

scholars were highly engaged, listening closely and enthusiastically asking questions about archive retrieval and practical applications.



*During the class on library resource use, scholars enthusiastically asked questions of the speaker*

The National Archives Administration is currently holding the “Treasures of the Archives” permanent exhibit and the “Island of Miracles” special exhibit. “Treasures of the Archives” introduces archive records related to significant national historical events, for example, historical memories from the process of extending compulsory national education from 6 years to 12 years and records from early in the Republic of China period when the New Taiwan Dollar was issued to address currency inflation and valued at 1 dollar for 40,000 old Taiwan Dollars. “Island of Miracles” presents historical records to exhibit the history of Taiwan’s major engineering projects, for example when the New Central Cross Island Highway was the first transportation construction project in Taiwan to take nature conservation into consideration, how the Kaohsiung Harbor expansion project overcame difficulties to build an undersea tunnel, as well as images of the animal parade that took place when the National Taipei Zoo location was moved. During their visit, the scholars were able to walk into this history to experience it for themselves.

A total of 31 scholars from 11 countries participated and expressed that this event organized by NCL’s Center for Chinese Studies offered them a deeper understanding of Taiwan’s academic archive resource collections and their practical uses.



*Scholars visited the “Treasures of the Archives” Administration Exhibit*

## ■ 2024 Taiwan Fellowship Recipients Attend Cultural Outing and Dragon Boat Festival Celebration

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a cultural outing and Dragon Boat Festival celebration event was organized for recipient scholars of NCL’s “Research Grants for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies (Taiwan)” and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Taiwan Fellowship” to allow these scholars to experience Taiwan’s culture, celebrate Dragon Boat Festival, and engage in further scholarly exchange during their time in Taiwan.



*A group photo with participants and NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang before the start of the activities*

This activity was co-organized by the NCL Center for Chinese Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, bringing scholars and their families to Wen Sun Farm in Xindian District to experience Taiwan’s local tea culture, humanities, and ecology. The area of Xindian, Wulai, and Pinlin Districts in New Taipei City is one of Taiwan’s important tea growing regions. The area’s

climate with its frequent cloudy weather and light rain as well as its hilly terrain make the region particularly suited for tea plant growth. Wen Sun Farm occupies what was once a “Tea Industry Training Institute” during the Japanese Colonial Period, which served as an important center for the cultivation of tea seedlings and exchange of tea growing techniques.

The day’s activities began with a tour of the farm’s ecology, after which the scholars adorned tea picking gear and walked among the rows of tea plants to try their hand at harvesting. In the process, they learned about how baozhong tea is made after harvesting “one bud two leaves” and about the ideal tea growing environment.



*Scholars experiencing Taiwan’s tea culture*

Tea culture is not only about smelling tea’s aroma and enjoying its flavor. Tea can also be an ingredient in food. To celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival, in addition to hand harvesting tea, scholars also made steamed tea cakes. After tasting their steamed tea cakes, many scholars expressed how new and original it was to experience tea culture in this way. NCL also specially prepared Dragon Boat Festival sachets in the shape of zongzi rice dumplings, as gifts for the participating scholars, offering them a blessing for peace and comfort.



*Sachet gifts presented to the scholars as a blessing from the Center for Chinese Studies*

The scholars and their families who attended this event numbered 51 people from 23 countries. After experiencing a summer day immersed in the fragrance of tea, the scholars gained a deep understanding of Taiwan’s tea culture and holiday traditions.

## ■ Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Taiwan Fellowship” Scholars’ Research Presentation

On June 25, 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) held the first Taiwan Fellowship Scholars’ Research Presentation of 2024 at the briefing room, National Central Library. The theme was “Values Concerning Democracy and Freedom in Bilateral Relations and Partnership Cooperation.” The event was moderated by Consul General Ming-Teh Hsiang from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Chung-kwang Tien invited to deliver opening remarks. In his speech, Deputy Minister Tien expressed to the attending scholars that he hoped their research in Taiwan would expand Taiwan’s diplomatic horizons. He also noted that through the research presentation, one could better appreciate the value of Taiwan’s international partnerships.



*Group photo of presenters with senior officials from the MOFA and the NCL*

The first presenter was Dr. Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, a researcher from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore. Her topic was “Aligning ASEAN and Taiwan’s Economic Agendas in the post-Taiwanese Election and the Shadow of US-China Tensions.” She argued that Taiwan’s New Southbound Policy is a strong support for promoting economic partnerships between ASEAN and Taiwan. Her presentation also explored how US-China competition and Taiwan’s 2024 election results might affect the trajectory of Taiwan-ASEAN economic cooperation.