

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ Construction has Commenced on Southern Taiwan's First National-Level Library: The Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library

Construction has commenced on the widely anticipated “Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library,” with a ground breaking ceremony held on September 5th, 2022. In attendance were Secretary-General Men-yen Li of the Executive Yuan, Education Minister Wen-chung Pan, Tainan Mayor Wei-che Huang, architect Ching-hwa Chang of the project design supervision team, Chairman Bei-hong Kuo of Formosa Builders, Inc., and other elected officials and honored guests. The ceremony was hosted by Executive Yuan Secretary-General Men-yen Li after which guests held incense in prayer for the successful completion of the project and then came together to break ground with golden shovels, formally marking the commencement of construction on the project slated to be completed for use in December of 2025.

The new project includes the building of two cultural institutions, the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and the National Repository Library, with a total project budget exceeding five billion NTD, including a construction budget of \$3,448,320,000 NTD. Construction will be completed by Taiwan's Formosa Builders, Inc, a building company well known for its high quality. The total all-floors indoor area of the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and the National Repository Library will be 51,097 square meters, including one basement level and five above-ground levels. It will be the only national-level library in southern Taiwan and it will become an incubation center for the development of library information and innovation in library services. In addition, the National Repository Library will provide a complete repository of information on all published books and academic resources in Taiwan. Furthermore,



The groundbreaking ceremony for the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library was held on September 5th, 2022 in Tainan City's Xinying District. Secretary-General Men-yen Li of the Executive Yuan, Education Minister Wen-chung Pan, and other honored guests broke ground on the site with golden shovels.

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the “National Digital Resource Preservation Center” will collect and preserve valuable digital resources. The government is establishing the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library in southern Taiwan as a national-level Digital Preservation Repository for library resources and cultural relics and it will also serve as an important hub for Taiwan’s participation in international academic exchange.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Secretary-General Men-yen Li expressed that with the construction of this landmark library building, Taiwan will rise to the ranks of nations with world-class national libraries, greatly enhancing Taiwan’s international reputation and bringing pride to the people of Taiwan for having a world-renowned library. In addition, it will enhance people’s satisfaction with the quality of governance.



Secretary-General Men-yen Li of the Executive Yuan hosts and makes a speech at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library.

During his speech, Education Minister Wen-chung Pan expressed his great joy in participating in this grand event and collectively bearing witness to the first important milestone in the construction of this national-level library. He stated that the completion of this project will help to satisfy the library information needs of southern residents and at the same time it will lower the average age of library service recipients and provide a more complete range of services. Moreover, it will resolve the serious shortage of library’s repository space and preserve all books and periodicals published nationwide as well as digital publications and other important cultural resources.

In his speech, Tainan Mayor Wei-che Huang thanked the central government for offering strong

support, and also thanked the National Central Library for the five-years continuous persistent endeavors ever since the finalization of the project plan in 2017 and makes this commencement possible. He stated that he believes that the opening of this library will better motivate people to become engaged in reading, and provide southern Taiwan with a better reading environment, satisfying the reading needs of people of all ages.

After the groundbreaking ceremony, National Central Library Director-General, Shu-hsien Tseng presented volunteer certificates to the first cohort of volunteers who have been and will continue to assist various tasks of construction of the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library. She thanked these local residents for coming together and working collectively to assist in the construction project as well as in the fulfillment of the library’s mission, helping to complete this project which is the first construction project of its kind in Taiwan. Invited guests were also invited to write down words of blessings on cards to hang upon a Tree of Blessings to send about the good news with the breeze. Director-General Tseng sincerely hopes that with everyone’s joint support and attention, all stages of work on the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library will be completed as planned so that it will be opened for use by the end of 2025 as scheduled. Upon its opening, not only will the Southern Branch and National Repository Library become a strong support for Taiwan’s academic research, it will also become a site where people can enjoy reading. Together, we will bear witness to the gradual actualization of the vision to “Make NCL Excellent, Make Taiwan Smart.”



Groundbreaking to commence the construction of southern Taiwan’s first national-level library, the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library.



After the groundbreaking ceremony for the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng hangs a blessing card hoping for the construction to be completed as planned and scheduled, and with the highest quality.

■ NCL Signs Two Cooperation Agreements with Stanford University Library in US

On September 22, Dr. Shu-hsien Tseng, Director-General of the National Central Library, signed a cooperation agreement with Stanford University and formally launched the “Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS)” services at the University. The Opening Ceremony was held after signing of the Agreement. This is the NCL’s 43rd TRCCS partner overseas. Both parties also signed an Agreement of Cooperation on the Database of the Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books which expands the collaboration circle of NCL’s rare Chinese books. Invited to the ceremony included Mr. John Yung-Chang Chu, the Deputy Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco, Ms. Sophie Hui-Yi Chou, Director of the Education Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco, and Ms. Yu-Chen Lu and Te-chen Wei, both are current Overseas Committee members. They attended to witness this special event for the collaboration between the two libraries.

Stanford University was established in 1891 and is a world-renowned private university, with outstanding research credits, especially is home to 84 Nobel Prize winners (as of April 2021). According to the QS World University Ranking, in 2020 and 2021 it was ranked second in the world. Director-General Tseng pointed out that Stanford University is a famed university, open in ingesting of resources and welcoming in recruiting outstanding scholars, and expressed her gratitude for this cooperation opportunity.



NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and Stanford Associate University Librarian Roberto Trujillo hold the signed agreements in their hands, as seen by those in attendance.

Director-General Tseng stated in her remarks that there are a few things in common between Stanford University Library and the National Central Library: Both bear the responsibility to preserve cultural and academic relics, and to be instrumental in encouraging use of such resources to facilitate good researches. She therefore believes that it is promising that the two parties could have solid strong cooperation relationship under the value the two parties share, especially that the two parties would inaugurate the TRCCS cooperation.



NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng gives her remarks at the signing and opening ceremony.

Director-General Tseng also mentioned that starting last year, the NCL library has launched a digitalization cooperation project with Stanford University Library. The Library has a rich collection of ancient Chinese books, including remarkable important rare books. This digitalization project has been completed early this year. The rare books digitized broadly cover five categories of ancient Chinese books which include classics, history, individual works, collective works, and series. In addition, there are some in the fields of geography and politics. It will