

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.

The second presenter was Professor John Hennessey-Niland, former U.S. Ambassador to Palau. His topic was “Taiwan—a Model of Democracy and Key Partner in the Indo-Pacific.” He pointed out that Taiwan is a link in the chain of like-minded countries in Asia and the Pacific region, as well as with the United States, jointly committed to supporting democratic governance, respecting the rule of law, and expanding economic prosperity.

The third presenter was Dr. Blanka Brzozowska, Associate Professor from the Institute of Economics, University of Lodz, Poland. Her topic was “Taiwan’s Soft Power in Polish Social Media.” By examining Taiwan’s online presence, she described Polish internet users’ general knowledge and perceptions of Taiwan. Her discourse also explored the common associations and background that shape how Polish audiences view specific cultural values.

The presentation invited Professor Hongzen Wang from the Department of Political Science at National Cheng Kung University and Assistant Professor Tai-ting Liu from the Graduate Institute of International Politics at National Chung Hsing University as discussants. The subsequent comprehensive discussion saw enthusiastic responses from all participants.

The presentation was also live-streamed, allowing interaction with researchers worldwide interested in the topics.

This scholars’ research presentation was attended by 36 scholars from 18 countries and 8 domestic scholars and experts. Additionally, 16 MOFA staff members participated, with lively exchanges both inside and outside the venue.



Group photo of all attending scholars

NCL Publications

■ 2023 Report on the Landscape of Taiwan’s Academic Resources and Capacities



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This report uses the database usage statistics of the “National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan”, “Taiwan Citation Index Database—Humanities and Social Sciences” and “Taiwan Journal Article Indexing System” established by the National Central Library to analyze the utilization of Taiwan’s academic resources. It presents the dissemination process by which the various types of academic resources, from dissertations to journal articles, are cited, the authorized disclosure and use of dissertations in various universities and the key words of papers and journals, and analyzes the general situation in relation to current research topics.

■ Revisiting the History of Taiwanese art—A Tribute to Taiwanese Art: Exhibition of Paintings Donated by Lion Art and Hsien-Wen Li, Exhibition Brochure



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