

involving speeches, new book releases, Taiwan Reading Festival readings, book fairs and other promotional activities. The National Central Library was delighted to serve in this way as a platform for international cultural exchange, and, through various different types of reading and listening activities, to drive improvements in citizens' cognitive learning and appreciation of life. She deeply believed, she said, that Taiwan French Month French Film Festival would once again bring the Taiwan public a brilliant, rich visual feast and represented a tremendous opportunity to get to know the diverse francophone culture and its values.

On the opening day, March 2, over 300 people attended; students and teachers from francophone circles and elementary schools and francophile members of the public, coming together for the occasion and enjoying the two films Marona's Fantastic Tale (*L'extraordinaire voyage de Marona*) and the opener, *Unrest*, experiencing the rich and diverse cultural content of French as it is interpreted and plays out in different countries. Screenings continued, on March 3 and 4, of such choice cinematic works of various countries as *Forward* (France), *Summer of 85* (France), *The Elephant and the Butterfly* (Belgium), *Les blagues de Toto* (Luxembourg) and *Matthias & Maxime* (Canada).



Taiwan French Month French Film Festival, opening ceremony. Group photo of distinguished guests.



Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of the National Central Library delivers remarks.

■ Embassy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Donates Books to the National Central Library

In order to promote cultural exchanges between friendly states and help Taiwan to popularize diversified English-language reading and learning, the Embassy of Saint Vincent, hereafter 'Saint Vincent') donated books to the National Central Library on December 1. In addition to the ambassador, other diplomats, advisors and secretaries from the Embassy of Saint Vincent, ambassadors and other diplomats from such nations as Saint Lucia, the Kingdom of Eswatini, and Haiti, as well as Taiwan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui visited the book donation ceremony and delivered remarks. Also attending the event were cultural ambassadors from Saint Vincent and the president and chief executive of The Association of Students and Overseas Chinese of Saint Vincent as well as figures from information studies and education circles.

Dr. the Honorable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent delivered a speech to the ceremony by pre-recorded video, expressing great delight to be able to address the people of Taiwan at this opportunity presented by the Embassy of Saint Vincent donating books to the National Central Library. On this occasion, Saint Vincent donated 11 volumes of its superior works, two volumes of which were authored by Prime Minister Gonsalves. Prime Minister Gonsalves shared the background

of his writing with enthusiasm and sincerity. In addition to introducing these two books, he also firmly expressed his stance of support for the Taiwan government and people.

Saint Vincent also especially arranged for Peggy Carr, the nation's permanent cultural ambassador to Taiwan and the author of another of the donated books, to read from her works at the event. In addition, in order to promote the integration of culture-related books into teaching and cultural learning fields, and illustrate the relevant benefits for domestic teachers to observe and consult, it was arranged for P'ei-lin T'an and Pai-yu Yeh, two students from Yongan Elementary School, to demonstrate with a reading from the Saint Vincent children's English picture book *Flippity Floppity Wing*.

Director-General Tseng, in addition to thanking Ambassador Andrea Bowman for the book donation and related arrangements, expressed particularly sincere thanks to Prime Minister Gonsalves for pre-recording his comments on the book donation activity. The Director-General said that the prime minister's discussion and commentary expressing his support for Taiwan and its people were truly very significant for Taiwan. At the same time, she said, it was also deeply significant as regards Saint Vincent's and the National Central Library's joint dedication to promoting reading attainments and bilateral cultural understanding, and staunchly declared that the National Central Library was extremely honored to have become a solid collaborative partner with Saint Vincent in the promotion of reading and the advancement of cultural exchanges and would continue to cooperate intimately with the embassies of its diplomatic allies to create a fruitful future. The National Central Library would also, by sharing books and cultural resources, strive with its diplomatic allies to support cultural learning and English education, eliminating distances and barriers between people.



Director-General Tseng pictured in a group photo with ambassadors and other distinguished guests following the book donation ceremony.

■ Taiwan's Reading Atmosphere and Reading Engagement in 2022: The Reading Power of the Whole Nation Recovered, and the Use of Public Library Entities and Websites Grew Comprehensively

The 2022 Annual Report on Reading Atmosphere and Reading Engagement in Taiwan press conference was formerly held on March 29, 2022, in the International Conference Hall of the National Central Library. The event provided analysis of the reading ability and reading interests of Taiwan's population in 2022. Analysis of the reading ability of the whole people by means of statistics of public library operations and services was undertaken and, in relation to a total of 132 aspects, commendations were issued for "cities with excellent performance in overall reading ability" and "cities with excellent performance in reading ability sub-items." The press conference was launched with a wonderful dance performance, "Jump into the Different World of Book City," by New Taipei City Tucheng District Guangfu Elementary School's dance troupe.

Ming-yu Lin, Political Deputy Minister of Education delivered remarks in which he shared his own experience of reading and encouraged the entire nation to read. As he did so, he said that the Ministry of Education has long been committed to promoting the construction and development of public libraries and improving the reading ethos of the whole nation, in order to build a scholarly society for lifelong