

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ A Major Breakthrough—National Central Library Establishes Collaborative Relationship with Five Countries in Central and Eastern Europe

Now that the pandemic has abated, from October 8-20, 2022, National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng traveled to five countries in Europe for several collaborative projects. At Tartu University in Estonia, Vilnius University in Latvia, Masaryk University in the Czech Republic, and Comenius University in Slovakia, she held an opening ceremony for a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (the signing of these happened during the pandemic). At Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary, she signed a collaborative agreement for a TRCCS and held the opening ceremony. In addition, a collaborative agreement was signed for the Union Catalog of Rare Books. At the National Library of Estonia and the National Library of Latvia, she signed a comprehensive collaborative agreement and donated books to their Taiwan Corners.

Establishing Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies

On October 10, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and the President of the University of Tartu Dr. Toomas Asser participated in the opening ceremony of a TRCCS. Representative Andrew Lee from the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia was also in attendance and spoke at the ceremony. The University of Tartu was established in 1632 and is Estonia's largest and most renowned university. It boasts an Asia Center that provides a platform for learning and research, as well as classes in the Chinese language, Chinese studies, and Taiwan studies.



Representative Lee (3rd from right), UT President Asser (3rd from left), and Director-General Tseng (2nd from left) posing with other dignitaries after the ceremony.

On October 12, Director-General Tseng and President Rimvydas Petrauskas held an opening ceremony for the TRCCS at Vilnius University (VU) in Latvia. Also present were University Librarian Irena Krivienė, Assistant Librarian Artūras Vasiliauskas, and

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Representative Eric Huang. During Director-General Tseng's remarks, she thanked the Latvian government for their donation of vaccines to Taiwan last year. VU is located in the capital city and is named after the city. It was founded in 1579 and is a famous university with over 400 hundred years of history. It is also Latvia's largest and the oldest university in the Baltic region. NCL and VU collaborated in establishing the Resource Center in the East Asian Studies Reading Room at the university's main library.

Vávra, and the Prague TECO Technology Division Head Hung-wei Yen. NU was established in 1919 and is the second oldest university in the Czech Republic.



From right to left: Representative Huang, President Petrauskas, Director-General Tseng, and Librarian Krivienė after the unveiling.



Director-General Tseng, Vice President Hanuš (right), and Mr. Yen.



Students from the Chinese Studies Department excitedly pose with Director-General Tseng.



University library staff and the East Asian Studies Department faculty and students attending the opening ceremony.

On October 14, Director-General Tseng traveled to Masaryk University in the Czech Republic and together with University Vice President Jiří Hanuš held an opening ceremony for the TRCCS. Witnessing the event were MU Associate Dean of International Relations Petr Dytrt, International Relations Department Chair Michaela Hrazdílková, Chinese Department Chair Dušan

On October 17, NCL Director-General Tseng went to the top university in Slovakia – Comenius University. Dean Marián Zouhar of the College of Art hosted the opening ceremony for the TRCCS. In attendance were Assistant Dean of International Relations Aneta Világi, Academic Librarian Jana Ilavská, College of Art Librarian Monika Lopusánová, and Representative Nan-yan Lee from the TECO Slovakia.



(from left) Assistant Dean Világi, Dean Zouhar, Director-General Tseng, and Representative Lee.



Staff from the Comenius University Library and faculty and students in East Asian Studies attended the TRCCS opening ceremony.

On October 18, Hungary’s most famous university, Eötvös Loránd University (ELU), signed a collaboration agreement for a TRCCS. The opening ceremony was held the same day. ELU is almost 400 years old, making its library the oldest in Hungary. It also has an East Asian and Asian Studies Graduate Institute, which provides important resources for researching East Asian history and culture in Hungary. NCL and ELU also signed a collaborative agreement for NCL to create a Rare Chinese Book Union Catalog for the university. This expands NCL’s collaboration reach in terms of ancient Chinese books. Invited to this historic ceremony were the Taiwan representative to Hungary Shih-chung Liu and the head of the technology division at TECO Czech Republic Hung-wei Yen.



Representative Liu witnessing Director-General Tseng and Vice President Hamar sign the two agreements.



Staff from the ELU Library and East Asian and Asian Studies faculty and students at the signing ceremony.

