



*Officials and guests from both sides, and the event hosts pose for a commemorative photo.*

## ■ NCL Establishes a Scholarly Exchange Hub in the Baltic Region: The 38th Resource Center Set up in Estonia's Tartu University

After collaborations with Latvia and Lithuania, on December 2, the Director-General of National Central Library Shu-hsien Tseng signs an cooperation agreement with the Rector of Tartu University of Estonia Dr. Toomas Asser to jointly establish a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) at Tartu University, added to this project the 38th collaborating partner worldwide. This will strengthen the education and cultural relationship between the two parties.

Director-General Tseng mentioned that TRCCS program was started from 2012, and has adopted the principle of widely and evenly distribution on all continents of the world as well as in different countries. This NCL's sustainable TRCCS program has been exercising the practice that could realize sharing philosophy with high-efficiency services.

This new TRCCS is set up in the main library at Tartu University (TU). TU was established in 1632 and is the Estonia's largest and most famous national university. It is also one of the oldest universities in northeastern Europe. The number of PhD students from TU account for nearly half of the PhDs in Estonia. It currently has 18,000 students enrolled, which is almost 20% of the population of Tartu. TU has an Asia Center, which provides a teaching and learning platform for Chinese instruction and research on Chinese Studies and Taiwan Studies topics, such as culture, religion, economics, national

security, and political development. Therefore, the Tartu University library also started to develop holdings related to the research and teaching of Taiwan Studies and Chinese Studies done in the Asia Center.



*NCL Director-General Tseng and the Tartu University Rector Dr. Toomas Asser hold the agreements of the TRCCS project respectively.*

This includes such topics as traditional Chinese literature, history, and philosophy; tantra; the aging society in Asia and women's roles; Taiwan politics and economy; and cross-strait economic development. The TRCCS will enable researchers at TU and students and lecturers in neighboring regions to obtain Chinese language books and periodicals more easily. Furthermore, NCL will work with partnering institutions to host scholarly activities, such as the recent lecture on November 29 cohosted with the National Library of Latvia. Director Huiwen Lu from the Graduate Institute of Art History at National Taiwan University was invited and spoke on "Wild Cursive Calligraphy, Poetry, and Buddhist Monks in the Eighth Century and Beyond." This collaboration project will benefit TU's cross-cultural research and teaching with regard to Chinese Studies, Taiwan Studies, and cross-strait relationships.

Director-General Tseng explained that in 2011, the government began establishing Taiwan Academies overseas in an effort to promote Chinese culture with Taiwan characteristics to the world. In order to promote the Chinese literature of Taiwan which reserved unique features and merits of Chinese, the government implemented its advanced information systems and digital technology to synthesize Chinese instructional materials and promote traditional

characters, Taiwan research, Chinese Studies, and Taiwan's multiculturalism. These are all important aspects for Taiwan's culture to interact with the international community. They also serve as platforms for the international community to come to know Taiwan's overall success in development. Since NCL's Center for Chinese Studies had accrued many years of rich services and was successful in promoting Chinese Studies internationally, it received the approval of the Executive Yuan's Taiwan Academy Promotion Group. It was recommended that the Ministry of Education has NCL join the promotion group for the Taiwan Academy.

In the Taiwan Academy located in New York, Los Angeles, and Houston, a Resource Service Point was set up to facilitate exchanges as well as to show research achievements in Taiwan Studies and Chinese Studies of Taiwan scholars. Associated activities include holding Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies, and holding traveling exhibitions about ancient Chinese works in many countries across Asia, Europe, and North America every year by the NCL. When the NCL held Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies in 2021, all lectures were conducted online due to the restrictions caused by the worldwide pandemic. And, when the NCL teamed up with the National Library of Estonia in Tallinn to cohost a physical exhibition entitled "The Imprint of Civilization," both parties implemented online utilities to host the opening ceremony. No matter what kind of approach been taken, for the case of online Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies, and for the case of the cohosted opening ceremony which was conducted by combining physical and virtual methods, all the events in fact have turned out to be able to share even more widely beyond merely within a physical site.

### ■ The Oscars for Libraries: The First Ministry of Education Library Contribution Awards Ceremony Was Held

The First Ministry of Education Library Contribution Awards Ceremony was held on November 26, 2021 in the International Conference Hall at National Central Library. The award ceremony has historical significance

and is a milestone in promoting the development of librarianships in Taiwan.



*A group photo of Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan and NCL Director-General Tseng with award winners and dignitaries.*

Starting in 2012, the National Central Library had been tasked with the responsibility by the Ministry of Education to hold a selection for candidates for the Outstanding Library Contribution Awards every two years. As of 2018, four selections were held and awards been given to 14 local leaders and 18 public library supervisors and staff. Over the past years, this has had a leadership influences on the development of public library operations in Taiwan. Then on September 16, 2020, the *Fundamentals for Implementing the Ministry of Education Library Contribution Awards* raised the award responsibility to the level of the Ministry of Education. In continuing the spirit in which this award was created and expanding its benefit to all types of libraries, five main awards were created: the Model Library Award, Outstanding Library Staff Award, Outstanding Library Supervisor Award, Local Leader Award, and Special Contribution Award. The event will be held every two years to give recognition to local leaders who have been striving to build good local public libraries, as well as groups or individuals who have made crucial contributions to the development of sound library operations or who have exercised instrumental role in engaging the public to read more. More specifically, they are a benchmarking model for all types of libraries.

At the 2021 Library Contribution Awards Ceremony, awards been given to a total of seventeen award winners, including two local leaders, six directors of model libraries, four outstanding library supervisors, and five outstanding librarians.