

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ A Letter of Gratitude upon Director-General Shu-hsian Tseng's Retirement: Diligent Bees Dance among the Flowers, Harvesting Nectar to Bring Sweetness to Humanity

Editor's Note: National Central Library's 13th Director-General Dr. Shu-hsien Tseng served from December 31st 2010 until her retirement on January 16th 2024. Director-General Tseng sends this letter to express her sincere gratitude to overseas academic institutions and friends with whom she had the honor of collaborating during her tenure. This article is published as an acknowledgement of Director-General Tseng's leadership in the library sector and contributions to the development of National Central Library over the past 13 years, for which we pay our highest respects.

January 15, 2024

To our esteemed colleagues and respected leaders overseas:

Time, like the changing seasons, has flown by with surprising speed. It is with a heart full of gratitude and pride that I announce my retirement on January 16, 2024, after 13 fulfilling years as Director-General of the National Central Library (NCL). I cannot let this occasion pass without extending my deepest thanks to you for your unwavering support and encouragement throughout the years.

Looking back on my 40-year journey as a librarian, I feel immensely honored to have crossed paths with you. Your guidance and unwavering belief in our shared vision have served as a constant source of inspiration, propelling me and the NCL forward.

The NCL has proudly served as a beacon of international exchange for libraries and museums in Taiwan. Together, we have achieved milestones that I cherish deeply:

- 1. Building Bridges of Knowledge:** We established a robust platform for international academic exchange, with 48 Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies and Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Centers (TARDCs) flourishing in 28 countries worldwide. These centers have become gateways to Taiwanese scholarship, fostering global collaboration even during the challenging times of the global pandemic.
- 2. Nurturing Librarians, Empowering Libraries:** We championed professional development through international librarian workshops, bridging knowledge exchanges and forging lasting friendships between libraries across East Asia.
- 3. Celebrating Cultural Diversity:** We embraced Taiwan's rich tapestry of cultures by promoting diverse institutional exchanges within our borders. The Taiwan Reading Festival has been a cornerstone of this endeavor, showcasing the vibrant literary landscapes of different nations, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation across borders.

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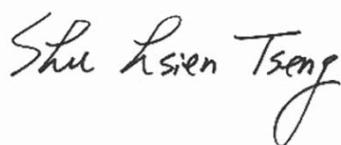


4. Through continuous participation in important global academic communities and library activities, Taiwan is led to recognize the meaning and benefits of international exchange.
5. Expanding beyond Academia, Into the Global Community: Moving outside of traditional academic circles, we established 13 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 1st, 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 1st, 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 11th 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 9th 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.