

NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang expressed that NCL has long played a role as a guiding force for the development of Taiwan's intellectual power by collecting and preserving national documents, preserving Taiwan resources, and promoting reading and research culture. However, NCL is not only the national library of Taiwan, it is also a vital platform for the exchange of knowledge between Taiwan and the world at large. In particular, during the tenure of former General-Director Shu-hsien Tseng, NCL established 47 in-person Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies (TRCCSs) at renowned academic institutions around the world, one Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center (TADRC), as well as 16 "Taiwan Corners." In addition, she organized the participation in international academic groups by several Taiwanese institutions, and held a variety of academic events, solidifying Taiwan's presence on the international academic stage, and doing so unceasingly even throughout the pandemic. Furthermore, interactions among Taiwan-based institutions have been strengthened through events like the Taiwan Reading Festival and various language and cultural activities, fostering mutual understanding between Taiwan and other countries and showcasing their respective cultural richness. These efforts were commended by Lithuania's Speaker of the Seimas Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, during her visit to Taiwan. These numbers represent the influential dissemination of Taiwan's academic research achievements and publishing culture, which showcase Taiwan to the world. Simultaneously, these projects enable Taiwan to gain insights into the evolution of various civilizations throughout the world, and establish enduring and stable partnerships that transcend geopolitical, political, cultural, and economic constraints.



NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang gave remarks

This year also marked the first time that the International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians was held in conjunction with the Taipei International Book Festival, inviting foreign library professionals to Taiwan in order to gain a deeper understanding of Taiwan's publishing channels. The booth at the Taipei International Book Exhibition, was given the title, "Reading Around the World: Showcasing Taiwan to the World at NCL" and included the following seven exhibit areas, "Taiwan Reading Festival," "Promoting Reading Marketing among Consulate Offices in Taiwan," "Promoting International Publishing of Ancient Texts," "Treasures from Overseas Exhibitions," "Guiding Libraries to Become Platforms for International Knowledge and Cultural Exchange," "Participation in International Academic Groups," and "Expanding Collaborative Bases Abroad, Increasing Knowledge Influence throughout the World." These areas present their themes with both data and images, complemented by a prize drawing for replica publications of rare books from the library's collection. In addition, on the afternoon of February 23rd, the Goethe-Institute Taipei, a long-time NCL friend and partner, held an event entitled: Appointment with a German Hairdresser: Tell Me a Story While I Cut Your Hair" at NCL's C1032 booth.

■ National Central Library Invites International East Asian Library Professional Librarians to Taiwan for a Seminar and to Attend the Taipei International Book Festival, with the Goal of Marketing Taiwan's Academic Publishing and Exploring Acquisitions of Chinese-Language Resources

National Central Library held the opening ceremony for the 2024 International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians on the morning of February 19th, marking the beginning of a four-day seminar from February 19th to February 22nd. This year's Seminar is the first held in conjunction with the Taipei International Book Festival and it invited colleagues from important international East Asian libraries to Taiwan to participate in this grand cultural event. Through

introductions by industry experts, the seminar aims to help librarians familiarize themselves with marketing channels for Taiwan’s publications and to understand the development status of books and databases, thereby facilitating the promotion of Taiwan’s research publishing achievements to global academic institutions.

During her opening remarks at the Seminar’s opening ceremony, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang stated that NCL has held the International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians every two years since 2009, in order to increase exchanges between East Asian Libraries and Chinese Studies Research Institutes throughout the world. This year’s seminar is centered around the theme: “Librarians: Acquisitions of Taiwan Publications and Digital Research Resources.” The goal of this seminar is to help East Asian Library professional librarians learn about various channels for procurement in order to introduce Taiwan’s academic achievements to their libraries and thereby assist researchers to complete high quality research. Speakers at the seminar include professionals and scholars from Taiwan’s publishing industry to help professional librarians gain a deeper understanding of topics surrounding the acquisition of Chinese-language publications, audiovisual materials, and digital databases. This year’s seminar was timed to coincide with the 2024 Taipei Book Exhibition, incorporating corresponding itineraries to ensure that participants can fully grasp the development trends in Taiwan’s publishing industry and thereby establish an even stronger foundation to assist with future academic research endeavors. In addition, the seminar will arrange visits for attendees to observe and learn about the National Central Library’s “Open Lab” Multimedia Center, in order to gain insights into Taiwan’s maker culture and learn about how the National Central Library transformed this space to become a highlight in the Ximending area. An additional cultural itinerary offers a visit to the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum and its “Silk Road Splendor: DunHuang Caves Art Exhibition.”

This year’s seminar includes over 20 international participants and speakers, hailing from the USA, Germany, Malaysia, Thailand, and Hong Kong. They believe that the 2024 International Seminar for East

Asian Library Professional Librarians will facilitate a deepening of academic exchange between Taiwan and the world, and also that linking this year’s events to the Taipei International Book Exhibition and designing relevant classes accordingly will provide them with greater confidence in conducting interviews about Taiwan’s research literature and publications.



East Asian Library Professional Librarians took a group photo at the opening ceremony



International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians participants attended the National Central Library Booth opening ceremony

■ NCL Actively Seeks Donations of Quality Books from Guest of Honor the Netherlands and Other Participating Organizations at the 2024 Taipei International Book Festival

National Central Library has long spared no effort in promoting reading and international cultural exchange. Every year during the Taipei International Book Festival, NCL actively seeks book donations from the many countries in attendance to contribute