

Tseng explained that in order to encourage reading habits among the youth, the NCL extended a special invitation to Olympic athletes to make reading image posters. It is hoped that through the diligence and youthful vigorous promotion of reading by these athletes, it is possible to have positive influences to young students' reading and learning habits.

Head of the Department of Lifelong Education at the Ministry of Education Yu-Jiuan Lee expressed that she was pleased to represent the Ministry of Education to attend this image poster announcement which emphasizes reading as well as exercise. She specifically quoted British essayist Joseph Addison: "Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body." This is the same message that these posters are portraying. In recent years, the Ministry of Education has actively promoted multifaceted policies and measures with the aim to strengthen reading habits, and to help students to gain greater learning ability through reading, besides, to encourage students and people doing exercise habitually in their life. That way, citizens can become healthier and enjoy happier lives. In the future, the Ministry of Education will continue to support reading promotion programs. It also invites everyone nationwide to love reading and love exercise and create a happy and healthy life together.

The athletes who attended the poster picture shoot all agreed that making the posters to promote reading was both novel and meaningful. They were happy to be able to play the role of reading ambassadors. Chun-heng Wei, Chih-chun Tang, and Yu-cheng Deng expressed their love of fantasy and classical pictorial cartoon. Reading is one way for them to relax and get prepared for the next competition. Wen-hui Chen mentioned that any kind of exercise can help brain development, and reading habit is an important avenue for acquiring knowledge. Yung-wei Yang feels that the way his poster brings together judo and reading is really amazing. He likes reading self-growth inspirational books to help him develop more a positive attitude. Reading can help settling one's thoughts and calm down one's mood. A positive attitude toward strict training means a better possibility of performance. Tzu-yun Wen is happy to have this chance to promote reading. She loves to read books on various topics and believes

that reading is a wonderful thing. It is a wonderful medium for reaching knowledge. Hsiao-wen Huang says that in addition to her regular training, she likes reading encouraging miscellaneous essays and self-development books. She says that such books can help her get relaxed and are important nourishment for her mind after exercising. Chia-ling Lo was happy to have the opportunity to shoot pictures for a reading poster. She began learning kickboxing (also known as taekwon-do) from a young age. She said that each day she would have to continuously practice for hours. That is the only way one can progress in taekwon-do, likewise, reading also has to be a habitual activity so that one could get the benefit from it, therefore, can replenish one's mind with joy at any time and having positive energy for oneself each day.

The announcement meeting ended with the Olympic athletes and fans taking pictures together and getting posters signed. Reading helped these athletes be full of confidence before each competition. NCL invited them to be reading ambassadors in the hope that the public will gain motivation to read more from these posters!



NCL Director-General Tseng (4th from left in front) and dignitaries at the unveiling of the "Reading Youth Create Their Lives" Reading Image Posters.

■ The 8th Xuanlan Forum on "Poetic Charm: The Heritage and Admiration of Chinese Paintings with Poems" Held Online

The cross-strait Xuanlan Forum, with promoting Chinese culture as its aim, had its 8th forum held on December 15, 2021. The date was coincident with the so-called World Strengthened Immunity Day.

Sidestepping the dire threat of COVID, the Forum was held by combination of on-site meeting at the Nanjing Library and online conferencing at the Taiwan's National Central Library, the National Library of China, and Beijing Foreign Studies University. Representatives from these libraries cohosted the opening ceremony for the Xuanlan international conference on "Poetic Charm: The Heritage and Admiration of Chinese Painting with Poems."

The term "xuanlan" started in 1940 during the War of Resistance with Japan. NCL's first Director-general Fu-tsung Chiang and many patriotic scholars formed a Society for Preserving Written Artifacts. They bought up rare and ancient books wherever they could find them and selected the best of these for inclusion in the reprinted Xuanlan-Hall Collection Series. Beginning in 2014, in light of the fact that NCL and the Nanjing Library came from the same source, the libraries began holding a forum under the name "Xuanlan" each year in different places in China and Taiwan. Through presentations and discussions, participants were possible to share their experiences. Besides, by exercising their expertise and professional knowledge, the advocates from the Forum has formed an innovative and influential power for Chinese society, culture, education, economics, and development of scientific researches. Prior to 2021, this cross-strait collaboration of many different disciplines had already held seven Xuanlan Forums. It has been lauded as a representative brand of cross-strait cultural exchange.

