



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

be of great help to scholars engaged in the research of Ming and Qing academia, literature, and history. Director-General Tseng said that she genuinely hopes that based on these foundations, the two parties can have more sharing of librarianship experiences and expand the cooperation scope in the future.

In addition, Director-General Tseng explained that since 2005, the NCL has been undertaking digitization cooperation projects with university libraries and national libraries in many countries that hold important Chinese ancient books. Up to the present, the digitization outcomes through such cooperation projects counted more than 4,700 titles of rare books which has yield nearly 3.2 million images. The digitized images are uploaded into the NCL's "Database for Digital Images of Rare Books." When countries are affected by covid-19 epidemic, and physical activities are restricted, open access digital resources are very important for facilitating continuing research and education. The digitization projects that the NCL has accomplished through cross-countries collaboration and the open access agreements from the cooperation institutions, has made such online sharing possible. Not only the cooperated institutions can share each other's resources, all users in the world can enjoy the same access right, as long as the use of the digital images is merely for none commercial research and education purposes. This is truly good news for the academia communities, and its benefit is far beyond a digitization project. Therefore, she appreciates that signing of the Agreement of Cooperation on the Database of the Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books in addition to the TRCCS Cooperation Agreement will enrich the contents of the database, and enhance the services to the academia communities.



Stanford's Associate University Librarian Roberto Trujillo represented University Librarian Michael Keller to give remarks.



NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and Stanford Associate University Librarian Roberto Trujillo sign the cooperation agreements.

In the signing of these two collaborative agreements and the opening ceremony of the TRCCS, Director-General Tseng prepared special gifts for the new partner: a replica of a national treasure in NCL's collection with 800 years of history--Annotated Anthology of Mr. [Su] Dongpo's Poems (in 21 volumes). Another replica is the Diamond Sutra. Its original copy held at the National Central Library was produced in 1341 during the Yuan dynasty. These two replicas will add to Stanford's collection important assets, and will stand as a token of this historical event for the cooperation between the two libraries.



NCL gifted Stanford University Library with a replica of the Diamond Sutra.



Photo of representatives of both parties.



Representatives from both parties as well as other dignitaries witnessed the signing and opening ceremony.



Stanford University Library gifted NCL a bird's-eye-view old map of Taiwan.

■ NCL Goes to Czech Republic to Host Books Exhibition at the Biennial Meeting of the European Association for Chinese Studies

The European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS) meets once every two years. Its 24th meeting was held on August 24-27, 2022 at Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic. The Center for Chinese Studies of National Central Library arranged books exhibition to participate as always. It is hoped that through book exhibition, it is possible to make known Taiwan Scholars' good researches and recent publications of Taiwan. The NCL also invited the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation to join. This year the NCL cohosted a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies with the European Association for Chinese Studies for the first time. It is also the first time that NCL re-join the EACS on site since the pandemic outbreak about two years ago, as well as the first that the NCL participated on-site at the EACS meeting since its 22nd meeting at Glasgow University in 2018. Therefore, the event was of great significance.

This year's biennial meeting saw over 600 scholars in attendance, coming from Europe and other countries around the world. Over 80 sessions were held onsite and online in which papers were presented. The book exhibition arranged by the Center for Chinese Studies during the conference indeed vividly showcasing Taiwan Scholars' researches and recent publications of Taiwan and Chinese studies. A total of 353 titles (374 volumes) of quality publications in the humanities and social sciences on Chinese studies and Taiwan studies published in the last three years were on display. In addition, National Taiwan University Press donated 50 books, bringing the total to over 400. After the 4-day display, the entire lot of books was donated to Palacký University. The donation ceremony was held on August 24 in the afternoon at the university and was officiated over by the Associate Dean of Humanities, Dr. Ondrej Kucera. Assistant Representative Ming-fu Tseng from the TECO in Czech Republic represented NCL in making the donation. It was received by Dr. František Kratochvíl, department chair of the Asian Studies Department at Palacký University. EACS president Dr. Bart Dessein from Ghent University in Belgium was invited to give remarks on this event.



Assistant representative Ming-fu Tseng and Hung-wei Yen from the TECO in Czech with recipients of the book donation.

The cohosted Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies was held on August 25. Prof. Julie Yu-Wen Chen from Universitas Helsingiensis's Asian Studies Department was invited to be the lecturer. Her topic was "The Uyghur Issue." Prof. Martin Lavička from Palacký University's Asian Studies Department served as discussant. Over one hundred scholars from the Europe and the U.S. attended the lecture. The NCL genuinely hoped to facilitate sharing of Taiwan scholars' researches through these activities.