

4. Through continuous participation in important global academic communities and library activities, Taiwan is led to recognize the meaning and benefits of international exchange.
5. Expanding beyond Academia, Into the Global Community: Moving outside of traditional academic circles, we established 13 Taiwan Corners in prominent libraries around the world. These spaces showcase Taiwan's diverse cultural landscape to international audiences, exhibiting the beauty and depth of Taiwanese literature and published materials. They act as windows into Taiwanese culture, planting seeds of cross-cultural understanding one page at a time.
6. Learning from the Best, Leading the Future: We organized international library benchmarking studies, empowering emerging leaders of the Taiwanese library community to learn from and visit world-class institutions in Europe, the United States, and Australia. By immersing themselves in innovative practices and cutting-edge approaches, these future leaders are poised to propel Taiwan's library sector to even greater heights.

Mere words cannot adequately convey the depth of my sincere appreciation for the enduring, unflinching bonds of partnership, camaraderie, and support that we have cultivated through international collaboration, which have enabled us to accomplish such magnificent feats. It is through these partnerships that the NCL has accomplished its important mission. Although I am about to retire and, I firmly believe I am confident that the NCL will continue to champion cultural exchange and academic cooperation, fostering understanding and knowledge sharing across borders.

May the New Year bring you peace, joy, and fulfillment. I hope you will continue to extend your guidance and encouragement to the dedicated team at the NCL as they embark on new endeavors.

With my deepest gratitude,



## ■ New NCL Director-General Dr. Han-Ching Wang Sworn in on February 1<sup>st</sup>, Will Transform NCL into a Symbol of Global Influence

National Central Library's new Director-General, Professor Dr. Han-ching Wang was sworn in on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in NCL's Audio-Visual Briefing Room during the "National Central Library Interim Director and New Director Handover Ceremony." Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan attended the ceremony, during which he gave a speech and oversaw the handover. Other valued guests in attendance included Former NCL Director-General Wen-lu Wang, Former NCL Director-General Min Ku, National Cheng Kung University President Dr. Meng-ru Shen, Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Chairman Hao-ren Ke, Tamkang University Chueh Sheng Memorial Library Director Tina Song, as well as colleagues from libraries and the publishing industry throughout Taiwan.

During his remarks, Minister Wen-chung Pan expressed that Director-General Wang, recipient of a Master of Science Degree from the Institute of Oceanography and a Ph.D in Animal Science at National Taiwan University, has shown outstanding performance in multiple fields. In the field of science, she has received distinction as the recipient of the "Young Scientist of Excellence Award" at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Taiwan Outstanding Women in Science Awards as well as the National Science and Technology Council's Wu Ta-You Memorial Award. For her contributions in teaching, she was awarded the "Exemplary Teacher Award" at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Hsing Yun Education Awards. During her time as the Director of the National Cheng Kung University Library, she led that library in the work for which it received the Ministry of Education's Library Contribution Award and was also a two-time recipient of the "Outstanding Librarian Award." In addition, she successfully implemented a Mobile Library Program, bringing University library collections and NCKU students and faculty to rural areas to expand the scope of library services. Minister Pan expressed that he looks forward to NCL continuing to serve as a cornerstone for the preservation of Taiwanese documents, promotion of reading culture, and facilitation of international cultural exchanges.

In her remarks, Director-General Dr. Han-ching Wang stated that on the foundation of NCL's 90-year history, she will base her initiatives on the six core values of NCL's current 2021-2030 development strategy blueprint, further incorporating additional focus on the ten themes of: "vibrancy, tolerance, cultivation, taste, humanities, science, aesthetics, interdisciplinarity, creativity, and practice." NCL will actively establish collaborative partnerships with various types of libraries, academic research institutions, publishing houses, and members of the arts and culture sector, continuing to expand and discover new paths for preserving and passing on the cultural heritage within historical archives. Under the new Director-General's leadership, NCL will work to enhance the public's acumen in utilizing library information resources and various types of knowledge archives, promote bidirectional collaborative efforts to cultivate literacy, comprehension, and appreciation in order to deepen national competitiveness, integrate library collections, research explorations and STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) competency in order to develop a new cross-generational mindset combining humanities and the sciences. This work aims to utilize and expand the social influence of National Central Library while also responding to the global demand for new capacities of knowledge to achieve sustainable development, and will transform NCL into a symbol of global influence.

