

■ **The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures**

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS established the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year assists 20 overseas scholars in coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 1 to 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures. Between October and December, 2023, 1 scholar gave his presentation. The topic and speaker for this session is as follows:

On December 20th, 2023, Prof. Ying Jia Tan, Associate Professor of History, Wesleyan University in Connecticut, USA, gave the lecture on “Taiwan as the Vantage Point for East Asian Energy History.”

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ **Greater Hsinchu Reading Festival Invites Book Lovers of All Ages to Share in the Joy of Reading**

From November 1st to December 17th, 2023, Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City co-organized the “Color My World Reading Festival” for the first time, holding nearly one hundred lectures and reading promotion activities in 22 public libraries throughout the greater Hsinchu region.

Ever since Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City libraries initiated their one-card-for-all service in 2020, people residing in the greater Hsinchu region have enjoyed access to a catalogue of over two million book resources and an electronic platform, allowing for stronger connections between those living in the county and city and allowing for constant growth of reading volume. In order to continue to provide a quality reading environment and resources, this year the Hsinchu City Government has continued to refine their many

library services, serving the public with a new level of professionalism at every branch. The Longshan Branch library also plans to revitalize their library spaces by adding collection and reading spaces, lecture halls, and rehearsal rooms.

The “Color My World Reading Festival” events co-organized by Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City integrated a total of 22 public libraries and book stores, holding nearly one hundred events including themed book exhibitions, parent-child reading events, youth lectures, theater performances, storytelling events, and a mobile library, inviting readers in Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City to uncover the treasures of knowledge together and bring color to their lives through reading.

■ **National Library of Public Information Promotes Event “Reading the Unique Stories of Clothing,” Transcending Time and Memory through the Stories of Clothes**

In 2023, coinciding with the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the National Library of Public Information and in correspondence with the theme of the reading festival, NLPI sought one hundred entries for items of clothing that evoke memories or nostalgic stories. These stories and memories create interpersonal emotional connections and this exhibit showcases such emotional exchanges.

In recent years, the National Library of Public Information has constantly made innovations in the promotion of reading, crossing disciplines and industries to provide members of the public with opportunities to bring reading into their lives through diverse promotional means. In this event, the National Library of Public Information presents clothing as a vehicle for stories and memories, naming the event “Reading the Unique Stories of Clothing” and taking clothing as the starting point for making connections between the past, the present, and the future. Beginning on October 31st, 2023, the National Library of Public Information has hosted this themed exhibition in its Arts and Culture Exhibition Hall, displaying clothing rich with stories as well as an exhibit on librarian uniforms.

■ National Academy for Educational Research's Textbook Library Inaugurated on December 29th, 2023

The National Academy for Educational Research has revitalized the first and second floors of their Taipei campus as the Textbook Library, the inauguration of which took place on December 29th, 2023. The library will display a collection of reprint editions of textbooks from the Japanese Colonial Period and the early years of the Republic of China so that members of the public can gain a deeper understanding of the evolution of textbooks.

The Taipei campus of the National Academy for Educational Research in Da'an District formerly housed the National Institute for Compilation and Translation, once the sole publisher of textbooks in Taiwan before such publishing was opened up to the public.

National Academy for Educational Research President Yuan-chuan Cheng expressed that the Textbook Library has undergone a wonderful transformation. Originally tucked away on the 4th floor of the Taipei campus, it has been continuously

collecting various textbooks over the past 30 years, yet as its main purpose was academic research, it remained relatively unknown to the public. In order to become more accessible to the public, the National Academy for Educational Research began a project of space revitalization in July, 2023. The first floor is dedicated to a themed exhibition of textbooks, displaying textbooks currently in use from elementary school through high school and also featuring a special books section including award-winning foreign textbooks, crowd-funded publications, international collaborations, and textbooks that have been recognized with awards for their design. These exhibitions will allow visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the diverse facets of textbook publications. The second floor serves as a book storage and reading area, housing textbooks from different periods including past editions from the National Institute for Compilation and Translation and from previous curriculum models such as the nine-year consistent curriculum and the 12-year national curriculum. Yuan-chuan Cheng hopes that this new space will help more people to understand the evolution of textbooks and experience the richness and diversity of educational knowledge.



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