

academic research resources, the NCL is committed to a wide range of academic services, including assisting scholars in understanding Taiwan's academic resources and scholarly networks, facilitating access to research materials, and promoting academic exchange and collaboration. NCL organizes courses, academic lectures on special topics, inter-institutional symposia, and workshops to foster dialogue and scholarly interaction between international and Taiwanese researchers, and to support the establishment of collaborative relationships between visiting scholars and Taiwan's academic institutions. Even after scholars return to their home countries, the NCL continues to offer access to a broad array of digital and physical resources. Moreover, it provides services through 53 overseas Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies and Taiwan Digital Academic Resource Center partner institutions worldwide—including Harvard University. These centers collectively offer access to a wealth of materials, including a collection of 68,518 distinct academic print publications alone.

In addition, this year NCL has completed a series of spatial renovations to provide scholars with a more comfortable research environment. Enhancements include private research carrels, scholar exchange spaces, and reading corners distributed throughout the library. With the planned completion of the NCL's Southern Branch in Tainan in 2026, NCL's services will be extended to southern Taiwan, with the hope of attracting researchers to undertake residency-based research in the region. Minister of Foreign Affairs Chia-lung Lin, who since taking office has actively supported the Taiwan Fellowship program, extended New Year greetings to the international scholars present. He also encouraged them to make the most of their time in Taiwan by forging friendships, experiencing the warmth of Taiwanese hospitality, sampling local cuisine, gaining a deeper understanding of Taiwan's landscape and culture, and enjoying the unique way of life this land has to offer.



Cotton candy DIY area

Cultural experience booths—featuring traditional crafts such as dough figurine modeling, lantern painting, calligraphy writing, and traditional festive

snacks—allowed international scholars to personally experience the atmosphere of Taiwan's Lunar New Year celebrations. The event also offered a variety of festive refreshments, including bubble tea, deep-fried glutinous rice balls, sweet potato balls, fried flour candy, candied peanuts, spiral cookies, crispy rice spirals, peanut confectionery, puffed rice treats, and smiling sesame cookie balls. The event was livestreamed via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Academy Facebook page. Following the reception, Minister Lin was invited to visit the National Central Library's special exhibition "It Begins with Paper," which left a strong impression on him for its rich and evocative content.



A photo of dignitaries in attendance

■ National Central Library Invites Paper Sculptor Hsin-Fu Hung to Share His Creative Journey at TiBE

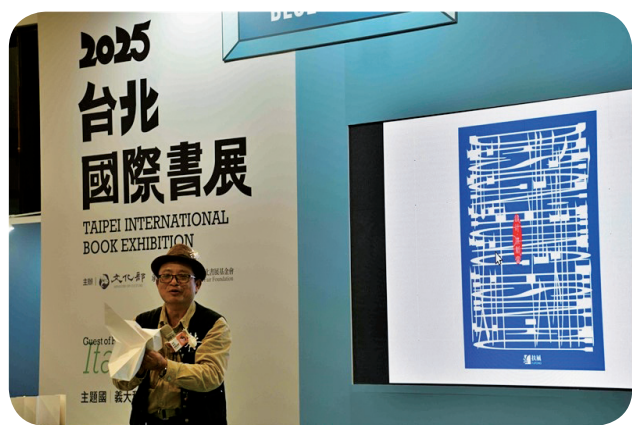
At the 2025 Taipei International Book Exhibition, the National Central Library hosted a special event alongside the "Browsing the Classics: Amazing Animal Sightings" exhibition at the Blue Salon. Internationally renowned paper sculptor Hsin-Fu Hung was invited to present a talk titled "The Possibilities of Paper: What Paper Wants to Share." Held on February 7 during the exhibition's first Starlight Night, the event attracted nearly a hundred attendees. The session was moderated by National Central Library Director-General Han-Ching Wang.



Director-General Wang moderating the lecture at the Blue Salon

Hsin-Fu Hung has been devoted to the art of paper sculpture for over 40 years and is recognized as one of Taiwan's most distinguished paper artists. His book *Tall Tale (Tree Frog)* received the Design Award at the 2004 Taiwan Fine Craft Awards. In 2021, his book *Pop-Up Book Creation Manual* earned second place in the Meggendorfer Artist Book Prize awarded by the Movable Book Society in the United States. He has been invited to hold solo exhibitions and conduct workshops in more than 20 countries and over 100 cities, including the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Russia, Belgium, Japan, Australia, and Brazil. In 2013, he led over 200 students and teachers in Taichung to set a Guinness World Record for the world's longest pop-up book. Hung has long been dedicated to promoting paper art through educational institutions. His work spans paper sculpture creation, teaching, publishing, creative education, and outreach, nurturing many future artists in the field.

In his lecture, Hung remarked that paper art in Taiwan, much like the island's unique biodiversity, has evolved its own distinctive character—different from traditional Chinese paper cutting and going beyond the scope of Japanese origami. Just as Taiwan is celebrated for the richness of its native species, he believes paper art offers a way to express these unique creatures through creation rather than destruction—using art in place of killing, and beauty in place of bloodshed. This, he emphasized, is the true value and meaning of Taiwanese paper art. This philosophy aligns perfectly with the purpose of the National Central Library's exhibition: just as ancient texts bring stories to life, so too can a simple sheet of paper be transformed into countless narratives.



A captivating evening with Hsin-fu Hung

Director-General Wang stated that this year, in addition to organizing the "Browsing the Classics: Amazing Animal Sightings" exhibition, the National Central Library has curated four major thematic sections: "Browsing Treasures: A Selection of Animal Images in NCL's Ancient Book Collection," an AR experience titled "Capturing Ancient Mythical Beasts from Legendary Realms," an audiovisual showcase "Ancient Sounds of the Past," among others. The exhibition also features a range of educational

activities and games, along with a display of Hung's paper sculptures, which have proven especially popular. In addition to inviting him to deliver a lecture at the event, NCL also plans to host a dedicated exhibition of his work in the near future. Before the event concluded, Hung presented a gift to audience members who asked a question—a copy of his book *Taiwan Origami Zoo: Paper Sculpture Meets Wildlife Knowledge—Fold the Spirit of Taiwan's Native Species!* The session concluded on a warm and enthusiastic note. Even after the event ended, many attendees lingered at the NCL's booth, eager to continue interacting with the speaker and further explore the exhibition's themes, making for a heartfelt and memorable Starlight Night.



A group photo of Hsin-fu Hung and attendees

■ The Exhibition "It Begins with Paper: Entering the Wonderful World of Paper" Starts with a Bang

To explore the limitless possibilities of paper art, the National Central Library has curated the exhibition "It Begins with Paper: Entering the Wonderful World of Paper." The exhibition was held in the Reading Hall on the second floor and started with an opening ceremony on February 15, 2025, drawing numerous artists and cultural enthusiasts. The exhibition features five themed areas: "The Look of Paper," "The Subtraction of Paper," "Wandering Through Paper," "The Rise of Taiwanese Paper Art," and "Relief Dialogues." Each area presents a unique theme to showcase the diversity and creativity of paper art.



Director-General Han-ching Wang delivering her opening remarks