

■ Foreign Scholars Visit the OPEN LAB Multimedia Center

In order to assist Ministry of Foreign Affairs Taiwan Scholarship scholars and the National Central Library's sponsorship of foreign Sinology scholars in Taiwan in using the equipment and environment of the multimedia innovation and experimentation center (OPEN LAB) newly installed by the National Central Library in 2023, the library arranged on the morning of January 18th for scholars to visit the center.

First of all, colleagues from OPEN LAB guided the students in using the center's space and introduced the process of booking various facilities, the reading space for various creative books, discussion rooms, recording and broadcasting rooms, creative experiment spaces, etc. After the tour, and in groups, the students experienced hand-craft experience courses, involving sewing machines, mug heat transfer printing, and badge machines. At the same time, OPEN LAB's other equipment and reading space prompted scholars to stop, visit and learn more about center colleagues. This activity was the first for the scholars in 2023. There were 20 scholars from 14 countries. They participated enthusiastically and said that they would make more use of the functions and space of this center.



Group photo of foreign scholars at the entrance to OPEN LAB.

■ 2023 Spring Festival Reception for Visiting Scholars

The National Central Library's Center for Chinese Studies held the 2023 Spring Festival

Reception for Visiting Scholars in the Breezeway on the 3rd floor of the Art Center at noon on February 8, inviting 41 Ministry of Foreign Affairs Taiwan scholars and their spouses, six Center for Chinese Studies scholars and their spouses, 15 officials and distinguished guests from the Department of Policy Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and more than 70 colleagues from the National Central Library, totaling more than 70 scholars, all under the same roof as the year got underway. Interacting with conversation while savoring culinary delights, they shared their research experiences in Taiwan.



Group photo of 2023 Chinese New Year Exchange Tea Party for Foreign Visiting Scholars.

For the occasion, the NCL arranged for Orchestra to bring the song "Jubilation" to open the event. A series of traditional music performances such as "Blissful Harmony" and "Peach Blossom Takes the Ferry" were interspersed between speeches, a lottery, and riddles, and, finally, with an encore piece, "The Flight of the Bumble-Bee," the wonderful *erhu* and bamboo flute ensemble performance won an impassioned ovation!

Chief Grace Ya-kuang Chang from the Department of Policy Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened the event with remarks in which she noted the impact of the pandemic era and the Russia-Ukraine war, which had greatly changed the lifestyles and interpersonal relations of people around the world. She said that, on this day, those present had been brought together under one roof from all over the world and should fully cherish this rare opportunity. She wished each Taiwan scholar success in their studies, great enjoyment of Taiwan's Spring Festival atmosphere and a rich experience of Taiwan life.