

his work "Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa," and its acceptance and dissemination in the late-Qing period. Focusing on these rarely used historical and literary materials, Professor Kean-Fung Guan explored the linguistic contexts, ideologies, and poetic structures that appear within their various translations and the significance they reflect, thereby reconstructing the contexts in which David Livingstone's role and work were accepted and disseminated within the world of cultural studies at the turn of the 20th century.



UTAR faculty and students attend a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies

■ Reading is Beautiful · Creating the Future Together—2024 Taiwan Reading Festival Takes Joyfully to The Stage

The Taiwan Reading Festival Carnival was held amid merriment at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall from December 7 to 8, 2024. The up and coming Taiko drummers from Hsinchu City Fuli Junior High School stunned the entire audience with their performance of "Reading the Future," which kicked off the prelude to the event. Administrative Deputy Minister Teng-Chiao Lin of the Ministry of Education, National Central Library Director Han-Ching Wang and guests from co-organizers jointly pieced together the knowledge tree to light up the light of reading.



Launching Ceremony of Taiwan Reading Festival Carnival

Administrative Deputy Minister Lin said, "The theme of the 2024 Reading Festival, Reading is Beautiful · Creating the Future Together; we hope that, through this activity, everyone can feel the innovative energy and infinite possibilities that reading brings. Nowadays, textbook-style reading is no longer the norm, and "reading literacy" is an important development goal of the 108th curriculum. "Literacy orientation" has become an extremely important change in the main axis of education, and the ability to read is the key to the cultivation of basic abilities and can also be used as a skill that you can carry with you.

In recent years, the Ministry of Education has vigorously promoted reading for infants and young children in public libraries, diversified reading promotion programs, subsidies for primary and secondary school book purchases, continuous improvement of reading promotion teacher programs, construction of public libraries and enrichment of library hardware and software equipment, energetically advocating the importance of reading. According to the results of the National Central Library's annual collection and analysis of reading promotion by public libraries in counties and cities, the data for 2023 showed that middle-aged people aged 35-44 are the main reading group in libraries, and the borrowing rate of schoolchildren aged 6-11 is second only to that of middle-aged people. It grew by 4.22 percent compared to the previous year, and the borrowing rate of readers aged 0-5 has also been on the rise (up 2.44 percent), which shows that the importance of early reading literacy has become a consensus among everyone.

The 2024 "Happy Reading Carnival" event is innovative and diverse. The National Library of Korea's National Children and Youth Library, the National Library of Thailand, and the National Library of the Philippines set up activity booths to share reading activities of foreign libraries with the public. One hundred and thirty institutions, including 11 Taiwan-based organizations and the Library Association of the Republic of China, public and school libraries, museums, publishing houses, bookstores, and reading groups jointly set up more than 200 reading booths to showcase the results of

the library and school reading promotion programs. Demonstrating the results of library and school reading promotion solutions to share with the public, the content covered the spirit of the new curriculum, STREAM areas, language learning, international culture, picture book stories and early literacy, etc. Publishers also brought high-quality books for the public to buy, hoping to bring the public diverse and novel reading experiences.

After the launch ceremony, Administrative Deputy Minister Lin of the Ministry of Education and distinguished guests from all walks of life at home and abroad presented certificates of appreciation to the library community, organizations stationed in Taiwan, international librarians, government departments and museums, schools at all levels, publishing houses, co-organizing non-governmental organizations and foundations, expressing their gratitude to partners in various fields across the country who promote reading. Administrative Deputy Minister Lin then went to the "Happy Story Village" as a mysterious guest and told the stories of "Lost" (Faith in Friendship) and "The Cat Who Became a Librarian" (Appropriately International) to the children present, and the scene was filled with laughter.



Administrative Deputy Minister Lin tells stories

■ NCL Taiwan Reading Festival Proudly Promotes “The World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment,” Celebrating Global Cultures and Reading together in Support of Taiwan!

On December 7-8, 2024, the Taiwan Reading Festival hosted by the National Central Library brought together 11 embassies and institutions in

Taiwan to present a vibrant literary event under the theme "The World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment," celebrating Taiwan's unique reading culture. Visitors had the opportunity to transcend cultural boundaries, exploring picture books and literary works from around the globe. Participating entities included the embassies of Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia, along with the French Office in Taipei, the Czech Economic and Cultural Office, the Goethe-Institut Taipei German Cultural Center, the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, the Mexican Trade Services, Documentation, and Cultural Office, the Polish Office in Taipei, the Saudi Arabian Trade Office, the Taiwan European Union Centre, and the International Picture Book Center of Kaohsiung Public Library.

NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang emphasized NCL's commitment to promoting cultural exchange in reading between Taiwan and the international community. Through collaborations with numerous embassies and foreign offices in Taiwan, NCL has established the "The World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment" exhibition area as a key feature of the annual Taiwan Reading Festival. This area showcases the diverse charm of global reading cultures, providing Taiwanese readers with access to a rich array of picture books and literary works from around the world. This annual exchange not only gathers international friends to experience Taiwan's achievements in reading culture but also serves as a platform for mutual discovery—letting the world see Taiwan while encouraging exploration of the world from Taiwan.

The exhibition invites visitors to delve into the unique reading traditions of different countries, offering readers the opportunity to immerse themselves in the creative brilliance of global literature. It creates a vibrant atmosphere of shared reading, where cultures converge for an endless journey of discovery through the world of books.

The event featured a vibrant array of highlights, showcasing the cultural quintessence of various nations. The Embassy of Belize presented the country's tropical landscapes, rich history, and unique cultural heritage. The Embassy of Saint Kitts and Nevis