

many system functions that were displayed during the press conference were given enthusiastic welcome by attendees, with publishers actively asking questions and engaging in continued exchange with NCL even after the conclusion of the conference.

The innovative measures highlighted in this press conference will not only facilitate smoother operation of publishing processes, but will also strengthen the application value of book information. This will advance deep collaboration between Taiwan's publishing and library sectors. Furthermore, this infrastructure enhancement will also further expedite the circulation of knowledge, strongly propelling an overall enhancement of reading ability among Taiwan's public and moving toward a vision of prosperity for the future of Taiwan's publishing industry.



A group photo of publishing representatives in attendance at the press conference

■ “Peering into the Future of Baseball in Taiwan and Asia after the World Baseball Classic,” Lecture Event and Donation Ceremony for Szu-chi Chou’s Manuscripts

National Central Library and Be Fun Literary Creative Ltd. together held the lecture event “Peering into the Future of Baseball in Taiwan and Asia after the World Baseball Classic” as well as a donation ceremony for Mr. Szu-chi Chou’s Manuscripts on the afternoon of March 9th (2025) at the NCL International Conference Hall.

NCL has long spared no efforts in working to collect precious manuscripts from speakers at every lecture event they organize. In an especially moving show of support, after completing his lecture, Mr. Szu-chi Chou made a special donation of manuscripts, including calligraphy from his primary school days and middle school essays to be preserved in the NCL collection. Each brush stroke and written word is a vessel of his learning and thinking during the course of his childhood and development and they also

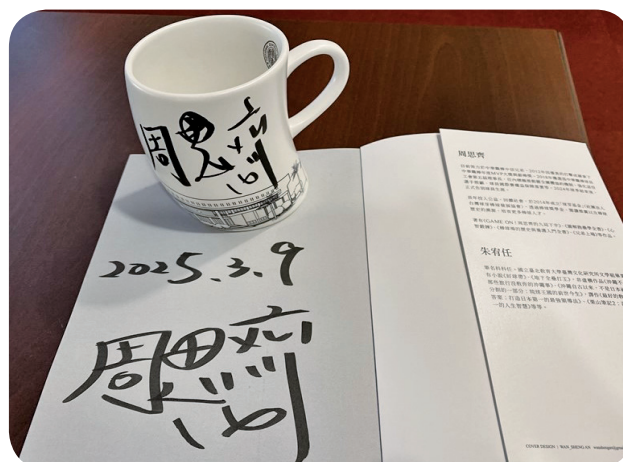
symbolize the beautiful connection between athletics and reading. This donation will become a valuable part of NCL’s collection, allowing more baseball and sports fans the opportunity to experience the spirit of baseball and gain valuable experience through reading as well as encouraging more young people to have courage in chasing their own dreams.



NCL Director General Han-ching Wang presents Mr. Szu-chi Chou with a certificate of gratitude for his donation

Former professional baseball star Szu-chi Chou and baseball writer Yu-jen Chu were invited to take part in the new book lecture event, hosted by experienced baseball commentator Wen-cheng Tseng, where they shared stories about two books:

The Samurai at the Peak, and Baseball Scouting: The Complete Beginner’s Guide. The Samurai at the Peak reveals the stories behind the Japanese Samurais winning the championship at the 2023 World Baseball Classic and looks toward the future of baseball in Taiwan and the rest of Asia. Baseball Scouting: The Complete Beginner’s Guide, shares the history of baseball scouting, notable scouts in baseball history as well as the challenges facing scouts today.



Szu-chi Chou signs NCL collections

After the post-lecture discussion, host Wen-cheng Tseng gave a moving speech about how baseball is a sport full of disappointment, pain, and injury, yet at the same time it brings us so much hope and constantly leaves us waiting with bated breath for the next moment of hope it may bring. It is precisely this conflict that makes us love the game! Attendees at this lecture and discussion with three important figures in the world of Taiwan's baseball were certainly treated to a rich and illuminating afternoon. The day's events concluded with interactions between the authors and readers at a book signing.



A group photo of speakers and attendees

■ NCL Collaborates with National Chiayi University, Creates New Milestone in Digital Preservation

The National Central Library continues to promote its “Centennial Education Resources Digitization and Taiwan Memory System Co-development and Sharing Project” as a way to preserve Taiwan's educational history through documents and visual materials. The scope of collaboration has now been expanded to include universities as well as primary and secondary schools. On February 27, 2025, Director-General Ching-han Wang signed a digitization cooperation agreement with National Chiayi University, making it NCL's first new partner institution of the year.



The signed collaboration agreement

National Chiayi University (NCYU), originally established in 1919 as the Chiayi Agricultural and Forestry School under the Governor-General of Taiwan, has stood for over a century on the fertile plains of southern Taiwan. Over the years, it has played a vital role in cultivating agricultural talent for the nation. In 1931, NCYU's baseball team broke the long-standing belief that champions could not come from south of the Chuoshui River by winning the national championship. The team went on to compete in Japan's prestigious National University Baseball Championship—commonly known as Koshien—and advanced all the way to the finals, ultimately coming in second place. This remarkable journey, brought vividly to life in the widely acclaimed 2014 film KANO, has since become one of the most enduring collective memories in Taiwan's sports history.

In his remarks, NCYU President Han-chien Lin emphasized that the core value of digitization lies in preservation and sharing. Through collaboration with the National Central Library, not only can precious documents be properly preserved and widely utilized, but such efforts also foster meaningful academic and cultural exchange on a global scale under the principle of sustainable heritage transmission. He expressed hope for continued cooperation with the National Central Library and other partners in the future, working together to contribute to the preservation of cultural assets and the advancement of scholarship.

In her remarks, Director-General Wang expressed her gratitude to President Lin, Secretary-General Tsang-chi Hsia, and Library Director Tu-liang Lin of NCYU, as well as other colleagues, for their support for and dedication to this collaborative project. She noted that, in addition to digitizing valuable historical materials related to the university's history—such as striking photographs from KANO and graduation yearbooks—the collaboration also includes the digital preservation of rare pre-1949 publications housed in the NCYU Library. These materials encompass a rich collection of Japanese-language texts as well as rare publications issued behind enemy lines during the Second Sino-Japanese War. Among the highlights is *Flora of East Asia*, published in 1935 by Japanese botanist Takenoshin Nakai. One chapter of this work documents Taiwan's geography and plant landscape, offering an important window into how the botanical community of the time understood the island.

At the signing ceremony, National Chiayi University had several graduation albums from the 1930s to showcase the remarkable achievements of the KANO era to the distinguished guests in attendance. The National Central Library will also disseminate the results of its digitization efforts through platforms such as Taiwan Memory and the Taiwan eBook database, thereby highlighting the significance of sustainable preservation through digital archiving. Looking ahead, NCL will continue to collaborate with National Chiayi University to carry out broader digitization projects involving historical documents and visual materials related to the university's history.