

In her own remarks, Director-General Tseng said that she sincerely welcomed the directors, deputy directors and fellow representatives of national libraries from eight countries, including the UK, Germany, Canada, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Singapore. She thanked former directors Fang-rung Juang, Wen-Lu Wang and Kuan Chung Huang for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend, and expressed great happiness at seeing directors and other colleagues who had retired from the NCL. She expressed her belief that everyone would remember their hard work during their service at the NCL and be filled with memories. She also expressed her heartfelt thanks to the library's partners for building the achievements of the NCL throughout the course of the past 90 years.



Opening Ceremony for Treasures of Knowledge: NCL's 90th Anniversary Exhibition.

■ Writing about Taiwan through Danqing: The National Central Library and India Taipei Association Hold the “Exhibition of Hua Niao Paintings”

The National Central Library and India Taipei Association, from July 7 to 14, 2023, held the “Exhibition of Hua Niao Paintings by Harsha Dass: From Strokes to Shapes.” At the opening ceremony on July 6, apart from figures from Taiwan and Indian cultural, educational and business circles, others who participated enthusiastically were diplomatic envoys posted in Taiwan and Taiwan's own Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of the National Central Library said that the library regards knowledge, culture, learning, experience, innovation

and cooperation as its core values, and hopes to open up international exchanges and expand its global influence. In the past decade or so, therefore, it had maintained close interactive cooperation with embassies and representative offices of various countries in Taiwan, including promoting multi-faceted exchange activities, such as exhibitions and events involving reading, language and culture. In recent years, with the support of Gourangalal Das, Director-General of the India Taipei Association, the National Central Library had collaborated with the India Taipei Association on various events. These included the successful “Contemporary India: Talk Series,” held in 2019, and the remarkable “INDIA from the Eyes of Taiwan Photography Exhibition,” in July 2022, as well as the planning, in 2023, of this “Exhibition of Hua Niao Paintings by Harsha Dass: From Strokes to Shapes,” further revealing the commitment to promote cultural exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and India; Director-General Gourangalal Das deserved great credit.



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

The principal creator of this exhibition, Ms. Harsha Dass, wife of Director-General Das, has lived in Taiwan for the past three years. She not only integrated herself into local life in order to learn Chinese conversation, but also regarded Taiwan as her home, even exploring ink and wash painting, which she had never encountered in India, expanding her artistic horizons from oil painting and mixed media to traditional Chinese *danqing* painting. She also likes to use her camera to capture the beauty of Taiwan and explore local art. With her brush, she not only captures the charming scenery of Taiwan, but also reflects her friendship for the people of Taiwan and her lived experience here.



Distinguished guests tour the exhibition.



Group photo with distinguished guests at the opening ceremony.

Events

■ **Never Stop Reading: the Embassy of St. Lucia Presents the National Central Library with 15 Archetypal Works** **Never Stop Reading: the Embassy of St. Lucia Presents the National Central Library with 15 Archetypal Works**

On May 30, 2023, in the International Conference Hall on the third floor of its arts and culture center, the National Central Library conducted Book Donation Ceremony: Embassy of Saint Lucia. The Embassy of St. Lucia donated a total of 15 volumes, including works by the country’s Nobel Prize winners and books recommended by the embassy. Distinguished guests in attendance included Ambassador Dr. Robert Lewis from the Embassy of Saint Lucia, Ambassador Dr. Andrea Bowman, Dean of the Diplomatic Corp from the Embassy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ambassador Dr. Candice Augusta Pitts from the Embassy of Belize, Ambassador Donya Lynex Francis from the Embassy of Saint Christopher and Nevis, Deputy Minister Alexander Tah-ray Yui of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and representatives from other embassies and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Dr. Robert Lewis from the Embassy of Saint Lucia mentioned as he delivered remarks that he was grateful to the National Central Library for accepting the donation and hoped that the Nobel Prize winners’ books donated to the library would record and depict St. Lucia’s social development, economic changes and cultural dynamics. He hoped, he said, to invite Taiwanese and foreign friends in Taiwan to immerse themselves in the world of books, shorten the distance with Taiwanese readers, and let “reading never stop”. Delivering his own remarks, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui said that it was an honor to witness the ceremony in which the embassy donated books to the National Central Library. He mentioned that amid the current vigorous development of science and technology and at a time of the publication of a large number of e-books, it seemed extremely precious to be able to read physical books.

Ambassador Lewis noted that three of the donated books were by Nobel laureates, including Derek Anton Walcott, while one was by politician Calixte George Sr. He said he hoped the donations would enhance the Taiwan people’s understanding of the people of St. Lucia. They should also help to foster friendship and cooperation between the two peoples, he said. They should serve as instruments of “cultural diplomacy,” and a token of the ever-growing friendship between the two diplomatic allies.

The Ambassador of St. Lucia’s book donation ceremony coincided with National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng’s absence overseas promoting inter-library cooperation between the library and European countries, as well as with exchanges in sinological research in Taiwan. Deputy Director-General Chih-tsung Weng accepted Ambassador Lewis’s immensely kind donation. Deputy Director-General Weng said that the 15 volumes of donated books included the works of the country’s Nobel Prize-winning authors in literature and economics, as well as various books on history, culture and political issues, children’s books, novels and works in various other academic fields. He believed, he said, that the National Central Library’s cooperation and promotion of reading were bound to deepen cultural exchanges and in-depth understanding between the peoples of the two countries.