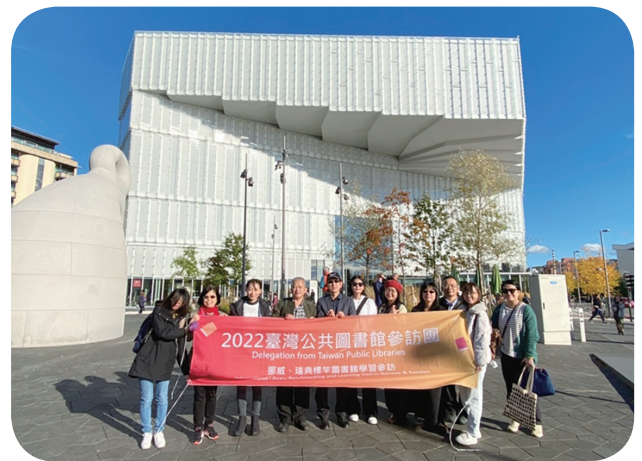


of Education entrusted National Central Library to arrange the Taiwan Public Library Norway and Sweden Benchmark Library Visit. This activity was conducted from September 24th to October 1st, visiting the main library and branch libraries of the municipal libraries of Oslo, the capital of Norway, and the main library in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. NCL Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng was designated as Dean of this public library study group. The members of the group include directors of the municipal city libraries and representatives of county and city cultural bureaus who have facilitated the construction plan for the new main library in recent years, directors of the county and city public library regional resource centers, representatives of the education and cultural bureaus, and representatives of the winners of the First Ministry of Education Library Service Contribution Award. A total of 11 representatives of public libraries participated in this delegation.

The first day of the trip involved a visit to the main library and distinctive branches of Oslo Public Library in Norway. The first stop was the Biblo Toyen Library, whose director, Reinert Mithassel, personally conducted a guided tour. Biblo Toyen Library primarily consists of two library buildings, one of which is an exclusive space for teenagers aged 10-15, while the other is for the general public to use freely. After the visit to Biblo Toyen Library, the second stop was the Grünerløkka Library, the oldest library in Norway. After its space revitalization and renovation of 2019, the interior furnishings and space planning dispensed with the old-fashioned, replacing it with rich colors and vitality, more in line with the needs and expectations of residents. The finale of the first day of the trip was a visit to the Deichman Bjørvika, the main library of Oslo Public Library, which won the International Federation of Library Associations' (IFLA) 2021 Public Library Award. Its white, neat and simple Nordic style complements the neighboring Oslo Opera House, and blends naturally with the Aker Brygge wharf. The library cost about 2.5 billion Norwegian Kroner and its design and construction took 11 years. It was finally opened on June 18, 2020, and became a new landmark in the capital city. In its first year it welcomed 1.2 million visitors. It is currently used by about 7,000 people daily.

The important aspects observed from the on-site tours of each benchmarking library include the flexible use of library space, ingenious interior design, library services design and resources deployment that reflects

people-oriented operational thinking, emphasis on the creation of connections between people, embracement of ideas in ensuring environmental sustainability and continual development, etc. The group members all treasure this rare opportunity, and interact actively with and seek help from the staff of the libraries. They were richly rewarded, profoundly encouraged, and much inspired, hoping to utilize their acquired knowledge in the practical operation of each of their libraries. With the knowledge and motivation, it is believed that the collective efforts by all members of the delegation will be influential to opening of a new page in the development of library services in Taiwan.



The 2022 Taiwan Public Library Benchmark Study Group makes a study visit to Norway and Sweden.



Members of the 2022 Taiwan Public Library Benchmark Study Group at Biblo Toyen Library.

■ National Central Library Holds Workshop for Young Sinologists

In order to help young scholars in the field of international sinology to realize the positive side and necessity of conducting research in Taiwan, and to become acquainted with Taiwan's academic resources, the National Central Library planned a workshop for young sinologists from September 29 to October 1, 2022. In addition to special lectures introducing the

electronic resources and research facilities related to the library's collection, it also, more widely, introduced the collection features of other academic institutions in Taiwan. A total of more than 30 scholars from 12 countries around the world signed up to participate.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated in her remarks that as the global pandemic is easing off, many countries have resumed physical activities. Scholars exchange with Taiwan also has become possible now. As there are many young scholars came to Taiwan to study the Chinese language and conduct sinology research, and with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the National Central Library organized this workshop for sinology young scholars. The NCL is very pleased to have received positive response from young scholars from 12 countries, including the US, Germany, France, Poland, Sweden, the UK, Ukraine, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia.

Mårten Söderblom Saarela, an associate researcher at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica was invited to give a special lecture on the first day of the course on the topic "Sinological Research in Taiwan from the Perspective of a Ch'ing History Scholar," sharing his experiences in search and utilization of Ch'ing Court Archives for his research, and making recommendations for Taiwanese research. The second special lecture was given by NCL Editor Dr. Hanyun Zhang on the topic "Introduction to Electronic Resources Related to Sinological Research in the National Central Library." In the third special lecture, researcher Yazhu Li from the National Archives Administration (NAA) of the National Development Commission introduced the NAA's archives and how to use them, and, with rich examples, explained the curation achievements of the NAA in recent years, and suggested useful strategies for searching. The fourth special lecture was given by library editor Dr. Yi-chun Yeh on the topic "Introduction to Academia Sinica's Electronic Resources Related to Sinological Research." For the fifth special lecture, Assistant Professor Qirui Hu from National Changhua Normal University was invited to introduce the development of Taiwan's digital humanities database. The sixth special lecture was given by Associate Professor Tianhao Ren of National Defense University, who introduced the digital resources of Academia Historica and other institutions on the basis of his own research experiences.

In order to enhance participants' understanding of academia in Taiwan, the Center for Chinese Studies arranged field trips for the students. Places visited include the recently opened Ching-Kuo Chi-Hai Cultural Park, where guided tours were made to the Chi-Hai Residence and Chiang Ching-kuo Presidential Library, in addition, the National Palace Museum and the library located at the National Palace Museum Art and Culture Park. The diverse and open academic resources of Taiwan are very impressive to the participating students, and they were pleased to have learned about the convenient and open digital resources produced by digitization projects by various institutions in Taiwan, and the associated service plan by the academic and cultural institutions.



National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng enjoys a commemorative photo with workshop participants.

■ **"India from the Eyes of Taiwan Photography Exhibition" Displayed at the Gallery of NCL History, NCL**

From July 27th to August 25th, the National Central Library and the India Taipei Association jointly organized the "India from the eyes of Taiwan Photography Exhibition." This exhibition was ceremoniously opened at 10:00 am on July 26 in the Gallery of NCL History on the first floor of the National Central Library.

India is a land of diverse cultures, landscapes and traditions that has over the years attracted many Taiwanese tourists seeking to explore its wonders. The Library and the India Taipei Association co-organized the Exhibition to showcase the awarded selected photos taken by Taiwanese tourists during their travels in India, covering different places, festivals and aspects of the life of the nation; presenting the different facets of India that Taiwanese tourists experienced when they travel there. These photographs show not only the incredible beauty of India, but also each photographer's unique perspective from their travel experience to Indian.