

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.

Local Leader Award recipients: Taoyuan Mayor Mr. Wen-can Cheng was recognized for actively facilitated the construction of a new main library and the space optimization of existing libraries. Tainan Mayor Mr. Wei-che Huang was recognized for facilitating construction of a new main Tainan Public Library and his coordination effort between the government and publishing industry to have created outstanding reading scores.

Model Library Award recipients: The National Library of Public Information was recognized for putting “information” at the core of its developed innovative technology services, its library smart services, and its innovative technology applications. The main library of the Kaohsiung Public Library system collected wishing lists from the public, then its staff turned them into amazing achievements. The Xihu branch of the Taipei Public Library selected music as an important theme of its holdings, making it an attractive library with lots of patrons, and has created a public space and study room for all ages. New Taipei Municipal Bei Da Senior High School Library has adopted “Books, Reading, Knowledge” as its slogan in guiding students to explore in the library to find answers from outside world. National Cheng Kung University Library is conscientiously fulfilling its social responsibility while actively realizing the UN’s sustainable development goals, and expects to become a warm university library that belongs to the city, Taiwan, and the world. The Library of the Luminary Buddhist Institute developed and promoted a cataloging system for Buddhism, thereby has become a cataloging base for Buddhist libraries throughout the world, and has become an important place for Buddhist studies resource creation and outreach services.

Outstanding Library Supervisor Award recipients: New Taipei City Librarian Chin-hua Wang brought the city’s libraries up to the level that meets international standards, improving service quality and has obtained ISO 9001 Certification; having plans for New Taipei City Library to become the city’s “big living room” for citizens. Librarian Hsiao-ling Chang is the first librarian of the Taichung Public Library to promote “Green and Beautiful Library” construction, constructed a reader-centered reading space, creating a slogan “Life is so Book-

utiful” for promoting reading, and greatly enhanced the reading ability of people in the city. Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology Librarian Chih-ching Yang has facilitated a collaboration with vocational and specialized school libraries and inter-school cooperation, expanding full-text accessibility for theses and dissertations so as to increase the international visibility of Taiwan scholarly research. Yi-rong Lee, Director of Knowledge Services Division of the National Central Library, has been striving for an innovative breakthrough in leading staff to promote the optimization and improvement of the remarkable national systems for citations, for dissertations and theses, and for journal articles and journal information. She also has been leading colleagues to work for increasing full-text authorizations to improve transparency and accessibility of Taiwan’s scholarly works..

Outstanding Librarian Award recipients: Ching-yi Tsai from the National Taiwan Library exercised her extensive experience in library administration to achieve amazing success in improving patron reading environment management, reading promotion, coordinating volunteers, and bringing together social resources to promote parent-children reading. Shu-fang Lin, a research assistant at the New Taipei Public Library, is outstanding in terms of services promotion and designing strategies and measures for performance management; she also has implemented the ISO 9001 quality management system, has set up mid and long-term development plans, and is good at policy analysis research to serve as a foundation for improving service quality. Tainan Public Library secretary Yun-ling Wu looked at things from the perspective of patrons to improve needed services in the library and is passionate about learning new things to strengthen service. National Cheng Kung University Library staff Ching-ju Fang is a medical librarian who was the first to create a complete series of courses and unique curricula for “literature searches for systematic literature review research,” and collaborated with professional medical staff to publish systematic literature review research, thus was able to push medical research development to go further. China Steel Corporation’s library manager Ling-li Sun is capable in guiding her team

in implementing transformative services, providing the industry they serve reliable and forward-looking information services.

The year 2021 awards ceremony is believed to move the leaders of local governments to place importance on library development, elevate the professional image of librarians, and set up a more stable foundation on which move toward a more internationally competitive and optimized library system for librarianship in Taiwan.



Minister of Education Dr. Pan with winners of the Model Library Award.



Minister of Education Dr. Pan with the Outstanding Library Supervisor Award recipients.



Minister of Education Dr. Pan with the Outstanding Librarian Award recipients.

Events

■ “Reading Youth Create Their Lives” Reading Image Posters Are Announced

The “Reading Youth Create Their Lives” reading image posters were announced on November 21, 2021 at 10 am in the International Conference Room of the Arts and Culture Center at NCL. The event was hosted by famed MC Ethan Liu. It started off with a passionate performance by Taipei Yongle Elementary School called “Reading, GO GO GO!” NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and the department head of the Ministry of Education’s Lifelong Learning Department Shu-chuan Lee both spoke. Chih-chun Tang, Yu-cheng Deng, Yung-wei Yang, Wen-huei Chen, Chia-ling Lo, and the other reading ambassadors unveiled the image posters together, which brought a strong energy for reading to the venue.

“Exercise Lets Me Stand on the World Stage – Reading Makes My Mind More Active”

In an effort to promote reading nationwide, NCL extended a special invitation to Olympic athletes from the Tokyo Games to be reading ambassadors, including Chih-chun Tang, Yu-cheng Deng, Yung-wei Yang, Wen-huei Chen, Hsiao-wen Huang, Tzu-yun Wen, and Chia-ling Lo. They had photoshoots for 6 sets of reading image posters, which used the youthful image of these Olympic athletes to encourage the nation’s youth to exercise more and read more. The volumes of printed reading posters will be sent to public libraries, junior high schools, and high schools for display. The purpose is to encourage the youth, and the public in general, to read more, so as to bring about a societal important on exercising and reading in activating the brain.

NCL Director-General Tseng stated that exercise and reading can activate brain cells. While exercise can train and strengthen our bodies, reading can nourish our mental ability and mind. Both are important leisure activities in our life. NCL has for some time been focused on promoting reading and bringing together those in the education and cultural circles, such as schools, public and private libraries, and publishers, wishing to improve reading habit through collective efforts. Director-General