

In addition, the two libraries also signed an agreement regarding NCL's Rare Chinese Book Union Catalog. Beginning in 2005, NCL worked with renowned university libraries and national libraries around the world to digitize their holdings of ancient Chinese works, the results of which have been published on the Rare Books and Special Collections Resource System. This is open to researchers and the public alike. The catalog of ancient works from each library is uploaded to the system's Ancient Chinese Book Union Catalog. Currently there are 92 collaborating partners that have contributed to this union catalog.

Lastly, to commemorate this collaboration, NCL gifted two classics to the library—a replica copy of the 800-year-old book *The Annotated Poetry of Su Dongpo* (a national treasure) and the *Diamond Sutra*. It was hoped that this donation would add to the collection at BULAC, as well as witness the historical nature of this collaboration. They will also provide more opportunities for collaboration in the future.

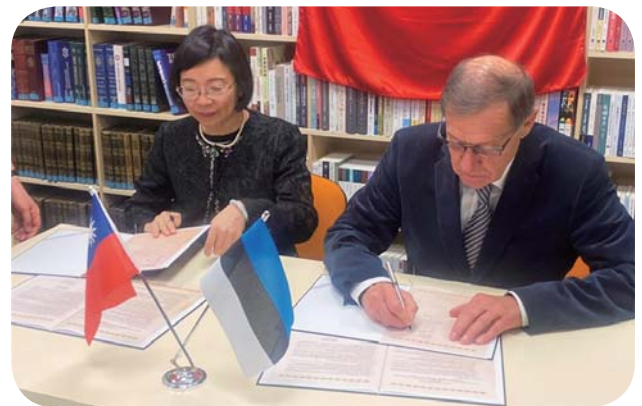


A group photo of NCL and BULAC signing an agreement to establish a Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center.

■ NCL Establishes a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies at Estonia's Tallinn University, Advancing Collaboration in a Northern European Nation of Technology and Humanities

In order to advance Taiwan's participation in international exchange, promote Taiwanese academic research achievements, and display Taiwan's cultural soft power, Taiwan and Estonia's Tallinn University formally signed an agreement establishing a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) at the university, completing the inauguration ceremony for the new center on November 9th, 2023. This is the

47th such collaborative base that NCL has established throughout the world, and its location marks the northernmost latitude of a TRCCS yet. The signing and inauguration ceremony was jointly hosted by Director Andres Kollist of Tallinn University's Academic Library and NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng. NCL also presented the new center with symbolic gifts: reproductions of rare ancient books which are treasures of the NCL collection, *The Annotated Poetry of Su Dongpo* and the *Diamond Perfection of Wisdom Sūtra*, bearing witness to this historical moment of bilateral collaboration. Estonia Parliamentarian Kristo Enn Vaga, chair of the Estonia-Taiwan Friendship Group, was invited to attend the ceremony and offer remarks. In addition, Rütüt Kaljula, President of the Estonian Alumni Association in Taiwan, Representative Andrew H.C. Lee of the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia, Professor Mei-Fen Chen, the Head of the Education Section of the Taipei Representative Office in Poland, and Professor Alari Allik of Tallinn University were also in attendance at this grand event of cultural significance.



NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and Director Andres Kollist of Tallinn University's Academic Library co-sign the collaboration agreement.



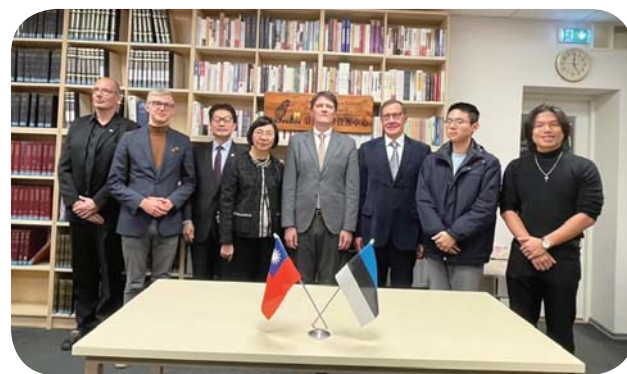
Representative Andrew H.C. Lee of the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, Tallinn University Library Director Andres Kollist, and Professor Alari Allik of Tallinn University take a group photo to mark the occasion.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng expressed that NCL began establishing TRCCSs abroad in 2012, selecting key foreign universities and research centers as collaborative partners to strengthen collaboration with Chinese Studies research institutions in countries around the world, promote academic exchange in the field of Chinese Studies both at home and abroad, spread awareness of Taiwan's achievements in Chinese Studies, and collectively work to establish a platform for global Chinese Studies resources and information, thereby promoting the breadth and depth of East-West cultural exchange. Estonia not only demonstrates excellent development in digital technology, but their integration of information within society as well as cultural education have also shown excellent performance on the world stage, an example worth Taiwan emulating. In particular, Estonia's achievements in digital public services and digital participation rate among citizens offer a model many countries are striving to learn from. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Estonia was one of the first countries to provide Taiwan with vaccine donations. Therefore, the establishment of a TRCCS in Tallinn University this year was an excellent choice for both Taiwan and Estonia. Not only does the center represent cultural exchange, it also marks Taiwan's efforts to actively give back to international society. This TRCCS is also the first Taiwanese government project to arrive in Estonia for exchange and collaboration since Estonia's government agreed to allow Taiwan to establish a "Taipei" cultural and economic representative office in the capital Tallinn.

Tallinn University is located in Estonia's capital city Tallinn and was founded in 2005. Originally established through the integration of several education institutions in the Tallinn region, it is a young university full of vitality, particularly renowned for its interdisciplinary integration. The university is an important institution for the cultivation of Chinese Studies scholars in northern Europe, including Professor Margus Ott who came to Taiwan in 2016, and Professor Jekaterina Koort who came to Taiwan in 2011, where they respectively conducted special research projects on Classical Chinese Studies at National Central Library.

NCL's initial allocation upon the establishment of the TRCCS at Tallinn University consists of 754

titles, 821 volumes covering the fields of literature, history, philosophy, religion, art, and other areas of humanities research. In addition, considering the importance of digital resources, the center will gradually offer additional digital resources including e-books. We hope that this collaboration can exert a sustainable and positive impact promoting Taiwan and research within Chinese Studies and Taiwan Studies in Estonia and Taiwan.



From left, Rūiit Kaljula, President of the Estonian Alumni Association in Taiwan, Parliamentarian Kristo Enn Vaga, chair of the Estonia-Taiwan Friendship Group, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, Representative Andrew H.C. Lee, Professor Alari Allik, Director Andres Kollist, and Taiwanese students who came to attend the ceremony.

■ NCL Establishes a Taiwan Corner in Latvia's Riga Central Library to Deepen International Exchange and Promote Understanding Among the People of Latvia and Taiwan

On November 10th, 2023, National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng donated a Taiwan Corner to the Riga Central Library in Latvia's capital in order to help foreign citizens learn about the beauty of Taiwan's people and nature, promote international cultural exchange, and increase cultural interactions. The donation was received by Library Director Dzidra Šmita. Secretary Pei-shuo Liu of the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia, Professor Mei-Fen Chen, Head of the Education Section, Taipei Representative Office in Poland, and Madam Viktorija Piščikova, consultant to the National Library of Latvia, were also in attendance to witness this moment of cultural exchange between two library institutions.