

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.



*Director-General Tseng posing with an honored guest.*

### ■ Visiting Foreign Scholars Gather in Yilan, Experience Local Taiwanese Culture and Industry for Dragon Boat Festival

The NCL aimed to enhance the experience of its Research Grant recipients and the recipients of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Taiwan Fellowship during their research tenure by immersing them more profoundly in Taiwan's rich traditional culture and fostering a better understanding of the significance of the Dragon Boat Festival, a significant holiday in Taiwan. Additionally, our intention was to facilitate increased scholarly interaction. To achieve this objective, on June 14, 2023, a celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival was organized, along with a culturally enlightening excursion.

The scholars expressed substantial enthusiasm for this event and conveyed their heartfelt appreciation to the NCL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for orchestrating it. This event left an indelible mark on their memories of Taiwan, leading to a deeper understanding of the local cultural industries and contributing to the augmentation of their cultural experiences while residing in Taiwan.

The event was organized through a collaboration between the NCL's Center for Chinese Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These two entities orchestrated a comprehensive itinerary for the scholars, encompassing visits to the National Center for Traditional Arts and the Kavalan Distillery. Through exposure to traditional cultural crafts, artistic

presentations, and local industries, the scholars gained a profound appreciation for the cultural significance of the Dragon Boat Festival and the refined industry culture that accompanies it.

Initiating the activity, the scholars were guided to the National Center for Traditional Arts in Yilan, where they were engaged in crafting incense bags tailored for the Dragon Boat Festival. Here, they were also enlightened about the historical origins of these bags. As the festival falls at the advent of summer, the incense bags serve the dual purpose of repelling insects and snakes from households while also symbolizing the invocation of tranquility and the expulsion of malevolent forces. This gesture was designed to bestow upon these scholars from diverse corners of the world a sense of peace and felicity throughout their sojourn in Taiwan. Notably, Professor Daniela Zhang Cziráková from Slovakia conveyed her satisfaction in partaking in this event, sharing that despite her extensive research endeavors in various Asian countries, she had not previously had the privilege to immerse herself in the distinct ambiance of the Dragon Boat Festival. Crafting an incense bag enabled her to comprehend its cultural nuances and celebrate the occasion in Taiwan.

Subsequently, the cohort proceeded to the Kavalan Distillery, where a comprehensive tour was provided, followed by an opportunity to savor the locally produced whiskey. This engagement served to deepen the scholars' understanding of Taiwan's indigenous culture and industry. Expressing her enthusiasm, Professor Tobeckliwu Toby Nwachukwu Precious from Nigeria underscored the significance of this experience as not solely affording them insights into Taiwan's local customs, but also granting them the privilege to sample exceptional-quality spirits. She further emphasized Taiwan's exceptional reservoir of natural and cultural resources, which amplify the intrinsic worth of their research expedition.

In recent years, the global pandemic has posed substantial challenges to international exchanges. Scholars worldwide encountered hindrances in visiting Taiwan and bearing witness to its splendor. Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng highlighted, "Beyond observing Taiwan's commendable efforts in curbing the pandemic's spread, we envision