



A commemorative photo of the Taiwanese and Mongolian groups after the opening ceremony.

■ NCL Special Exhibition Shines in Europe—"The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan" Held at the National Library of Estonia

On October 8, 2021, the National Central Library collaborated for the first time with the National Library of Estonia, holding at that library the opening ceremony of "The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan." The exhibition lasts from October 8 to 23. It exhibits inscriptions on oracle bones, facsimiles from the library's collection, such as rubbings of bronze inscriptions and stone inscriptions and others, and introduces the significant highlights within the National Central Library's rare collections including thumb fingerprints, handwritten works, the evolution of printing technology, ancient engravings and reproductions, and many replicas of rare and precious items in the Library's holdings.



NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng cuts the ribbon at the exhibition opening.

This is one of the destinations of the traveling exhibition the National Central Library arranged follows on that to the National Library of Latvia in 2015, and the 2016 holding of the "Imprint of Civilization" ancient documents exhibition at Hungary's National Széchényi Library, and is a further visit to the Baltic. This exhibition also represents the third occasion on which the National Central Library has collaborated with a European country in holding exhibitions. It is hoped that through such jointly held exhibitions, the two parties could stimulate a passionate cultural exchange in further so as to promote book history literacy as well as to advance cultural exchanges. One of the highlights of this exhibition is printing technology, one of the 'four great inventions' of China, and it focuses on how this world-influencing technology has developed and evolved over the long course of history. The exhibition involved wide-range of materials from oracle bones and stone carvings which were used to record text since ancient times, to various handwritten copies that became mainstream after the popularization of paper and pen, to the popularity of wood-board engraving and movable-type printing after the creation of printing skills, as well as such extraordinary techniques of hand-written facsimile copies which resembles today's photo-machine copying and digital-transcription.



Example exhibited items at "The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan" at the National Library of Estonia.

The prologue to the exhibition, *The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan*, began amid the mellifluous traditional Chinese music. Representative Eric Huang of the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia was invited to attend and delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. Representative Huang not only thanked the National Library of Estonia for its cooperation on this exhibition, but also strongly affirmed the considerable significance of this exhibition to the cultural exchanges between the two countries. Amid the severe impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, Director-General of the National Central Library, Shu-hsien Tseng was unable to attend in person but co-hosted the opening ceremony through video and online live broadcast. Director-General Tseng said that, in order to strengthen cooperation with national libraries around the world and promote international exchanges, the National Central Library seeks the opportunity to jointly hold this exhibition with the National Library of Estonia, hoping that the two parties would jointly facilitate mutual-understanding of each other's cultures. For this event, exhibited items and their catalog records were sent by air across the ocean. This also means that the knowledge and cultural heritage which have long been preserved at the National Central Library are now realistically spread to Eastern Europe. It was just like building a cultural-communication bridge between East and West, eliminated the spatial distance and allowed the Estonian people to appreciate the beauty and the profound contents of Chinese ancient books and the associated book creation history as preserved in the rare collections of the National Central Library in Taiwan. Ms. Janne Andresoo, Director-General of the National Library of Estonia, praised the National Central Library's "amazing" special collection and expressed her pleasure at having the opportunity to co-organize this exhibition. The National Library of Estonia is known for its digital collections and services, but it also cherishes the past. This exhibition provides an insightful presentation into the history of paper, writing and manufacture of books, like a wonderful book history feast. She concluded with a famous quote from Estonian literary master Juhan Liiv, which perfectly represents the core concept of this exhibition: "Those who forget the past have no future."



Director-General of the National Library of Estonia, Janne Andresoo delivers her remarks.



Representative Eric Huang of the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia in attendance at the event.

The exhibition was carried out in an accessible, clear, simple and lively style in the National Library of Estonia, created a quaint atmosphere brimming with a Chinese cultural ambience. The exhibition indeed thrills all participants, guests and audiences. Director-General Tseng stressed that the event also demonstrated Taiwan's 'soft power' and inviting friendly cultural exchanges. "I would like to thank Representative Huang of the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia and colleagues in the delegation for coming all the way to join this great event at this memorable moment, and witness this milestone in cultural exchanges between Taiwan and Estonia." "I am especially grateful to all sectors of Estonian society for their support of this exhibition, and hope that the cultural exchanges between our two countries would continue, unaffected by the epidemic, and that we could enjoy closer and deeper cooperation in the future."



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