Taiwan Corner Donation and the Signing of a Comprehensive Collaboration Agreement

On October 11, Director-General Tseng and National Library of Estonia (NLE) Director General Janne Andresoo signed a comprehensive collaborative agreement. In addition, NCL presented the NLE a Taiwan Corner bookshelf, which enriched the library with publications from Taiwan. During this trip, Representative Andrew Lee from the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia was in attendance and gave some remarks, witnessing the historic moment of this collaboration between the two libraries. During the trip, NCL also presented NLE with a Taiwan Corner bookshelf with the hopes that the Taiwan Corner can display books on a variety of topics. This will allow patrons a quick and convenient way to develop an “impression of Taiwan.”



Representative Lee (left), Director General Andresoo (2nd from left) with Director-General Tseng (3rd from left) posing for a picture after signing the agreement.

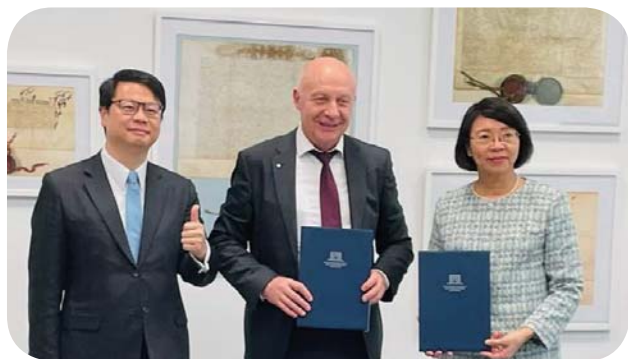


Director General Andresoo accepting Director-General Tseng’s gift of a Taiwan Corner bookshelf.

On October 12, Director-General Tseng and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

Director General Renaldas Gudauskas signed a comprehensive collaboration agreement between the two libraries. In attendance were Deputy Director Sandra Leknickien and TECO Latvia Representative Eric Huang. A Taiwan Corner book donation was also held, which added to their library collections regarding Taiwan. Representative Huang spoke and congratulated the two libraries for this historic moment of collaboration.

During the visit, Director-General Tseng donated books to NLL for its Taiwan Corner. On the bookshelf were illustrated children's books, popup books on Taiwan's customs and culture, maps, special books on Taiwan's history and customs, ones on artifacts in Taiwan museums, on Taiwan's ecosystem, and on contemporary Taiwan literature and art.



Representative Huang (left) attended and congratulated both parties.

■ Rare Books from NCL Go to Poland— The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan at the National Library of Poland

On December 9, 2022, National Central Library (NCL) and the National Library of Poland (NLP) collaborated for the first time in co-hosting the opening ceremony of “The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan” at NLP. The exhibition was open from December 9 to 29. Apart from displays of oracle bone characters, bronzeware rubbings, and other replicas of rare books, the exhibition showed the evolution of printing techniques and the most exquisite books in both libraries collections. In addition, in an effort to correlate with the unique holdings in NLP, a new

section was added to the exhibition called “Connections between Chinese and Western Civilizations.” Books on astronomy, calendars, herbology and plants from the 17th century and on were on display showing the influence of interaction between the two civilizations.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that the special exhibition was at the National Library of Latvia in 2015, at the National Széchenyi Library in Hungary in 2016, and at the National Library of Estonia in 2021. Now it once again came to Europe. The Imprint of Civilization has indeed become Taiwan's branded image in international cultural exchange. The reception has been very good, resulting in a strong reputation passed by word of mouth. This is the fourth time of putting it on. It is hoped that through joint planning with NLP, it can be a beginning to an energy-filled cultural exchange between the two countries. Doing so will achieve the dual aim of promoting library education and increasing cultural exchange between the two countries.

The opening ceremony to the exhibition was held at the new NLP building. Taiwan representative to Poland, Bob Chen, was invited to attend and to speak during the opening ceremony. Ambassador Chen thanked NLP for their help with this exhibition, and highly praised the important significance that this exhibition has on cultural exchange between the two countries. NLP Director General Tomasz Makowski thanked the special guests from different sectors of the Polish society for their support of the exhibition and stated he hopes the two libraries, and even the two countries, can enjoy a closer and deeper collaboration.

In an effort to deepen relations, in 2022 the two libraries decided to collaborate on this exhibition, giving the knowledge in NCL's rare collections an opportunity to come to Eastern Europe. Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng mentioned that a major draw for this exhibition was the book *Flora Sinensis* that NLP has in its collection, which was written by 17th century Polish missionary, Rev. Michał Piotr Boym. It was the first book in Europe to show what plant life existed in the Far East. This book was the impetus in adding in the “Connections between Chinese and Western Civilizations” area. NCL added the ancient book *Forms of Metals, Minerals, Insects and Plant* and *An Overview of Astronomy* and others from its