

Italy, Germany, Japan, and China gathered together to report on special topics. The topics included research on the history of geography, sinology and Chinese interpretation, and the travel records of Western missionaries, Eastern and Western travelers' experiences, modern cross-cultural text research, modern Chinese literary creation and criticism, translation studies, publishing culture, cultural and material studies, transnational influence and comparison of educational and political systems, transnational literature, cultural conflict, gender and literature, Christianity in the history of academic and cultural exchanges in Asia, etc.

During the event, scholars also visited the Pontifical Library and museums under the arrangement of Taiwan's representative office in the Vatican City to enhance bilateral exchanges. The National Central Library hopes, through the cooperation on this occasion, to organize a series of activities such as international academic seminars, lectures, book fairs, and cultural visits, highlighting the cooperative relationship between the National Central Library and the Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies, and also to enable Taiwan's capacity for academic activities and its research results to flourish on the world stage.



Chien-Ju Chou, Director of the National Central Library, Representative Lee Sing Ying of the Taiwan Representative Office in Italy and Director Sonja Mei Tin Huang of the Monumenta Serica Sinology Research Center, Fu Jen Catholic University.

■ **Ninth Hsuanlan Forum Held in Taipei: Scholars and Experts from Both Sides of the Taiwan Strait Jointly Discuss the Inheritance of the Ancient and the Creation of the New in Relation to Traditional Chinese Culture**

The 2022 Ninth Cross-Strait Hsuanlan Forum was organized by the National Central Library, and

was successfully held in Taipei and Nanjing, both physically and online. The forum was jointly organized by the National Central Library and Nanjing Library, and China's Tongfang Knowledge Network was invited to co-organize. More than 100 scholars, experts and people from all walks of life from both sides of the Taiwan Strait attended the event, with the theme of "Inheriting the Past and Opening up the New - Casting the Classics." Create new styles to address issues. Develop friendly exchanges. The scale of the forum was grand, with 14 scholars and experts from both sides of the Taiwan Strait and the United States giving keynote speeches. The conference focused on two sub-themes, namely: (1) Casting classics: refinement and dissemination of old learning models. (2) Creating new styles: new thinking, new systems and innovation among libraries. Guests from both sides of the strait and the United States delivered speeches around the forum's theme and sub-themes and gave three special speeches, writing a new chapter in cultural exchanges between the two sides of the strait.



National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng delivers remarks at the opening ceremony of the Ninth Hsuanlan Forum.

The Taiwan part of this forum was held physically in the National Central Library, while the Nanjing session was pre-recorded. Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of the National Central Library said that, with the rapid development of information technology, the cross-strait library worlds can cooperate across borders, keep pace with the times, and lead the development of libraries, in addition to strengthening the cooperation and friendship between cross-strait libraries and academic circles and cultural classics full of cultural elements. This forum, she said, brought together the wisdom and insights of many scholars

and experts, creating a new look for the future development of the library and all the more expectation that it can create platforms for the two sides of the strait to promote reading and strengthen the classics.



Opening ceremony of the Ninth Hsuanlan Forum.

Events

■ Taiwan's First Multi-Creative Library Space: National Central Library Launches Its Open Lab

National Central Library launched an Open Lab (address: 14 F, 4 Xiushan Street, Zhongzheng District, Taipei) in order to expand its services to a greater age range and to meet the needs of makers and teenagers. On November 19, 2022 in the afternoon it held the opening ceremony and formally opened its doors to the public. Open Lab provides a space for exploration, learning, experience, creation, and sharing. It boasts a variety of different creative research spaces and provides an array of software and hardware tools. The public can bring their creative ideas to life, enjoy many types of experiences, and display the multilayered values of creative works. This is the new base in Taiwan for bringing together reading and various creative endeavors.

Ministry of Education Administrative Deputy Minister Teng-Chiao Lin shared some remarks, during which he said that the Ministry of Education has been promoting innovative teaching in the schools, as well as emphasizing the need for social education. National Central Library's Arts and Audiovisual Center took advantage of the facilities switch to morph into Open Lab. Its diverse service offerings can encourage more people to utilize its technology equipment to get involved in making and creating. The public can make use of the space and equipment to bring their ideas to life, to create multilayered values, and increase Taiwan's competitive edge. The Center's success model can

be a reference point for municipal and county public libraries wishing to create a maker space of their own.



National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng introduces the scope and services of Open Lab.

Innovative services: A lowering of service age, lending services opened, operation hours extended

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that the lab is different than National Central Library's main facilities. The age appropriateness was dropped from 16 to 6, and if those younger than 6 are accompanied by a parent, they can also enter the Lab. The Lab provides not only language learning books, comics, and audio-visual materials for reading and use in the library but also has purchased travel literature and books on creative techniques; it also has lending services, so patrons can take the books home with them. In terms of space, there is a digital creations area, a comic creation area, a crafts area, wood working area, individual and parent/child live-stream studios, group practice rooms, group discussion rooms, an exhibition area, learning commons, and a creative research space. It also provides 3D printing, illustration software and hardware, sewing machines, heat presses, wood working tools, laser engraving machines, and live-streaming and audio-visual post-production studios. In response to the needs of specific age groups, it is open until 9 pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays, which is later than the art center or the audio-visual center.



The opening ceremony for Open Lab.