

libraries in the world is continue expanding services as multifaceted and appropriate educational values gradually take root in society. The development of global information technology also helps libraries support reading whilst supporting creative learning with one's mind and hands. It is NCL's hope that people with different learning dispositions can grow and be inspired because of their making use of societal resources such as libraries and maker labs. Director-General Tseng further stated that the National Central Library embraces the value of reading and hopes that it can create a space for making where learners and the public can explore, learn, experience, share, and stimulate their creative thoughts. NCL's booth at this year's exhibition is aimed at helping the public enjoy an easy and interesting way of doing through playing and learning through doing, experience and understand how to acquire new knowledge from reading, learn new abilities, and further obtain more energy to create. The General-Director also welcomed everyone and encouraged parents to bring their children to NCL's booth to have a new and different experience in creating things with their hands.

Administrative Deputy Minister of Education Teng-chiao Lin stated in his remarks it is meaningful that this year's TiBE began after Chinese New Year. A new year filled with new hope sees the National Central Library showcase its exhibition "NCL Starts a New Chapter: A New Opportunity for Makers." Libraries provide the public with opportunities to read, research, learn, and make oneself better. In this new age and open society, opportunities in life are ubiquitous. There are some stories about makers who, through diligence in learning, trying, and creating at the Maker Lab, successfully turned their lives around. Deputy Minister Lin hopes that in the future, the National Central Library's successful experience with this maker lab can provide a blueprint for other county and city libraries in creating many more successful maker labs throughout the island.

Attendance at the opening ceremony included Deputy Minister Lin, the Department Chief of Lifelong Education, and the Chairman of the Taipei Book Fair Foundation, in addition to ambassadors from our ally nations Saint Vincent

and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Eswatini. Also, representatives from the India Taipei Association and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Czech Republic were present. A special invitation was extended to a sand artist to perform at the opening ceremony and show the content of these new services at NCL's Open Lab. Guests in attendance and the public were in awe. The ceremony was well attended and full of surprises.



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



At group photo with special guests at the National Central Library's opening ceremony for "NCL Starts a New Chapter: A New Opportunity for Makers" at 2023 TiBE.

■ Great International Books are Found in Taiwan: NCL Proactively Sought out Donations from Poland, Korea, and Thailand

The National Central Library has been vigorously promoting reading and international cultural exchanges

for some time now. Each year during TiBE, it proactively seeks donations from the countries with booths. This year it received donations from Poland (the 2023 TiBE Guest of Honor), Korea, and Thailand. The donations were made on January 31 during NCL's opening ceremony for its exhibition "NCL Starts a New Chapter: A New Opportunity for Makers."

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that TiBE is the best bridge for connecting countries through reading. Each participating country gathers the best and most interesting books of all types to showcase to Taiwan readers. But because the exhibition is only a week, if the great books that represent each country could be permanently stored at NCL after the exhibition, it would be a great boon in helping Taiwan publishers in understanding publications, literature, society, economics, and art in other countries. It would also be extremely helpful for local libraries in selecting foreign books for purchase.



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■ National Central Library's OPEN LAB awarded 2023 American Library Association Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Project

Book donations received at this year's TiBE included 35 books on art and illustrated stories from the Guest of Honor Poland. The Korean Publishers Association, Darakwon, Inc., Gozknock Entertainment, and the Bombom Publishing Corporation donated around 500 literature studies,

language studies, and illustrated books. The Thai Publishers Association and Avocado Books from Thailand's booth donated around 300 novels and children's books. This will be happily made available to patrons.

The National Central Library's "Future Makers Incubator for All—A Newly Launched Open Lab Multimedia Center of National Central Library, Taiwan" is awarded "the 2023 American Library Association (ALA) Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Project." ALA was founded in 1876. Headquartered in Chicago, it is one of the oldest and largest library association in the world. The ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects began as an ALA Presidential initiative of Dr. Lorlene Roy, ALA President in 2007-2008 and Notable IRRT Member. Citations are awarded each year by the ALA President at the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) International Librarians Reception during the ALA Annual Conference to recognize innovative contributions to international librarianship. IRRT is a Round Table of the American Library Association with a mission to develop the interests of librarians in activities and problems in the field of international library relations.

In 2010, IRRT was invited to collaborate with future ALA Presidents in the nomination and award process. At this time, a decision was made to change the previous title, ALA Presidential Citation for International Innovation to ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects. Two of the primary considerations are that the project can continue indefinitely and that it can be a model for other libraries. National Central Library previously received this citation in 2011, 2015, 2020 for its projects "E-Publication Platform System", "Taiwan Centers for Chinese Studies" (set up around the globe), "Igniting the Public's Passion for Reading" respectively. This year "2023" marks the fourth time of receiving the ALA presidential citation. OPEN LAB is one of two projects to win awards this year. The award will be presented on June 26, 2023, at America's Chicago Public Library.

The features of OPEN LAB include:

- (1) Open to all, regardless of age; young people, the