



A group photo of the dignitaries in attendance.

■ Masaryk University in Czech Republic and National Central Library Collaborate to Establish a Resource Center: The 39th Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies Lands in Brno

On January 3, National Central Library once again overcame the challenge of a raging pandemic in Europe to set up a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) at the Masaryk University (MU) in Czech Republic. This is the 39th partner institution abroad. During discussions between NCL and MU, Representative Liang-ruey Ke from the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Prague personally made a follow-up visit to MU for a better mutual understanding after Dr. Hung-wei Yen, head of the technology department, had hosted a video conference for both parties to aid in communication. Thereafter, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and Masaryk University Rector Martin Bareš signed the agreement for future collaborations.



NCL Director-General Tseng signs the collaboration agreement with Masaryk University to set up the 39th Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies.

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 TRCCS program, with the practice that could realize sharing philosophy with high-efficiency services, has been recognized as a significant mutual-beneficial academic exchanges and collaboration program.

The Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies was set up by NCL in MU's College of Art Library and Chinese Studies Graduate Institute Library. The university was named after the first president of the former Czechoslovakia, President T. G. Masaryk. It was established in 1919, and is the second oldest university in the Czech Republic. It is in the country's second largest city, Brno, which was rated as the second-best location for a vacation by the British magazine Time Out in 2022. The university has a total of 32,800 students, of which 7,829 are master's students and 2,685 are doctoral students (as of January 2022, according to Masaryk University's website). In addition, it is one of three famed universities in Czech that have Chinese studies departments or graduate programs. MU also has an Asian Studies Center as part of its College of Art, which bears the important mission for Chinese studies, Taiwan studies, and language teaching.

In response to the teaching and research needs of the Chinese studies department and graduate institute, MU library keeps acquiring resources on Chinese literature, language pedagogy, political thought, multiculturalism, religion, Chinese medicine, kung-fu, movies, Taiwan studies, etc. over the years. MU's Chinese studies department and graduate institute offer undergraduate and graduate level courses. Apart from teaching language courses, the teaching and research in many courses focus on modern China and Chinese culture through the lens of society, literature, politics, history, and thought. Following the rise of China and its increasing influence on Europe, a research discipline on modern China and Taiwan has been developed and received attention.

Through working with NCL to set up a TRCCS, Masaryk University will be able to more easily acquire good-quality Chinese books and journals published in Taiwan. It is genuinely believed and wished that the TRCCS resources will greatly benefit researchers, faculty, and students in Brno for their researches, teaching, and learning of Chinese literature, Taiwan studies and cross-cultural researches and teaching.



NCL Director-General Tseng (center) and Director Shu-fen Hung (1st right) hold the agreement.

NCL Sets up Scholarly Exchange Platform at Prince William and Princess-consort Kate's Alma Mater, St. Andrews University

The NCL successfully established the 40th TRCCS at St. Andrews University (St. AU), the alma mater of Prince William and Princess-consort Kate. At beginning stage of the discussions that took place between the parties for this collaboration, the NCL was notified by the Taipei Representative Office in the United Kingdom that St. Andrews University needed assistance with the cataloging of their Chinese holdings and was willing to collaborate in related areas. Subsequently, the NCL spend more than six months communicating and deliberating with St. AU. On March 7, NCL Director-General Tseng and St. AU Chief Legal Officer Dr. Roy Drummond and Director of Libraries and Museums Dr. Catherine Eagleton signed the Agreement, formally beginning this collaborative project.



NCL Director-General Tseng signs the collaboration agreement with the University of St. Andrews to set up the 40th Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies.

The NCL sets this TRCCS up in St. AU's main library, which is located in Scotland. St. AU has 10,424 undergraduate students, including 2,164 graduate students. That graduate students comprise 20 percent of the student body makes this an important research university. St. AU was established in 1413 and is the third oldest university in the English-speaking world. In recent years, it has leaped to the second top university in Great Britain. Its reputation and scholarly outpouring put it on equal footing with Oxford and Cambridge.

The University of St. Andrews library has actively developed its library holdings on Taiwan studies, and its Chinese studies courses include such areas as classical literature, history, economy, politics, the arts, and language. St. AU established a Chinese Studies department in 2020, which is under the jurisdiction of the College of Foreign Languages. Last year (2021), it began accepting students into its program. In addition to undergraduate studies, it also provides opportunities for masters and doctoral researchers to conduct comprehensive studies on contemporary Chinese language and culture. Professor Yu-feng Chi, who is from Taiwan and teaches in this department stated that St. AU's undergraduate program allows students to take a minor or to even take three majors. Consequently, students in any department or graduate institute can take courses from the Chinese Studies department.

Director-General Tseng is very pleased to have add this TRCCS collaborative project with St. AU, and believes that sharing of Taiwan publication resources and cataloging expertise, and joint scholarly activities will be mutual beneficial to both parties.



A Group photo of the signing event shows from left to right St. AU Chief Legal Officer Dr. Roy Drummond, Deputy Director Jennifer Louden and Director Catherine Eagleton of Libraries and Museums, Senior Vice Principal Prof. Brad Mackay (International Strategy and External Relations), Associate Lecturer Yvonne Chi and Prof. Gregory Lee from the Department of Chinese Studies, St. AU.