2021 is the 1320 anniversary of the birth of the immortal *Tang* poet Li Bai (701-762), who wrote many famous poems and lyrics when he was living in Nanjing. In addition, the famous painting manual "Shí zhú zhāi huàpǔ" (literally "*Ten Bamboo House Painting Manual*) and "Jièzǐ yuán huà chuán," (literally "Painting Atlas of Jièzǐ-- a "small-size" garden Garden) were both published in Nanjing during the *Ming* and *Qing* dynasties respectively. Thus, the cohosts wanted to have "Poetic Charm" be the theme for this year's forum, and scholars from both sides of the strait were invited to present on the theme, Heritage and Appreciation of Classical Chinese Poetry and Paintings. The opening ceremony was conducted with both on-site and online solutions. During the opening ceremony, NCL Director-General Shu-

hsien Tseng expressed her commitment to promote Chinese culture, and believes that through interactive discussion of the set topics and sharing of research insights, scholars and librarians can bring about even more plentiful research outcomes regarding Chinese poems, lyrics, and paintings and thus would have a more meaningful contribution to the domain knowledge of this profound heritage.



NCL Director-General Tseng gives remarks at the opening ceremony of the 8th Xuanlan Forum.

This year's (2021) Xuanlan Forum brought together twelve famed scholars from both sides of the strait who are experts on poetry and lyrics from the *Tang* and *Song* dynasty and experts on traditional Chinese painting. They gathered at the Xuanlan Forum to discuss two main topics: Reflecting a Thousand Springs: The Transmission and Appreciation of Li Bai's Works, and A Splendid Display of Color: Changes in and Appreciation of Traditional Paintings and Carving Art. Also in attendance were aficionados of poetry, lyrics, and traditional paintings from both sides of the strait. All were able to discuss issues and engage in an exchange of ideas.

Renowned scholars invited to participate in the Nanjing session included the president of the Chinese *Tang* Dynasty Literature Association Shangjun Chen, Professor Furui Zhan from Beijing Foreign Studies University, Professor Qian Zhixi from Peiking University, Professor Hui Chen who is the new director of the Nanjing Library, Professor Jingxin Zhou who is the Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Nanjing University of the Arts, Dr. Yan Yan from the National Library of China, and Dr. Lixuan Guo from the Library of Shanghai.

Renowned scholars invited to participate in the Taiwan session included Professor Li-hua Hsiao who has researched *Tang* poetry for many years, is an accomplished writer, and who is currently the Dean of the School of Humanities at Fo Guang University; Professor Mei-yu Liao who is one of the foremost experts on poetry by Li Bai and Du Fu; Dr. Li-Chiang Lin who is an expert in classical Chinese artists and carving art, as well as the director of the painting department at National Palace Museum; Professor Meng-ching Ma from Tsing-hua University and *Ming* and *Qing* block prints and Chinese art history expert; and Dr. Yi Chen from the ISBN Center at NCL.



A view of the Nanjing site of the Xuanlan Forum.

■ NCL Director-General Tseng Attended the Opening Ceremony for Fo Guang Shan's 2021 International Book Exhibition and Book Donation Ceremony, Receives a Donation of The Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts for NCL

On November 6, 2021, Fo Guang Shan Culture and Education Foundation held the opening ceremony for its 2021 International Book Exhibition: Forever Starting from a Place of Loving Care and a book donation ceremony at the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum. The Director-General of the National Central Library Shu-hsien Tseng received the donation. Fo Guang Shan Cultural Education Foundation Director Venerable Master Ju Chang donated 300 sets of *The Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts* (Chinese-English version) to public libraries throughout the island.

Director-General Tseng remarks how much of a special honor it was to be invited to attend the book

donation ceremony and to represent the public libraries of Taiwan in accepting the sets of *The Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts*. NCL will deliver the donated sets to the libraries most suitable for housing and providing for use of such a collection in Taiwan and abroad. That way these books can exert the possible greatest influence. *The Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts* contains 20 volumes in a set, with over nine thousand entries. The text is counted about 3.8 million characters long with more than 15,000 photos. Monks, nuns, and volunteers have spent twelve years compiling the set. They have made possible efforts to collect existing pieces of Buddhist art in the world for eight main categories, namely architecture, sculptures, paintings, calligraphy, carvings, renown figures, crafts, and collection objects in museums, etc. They are confidently believe that anyone who wants to enjoy cultural artifacts or researchers in academia will find this to be an invaluable resource. Special thanks were delivered to Fo Guang Shan and all the loving people in the audience today for always caring about the land of Taiwan and for sheltering those people in need, thereby spreading love to every corner of Taiwan.

Fo Guang Shan Cultural Education Foundation Director, Venerable Master Ju Chang also presented Director-General Tseng with her recent publication, *Humanistic Pure Land and Garden Cities*, which was coauthored with Dr. Wei Yang. The book discusses that humanistic Pure Land and “garden cities” may seem like two unrelated topics but that they actually share the basic concepts of mercy and selflessness. The pursuit of humanistic Pure Land can be realized by being fostered by “garden city” planning. On the other hand, the ideal of “garden cities” can be achieved and benefited from the wisdom of humanistic Pure Land and thereby can progress toward an even greater place.