

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui said as he delivered his remarks 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. He thanked the embassy for being willing to donate books and enable the public to enjoy greater opportunities to read.

The books donated to the National Central Library on this occasion included works by two Nobel Prize winners from St. Lucia: Arthur Lewis, who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1979, and Derek Walcott, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1992. An introductory video about St. Lucia's May Reading Month event, as well as a video recorded by the books' authors and co-authors, were played at the book donation event to guide the guests in reading their contents.

## ■ National Central Library and Taiwan Soka Association Co-host SDGs X Seeds of Hope and Action

The National Central Library and the Taiwan Soka Association co-hosted SDGs X Seeds of Hope and Action. The opening ceremony was held on April 12 at NCL's Briefing Room. Dignitaries in attendance at the opening ceremony included NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, Taiwan Soka Association Deputy Director Yi-hsiao Lu, TSA Editorial Director Li-fang Li, Professor Ching-piao Tsai from National Chung Hsing University, Professor Tse Lin from National Taiwan University's Department of Electrical Engineering, and Principal Chia-tuan Wu from Affiliated Experimental Elementary School of University of Taipei.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng said during her remarks that NCL was extremely happy to be able to participate in this event, as well as to work with the Taiwan Soka Association to strive for more sustainable development globally. The library world began some time ago to work on sustainable management of the earth. During her time at the Taipei Public Library in 2006, Director-General Tseng created Taiwan's first green public library. This was later selected as one of the world's 25 most beautiful libraries.



*The ambassador of St. Lucia donates books to the National Central Library.*



*Group photo on the occasion of the Embassy of St. Lucia's donation of books to the National Central Library.*



*A group photo of attendees.*

NCL has expended no small effort in promoting the U.N.'s SDGs. In terms of space planning, physical facilities, services design, etc., NCL has actively worked with cultural institutions, schools, and community organizations to establish a variety of partnerships. These partnerships have strived to achieve the various aims of SDGs.

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