In Chairman Hao-ren Ke's remarks, he expressed that during her tenure as director of the NCKU Library, Director-General Wang actively visited and exchanged experience with various university libraries, promptly implementing what she learned within the NCKU library. Her outstanding initiative left a deep impression. In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Director-General Wang integrated virtual and in-person resources ensuring uninterrupted learning for NCKU students and faculty.

Director Tina Song gave remarks during which she first expressed her great respect for the accomplishments of former Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng during her tenure. Director Song recalled a previous visit Director-General Wang made to the Tamkang University Library with NCKU library colleagues and joked that although

most librarians radiate with knowledge and passion concealed underneath a shy personality, during their visit she observed that Director-General Wang's leadership brought about a transformation among the NCKU librarians. Their warm cohesiveness left a deep impression on Director Song. Director Song also expressed that she looks forward to Director-General Wang continuing to promote Taiwan's soft power and helping Taiwan to be seen upon the world stage during her tenure as NCL Director-General.

President Meng-Ru Shen also gave remarks during which he praised Director-General Wang as a rare example of excellence in both academic and administrative realms. He described her three greatest achievements during her time as NCKU Library Director: First, turning the library into a warm and welcoming space and making it the site of student psychological counseling; Second, through the subtle gesture of the "Leave a Light On" initiative, the library offered students a space to continue working hard at their studies; Third, the successful fundraising initiative "National Cheng Kung University Library—The Cornerstone of Wisdom" received enthusiastic response. The three above examples illustrate that Director-General Wang is a passionate, proactive, and committed leader.

After the commencement of the ceremony, Director-General Wang invited the Minister of Education and other honored guests to take a group photo to commemorate the occasion. Director-General Wang thanked Minister Pan for his encouragement and expressed that she looks forward to forging ahead with NCL colleagues.



*Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan, Director-General Han-ching Wang and Outgoing Interim Director-General Chih-tung Weng pose for a photo of their handover ceremony.*



*Group photo of all honored guests.*

## ■ Expanding the Reach of Research in Taiwan: NCL Establishes the World's First Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center at BULAC in Paris

In an effort to promote Taiwan's digital research resources and to experience a merging of research findings in the humanities and social sciences, National Central Library and the Bibliothèque universitaires des langues et civilisations (BULAC) in Paris, France worked together to establish the first Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center. Both parties signed a collaborative agreement and launched the center on November 13, 2023 in Paris. The signing ceremony was co-hosted by BULAC Director Marie-Lise Tsagouria and National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng. The Taiwan Representative to France Chih-chung Wu and Education Division Chief Mei-chen Lu were also in attendance to witness this historic event.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that this is the second time NCL has collaborated with BULAC, the first time being in 2012 when a donation of 519 books was made. Of even greater significance is the fact that this is the first time NCL has promoted its new online service, Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center, to the international scholarly community. It provides top-quality research resources to reputable research institutions around the world. Differing from the Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies established in the past, which provided printed books as part of the collaboration, this new brand is an online service that collates a list of digital resources from Taiwan. It provides research resources developed by NCL, academic organizations, and businesses in Taiwan, as well as e-books and other items. We hope to create a model that is sustainable,

substantial, and even more systematized so that our partners overseas can benefit from this in a very significant way. This will promote scholarly exchange, drive cultural marketing, and increase the visibility of research done in Taiwan.



*BULAC Director Marie-Lise Tsagouria and National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng signing the collaborative agreement.*



*BULAC Director Marie-Lise Tsagouria and Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng posing in front of the digital sign for the Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center.*

BULAC has more than 43,000 Chinese book titles (70,000 volumes) in its holdings and 900 journals. It also has more than one thousand books that were published before 1911. These are very important in teaching and research, making it the top institution in France in this regard. After the signing ceremony, this new center in effect doubled its research capabilities. In addition to its physical holdings, researchers from France and other countries can access important research in Chinese studies, Taiwan studies, digital humanities, and e-books over the past twenty years from public and private institutions in Taiwan. In the future, NCL will continue to provide BULAC with even more digital resources. BULAC will co-host lectures on related topics so as to promote research resources from Taiwan and to increase the exchange between the two countries.