

the Ilan Agricultural and Forestry School of the Taipei Prefecture. In its early years, the institution played a crucial role in training agricultural professionals and contributing to industrial development in Yilan County, emphasizing deep local engagement and industry collaboration. Today's partnership is particularly supported by the longstanding efforts of the staff at Ilan University's Library and Information Center, who have dedicated years to preserving invaluable documents. These digitized resources, presented at the signing ceremony, are not only key to researching Taiwan's agricultural history and Yilan's local history but also serve as a cultural treasure trove for understanding the heritage of Taiwan's eastern region.

Rector Chen expressed his gratitude, stating that National Ilan University feels deeply honored to be invited by the National Central Library to participate in this initiative, especially given the competitive academic landscape in northern Taiwan. He commended the National Central Library's approach and emphasized Ilan University's full support for the collaboration. Through their joint efforts, the university's collection of pre-1949 historical books will be digitized. Ilan University is delighted to make these valuable resources available to the public. Looking ahead, Rector Chen expressed hope for even more diverse collaborations with the National Central Library, aiming to extend the reach of their combined digital resources to meet the needs of researchers and engage a wider audience of interested readers.



*The digitized historical books will be showcased in NCL's Taiwan e-Book Library*

The digitization project with National Ilan University includes a significant number of historical materials related to agriculture and crop cultivation. For example, Crop Pathology provides insight into Mr. Yun-Wu Wang's initiative to compile and publish vocational textbooks starting in 1936, as mentioned in its preface. Another notable work, Education in Taiwan Over the Past Year, is part of the New Taiwan Construction Series compiled in 1946 by the Education Department of the Taiwan Provincial Government, serving as a critical historical resource for understanding the development of education in Taiwan. Through this collaboration, Ilan University's unique collection of historical materials will complement the National Central Library's humanities and social sciences-focused holdings. This integration enhances both the depth and breadth of research resources, allowing researchers and interested readers access to these invaluable scientific and historical documents anytime, anywhere. The project is expected to have a profound impact on academic research, the preservation of local culture, and public education, while ensuring that Taiwan's cultural heritage continues to thrive and inspire through digitization, opening a new chapter in its legacy.



*A group photo of those at the signing ceremony for the digitization of historical books in collaboration with National Ilan University*

## ■ The National Central Library and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology Sign a Digitization Collaboration Agreement

On November 5, 2024, National Central Library Director Han-Ching Wang, accompanied by colleagues, traveled to Pingtung to sign a digitization collaboration agreement with National Pingtung University of Science and Technology. Located at

Taiwan's southernmost tip, Pingtung University is a renowned center for agriculture and biotechnology. Founded in 1924 as the Kaohsiung Provincial Pingtung Agricultural School, the university will celebrate its centennial in 2024, making this collaboration particularly meaningful.



*Signing the collaboration agreement between NCL and Pingtung University*



*A group photo of attending dignitaries after the signing ceremony*

Prior to the signing ceremony, Meng-Tzu Yang, a staff librarian of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) Library, provided guests with a guided walkthrough of the university's history. The event also featured an exhibition showcasing historical books and documents already digitized, as well as materials related to the university's history that are slated for future digitization efforts. In his speech, NPUST President Chin-Lung Chang emphasized that since its establishment, the university has focused on agriculture and animal husbandry as its core areas of development. Over the years, as NPUST

has witnessed and contributed to the development of Taiwan's agricultural and livestock industries, it has amassed a significant collection of agricultural books and documents from the Japanese colonial period. President Chang expressed that this collaboration with the National Central Library presents an opportunity for NPUST to comprehensively review and organize its valuable historical archives. He also commended the National Central Library for its dedication to the collection and digitization of educational historical documents.

In his speech, Director-General Wang began by expressing gratitude to NPUST, President Chang, and Library Director Shan-Ju Chao for their support of this project. Highlighting the digitized History of Cattle Plague in Taiwan as part of the project's outcomes, she pointed out that the content of this book, along with other historical texts, extends beyond topics of epidemics or agricultural and livestock knowledge. It also reflects the mindset and responses of people at the time, shaped by the limitations of knowledge and material conditions of their era. Preserving the wisdom and experiences of past generations through digital archiving is precisely the core significance of this collaboration.

This collaborative project not only includes the digitization of twenty photographs and yearbooks documenting NPUST's history but also focuses on preserving over one hundred rare pre-1949 agricultural and livestock-related texts from the university's collection. Among these is the History of Cattle Plague in Taiwan, published in 1925 by the Colonial Industry Bureau of the Taiwan Governor-General's Office. The book provides detailed accounts of the outbreaks and spread of cattle plague in Taiwan at the time, along with analyses of its causes and prevention methods, offering invaluable insights for researchers studying Taiwan's agricultural history and disease control efforts. The digitized materials have been made accessible through platforms such as Taiwan Memory and Taiwan E-book, underscoring the enduring significance of digital preservation for cultural heritage. Moving forward, NCL will continue its collaboration with NPUST to undertake broader digitization projects covering additional historical

documents and images related to the university's history.



*Viewing the digitized historical texts from the collaboration, including the History of Cattle Plague in Taiwan*

### **NCL Signed Agreement with Taipei First Girls High School to Digitize Its Historical Documents**

The National Central Library and Taipei First Girls' High School, a century-old institution, signed a collaboration agreement on October 17, 2024, to digitize historical documents. The agreement was signed by Director-General Han-ching Wang of the National Central Library and Principal Chih-yuan Chen of Taipei First Girls' High School. This partnership will focus on the digital preservation of school historical images from the Japanese colonial period.



*Director-General Wang and Principal Chen signing the agreement*

Since 2019 when NCL began its "Digitization of Century-Old Educational Documents and Taiwan Memory Collaboration Project," it has collaborated with numerous established high schools across Taiwan to digitally preserve historical images and document collections. The results of these efforts are made accessible through the library's "Taiwan Memory" and "Chinese eBook Database" platforms, offering opportunities for further exploration and value-added applications. Taipei First Girls High School is the 19th partner with the National Central Library on this project.

In her speech, Director-General Wang highlighted that the collaboration was inspired by Taipei First Girls High School's need to organize its school history. The school had requested several postcards from the Japanese colonial period archived in Taiwan Memory, which ultimately paved the way for this partnership. Prior to the signing of the agreement, the National Central Library collaborated with the school to engage its TGF Student Ambassadors in a summer service-learning program. Under the guidance of NCL staff and the students' teach Wei-chun Tsai, they actively participated in organizing historical artifacts and compiling an inventory of documents. This hands-on approach not only allowed students to immerse themselves in their school's historical context but also underscored the profound significance of the partnership in advancing digital preservation efforts.



*TFG Student Ambassadors working on their summer service-learning project*