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## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ **The Ministry of Education’s National Taiwan Public Library Development Conference Discusses the Operational Development and Specialist Services of Public Libraries**

In order to establish a national public library service exchange platform, create and deepen the development orientation of libraries, and promote inter-library cooperation, the Ministry of Education invited the National Library of Public Information to undertake the third National Taiwan Public Library Development Conference on June 7 and 8. With the theme of Transcending the Library, Creating new Horizons, the conference invited the directors of the main libraries of national public libraries nationwide and the heads of the culture and education bureaus in charge of library services. The heads of service organizations participated, together exploring the operational development and professional services of public libraries.

Political Deputy Minister of Education Ming-Yu Lin, said that as venues for collecting knowledge and promoting lifelong learning, libraries must constantly introduce new technological services in response to changes in population structure, digital development trends, and other global trends; through integration of modern smart applications and library services, a new type of library business model had emerged just at the right time, and led the population’s reading patterns, which had evolved from the reading on paper of the past to digital reading. This digital wave would not only bring new challenges to libraries, but would also be a new opportunity to promote the regaining of the population’s enthusiasm for reading.

The conference arranged for two scholars to give special lectures, including How to Make ChatGPT Assist Reading, Teaching and Library Operations and A Century of Enlightenment, the Power of Words—From “Taiwan Consciousness” to “Taiwan Local Language Consciousness,” and, in group discussions, the four major topics: Cross-border Cooperation to Create a Win-win Situations, “Multiple Mother Tongue Reading Island, Cross-border Visit Benchmark Sharing” and “Light up

the Sharing of Reading joy.” Three library directors from Tainan, Kaohsiung, and Taoyuan, for example, shared how, through the business model of cross-border cooperation, libraries expand the service diversity of public libraries and create a cultural field of a new era.

### ■ **Central Taiwan’s First “Film Library”! Shalu Shenbo Branch Renewed and Opened in Early June**

The Shalu Shenbo Branch of the Taichung City Library, the first in central Taiwan with a “film” theme, has undergone a one-year renovation process funded by a budget of NT\$32.23 million allocated by the city government and a NT\$1 million contribution from the local company WeiDan Cultural and Educational Foundation. The renovation included seismic strengthening, exterior wall repairs, elevator installation, and the upgrading of air conditioning equipment. The branch has been completely rejuvenated and was reopened with a ceremony in early June this year.

Originally donated by the WeiDan Corporation in 1990, the Shalu Shenbo Branch has now been reopened as not only a general library but also a cinema. It boasts a collection of 1,627 film posters, 24 35mm film reels, and 2K laser projection equipment on par with cinema standards. Additionally, it houses Taichung’s first individual “audiovisual cabin,” offering citizens personalized audiovisual services.

Due to the original limited space of the Shalu Shenbo Branch, which was inadequate for its purpose, an extension of 50 ping (about 165 square meters) has been added. The first floor now accommodates an expanded senior reading area, a children's reading zone, a service counter, while the second floor features a film-themed collection section. The branch has also planned outdoor reading spaces, open-shelf reading areas, audiovisual rooms, and group viewing rooms. Moreover, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for climate action, outdated air conditioning systems have been replaced to achieve energy efficiency and carbon reduction. Furthermore, to promote gender equality (SDGs 5), the branch includes family restrooms and gender-friendly designs adhering to a 1:4 ratio for male and

female restrooms, creating a secure and comfortable reading environment.

### ■ **Tainan’s Most Exquisite Historical Library: West Central District Library Receives the 2023 Yuan-Ye Award**

Since its inauguration in September 2022, the West Central District Library in Tainan City has garnered widespread praise from online users, being hailed as the “most stunning historical library in Taiwan.” Its sophisticated and imaginative spatial design has captivated the interest of 430,000 visitors, establishing it as a sought-after destination for photography and check-ins in Tainan.

The first floor of the West Central District Library is dedicated to the 228 Memorial Hall, hosting a permanent exhibition on “Justice and Courage,” which delves into the history of the 228

Incident and the post-war democratic pursuits. The library’s second and third floors are meticulously arranged with distinct zones, encompassing a children’s area, audiovisual section, human rights corner, space for seniors and periodicals, and a dedicated youth area. The third-floor open-shelf reading space reinvigorates the historical ambiance of the former Chousei Council Hall through an innovative incorporation of catwalk-inspired designs. This approach generates an expansive and airy ambiance, accentuated by broad bookshelves. The overarching aim of this spatial transformation, coupled with the integration of novel library functionalities, is not only to prolong the historical narrative of the heritage site but also to rejuvenate its historical essence, shifting from a politically oriented public space to a shared public realm, dedicated to reading and accessible to all.



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