

(TaiwanICDF), jointly hosted the second Development Focus Forum. Held in NCL's Conference Room 301, this year's forum centered on the theme "Exploring the Global Development of Smart Healthcare," drawing together experts and scholars from Taiwan and abroad.

The forum aimed to explore global trends in smart healthcare development and to share Taiwan's practical experiences in implementing smart healthcare initiatives in developing countries. The event was hosted by Deputy Secretary-General Pei-fen Hsieh of the TaiwanICDF and featured a keynote address by Professor Marcelo Corrales Compagnucci of the University of Copenhagen, a recipient of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Fellowship. His lecture, titled "Smart Healthcare and International Cooperation," offered an in-depth analysis of the pivotal role that smart healthcare plays in transforming global health care systems.



*Experts from Taiwan and abroad at the forum*

This year's forum featured two main sessions: "From Global Trends to Southern Practices: Key Issues and Strategies in Smart Healthcare" and "From Intelligent Algorithms to a Health Revolution: AI Leading the New Landscape of Digital Medicine." The panel brought together an impressive lineup of speakers, including Associate Professor Nien-chen Kuo from National Taiwan University, Deputy Superintendent of Shin Kong Hospital Dr. Tzu-jen Hung, Ph.D. candidate at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania Tsai-hsuan Chung, and General Manager of Taiwan Advanced Medical Informatics Chao-sheng Huang. These experts shared in-depth insights into technological innovation and practical applications in the field of smart healthcare.

Panel discussants included Dr. Hung-yi Chiu, Director of the National Health Research Institutes; Dr. Ya-wen Chiu, Deputy Director of the same institute; Chih-hung Lee, Deputy Secretary-General of the TaiwanICDF; Hung-tzu Wang, Director at

the TaiwanICDF; and Dr. Ching-ting Tan, Deputy Superintendent of the Hsinchu Branch of National Taiwan University Hospital. Together, they explored the opportunities and challenges in the development of smart healthcare, fostering an exchange of perspectives across multiple sectors.

This forum was part of an ongoing collaborative series jointly organized by the National Central Library and the TaiwanICDF. Anchored by the journal Development Focus Quarterly, the series brings together interdisciplinary experts from Taiwan and abroad to examine Taiwan's role and contributions in the fields of smart healthcare and international cooperation, with the aim of supporting developing countries in strengthening their healthcare systems.

The event attracted around 80 professionals from industry, government, academia, research institutions, NGOs, and the international community. The discussions were lively and yielded fruitful results. A full video recording of the forum is available to the public on the NCL's DAVA Video Platform, and interested viewers are invited to watch online.



*A group photo after the second session of the forum*

## Chinese Studies Symposium

### ■ Deepening Taiwan–Japan Exchange: National Central Library Hosts Conference on Chinese Studies and Taiwan Studies in Tokyo

The National Central Library, the University of Tokyo Library, and the University of Tokyo Asian Studies Library jointly organized an academic conference called "Chinese and Taiwan Studies in Taiwan and Japan: Looking Back and toward the

Future,” held from September 30 to October 1, 2025, at the University of Tokyo Hongo Campus Main Library. Also invited to the event was Director Yi-shen Chen of the National History Museum to deliver the Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies.

The conference brought together more than 40 prominent scholars from Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea to serve as session chairs, presenters, and discussion panelists. Over the course of two days, the conference covered topics including Republican-era history, postwar Taiwanese history, premodern Chinese gender history, popular culture and folk beliefs, and East Asian history, demonstrating the depth and breadth of transnational academic dialogue. The event attracted over 170 participants both in person and online.

The opening ceremony of the conference featured remarks by Professor Shuichi Sakai, Director of the University of Tokyo Library; Professor Eiji Sagawa, Director of the Asian Studies Library; and Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng of the National Central Library. Deputy Director-General Weng, representing Director-General Han-Ching Wang, noted that Taiwan and Japan have long maintained close collaboration in Chinese studies and Taiwan studies. In December 2014, the two institutions signed an agreement to establish a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS), which has shared Taiwanese academic research achievements with the University of Tokyo for nearly 11 years. During this period, with the assistance of Professor Eiji Sagawa, as well as Professor Makoto Nagashima at the TRCCS, multiple exchange visits and Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies have been held in both Taiwan and Japan. This conference not only bears witness to past collaboration but also marks a new milestone in promoting future transnational academic exchange.



*Professor Eiji Sagawa, NCL Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng, and Professor Shuichi Sakai delivering remarks at the opening ceremony (From left to right)*



*A view of one session*

At the conference opening, Director Yi-shen Chen of the National History Museum delivered a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies titled “Light and Shadow: Tracing the Imprints of Taiwan’s Rebirth around 1945.” The presentation reviewed the historical dynamics of postwar Taiwanese society and set the stage for the rest of the conference.

