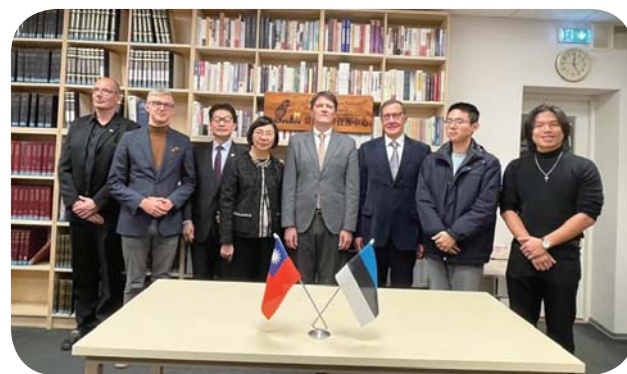


NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng expressed that NCL began establishing TRCCSs abroad in 2012, selecting key foreign universities and research centers as collaborative partners to strengthen collaboration with Chinese Studies research institutions in countries around the world, promote academic exchange 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.



From left, Professor Mei-Fen Chen, Head of the Education Section, Taipei Representative Office in Poland, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, Riga Central Library Director Dzidra Šmita, and Secretary Pei-shuo Liu of the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng expressed that Taiwan Corner is an important brand that NCL developed in order to deepen international exchange, promote understanding between the people of Taiwan and other countries, and to put Taiwan's image on display for the world. The planning concept emphasizes the promotion of Taiwan's history, culture and environment, marketing a humanistic image and knowledge about Taiwan. NCL also caters the Taiwan Corner to local characteristics in each location, selecting appropriate themes and providing a diversity of publications, making these corners an excellent starting point for people all around the world to learn about Taiwan within important local libraries. Not only does Riga Central Library, the recipient of this Taiwan Corner donation, have a rich history, it is also a pioneer in the development of public libraries throughout the world, having established public reading rooms and a library in 1906. In addition, Riga Central Library has played an important role in exchanges among the global library community in recent years. Therefore, during an academic conference organized by the National Library of Latvia, NCL hopes not only to engage with the academic community, but that by establishing this Taiwan Corner, we can also provide quality publications to allow members of the public get acquainted with and begin to learn about Taiwan. Thus, the donation for this Taiwan Corner includes children's picture books, 3-D books and maps of Taiwan, as well as books that encompass a diversity of topics about Taiwan, for example: history and local cultures and pieces from NCL and museum collections, including ancient texts, cultural relics, paintings, and works of calligraphy, publications about Taiwan's natural environment, as well as contemporary Taiwanese literature and art.



Riga Central Library displays the Taiwan Corner in a large open section of the library.

The mission of Riga Central Library is to provide safe and reliable information in order to ensure free and equal access, support education and lifelong learning, develop reading skills, digital and media literacy, promote a societal interest in literature and reading, and advocate the protection of local cultural heritage, while at the same time developing the library as a "third space" —a free and open space for communities to gather, where individuals can transcend the traditional living spaces of the home and the workplace to engage in social interactions. These concepts align with the development of many Taiwan public libraries in recent years, demonstrating the trajectory of the role of libraries within these two free and democratic systems. These joint ideals serve as a beneficial foundation for ongoing bilateral cultural exchange.



Riga City residents reading in the Taiwan Corner and getting to know Taiwan.