

e-book market and discussed consumer reading habits. Finally, Ms. Yi-Fang Lai, Division Chief at the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research, presented a statistical analysis of Taiwan's e-book market, highlighting its current status and development trends.

This lecture, attended by over 200 participants from various regions, including publishing professionals and readers interested in e-book development trends, was a resounding success. The event fostered active discussions through online interactions, particularly on topics such as book pricing systems and the application of AI in digital publishing, marking a perfect end to the event.



A group photo of the presenters

■ NCL and Saudi Arabian Trade Office in Taipei Cohost the 2024 World Arabic Language Day Celebrations

The Saudi Arabian Trade Office in Taipei, in collaboration with the National Central Library, held the 2024 "World Arabic Language Day" celebration on December 8, 2024, the second day of the Taiwan Reading Festival. The event featured an exhibition showcasing significant Arabic works translated into Chinese. The celebration took place at the main hall of the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and was organized in partnership with the Department of Arabic Language and Culture at National Chengchi University and the Arabic Department of Radio Taiwan International, aligning with the 2024 Taiwan Reading Festival. Distinguished guests included Nabeel Al-Tel, Director of the Jordan Business Office, Mohammed Muslem Said Al Baraami, Director of the Oman Trade

Office in Taipei, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Taipei City Government, as well as delegates from Islamic embassies, institutions dedicated to Arabic language studies, key figures from the Arab and Islamic communities, scholars, students, and language enthusiasts.

In her speech, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang stated that Arabic is one of the oldest languages in the world, characterized by a rich history, profound cultural heritage, and a wealth of accumulated wisdom. It is also one of the six official languages of the United Nations. Arabic serves as a medium of communication for hundreds of millions of people worldwide and as a bridge for transmitting philosophy, science, art, and literature, fostering knowledge development and cultural exchange. In today's rapidly globalizing world, respecting and valuing cultural diversity has become our shared responsibility. In recent years, NCL has been dedicated to promoting international exchanges and expanding its global impact, particularly through interactions and collaborations with cultural and educational institutions in Taiwan. The library has worked with embassies of allied nations and foreign offices in Taiwan to organize book donation projects, reading promotion events, and cultural activities. Moreover, the library invites foreign institutions in Taiwan to participate annually in the Taiwan Reading Festival, showcasing various cultures and reading traditions, which has become a hallmark of the festival. Libraries carry the mission of preserving cultural heritage and fostering cultural exchange. NCL continues to encourage cross-cultural collaboration and scholarly exchanges, introducing the wisdom and charm of the Arabic-speaking world to Taiwanese readers through exhibitions and related cultural events.

The "World Arabic Language Day" celebration is not only a grand event for language enthusiasts but also an opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue. We hope to work together to help more people learn about and understand Arabic and its culture, thereby enhancing international dialogue and cooperation.

In 2024, the Saudi Arabian Trade Office joined the Taiwan Reading Festival for the first time, introducing Arabic reading activities and distributing the latest

edition of an Arabic manga. The event featured a professional Arabic storyteller (Al-raouiya), who shared widely cherished Saudi Arabian children's books, inviting readers to explore the beauty of Saudi culture through reading.

Arabic has played a pivotal role in the development of knowledge, transmitting the sciences and philosophies of ancient Greece and Rome to Renaissance Europe through books. It also facilitated cultural exchange along the Silk Road. Through reading, participants of all ages are offered an opportunity to explore, learn, create, and connect with the world.



Director-General Wang during her remarks



A group photo of dignitaries at the 2024 World Arabic Language Day celebrations

■ **NCL's Entrepreneurship Information Literacy Course "AI Era: Entrepreneurship Empowerment" Concludes Successfully**

The National Central Library held an entrepreneurship information literacy course, "AI Era: Entrepreneurship Empowerment," on November 7, 2024. In addition to introducing "AI Information Literacy" and "Library Entrepreneurship Resources," the library also invited industry lecturers to lecture on "Looking at Business Plans from the Perspective of AI," and invited the Ministry of Economic Affairs'

Small and Medium Enterprise Administration to introduce "Sources of Startup Funding and Government Resources." The course received positive feedback from participants.

Since 2020, the National Central Library has been organizing information literacy courses for small and medium-sized enterprises and startup strongholds. This time the theme was "AI Era: Entrepreneurship Empowerment." The course was organized to introduce the use of the National Central Library database and book entrepreneurship resources, as well as how to improve information literacy and effectively verify AI-generated content in the AI era, to help entrepreneurs more effectively find, evaluate and apply information. Also invited was Dr. Stanley Shi, co-founder and consultant of BII Consulting, to give a lecture on "Looking at Business Plans from the Perspective of AI", teaching the key points of business plan writing and sharing with participants how to use ChatGPT to write business plans in a relaxed manner and turn entrepreneurial ideas into concrete plans and then put them into practice. Finally, Ms. Shu-Ru Zhang, a specialist in the Startup Incubation Division of the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Small and Medium Enterprise Administration, introduced "Startup Funding Sources and Government Resources" which are closely related to startup development. In order to encourage the development of startups, the government, in relation to funding provision and enterprise locations, has invested very extensively in software and hardware resources to allow participants to fully understand what appropriate resources are available on the road to entrepreneurship.

The participants on this occasion were from universities and other government agencies, as well as many friends who have started their own businesses. The National Central Library hopes to create opportunities for exchanges through this workshop and help people of all types who are interested in starting their own businesses to find information that can help surmount challenges and doubts when they encounter them at different stages of work. This course is in line with the recent wave of artificial intelligence brought about by various AI tools. It hopes to bring