

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ Expanding Taiwan's Academic Exchange: The National Central Library and Kyungpook National University Sign Agreement to Establish a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies

In an effort to promote exchange with Korea, to more widely disseminate Taiwan's achievements in research, and to show forth Taiwan's soft power, on July 13, 2023 the National Central Library signed a collaborative agreement with Kyungpook National University in Daegu. Both parties agreed to set up a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) at KNU. This is NCL's 46th partner worldwide. Additionally, both parties also signed a collaborative agreement for the Union Catalog of Rare Books Database in an effort to expand the content of this global catalog of Chinese books. Kyungpook National University President Won-hwa Hong and NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng co-hosted the signing and kick-off ceremony. NCL presented KNU with a replica of the national treasures *the Annotated Poetry of Su Dongpo and the Diamond Sutra* as a symbolic addition to their collection and as a witness to this historic moment and future collaborative opportunities. Also in attendance were TECO in Busan Representative Cheng-Kai Kuo, and the Taipei Mission in Korea's Education Section Head Cheng-kai Cheng.



Director-General Tseng (right), Kyungpook National University President Won-Hwa Hong (middle), and Librarian U-Rak Chŏng (left) holding the signed agreement.

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

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated NCL began setting up TRCCS overseas in 2012, selecting important universities and research institutions for the locations. The aim has been to strengthen collaboration with Chinese studies institutions in other countries, promote exchange in Taiwan and abroad in Chinese studies, and share the achievements of Taiwan scholars in this field. In addition, the co-creation of global Chinese studies resources and a message platform and the widening and deepening of exchange between East and West.

Taiwan and Korea have enjoyed a closer exchange in recent years. Kyungpook National University is less than 1500 km from Taiwan, making it the closest collaborating partner. This TRCCS will provide Chinese and English books (875 titles, 1039 volumes) and digital databases published in Taiwan. In the future, more books will be added each year. NCL will also continue to provide access to databases from Taiwan. Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies and exhibitions will also be held so that more people can see the results of Taiwan's scholarly endeavors and abundant digital resources. Kyungpook National University not only has outstanding achievements in research, but it also excels at social initiatives, global responsibility, and sustainable development. KNU also actively develops Asian studies, from Korea to the world. For example, it recently cohosted AAS in Asia with the U.S. Association for Asian Studies, an organization with which NCL has enjoyed a long-term collaboration. Over 1,200 scholars and graduate students came from 47 countries. KNU

Librarian Chōng U-rak wrote Zhou Dunyi's saying "tranquil, empty, action, upright" in calligraphy for the ceremony, with the hope that both parties can continue to progress.



Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, President Won-hwa Hong, KNU Librarian U-Rak Chōng, TECO in Busan Representative Cheng-Kai Kuo, and the Taipei Mission in Korea's Education Section Head Cheng-kai Cheng at the TRCCS opening ceremony.

During the trip, Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng also hosted a meeting with Kyungpook National University wherein they signed a collaborative agreement to work on NCL's Union Catalog of Rare Books Database. Beginning in 2005, NCL collaborated with many university libraries from around the globe that have ancient Chinese books in their holdings digitized and then to upload the results onto the database that NCL created called Ancient Books and Special Collections Resources. NCL took advantage of this opportunity to deepen collaboration on digitizing ancient Chinese books and uploading them to the catalog. Currently, there are over 80 collaborating partners working on this union catalog. It is our hope that this will help in promoting Chinese studies in Taiwan and Korea, as well as spur on collaborations between scholars in our two countries. We hope to have a deep, positive impact.

After the signing ceremony, Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng was invited to speak. She spoke on "Discovering New Value of Library Aiming on Enduring Positive Input to the Human Society-- Endeavors, Accomplishments, and Future Perspectives of the National Central Library" and shared NCL's

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