

In regard to the project, the personality traits, the quality of the people, and the cultural quality accumulated from scholarship in the humanities are the longest lasting soft and hard power. Compared to Chinese studies in mainland China, the “both local and international intercultural Chinese studies” developed in Taiwan is an important and self-evident bridge that steadies cross-strait interaction, as well as a critical asset in allowing Taiwan to step out and become the new Athens of Chinese culture. It is possible that it is also a means of safeguarding Taiwan’s subjectivity and is a life asset worth continually reevaluating and updating. The completion of this stage of the project owes our gratitude to those scholars who were interviewed and who did the interviews. I would like to thank everyone for leaving this scholarly record of “the past perhaps isn’t just smoke” on behalf of intercultural and international Chinese studies.

The first video played was the interview of researcher Fabian Heubel. Then, those present shared their thoughts on “An Age of Crisis and the Response of Chinese Studies” based on their own research field. Some looked at it from the angle of Daoist philosophy and European Chinese studies, Neo-Confucianism gradually being ignored and thus bringing about dialog on an intercultural crisis, and the cross-strait orientation’s effect on Chinese studies in the future. Lastly, NSYSU Center for the Humanities Director Mark McConaghy discussed his thoughts on symbiosis: whether it is the mutual support of each other’s research fields, or a cross-disciplinary approach, or cross-cultural collaboration—all are going in the direction of a future symbiosis for Chinese studies.



Scholars visiting the streets and alleys of Dadaocheng stories.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Smart Energy-Saving Library Appears in Taichung Shangfeng Library Upgrades to Net-zero Demonstration Site

In order to promote Taichung’s energy transformation and develop a smart, energy-saving life, Taichung City Government has joined hands with the Shangfeng library to build the country’s first smart, energy-saving library to combine “energy saving, energy storage, and energy creation.” Taichung City Government Economic Development Bureau September 19, 2023 held the “Energy Saving and Sustainability in Taichung, Smart Grid Takes Advantage of Maple Energy-Saving Results Press Conference.”

The Shangfeng library, representatives of the electricity-saving consultancy industry, and businesses involved in public welfare electricity-saving were invited to collaborate in starting to use the demonstration site and announcing the outstanding results of the 2022-2023 electricity-saving consultancy plan. The total annual energy savings generated by the plan are as high as five million kilowatt-hours, equivalent to annual electricity for more than 1,300 households and carbon emissions reductions of up to 2,400 metric tons per year.

The Shangfeng library is the first municipal library to adopt the theme of environmental education. It has won recognition with the domestic Yuan-Ye Award, the 2019 National Excellence in Construction Award for Best Planning and Design—Excellence Award and the 2023 US Muse Design Awards—Silver Award.

■ Linkou Children’s Library Open for Business from August 16

Lee Ko-Yung Memorial Library Linkou started construction in August 2020 to create New Taipei’s first exclusive reading space for children. The main building has two floors, with four themed children’s reading areas, a dynamic reading space on the first floor, and a sunken learning base as a story and parent-child interaction space connected to the outdoor sunlit reading room, allowing reading

activities to be extended outdoors; the sunlit reading area on the second floor and the shared study room for school-age students are the main book collection and learning space, while the reading school is used for lectures and as a children's experience space.

During the construction process, because of a shortage of work and materials due to the pandemic and rising prices, the project was delayed. The use license was finally obtained at the end of July and the library opened officially on August 16.

■ **Hualien Main Library Breaks Ground! The Old Library is Being Rebuilt on Its Original Site after 40 Years and Is Expected to be Completed by the End of 2026**

Since its completion in 1982, the Hualien County Cultural Affairs Bureau Library has been located on the Cultural Affairs Bureau site for 40 years. It has served as a companion to county residents over the years and harbors many local memories. As time goes by, however, the library gradually ages, and there are concerns about its

structural safety and functional inability to meet contemporary needs. In order to provide county residents with a higher quality reading and cultural environment, it was launched with joint funding from the Ministry of Education's "Project to Establish County and City Library Centers" and the Huadong District Sustainable Development Fund's "Comprehensive Development Implementation Plan."

Hualien County Main Library's scale plan, with a floor area of approximately 13,000 square meters, plans for one floor under ground and four above. The first underground floor is a parking lot, computer room and reading area for infants. The second to fourth floors are open-shelf reading areas. In addition, the first floor is planned to be a multi-functional hall, magazine and newspaper area and senior citizen area. The second floor is a multimedia audio-visual area and computer network area, youth reading area, discussion area, conference room, etc. There are self-study rooms, multi-functional performance center (black box theater), etc. on the third floor. At the same time, new information equipment will be introduced to provide more diverse, convenient, smooth-running services.



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