

On the opening day, it was arranged for hand-woven tablecloths by artists of Belize’s indigenous Maya people to be presented at the scene to six outstanding women in Taiwan from various countries, including Director of the American Institute in Taiwan Sandra Oudkirk, Representative Jenny Bloomfield from Australia, Ambassador Andrea Bowman of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Saint Vincent for short), Ambassador Pitts of Belize, Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and Ch’en-i T’ien, President of Welcome to Taipei International Club. On this occasion, the Embassy of Belize arranged for that country’s National Institute for Culture and History to invite sculptors to produce creative work on the theme “Inspiration: the Soaring of Six Belizean Women,” to show-case the power, beauty and spirit of the country’s women, to present women in relation to their outstanding contributions to their national culture, history and development, and, transcending great distances, transported the fruits of their labors to Taiwan by air to strengthen the cultural friendship between Taiwan and Belize.



Belizean ambassador to Taiwan Candice Pitts presents Mayan tablecloths to five outstandingly accomplished representatives of women’s power.

The exhibition was shown from March 1 to March 31 in the second floor reading room of the National Central Library, presenting the unique charm of Belizean culture and the beauty of the nation’s women. The exhibition area was divided into four large sections, including: Introduction to the Accomplishments of Outstanding Women in Various Fields in Belize, the themed sculptures of Inspiration: the Soaring of Six Belizean Women, Painting in Taiwanese and Belizean Cultural

Styles, Exhibit of Woven Handicrafts and Mayan Tablecloths, as well as the Exhibit of Books from Belizean Research Series.

■ Collaborating with Organizations from Six Countries in Taiwan to Curate a Themed Film Exhibition: Taiwan French Month French Film Festival

The National Central Library collaborated with six Taiwan-based organizations and embassies, such as *Alliance Française de Taïwan* to coordinate with francophone and francophone cultural moment series of events held around the world in March, selecting seven francophone films to launch the film pageant, the 2023 Taiwan French Month French Film Festival (*Festival du film francophone*). The opening ceremony began with the voices of lively children singing French songs. It had been arranged for students from three schools—Taipei Minzu Elementary School, Taipei European School and Lycée International Français de Taipei — to sing two lively and upbeat songs together. The seven representatives of the joint organizers who attended the opening ceremony were: Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of the National Central Library; Director Mr. Frédéric Verheyden of The Belgian Office, Taipei; Martin Laflamme, Director (Political and Cultural Affairs) at the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei; Jean-Francois Casabonne-Masonnave, Director of Bureau Français de Taipei; H.E. Ambassador Roudy Stanley Penn of the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti; Tania Berchem, Director, Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office, Taipei, and Claudia Fontana Tobiassen, Deputy Director of the Trade Office of Swiss Industries. Each of them delivered remarks at the ceremony on March 2.

Director-General Tseng said that language is the basis of culture and also the crystallization of culture. The development of various language families around the world, moreover, not only facilitated cultural evolution, but also enriched the civilization of mankind. Through language as the carrier and soul of culture, our world view became more diverse. The National Central Library had always maintained close cultural and educational exchanges and cooperation with overseas missions in Taiwan,

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