

books, as well as books and periodicals published in Western languages. Subjects of library collections covered history, literature, economics, politics, the arts, and languages. NCL Director-General Tseng stated, CU is an important house of learning for Chinese studies teaching and research in Slovakia. Its diligence and contributions shown in its internationally known periodicals and publications is impressive. It is hoped that the signing of this collaborative agreement will add to their library resources more Taiwan publications that carry the Taiwan's achievements in scholarly researches to benefit the teaching and research of this great institution.



Dean of the Faculty of Art, Prof. Marián Zouhar signs the Agreement of the TRCCS.

■ **The First Resource Center for Taiwan Studies Is Established in the Library of the Congress in Argentina**

The National Central Library (NCL), for the first time, has established a Resource Center for Taiwan Studies in the Library of the Congress (LC), the Argentine Nation. This collaborative agreement was signed by Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, the NCL, and General Coordinating Director Alejandro Santa, the LC. On behalf of Director-General Tseng, the sign unveiling and book donation were handled by Taipei Commercial and Cultural Office in Argentina.



With dignitaries as witnesses, the sign unveiling is done by Board Chair of the Library and Member of the Congress Carlos Selva and General Coordinating Director Alejandro Santa along with TECO Representative Tsao.

During the signing ceremony, both parties opted to sign in person. Video feed was sent to the other country to share what was happening onsite and to be able to interact with each other. Approximately 120 persons were in attendance, including Argentinian politicians, businessmen, educators, and the representatives of overseas Taiwanese community. Director-General Tseng stated during her remarks that this Resource Center for Taiwan Studies is NCL's first abroad that adopting this name. An agreement was also signed regarding comprehensive collaboration between the two sides. The reason to adopt the name Resource Center for Taiwan Studies was because the party signing the agreement was the Library of the Congress, the Argentine Nation. This library provides all sorts of general services for people from all sectors. The name fully reflects that the resources shared for the Library of the Congress, the Argentine Nation, would include resources covering diversified materials including government publications, research reports, general and academic publications, etc. that carry successful experiences in various fields and areas of Taiwan, including economics, agriculture, the technology industry, democratic system, etc. These resources will aid congressmen, university and research institute researchers, as well as patrons who wish to know about Taiwan.



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 Deqiu—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.