On the first day of the conference, the sessions “Dialogues on Taiwanese and Japanese Republican-era History” and “Modern Taiwanese History Research” brought together scholars from Academia Sinica, National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University, and Japan to present their latest research, exploring various aspects from narratives of modernization to transnational dissemination. The second day focused on premodern Chinese gender history, Chinese popular culture and folk beliefs, and East Asian history, covering topics ranging from family and kinship practices during the Wei, Jin, and Northern and Southern dynasties, to gender studies of Ming and Qing families, as well as analyses of Journey to the West and Guanyin worship, alongside comparative perspectives in East Asian history. Participants noted that these studies reflect the diversity of contemporary Sinology and highlight shared concerns across the international scholarly community.

Deputy Director-General Weng emphasized that the value of academic research lies not only in the accumulation of knowledge but also in fostering dialogue and transmission across borders and generations. He expressed the hope that this symposium would inspire more next-generation researchers to engage in Chinese studies and Taiwan studies, bringing fresh vitality to the field, and he also expressed gratitude for the longstanding support and assistance of Taiwan’s Representative Office in Japan.



*A group photo of attendees*

## ■ The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS established the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year assists 20 overseas scholars in coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 1 to 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures. Between July and September 2025, 7 scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On July 4th, 2025, Prof. Florian C. Reiter, Humboldt University, Germany, gave the lecture on “Taoist Priests (daoshi, fashi) and Spirit-Mediums (jitong, tongling) in canonical sources, and their conditions of collaboration.”

On July 10th, 2025, Ph.D. Lorenzo Andolfatto, senior researcher and translator currently based at Academia Sinica’s Institute of Modern History, Taiwan, gave the lecture on “Sources for the Study of Modern Astronomy in 19th-century China: An Overview.”

On July 11th, 2025, Prof. Jun Yong Hoon, The Academy of Korean Studies, Republic of Korea, gave the lecture on “The Introduction of Western Cosmology and the Invention of Earth's rotation in East Asia.”

On July 15th, 2025, Prof. Francis Allard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA, gave the lecture on “Early Maritime Interaction in the South China Sea: A View from South China and Taiwan.”

On July 22nd, 2025, Prof. Park Minsu, Ewha Womans University, Republic of Korea, gave the lecture on “Crossing the Strait of Shifting Identities: Analyzing the Evolving Portrayals of the Zheng Regime in Taiwanese History Textbooks.” At the same day, Assoc. Prof. Tsuchiya Hiroshi, Nagoya University, Japan, gave the lecture on “History of “Historical Awareness”: Textbooks in Modern China and Japan.”

On September 23rd, 2025, Mr. Nga, Shi Yeu, Stockholm University, Sweden, gave the lecture on “Digital Gut-scape: Probio-politics of Care and Posthuman Fieldwork.”

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ "Reading in Taichung" 2025 Taichung City Reading Start-up Event

The Taichung Municipal Library launched the "Reading in Taichung - Reading Starts Here" campaign in 2025, officially starting on July 3rd, to continue until December 31st. The event focuses on promoting reading for infants and toddlers aged 0 to 5. It is jointly organized by 46 libraries throughout the city and includes themed book exhibitions, storytelling, parent-child reading, parent growth lectures, and creative reading activities. More than 100 events are expected to be held, and 10,000 reading gift bags will be distributed to encourage parents and children to spend time reading together. Parents registered in Taichung who hold a children's library card can redeem a limited-edition reading gift bag by borrowing 10 books and participating in any activity or completing a learning worksheet. Taichung Public Library encourages new parents to cultivate their children's multi-sensory learning through "10 minutes of daily parent-child reading," encompassing auditory, tactile, and comprehension skills. Cultural Affairs Bureau Director Chia-chun Ch'en stated that the city government is integrating resources such as libraries, social housing, correctional institutions, and mobile library vehicles to create a borderless and friendly reading environment, making reading an important part of urban life.

### ■ National Chung Hsing University, together with 17 alumni and businesses, is helping students realize their dreams of reading

National Chung Hsing University held the "2025 Little Reading Explorers - Fun Adventure in the Book Jungle" charity event for students to explore the library at night from July 8th to 25th, 2025. This is the third year of the event. The event was hosted by the International College of Innovation and Industry Liaison at National Chung Hsing University, co-organized by the library and the Office of Academic Affairs, and supported by 17 enthusiastic alumni and businesses. The event was held in four sessions, to which about 40 students were invited from rural areas