

On the 17th, local time, the National Central Library organized a scholarly exchange activity. Many scholars who had visited Taiwan for research purposes, as well as cooperating sections of Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies, which is part of the international framework, were also invited to attend. Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng personally led colleagues in various related fields at the venue to conduct exchanges with scholars from various countries on introducing the displaying of books, Taiwan-related academic resources, programs for scholars' applying to conduct research in Taiwan, cooperation in academic activities, and use of Taiwan libraries. While sipping Taiwan oolong tea, many scholars also shared tidbits about their past experience in Taiwan. Also present were young scholars who plan to come to Taiwan for research. All deeply agreed that Taiwan can continue amid the difficult international situation to develop in terms of the depth of academic research, freedom of publication, and integration with international academic standards appropriate to a starting point for research.

### ■ National Central Library Collaborates with the Boston Public Library (BPL) to Set Up Taiwan Corner with Taiwan Publications

In order to strengthen cooperation with libraries in different countries and to broaden scopes of international exchanges, on March 13, 2023, Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of the National Central Library went to the Boston Public Library (BPL) in the US to set up Taiwan Corner with Taiwan publications. On behalf of BPL, Collection Management, Analysis & Selection Supervisor Ms. Melissa Andrews expressed her gratitude for the donation of books to increase the richness of BPL's collection, and both parties looked forward to more cooperation and exchanges between the two libraries in the future.



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## Events

### ■ 2023 Belize Culture Month & Women's Month Exhibition Launched at NCL

On March 1, 2023, the National Central Library, the Embassy of Belize in Taiwan and the Central America Trade Office came together at the National Central Library on the eve of International Women's Day and formally unveiled a prologue, the 2023 Belize Culture Month & Women's Month Exhibition. The purpose of this exhibition was to promote social progress through the power of women. The National Central Library and the Embassy of Belize in Taiwan jointly organized the Culture Month and Women's Month themed exhibition, deepening bilateral exchanges. In addition to Belize Ambassador to Taiwan Candice Pitts and Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of the National Central Library, the event was attended by many diplomatic envoys and ambassadors to Taiwan as well as Taiwan Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui, celebrating International Women's Day through cultural exchanges.



*Group photo of distinguished guests, opening ceremony, 2023 Belize Culture Month & Women's Month Exhibition.*

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,