

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ NCL Donates Two Taiwan Corners to French Libraries, Demonstrating Taiwan-France Friendship

On April 7th, National Central Library donated Taiwan Corners to two French libraries: Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon and Médiathèque Gustave Eiffel Levallois, in order to help bring awareness about Taiwan to foreign citizens, providing quality books to readers, and using books as a bridge across nations and cultures. This donation marked NCL's first establishment of a Taiwan Corner in France and symbolizes a new chapter in book and cultural exchange between France and Taiwan.



Group photo with Mr. Olivier Bialais of the Chinese-language Collection of the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon (third from right)

Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon has long strived to provide rich knowledge and cultural resources to the greater community in their city and their collection of rare Chinese texts is a major feature of the library. This collection includes precious historical materials, works of literature, and periodicals from the former Institut Franco-Chinois de Lyon. Furthermore, Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon and National Central Library have a long history of friendship, with frequent visits and exchange between them, as well as having signed a collaborative agreement on the Union Catalog of Rare Books Database in order to collectively promote resource sharing.

Levallois City was the location of Taiwan's Athlete Training Center during the 2024 Paris Olympics. Their municipal library Médiathèque Gustave Eiffel Levallois is named for

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the famous architect Gustave Eiffel. Levallois Mayor Agnes Pottier-Dumas, who gave Taiwan her warm support during the Olympics, paid a visit to the library to welcome the donation of outstanding books from Taiwan.



NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang and Levallois Mayor Agnes Pottier-Dumas

The donation ceremonies for the Taiwan Corners were held respectively at the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon in the morning and at the Médiathèque Gustave Eiffel Levallois in the afternoon. NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang was accompanied by Education Division Director Mei-chen Lu of the Taipei Representative Office in France, traveling to personally make the donations to both libraries. Consul General Ambassador Cheng-Hong Shen of the Bureau Annexe d’Aix-en-Provence and his wife were present at the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon ceremony and Representative Philippe Yen Chia-Liang of the Taipei Representative Office in France attended the Médiathèque Gustave Eiffel Levallois ceremony, paying witness to the significant events marking new cultural exchange between the two countries.

NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang expressed that the donations of these two Taiwan Corners included 90 kinds of carefully selected publications including Chinese, English, and French language publications, spanning a variety of areas such as Taiwanese history, culture, society, and the natural environment. In recent years, NCL has actively worked to expand international exchange and the establishment of Taiwan Corners abroad have brought an abundance of Taiwanese books and cultural resources to the world. The Taiwan Corner program

has collaborated with outstanding libraries across the world. By continuing to make donations of high quality Taiwan-published books, children’s picture books, and Chinese-language learning books, NCL hopes to plant seeds and cultivate more young readers of Chinese, increase understanding of Taiwan, and inject more momentum into the cultural exchanges between the two countries.

NCL would like to specially extend gratitude to the Taipei Representative Office in France for their long-term efforts in promoting cultural and educational exchange between Taiwan and France. Director-General Wang commended Ambassador Pei-chih Hao for her support, Education Division Director Mei-chen Lu for her work as a liaison, and Representative Philippe Yen Chia-Liang for attendance at the ceremony. In addition, Consul General Ambassador Cheng-Hong Shen of the Bureau Annexe d’Aix-en-Provence, who has worked hard to promote exchanges with Taiwan and developed excellent relationships with a variety of cultural and educational institutions in the south of France, also attended the event. Further, NCL expressed gratitude and admiration for hard work in preserving and maintaining Chinese-language collections and data as well as the enthusiastic promotion of this donation by Mr. Olivier Bialais, of the Chinese-language Department of the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon. NCL expressed collective gratitude to each of the above offices and partners for working together tirelessly for months to plan and make this mutual exchange between France and Taiwan possible.



NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang and Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon Director Ophélie Ramonatxo



Taiwan-France Friendship, Levallois City warmly welcomes quality books from Taiwan

■ NCL Visits Paris Municipal Libraries, Donating Taiwan Corner Books

Books can serve as a bridge to friendship, allowing members of the French public to get to know Taiwan through reading good books. On April 11, 2025, National Central Library Director-General Han-ching Wang visited Director Jean-Arthur Creff of the Paris Municipal Libraries and Reading Department. Three Deputy Director-Generals were also in attendance and the two parties engaged in professional exchange about libraries and reading promotion. On the same day, NCL also donated books to establish a Taiwan Corner at the Paris Sorbier Library (Bibliothèque Sorbier).



The Taiwan Corner is open and welcoming readers at the Sorbier Library

In order to promote book and cultural exchange between the two countries, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang visited the main branch of Paris Municipal Libraries to meet with Reading Department Director Jean-Arthur Creff, with three Deputy Director-Generals also in attendance, to discuss professional efforts by libraries to promote reading. Meeting attendees proposed the signing of a joint MOU between the two library systems and to further

research the systematic establishment of Taiwan Corners throughout Paris, in addition to the promotion of Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Centers (TADRC). TADRC is a new brand of service promoted by NCL which serves to provide substantial benefit to collaborating institutions abroad by providing high quality digital research resources from Taiwan through sustainably operating model. The program will thereby promote and develop academic exchange, spurring cultural marketing, and increasing the visibility of Taiwanese academic research accomplishments.

The Sorbier Library is located in the 20th arrondissement of Paris, a diverse melting pot of cultures which has gained a positive reputation its “Heart of Asia” due to its high population of ethnic Chinese immigrants. The library is committed to providing local residents with knowledge and cultural resources and is a site of strong community cohesion. The donations as a part of this Taiwan Corner include 90 kinds of carefully selected publications including Chinese, English, and French-language publications, spanning a variety of areas such as Taiwanese history, culture, society, and the natural environment, in addition to offering children’s picture books and periodicals. NCL Director-General Wang expressed her hopes that the Taiwan Corner can become a window through which readers get to know Taiwan. Sorbier Library Director Céline Rollet expressed the great importance she places on this collaboration as well as her hope that reading and exchange can increase friendship between people of the two countries. She also explained that book club discussions will be held around books from the Taiwan Corner in order to encourage members of the public to read these excellent books and increase their understanding of Taiwan.

In recent years, NCL has actively worked to expand international exchange and the establishment of Taiwan Corners abroad has brought an abundance of Taiwanese books and cultural resources to the world. The Taiwan Corner program has collaborated with outstanding libraries across the world. By continuing to make donations of high-quality Taiwan-published books, children’s picture books, and Chinese-language learning books, NCL hopes to plant seeds and cultivate more young readers of Chinese, increase understanding of Taiwan, and inject more momentum into the cultural exchanges among the two countries.

NCL would like to once again express the sincerest gratitude to the Taipei Representative Office in France for their long-term efforts in promoting cultural and education exchange between Taiwan and France and to Education Division Director Mei-chen Lu for her assistance in facilitating this donation and visit, working together to make this bilateral exchange a success.