Development co-organize a summer reading camp. Because of the impact of the epidemic, this year it was changed to online activity, and complied with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with themes in use of water resources and land and sea environmental problems. Courses such as reading, writing, acting and creative work allowed elementary students to apply knowledge to their daily life, do their best for the earth, become a habitual reader, be inspired of creativity and critical thinking, besides, learn about expressive skills. The students all said they are much benefited from the camp.

This is the seventh year that this Providence University Summer Reading Camp are held, and it was planned as an overnight activity, allowing children from remote villages to attend. With innovative and diversified approaches for children to learn, combined with hands on and field trip experiences, the activity was positively valued and has won support from elementary school teachers, students and parents.

Providence University Luking Library and Literacy Center for Creative Writing and Course Development Director Ming-rou Chen said that this year's theme "2021 Visitors (*lai-ke*) Water Summer