



Director-General Tseng and Deputy Director-General Weng, as well as many staff members of the NCL, hold the agreement in hand.

During the online signing ceremony, Board Chair of the Library and Member of the Congress Carlos Selva, and General Coordinating Director Alejandro Santa expressed that today's collaborative project is the beginning of many exchanges and collaborations between the libraries. Furthermore, they hope to be inspired by NCL's reader services, digital experiences, and all other related services. Director Santa stated that this collaboration will help NCL and libraries in Central and South America expand areas of collaboration and exchanges. During the ceremony, the Library of Congress arranged for an opera performance and singing *Kao-shan-qing* (High Mountains Are Green). The NCL also arranged for a string music performance of Taiwan folksongs. Both parties shared the beauty of their cultures. The ceremony ended with the beautiful sounds of Taiwan folk music.



NCL arranges for a string music performance of Taiwan folksongs.

## Events

### ■ Premier of the Executive Yuan Tseng-chang Su and Other Distinguished Guests Visit NCL

Premier of the Executive Yuan Tseng-chang Su, Minister without Portfolio Bing-cheng Lo, Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan, and Minister of Finance Jain-rong Su attended the 2022 National Anti-drugs Contribution Awards Ceremony on June 24, after which they stopped by National Central Library to see the Exploring and Reading France @NCL: Books and Special Collections Exhibition. They enjoyed seeing the manuscripts of famous writers such as Alexandre Dumas, Victor Hugo, and George Sand. They also took a close look at the eight rare books that are part of the Chengding Tang Collection within the NCL special collections. The books on display in this exhibition are all rare treasures and this is indeed a rare opportunity for people to see the originals.

Afterward, with Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng's warm and welcoming invitation, Premier Su and the other officials took time to come to see NCL's Rare Books Room and special collections vault. Special collections staff gave an in-depth introduction about the acquisition stories about the rare and ancient books. In addition, the NCL staff also introduced about the value-added utilization of ancient rare books. Apart from the *Diamond Sutra*, which is popular with library patrons, this year NCL authorized Linking Books to raise money from the public to replicate a small-character Song version of the Lotus Sutra that also contains Sanskrit. (It is commonly known as the *King of the Sutras*). With regard to the ending of the book, where Master Dequ—who was a monk at the Huiyun Monastery in Southern Song—expressed his desire to stay true to the faith and prayed for “peace in the realm and joy to the people in their labours.” Premier Su stated that this is what he was trying to accomplish. In addition to connecting with the Buddhist wisdom from previous ages, he hopes that the power of these Buddhist sutras, which are national treasures, could help Taiwan to find peace and its people happiness.



*A group photo of Premier of the Executive Yuan Tseng-chang Su, Minister without Portfolio Bing-cheng Lo, Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan, and Minister of Finance Jain-rong Su in the Rare Books Room.*



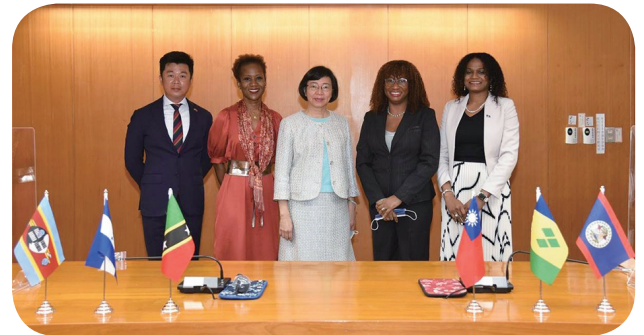
*A group photo of Premier of the Executive Yuan Tseng-chang Su, Minister without Portfolio Bing-cheng Lo, Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan, and Minister of Finance Jain-rong Su in the special collections vault.*

## ■ Ambassadors from Allied Countries Visit NCL Together to Promote Cultural Exchange

In an effort to promote reading and cultural collaboration and exchange, on April 6, 2022, a diplomatic mission from four allied countries, led by H.E. Ambassador Jasmine Elise Huggins, Embassy of Saint Christopher and Nevis, comprised of H.E. Ambassador Dr. Candice Augusta Pitts, Embassy of Belize, H.E. Ambassador Andrea Clare Bowman, Embassy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Director of Trade and Investment Promotion Section, Achilles Yeh, Embassy of the Kingdom of Eswatini came to visit National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng. They also discussed cultural and educational issues in a forum, as well as toured National Central Library.

In the forum, Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng welcomed everyone, following which the head of the Taiwan diplomatic mission, Ambassador Huggins, spoke. Then the ambassador from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines represented the group—including Honduras—in presenting a proposal on cultural collaboration and exchange.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that National Central Library is much honored to be a solid partner with each embassy in reading promotion and cultural exchange. Functioning as an exchange platform to help the people of Taiwan come to know these countries' cultures, NCL will continue its close partner relationship with each embassy and plan together various art and cultural events. These will help directly showcase the unique cultural content from each country and provide the public with a rich cultural smorgasbord.



*The ambassadors from the allied countries that visited National Central Library (from right): Belizean Ambassador Candice Augusta Pitts, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador Andrea Clare Bowman, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, Saint Kitts and Nevis Ambassador Jasmine Elise Huggins, Eswatini ambassador representative Achilles Yeh.*

After the forum, National Central Library arranged for a tour for the VIPs of the facilities and resources on each floor of the library. A specialist for each area was on hand to provide explanation. During the tour, not only did they visit the rare books room which houses many national treasures and ancient books, they also walked through NCL's ancient book exhibition "The Great Yuan: Mongolian History and Culture" and the interactive School Days exhibition that incorporates 100 years of Taiwan education history. In addition, National Central Library made special arrangements for displays of books and other materials related to the five allied countries which comprised of four main sections: dissertations and theses, general