

Shu-hsien Tseng on January 4, 2022 and discussed possible directions for strengthening cooperation in the future.

Director-General Tseng introduced the examples of diversified education and cultural exchanges activities cohosted by the NCL and foreign governmental institutions in Taiwan, including reading promotion, lectures, exhibitions activities, etc. Director General Dai expressed his interests for such international cultural and educational exchanges and said that he would consider to facilitate the relevant cooperation with the NCL in the near future.

On the afternoon of March 15, 2022, Achilles Yeh, Director of the Trade and Investment Promotion Section, Embassy of the Kingdom of Eswatini, paid an official visit to meet the NCL Director-General Tseng. He was accompanied by Chief Xiao-ying Lin from Department of International and Cross-strait Education Section of Taiwan's Ministry of Education, and Secretary Yi-da Chen from Ministry of Education. The purpose of Director Yeh's visit was to learn about the possibilities of future collaborations with NCL in cultural and educational projects as well as methods and channels for the promotion of children's literature.

NCL Director-General Tseng gave Director Yeh a detailed introduction about NCL and the achievements of NCL's academic, artistic, cultural, and other diverse collaborations and exchanges with foreign organizations in Taiwan. These include inviting foreign authors to lecture in Taiwan, promoting reading and literacy, organizing cultural lectures, and planning a diverse array of exhibits and programs. Director Yeh expressed great interest in international culture and education exchanges and reading promotion activities. He also mentioned about his intention to facilitate international collaborations in culture and education among five of Taiwan's diplomatic allies (the Kingdom of Eswatini, Belize, Honduras, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), as well as his hopes of engaging in exchanges and collaboration with other public libraries in Taiwan.

After the meeting, Director Shu-Fen Hong and Editor Shiou-Iuan Hsu of the NCL International Cooperation Division gave a brief tour for Director Yeh and the accompanied guests, showed them around in the library.

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS allocated the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year enables 20 overseas scholars coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 1 to 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures. Between January and March, 2022, 2 scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On March 31st, 2022, Dr. Ying-kit Chan, Research Fellow of IAS, the Netherlands, gave the lecture on "Hunting and Gospel: Harry R. Caldwell, Blue Tiger and American Museum of Natural History." At the same day, Ms. Pauline Claire Harlay, Ph.D Candidate of Department of Anthropology, SOAS, UK, gave the lecture on "Social Learning: Sharing the Language of Taste."

CCS News and Activities

■ NCL 2022 On-line Lunar New Year Reception for Visiting Scholars

On February 14th, 2022, Eve of Lantern Festival, National Central Library held on-line Lunar New Year reception for visiting scholars. More than 30 scholars interacted and paid one another a courtesy call during Lunar New Year period by using videoconferencing to experience Lunar New Year reunion!

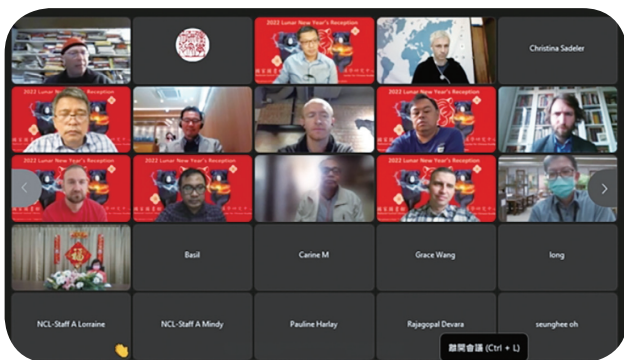
National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, gave the opening remarks at this reception to warmly welcome scholars come to Taiwan, wish them a Happy Lunar New Year and to prosper with fury like a tiger so that everyone will be successful in life, work and research in the year of Tiger!

2022 on-line reception was held by Chinese Center for Studies (CCS) for the first time, therefore, as the host, we prepared “Lucky Words for the Year of Tiger” in both Chinese and English to wish everybody lots of luck and presented our sincerity with tiger-shaped props. In return, scholar from Japan sang a song, “Gōngxǐ Fācái”, in Mandarin; scholar from Philippine read and introduced a Spanish poem to us! Another two scholars came after to share their personal extraordinary experience in Taiwan’s daily life while they’ve been living here for more than two years.

The Taiwanese song “Liúlàng dào Dànshuǐ”, is also called “Odyssey”, was led by CCS to teach visiting scholars the chorus part to show how much we cherish every opportunity when we get together!



NCL Director-General Tseng gives opening remarks.



Screen Shot of participants in this on-line Lunar New Year Reception.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ National Taiwan Library Updates its Accessible Reading Resources System Creating a Library Friendly to All

In order to provide better accessibility for using library resources, in 2022 National Taiwan Library

upgraded its “Accessible Reading Resources Integrated Search System,” so that users with all kinds of physical disabilities, including those visually impaired, can enjoy reading. The library is grateful to the businesses for their sponsor in the “Collaborative Program of Authorization on Behalf of the Public Good,” contributing to the sustainable development of collection resources.

For the purpose to encourage use of nearby resources and to ensure equal opportunity in access of information, National Taiwan Library (NLT) has long been devoted to services for the visually impaired. In 2011, the Ministry of Education designated the library as a special library that should provide services for the visually impaired users, and in the following year, the NTL established the “Integrated Search System of Electronic Resources for the Visually Impaired.” Through collecting, purchasing and republishing of content as well as interdisciplinary collaboration with experts and organizations, this system is now possible to help fulfilling the Library’s mission.

National Taiwan Library has explained that in facing of rapidly changing technology, the library is constantly upgrading and improving accessible digital mediums. Beginning this year, the system has been upgraded as the “Accessible Reading Resources Integrated Search System,” to meet the needs of users with different disabilities. This system has made National Taiwan Library a forerunner in Taiwan in terms of providing accessible resources for users with different disabilities. By using braille, audio recordings, digitalization, image descriptions, added sign language, and other digitalization methods of adapted content, readers with visual impairments, learning disabilities, deafness or other cognition problems can have access to reading materials and thereby enjoy the fundamental human right of acquiring knowledge.

■ Trial Operation of the Smart Spaces Management System: Chiayi City Culture Bureau Library Online Seat Reservations

Starting on February 18th, The Chiayi City Government’s Culture Bureau began a one-month trial operation of the smart space management system in order to improve the efficiency of use of the library’s general reading room. It is the first public library in