

management and development experience with the faculty, students, and library staff at KNU.



Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng speaking after the signing ceremony at Kyungpook National University.

■ Promoting the Beauty of Taiwanese Culture: NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng Links Arms with Publishers to Donate Books to the Seoul Metropolitan Library for a Taiwan Corner

In an effort to promote Taiwanese culture and customs, show forth Taiwan's soft power in publishing, and spur international exchange, on July 12, 2023, the National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng set up a Taiwan Corner at Seoul Metropolitan Library, one of the top libraries in Korea. SML's Information Section Head Seon Myeong-hwa received the donation. The Taipei Book Fair Foundation's board members were also invited to attend and witness this event as they were already visiting Korea on other business.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated the distance is not great between Taiwan and Korea and both peoples enjoy a close interaction. Actually, as the pandemic abated and Taiwan opened its borders, most visitors came from Korea. Consequently, NCL desired to set up a Taiwan Corner at the Seoul Metropolitan Library to provide many quality books on the history, people, society, and literature of Taiwan. In this way, more Koreans can learn about Taiwan. So, NCL took advantage of the opportunity

that the Taipei Book Fair Foundation was visiting Korea to have NCL and the Seoul Metropolitan Library set up this Taiwan Corner.



Director-General Tseng and Seoul Metropolitan Library's Seon Myeong-hwa holding their respective flags in front of the Taiwan Corner.

The Seoul Metropolitan Library's current holdings include 521,216 general books, 13,839 books on mental and physical challenges, and 22,700 non-book materials. After the pandemic, its e-book holdings numbered more than 34,573. SML also provides a comprehensive search platform for the holdings of the 500 libraries in Seoul. The library edifice is stately with a solid architectural style. Spatial planning on the interior, along with signs for movement flow and ergonomic furniture, not only represent its role as the hub of information in Seoul and the center of libraries in Korea but also contains a robust amount of city government data and lively children's books in a reading area. On display are amazing publications from around the world so patrons can experience a diverse worldview.

Books donated by NCL included illustrated children's books, pop-up books, maps of Taiwan, as well as books on many different aspects of Taiwan, such as Taiwan history and customs, museum holdings (including artifacts, paintings, and calligraphy), Taiwan's natural environment, and contemporary Taiwanese literature and art. In addition, leaders in the Taiwan publishing industry responded to this meaningful event by also donating many outstanding books. We sincerely hope that the books on display at the Taiwan Corner will

give Korean patrons a good impression of Taiwan and show forth the soft power found in Taiwan's publications.



Director-General Tseng and Ms. Seon, as well as members of the Taipei Book Fair Foundation 2023 Korean Delegation posing for a photo at the Taiwan Corner.

■ Cross-strait Cultural Exchange Brand: The 10th Xuan Lan Forum Comes to an End

On August 22, 2023, NCL and the Nanjing Library, the Shanghai Library, and the Suzhou Library put on the 10th Xuan Lan Forum at the Nanjing Library Academic Report Hall. The topic of this year's forum was "New Knowledge from Ancient Learning: Wisdom Begets Abilities." The opening ceremony was conducted by Nanjing Library's Party Secretary Hongyu Dai. He welcomed everyone to the event and then had Jiangsusheng Department of Culture 2nd Inspector Xunhua Xu, Jiangsu Provincial Government's Taiwan Affairs Office Deputy Director Zhicheng Feng, the National Central Library of China's Research Institute Director Xiaojuan Shen, and NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng collectively start the opening ceremony. During the opening ceremony, NCL and Nanjing Library presented each other with books. NCL gave copies of *The History of the National Central Library*, *Dunhuang Manuscripts*, *Lotus Sutra*, *Pearls of the Sea*, and *A Flourishing Four Decades of Chinese Studies in Taiwan: A Review and Outlook* to Nanjing University to enrich their holdings. In attendance were more than 70

representatives from libraries in China and Taiwan, as well as others from various industries.



The National Central Library and the Nanjing Library exchange gifts for each other's collection.

The event consisted of forum sessions on a number of topics and cultural tours. Forum sessions were held on the 22nd, with the 24 participating scholars presenting research and lectures on five topics: modern interpretations of traditional Chinese culture, the heritage and preservation of the classics, studies on smart services in libraries, children and youth reading and the improvement of librarians' literacy, artificial intelligence and library development. Nanjing Library Director-General Junji Chen and NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng spoke on two topics that correlated with the theme of the forum: "Genre Theory and the Dream of the Red Chamber" and "Open Lab: A Library Lab for All Kinds of Innovation." The discussion was insightful and engaging. The two talks were also a perfect end to the five sessions of the forum.



The delegation from Taiwan poses for a group picture.