

■ Professor Ta-chuan Sun Donates Manuscripts, Expanding the National Central Library's Key Resources on Taiwan's Indigenous Literature

On the morning of December 16, the National Central Library held the “Knowledge and Action over Mountains and Seas: Professor Ta-chuan Sun Collection Donation Ceremony.” Professor Ta-chuan Sun donated important materials to NCL, including manuscripts, notes, and rare historical photographs. These materials add key primary sources to the study of Taiwan's indigenous literature and culture, and also demonstrate Professor Sun's profound engagement with indigenous writing and the development of indigenous thought.

Professor Ta-chuan Sun is an important contemporary essayist, scholar, and cultural critic. His tribal name is Baelabang, and he previously wrote under the pen name Hai-jo. He is a member of the Puyuma people from the Lower Binlang community in Taitung. Professor Sun has served as Vice President of the Control Yuan and has taught at multiple universities, where he also held departmental and administrative leadership positions, mentoring countless students. In 1993, he founded the Mountains and Seas Cultural Magazine Publishing House and launched the bimonthly journal Mountains and Seas Culture, providing an important platform for the publication of indigenous literature and cultural discourse.

Director-General Han-Ching Wang stated that the materials donated by Professor Sun hold significant value for research in Sinology, philosophical thought, as well as Taiwan's indigenous literature and history. At today's donation ceremony, Professor Sun donated 231 manuscripts, four notebooks, two art albums, and two manuscript reproductions to the National Central Library for permanent preservation, thereby enriching the Library's collections related to the history of Taiwan's indigenous literature.

The manuscripts donated by Professor Sun include an important work from his student years, “The Undying Sun in My Soul”; notes and coursework produced during his period of study in Belgium; and numerous scholarly articles on traditional Chinese philosophical thought. The collection also contains many significant works reflecting his commitment to indigenous writing, including the influential anthropological essay “On

Facing Anthropologists: A Statement of Guilt on the ‘Torii Ryūzō Special Exhibition’”; the 1994 Proceedings of the Indigenous Cultural Conference, which addresses the origins of Indigenous Peoples' Day; as well as the general preface, “Literature as a Form of Ethnic Defense” in Selected Anthology of Taiwan Indigenous Literature: Literary Criticism, and The World of Mountains and Seas: A Portrayal of the Spiritual World of Taiwan's Indigenous Peoples. Taken together, these valuable manuscripts vividly demonstrate Professor Sun's profound scholarly foundation and trace the formation and development of his intellectual thought.



Professor Sun donating his manuscripts and other materials to Director-General Wang

Professor Sun also donated more than two hundred historical photographs. These images document the life history of the Lower Binlang community beginning in the Japanese colonial period, including changes in the living environment, as well as many of the people, events, and items encountered during Professor Sun's own formative years. The memories conveyed through these photographs reflect the life trajectory of an indigenous activist who set out from a community along the Beinan River in Taiwan's eastern backwoods and journeyed across mountains and seas. Together, they reveal the accumulation of knowledge and lived experience forged along this path.



Professor Sun and Director-General Wang after signing the agreement

In his remarks, Professor Sun reflected on the development of indigenous literature over the past three decades, tracing the gradual process by which indigenous communities have entered and reshaped Taiwan's literary world. He stated that his enduring relationship with writing stemmed from a deep-seated inner anxiety. As early as his junior high school years, he became aware that leading intellectuals often shared a similar sense of anxiety—one that resonated closely with his own—and that this anxiety arose from a shared concern over how ethnic cultures and histories might be sustained and carried forward. He noted that the manuscripts and creative records donated on this occasion constitute concrete evidence of this historical trajectory, documenting the course of indigenous peoples' engagement with writing and intellectual practice. Professor Sun also spoke of his personal connections with former directors of the National Central Library, Fu-ts'ung Chiang and Wan-li Ch'ü, and expressed his special sense of attachment and affection for the Library.

He further expressed his hope that indigenous voices might transcend linguistic and geographic boundaries and engage in deeper dialogue with the world. Through this donation, he sought to preserve these reflections and experiences within a more enduring and open knowledge space, so that they may serve as an important foundation for future research and creative work. In closing, Professor Sun noted that the 221 historical photographs included in this donation comprehensively document the life trajectory of the Lower Binlang community. He stated that he plans to personally write stories about the individuals appearing in the photographs, and expressed his hope that through the interweaving of text and image, a more complete portrayal of collective memory can be achieved, contributing to the shared construction of the community's cultural history.

The National Central Library has long been dedicated to preserving the manuscripts and research of Taiwan's important literary figures, writers, and scholars. Professor Ta-chuan Sun's donation significantly enriches the Library's holdings related to indigenous literature and cultural history, ensuring that the precious historical memories of the Lower Binlang community are properly preserved and transmitted. These manuscripts, notebooks, and images not only bear witness to the deep cultural heritage of the Puyuma people, but also provide invaluable resources for Taiwan's multicultural landscape, and will serve as

important references for future research on indigenous literature and history. This donation ceremony was titled "Knowledge and Action over Mountains and Seas." By donating his treasured personal collection to the National Central Library, Professor Sun's contribution resonates closely with the theme's emphasis on a spirit of cultural transmission that transcends mountains and seas. It reflects the shared aspiration that indigenous wisdom and voices may cross linguistic and geographic boundaries, continuing to engage in dialogue and circulation within a broader knowledge space, and collectively enriching Taiwan's cultural knowledge repository.



Dignitaries at the donation ceremony

■ Reading opens up endless possibilities The 2025 Taiwan Reading Festival gets joyfully underway !

The annual "Taiwan Reading Festival" - a joyful celebration of reading - was held on December 6th and 7th, 2025, in the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall Park. The "Love of the Sun Choir" from Qiao ai Elementary School in Taoyuan City kicked off the two-day festival with vibrant and traditional indigenous songs—the Bunun song "Clapping Song" and the Atayal song, "Atayal Children."

Kuo-Wei Liu, Deputy Minister of Education, Han-Ching Wang, Director-General of the National Central Library, and distinguished guests from co-organizing units jointly participated in the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony featured a collaborative creation of a future knowledge house themed "Building Dreams Through Reading, Creating Limitless Knowledge Together." Director-General Wang personally transformed into a storytelling ambassador, serving as a surprise guest at the "Happy Story Village" children's storytelling room, leading the audience on an imaginative and fantastical library journey.