

Director-General Han-Ching Wang stated during her remarks that signing this agreement with the Chao-Tian Temple is a continuation of the long-term efforts that took place under the previous Director-General in regard to digital archives. NCL will finish the digitization and upload the results to its Taiwan Memory site for all to enjoy. In June of this year (2024), these will also be on display in the poster session of the American Library Association's annual meeting. Thus, the whole world will know about this collaboration to add more digital archives to Taiwan Memory. Director-General Wang also invited Chao-Tian Temple's chairman of the board, Mr. Tsai, and his group to get together with NCL to present the initial results of the digitization efforts once they are ready.

During the signing ceremony, in addition to the agreement with the Chao-Tian Temple, another agreement was signed with Mr. Jen-chi Chi, who has spent many years collecting documents and artifacts. Mr. Chi was invited to show and explain several representative artifacts after the signing ceremony, such as several books of scripture that have been passed down from the Qing dynasty, a post-war pledge requested from the police administration stating that both Chao-Tian Temple and the police would maintain proper conduct during the temple's Matsu pilgrimage, and even a railroad travel map from the Japanese-occupation period. The only temple for the entire island indicated on the map was the Chao-Tian Temple in the Beigang district, signifying the important influence that this temple and district has had on the Taiwanese belief in Matzu.



Mr. Chi from the Chao-Tian Temple explained some rare artifacts to dignitaries in attendance

By formally signing this agreement, both parties will begin the work of digitizing the rare documents held at the Chao-Tian Temple. The digital versions will be uploaded to NCL's Taiwan Memory platform, making them accessible to researchers and the general public alike. In the future, both parties will continue to promote various collaborations so that religious culture and research can be supported.



A group photo after the ceremony

■ 2024 “Taiwan Francophonie Month, Mini Festival of Films from French-Speaking Countries” Debuts at National Central Library on March 6th

For three days from March 6th to 8th, 2024, National Central Library came together with Alliance Française Taiwan, the French Office in Taipei, the Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office, Taipei, Belgian Office, Taipei to jointly organize a series of events for the “Mini Festival of Films from French-Speaking Countries” during the March 2024 “Taiwan Francophonie Month,” in the hopes that members of Taiwan’s public can gain a deeper understanding of French-language culture through the film festival.

Every year in March, Taiwan Francophonie Month brings together consular institutions and embassies of French speaking countries based in Taiwan to collaborate in organizing events that showcase the cultures of French speaking countries throughout the world to the Taiwan public. As the whole world celebrates International Francophonie Day, Taiwan Francophonie Month invites French speakers in Taiwan to come together to experience a

series of events and enjoy the diversity of the French language. The Mini Festival of Films from French-Speaking Countries is one of the most popular events every year featuring selected films from five countries which guides viewers in experiencing a varied richness of different cultures through the same French language.

The opening ceremony took place at 5:30 on March 6th in NCL's Multi-Functional Auditorium. Collaborating partners for the film festival: NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang, Director Matthieu Baudouin A. Branders of the Belgian Office, Taipei, Director Martin Laflamme of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, Director Franck Paris of the French Office in Taipei, Director Lex Kaufhold of the Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office, and Director Claudia Fontana Tobiassen of the Trade Office of Swiss Industries as well as Mr. Luc Oreve of French language online magazine Inside Taiwan were in attendance to give speeches as part of the film festival opening ceremony.

During the film festival opening ceremony, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang expressed that language is the best medium through which to preserve both tangible and intangible heritage of culture and human development. Over the past several years, NCL has organized a variety of language promotion event series including English, French, German, and Arabic. Among these events, the Taiwan Francophonie Month is organized annually in collaboration with national consulates and embassies of French-speaking countries based in Taiwan. It offers events that showcase French-language culture throughout the world to the people of Taiwan and has become an important annual event as part of NCL's efforts to promote reading. NCL hopes that through the screening of these unique films, featured countries can increase a mutual understanding with the people of Taiwan, facilitating cultural exchange as well as fostering mutual respect and development based on inclusive language diversity, thereby elevating people's understanding and appreciation for world languages and cultural traditions.



Group photo of distinguished guests at the 2024 "Taiwan Francophonie Month, Mini Festival of Films from French-Speaking Countries"

The three-day French-language film festival took place from March 6th through 8th, including five films specially selected by the participating countries: "Sawah" (Luxembourg), "Yuku and the Flower of the Himalayas" (*Yuku et la fleur de l'Himalaya*, Belgium; Taiwan International Children's Film Festival international competition selection film), "My Very Own Circus" (*Mon cirque à moi*, Canada), "Home" (Switzerland), "ADN" (France). NCL invited people to learn about the diverse cultures of different French-speaking countries through these films, thereby expanding their international cultural perspectives and experiencing the rich and diverse cultural interpretations of French across different nations.



Students and teachers from the Affiliated Experimental Elementary School of University of Taipei came to enjoy the second film screened as part of the film festival: "Yuku and the Flower of the Himalayas"