

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ Premier Presides Over Topping-Out Ceremony for Construction of Southern Taiwan's First National-Level Library

Construction of the building structure for the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library is nearing completion. On April 18th, 2024, National Central Library held a topping-out ceremony at the site of the new building's construction, symbolizing a smooth and successful completion of the project. Premier Chien-jen Chen presided over the ceremony, which was also attended by esteemed guests including Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang, Tainan City Mayor Wei-che Huang, representatives from the library and information industry, local Tainan legislators and over 20 Tainan City Council members, and members of the construction team who together paid witness to this important milestone in the completion of the new building. This construction project is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, when it will have a capacity of 15 million volumes, provide reading resources for all-ages, and professional services for academic research.



Group photo at the topping-out ceremony for the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library

Mayor Wei-che Huang expressed his gratitude to the current and previous premier and their teams, local legislators, Tainan City Council Chairperson Li-li Chiu and Vice Chairperson Chih-chan Lin, and the more than 20 City Council members in attendance, for supporting the construction of the Southern Branch of the National Central Library

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and National Repository Library. Their support has demonstrated the vital importance of this project toward humanities development both nationally and locally. In particular, Tainan is well known as Taiwan's first city and this year marks its 400th anniversary. Mayor Huang hopes that with the support of the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library, this culturally rich city can provide its citizens with better learning environments, a better environment for development, and richer library and book resources.

Education Minister Wen-chung Pan expressed his gratitude to current and previous Executive Yuan teams and to Premier Chien-jen Chen for authorizing crucial project funding, as well as to local legislators for their strong support. Minister Pan also specially thanked Tainan Mayor Wei-che Huang's team and Tainan City Council Chairperson Li-li Chiu and all Tainan City Council members for their assistance in facilitating the smooth progress of this construction project. Minister Pan further offered encouragement to NCL and the construction team as they continue working hard to complete the project on schedule and to the highest quality by the end of 2025. Minister Pan believes that the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library will surely contribute to creating an even richer literary atmosphere in Tainan, a city of rich cultural resources.

Premier Chien-jen Chen expressed that in recent years, Taiwan has actively promoted the development of domestic high-tech industries, creating the semi-conductor "S Corridor" developing high-tech links from Chiayi County to Pingtung County, and leading the transformation of industry and urban areas in southern Taiwan. In response to the information services needed as the technology industry continues to develop in southern Taiwan, the government initiated a project for the development and construction of the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library in 2017. With National Central Library's rich resources and professional services, the new branch will serve as a strong support and driving force for the development of Taiwan's technology industry and knowledge-based soft power. Premier Chen also thanked the Ministry of Education, NCL, and the whole construction team for their hard work, expressing his sincere wishes for

the smooth completion of the project and expressing his hope that upon its completion it will further extend the scope of NCL's existing resources and services, providing services to satisfy needs from technology research and development, citizen literacy, to a variety of other research projects. In the future, the Southern Branch will play multifaceted roles as an information service center for regional development in southern Taiwan, a center for academic research resources, and as a training center for library information talent. The new branch will take an even more innovative and comprehensive approach toward the preservation of knowledge assets, promotion of international academic collaboration, and enhancement of literacy among Taiwan's citizens, thereby driving local development and prosperity.

NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang explained that the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library will be a diamond-level green building comprising one basement level and 5 above-ground floors, for a total floor area of 51,094 square meters. Design features include an automated book retrieval system, solar photovoltaic energy systems, energy-reducing greenery, and a preservation of 90% of the original trees throughout the 5.7-hectare campus. The Southern Branch will provide varied specialized reading services for different ages and audiences and will become an innovative incubation center for library information and library services. The National Repository Library will not only preserve a complete collection of book information and academic resources published in Taiwan, it will also actively and widely solicit valuable digital resources to add to its collection. The construction of the Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library is part of a national-level government program to establish library resources and preserve cultural memories in southern Taiwan and it will also serve as an important hub for international academic exchange in Taiwan.

After the conclusion of Premier Chien-jen Chen's speech, the Premier, Minister of Education Wen-chung Pan, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang, Tainan Mayor Wei-che Huang, representatives from various fields, members of the construction team, and other distinguished guests together participated in a ceremonial prayer, signed

their names on a steel beam, and posed for a group photograph. Afterward, amidst the sounds of festive firecrackers, attendees witnessed the successful completion of the topping-out ceremony.

■ NCL and Harvard University Library Sign Collaborative Agreement to Establish a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies to Promote Scholarly Findings

The National Central Library signed an agreement with world-renowned Harvard University Library, making it the 50th collaborating partner in NCL's Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) initiative. This is a significant achievement. The deliberations leading up to this culmination took some time and included when former Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng led a delegation to visit Harvard in March 2023. When NCL attended the Association for Asian Studies book exhibition in the US, it donated over three hundred books to the Harvard-Yenching Library. This was the beginning of this international collaboration. As NCL continued discussions with Harvard-Yenching Librarian Jidong Yang and received his strong support, both parties signed a collaborative agreement on June 27, 2024, with Director-General Wang and Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Resources and Services Elizabeth Kirk signing for their respective institutions. The TECO-Boston's Deputy Representative Wei-chun Shih and Education Division Head Wei-yu Huang were both in attendance for the event. In addition, Harvard had many dignitaries and staff in attendance at the signing and opening ceremony, including the Associate University Librarian, underscoring the importance of this collaboration.



The signing ceremony for the Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies at the Harvard-Yenching Library

Since its founding, Harvard University has produced countless men and women of talent and earned world renown. Its Harvard-Yenching Library, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, and Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations are important locations for Taiwan Studies and Chinese Studies. The scholarly production here is amazing. The TRCCS was set up in the Harvard-Yenching Library, which was established in 1928. The number of ancient Chinese works in its collection is the highest in North America. Its holdings are varied and replete, making it one of the most important locations in academia.

Director-General Han-Ching Wang stated that by establishing a TRCCS at the Harvard-Yenching Library, NCL will be able to continue to increase the scholarly visibility and influence of resources on Taiwan Studies and Chinese Studies. This, in turn, will benefit both libraries' holdings and digital resources in teaching, research, and dissemination. In a desire to express its hopes for a successful TRCCS at Harvard, NCL presented the university with replicas of two national treasures: *The Annotated Poetry of Su Dongpo* and the *Diamond Sutra*. Afterward the event, the Harvard-Yenching Library arranged to have an exhibition of important ancient Chinese texts in its collection. It also gave a tour of its holdings and research areas, bringing the day to a perfect close.



A group photo at the newly opened Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies

■ NCL Sets up Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Pittsburgh in the US, Making Taiwan Research More Visible Worldwide

The National Central Library went to the University of Pittsburgh in the US to set up its