

Taiwan Soka Association Deputy Director Yi-hsiao Lu stated in his remarks he was thankful for NCL's understanding and support of TSA. He also wished NCL a happy 90th anniversary, with the hope that it would continue on to 100 and beyond. Sustainable development is an issue everyone must face. From climate change and economic growth to social equity, none of us is unaffected or alone in an ivory tower. He hoped that everyone could begin to act together—starting from one and beginning with the heart.

The last speaker was the former deputy head of the government affairs committee of the Ocean Affairs Council and tenured professor at National Chung Hsing University Ching-piao Tsai, who spoke on SDGs. The title of his speech was “SDGs for Marine Sustainability: Taiwan’s Model.” The audience left greatly inspired by Prof. Tsai’s incisive and moving remarks.

The core concept of the exhibition was “Start from One; Begin with Your Heart.” There were four main sections of the exhibition: the entrance, the main display, an interactive area, and the results area. The entrance showcased the origins and ideas behind the exhibition, and the meaning of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main display had the stories of eight activists from Taiwan and abroad and encouraged visitors to begin by working to change the environment around them. The interactive area used games to teach about the SDGs and how to achieve them in one’s own life. The results area showed how undergraduate and graduate students were achieving the SDGs in their lives. Promoting SDGs is a global trend and universal value. NCL hopes that this opportunity to collaborate with the Taiwan Soka Association will help develop more social responsibility, and that through the diverse and interactive content will inspire more of the public to follow suite in focusing on the hopeful future of sustainable development.



*A group photo of dignitaries at the exhibition.*

## ■ MOFA Taiwan Fellowship First Presentation Held in May

On May 16, 2023, in the National Central Library’s Briefing Room, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held this year’s first MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Presentation, with the theme of the International Security Situation and Indo-Pacific Strategy. The meeting was chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Ambassador Andy Kang-I Chen, while Deputy Minister Chung-kwang Tien was invited to deliver remarks. Shu-hsien Tseng, Director-General of the National Central Library was present. In his speech, Deputy Minister Tien told the 100 fellows who received the award this year that he hopes to expand Taiwan’s diplomatic vision through their research here, and hoped, at the presentation, to gain a deeper understanding of the relationships and different perspectives shared between Taiwan and the world.

The first speaker was Mr. Jean-Francois Di Meglio, President of the Asia Centre in Paris. The topic of his presentation was, How Would Europe Fit in a “Managed Strategic Competition”? He argued that the French concept of “Indo-Pacific” is slightly different from the undoubtedly confrontational approach articulated by the United States, which, he said, basically focuses more on a strategy of “negative reinforcement” against China. A discussant, Professor Dr. Tailin Chang, Department of Public Affairs, Fo Guang University, responded to two aspects of his speech: how does Europe integrate into the international “control strategy,” and the role of the EU in cross-strait relations.

The topic of the second speaker, Dr. Hyun Seung Cho, assistant research fellow at Korea Association of Military Studies, Korea, was Taiwan in South Korea’s Indo-Pacific Strategy. He pointed out that, although the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait is in the national interest of South Korea, its national security considerations make it difficult for South Korea to make stronger security commitments. Specifically, the costs of viewing China as a new military adversary, both directly threatening South Korea’s national security and indirectly countering North Korea, outweigh the benefits of enhanced defense commitments to Taiwan. Discussant Dr. Jyun-yi Lee, Associate Research Fellow, Division of National

Security Research, Institute for National Defense and Security Research, responded, saying that South Korea's role in supporting Taiwan in times of crisis is indeed limited, but maintaining a free, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region is conducive to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait region, and vice versa.

The topic of the third speaker, Dr. Aravind Yelery, Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi, was Regional and Subnational Attributes to Reinvent Indo-Pacific. He said that, in relation to Indo-Pacific strategy, because of the intensification of global trade and divergences of national interests, India's trade imbalance with China is daunting and intense so India is seeking a reliable partner. This partnership is expected to help India through a period of economic transition as well as external geo-economic fluctuations. Discussant Dr. Ming-Shih Shen, Acting Deputy CEO for research at INDSR and its Director of the Division of National Security Research, Institute for National Defense and Security Research, said that, economically, each region has its advantages, and these advantages, such as Taiwan's chip technology, India's semiconductor technology, etc., must be irreplaceable, through the reciprocity of economic benefits, to maintain what the presenter had termed "partnership."

The National Central Library's Center for Chinese Studies is charged with administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Taiwan Fellowship, available since 2010, more than 10 years ago. Organizing the Taiwan Fellowship Presentation has provided a channel for exchange of opinions between fellowship recipients and Taiwan academic institutions.



*A group photo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, Director-General Tseng, presenters and discussants.*

## ■ The Political Economy, Global Order, and World Development International Conference Comes to an End

The Taipei School of Economics and Political Science and NCL cohosted the Political Economy, Global Order, and World Development International Conference. It was held at the International Conference Room on May 5-6. A total of seven sessions of presentations and discussions were held, with attendees coming from the U.S., England, Indonesia, Singapore, Switzerland, China, and Taiwan. Presentations by important scholars were given both in person and online. Presenters explained their views on free economic order and theories on how this might lead to a dissolution of the political foundations of the old system. Content included influences from society and technology, or tangible economic influence. During the conference, discussion took place on the standards and values related to the conference's theme, geopolitics, domestic and foreign politics, aging populations and the environment, and experiences in the development of world trade. This provided the public with a deeper understanding of academic thought regarding topics on the mutual survival of Taiwan and the world.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng said in her remarks during the closing session that the National Central Library is responsible for the archival of books and materials in Taiwan and has a close relationship with academia. The various publications in its holdings include the newest additions given due to its role as a legal repository as well as other procurements regarding research on sustainable management, political economy, history, civilization, culture, and political information. Through the various archival platforms and information services at NCL, we can witness the success of political democracy in Taiwan's society as these resources are paid for by government funds and are free for the public to use. Furthermore, these resources provide education institutions in Taiwan and a variety of fields worldwide with more accessible and stable research resources. NCL is happy to play the role of knowledge promoter with the hope that academia can make more use of NCL's holdings.