museums, schools, publishers, and community groups who helped put on the festival. He wanted to show his gratitude for their efforts in promoting reading. Later, Deputy Minister Lin transformed into a special guest in the Joyful Storytelling Village, reading *Forgetful Grandma Wanda and After Mr. Dinosaur Has a Runny Nose* to the children. There was a continuous ring of laughter from the crowd.

National Central Library Director-General Tseng stated that the reading carnival incorporates the spirit of the new curriculum, STEAM disciplines, language learning, international culture, picture books, and early literacy. In 2023, NCL worked closely with the National Development Council to design events and guides in both Chinese and English, creating a bilingual experience at the reading festival. NCL also invited libraries from around Asia. The National Library Board Singapore, the National Library of Malaysia, and the National Library of Vietnam set up booths. Also on display were posters from libraries in Macau, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Romania, Columbia, and the US, sharing what libraries abroad are doing to promote reading. It was a great exchange among libraries around the world.

2023 Taiwan Reading Festival's Joyous Reading Carnival had several booths, including Joyful Storytelling Village, The World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment, Library Trail, Museum Wonderland, Mobile Library Display, Little Book-Lover's World, Reading Market, and Book Exchange. In addition, attendees could walk through a book fair, buy books, exchange books, etc. The Ministry of Education invited readers of all ages to create a beautiful time of reading.

A group photo during the opening ceremony of the 2023 Taiwan Reading Festival.

■ **Deepening Relations between Taiwan and France: Both Countries' National Libraries Engage in Exchange through the Best of Their Holdings and in Planning an International Exhibition**

Three experts from the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) led by Director of Museums, Exhibitions, and Events Claire Nénert, as well as Aurélie Jobert from the French Office in Taipei, visited the National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng on December 6, 2023. Both parties held a discussion and gave reports on the unique characteristics of their respective holdings, digital items, staff, and working together on an international exhibition. They also made suggestions on ways they could collaborate in the future.

National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that the two libraries enjoy a close relationship and have done tangible exchanges, and have truly engaged in international collaboration. The French party was comprised of Director-General Claire Nénert, Alice Rivollier, and Francesca Baldi. All three are experts in exhibitions and international collaboration. NCL and BnF enjoy a close relationship, including inviting BnF in 2012 to join the Chinese Union Catalog project, in 2013 inviting Deputy Director-General Arnaud Beaufort to give a lecture at an international conference held during NCL's 80th anniversary celebration. From 2014 to 2015, Li-chung Tu, who used to work at NCL, visited BnF with the help of the French Ministry of Culture to help with the cataloging of ancient Chinese works. In 2015, they worked together on a digitization project, completing 126 ancient books comprised mostly of novels and plays. Currently, the images and the table of contents of the books are available for searching or browsing on the Rare Books Digitalization database. On November 13, 2023, before NCL and BULAC signed an agreement to establish the first Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center (TADRC), Director-General Tseng toured BnF's Bibliothèque-musée de l'Opéra guided by Mathias Auclair. Both parties discussed their preservation of music manuscript. Because of this, NCL is very happy to be able to partner with BnF again.

A photo of Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and Director Claire Nénert.

In addition to sharing how their library promotes international collaboration, Director Nénert and her cohort also mentioned various collaborative methods and thematic events they've used or put on in the past. They also shared their experience on value-added digitized ancient books, the quintessence of their holdings, and how to connect to different cultures in the world through exhibitions. A brief report was given by NCL's Si-yu Chen who is in charge of overseas exhibitions and database on ancient works and special collections, and Po-yue Wu, who is in charge of the Taiwan Memory database.

Director Nénert stated that the two libraries have enjoyed a long-term collaborative relationship and that when her and her staff first arrived in Taiwan, they attended the 2023 Taiwan Reading Festival and were able to admire the richness of the booths from Taiwan and other countries. Their impression of NCL's promotion of library reading and international cultural exchange is very positive, and they are very happy to have this opportunity to work together more closely. After the event, NCL arranged for their French guests to visit the Rare Books Room to attend the exhibition there and to see the digital exhibition online.

The visitors from BnF posing with NCL staff at the Taiwan Reading Festival image area.

NCL Publications

■ The Compilation Album for the Second Ministry of Education Library Contributions Awards

Published in December 2023
ISBN 9789576787515

This compilation album introduces the award-winning institutions, individuals and groups of the Second Ministry of Education Library Contributions Awards, along with their related contributions and achievements. It is organized by the Ministry of Education and undertaken by the National Central Library.

■ Seven-Theme Series Booklists 2023

Published in December 2023

1. Scientific and Technological Innovation Booklist 2023
ISBN 9789576787478

2. Regional Revitalization Booklist 2023
ISBN 9789576787454

3. LOHAS and Environmental Protection Booklist 2023
ISBN 9789576787492

4. Humanities and the Arts Booklist 2023
ISBN 9789576787461