

In his remarks, Director Ang Lee candidly shared that in recent years, seeing young audiences continue to engage in reading and with films at film festivals and cultural events has deeply moved him and rekindled his confidence in creative work. In an era marked by accelerated visual rhythms and fragmented modes of information transmission, he acknowledged that the film industry is currently undergoing a period of uncertainty and transformation. Yet it is precisely under such circumstances, he noted, that the values of “belief” and “innocence” become all the more precious. Reflecting on the nature of creation, Director Lee observed that some things defy rational explanation. The enduring appeal of cinema lies in the fact that it is, quite simply, “fun.” Drawing an analogy to travel, he suggested that filmmaking should not always follow the same route: “Marriage requires fidelity, but filmmaking does not need to be faithful to a single form.” In his view, creative work should allow for experimentation and risk-taking. If one project succeeds, the next should dare to break boundaries and lavishly expend imagination; if experimentation leads to setbacks, one can then return to restraint and subtlety. As long as there is still energy to give, he emphasized, one should continue to explore the unknown—this, he concluded, is the driving force that allows creativity to endure.



A group photo with attendees

Awakening from a Ten-Year Film Dream: A Biography of Ang Lee was first published at a pivotal stage in his creative career, documenting the decade from Pushing Hands to the period just before Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. Lee recalls that the writing process unfolded under the guidance and companionship of Director-General Liang-pei

Chang, through which he repeatedly revisited and refined his experiences and inner reflections. After extensive revision over a prolonged period, the book became not only an important record of his cinematic practice but also a repository of invaluable life experiences for emerging filmmakers. In the face of rapid technological advancement and the rise of AI, Director Lee offers words of encouragement: what cinema carries is not merely technique or form, but an irreplaceable spiritual energy—the pure conviction that “by undertaking this work, one can change the world.” This sincerity possesses profound emotional resonance and remains a vital force driving humanity’s continual creation and deepening understanding of the world.

At the book-signing session held after the talk, a long queue quickly formed as readers seized the rare opportunity to interact with Director Ang Lee at close range. Whether expressing their long-standing admiration and support, or seeking encouragement and guidance for their own creative journeys, each was met with a warm and sincere response. He took the time to convey his passion and creative energy personally to every reader.

This launch event was not merely about a new book, but a substantive dialogue on the original impulse of creation, the enduring value of reading, and the humanistic spirit. NCL hopes, through cultural programs of this kind, to preserve precious creative memories, foster intergenerational exchange, and, amid a rapidly changing era, safeguard the intellectual depth and spiritual warmth embodied in reading and in video.

■ National Central Library and the Self-Awareness Association Sign Artifact Donation Agreement

On the afternoon of December 18, 2025, the National Central Library and the Chinese Youth Self-Awareness Movement Promotion Association (hereinafter referred to as the Self-Awareness Association) signed a cultural artifacts donation agreement, executed by Director-General Han-Ching Wang and Tsung-kuo Chiang.

The Self-Awareness Association and the Self-Awareness Movement originated 62 years ago with the publication of an opinion piece titled “A Sense of Human Warmth and Civic Responsibility,” written by U.S.-based Taiwanese student Jen-hua Di, in the May

18, 1963 issue of the Central Daily News. The article cited various real-life situations to criticize the lack of social order and civic responsibility in Taiwanese society. It argued that although such issues might appear minor, if university students lacked a sense of public ethics and moral responsibility, they could not become the backbone of the nation in the future and might even pose a threat to society at large. The impact of this article led students at National Taiwan University and National Chengchi University to organize and establish the Self-Awareness Association. Under the slogan “We are not a selfish and decadent generation,” they mobilized university students to participate in social service activities, giving rise to a widespread social movement at the time.

In her remarks, Director-General Han-Ching Wang stated that the National Central Library has long been actively engaged in digital archiving efforts. She noted that even the opinion piece written by Jen-hua Di that influenced the founding of the Self-Awareness Association can now be accessed in full through NCL’s National Newspaper Image System. She emphasized that NCL will undertake the preservation of the Self-Awareness Association’s artifacts with a strong sense of responsibility and long-term commitment, and will employ digital archiving technologies to ensure that all sectors of society, and even audiences around the world, can access the “history written with life” on this land, as well as the spirit of the times.

Although the Self-Awareness Association ceased formal activities after 1969, strong bonds of friendship have continued among its members. In his remarks, representative Tsung-kuo Chiang recounted many memories, including leading by example in promoting orderly public behavior such as lining up, as well as speaking out against injustice and unfairness in response to social events. These recollections illustrated the ideals and capacity for action demonstrated by young students of that generation. Professor Kuan-chung Huang, who served as the introductory speaker for the event, drew parallels between the founding of the Self-Awareness Association and the “Symposium on the History of the Song Dynasty,” affirming the historical significance of the association’s spontaneous and vigorous development in an era lacking formal official organizations. He also expressed appreciation to the National Central Library for valuing and preserving these documents and historical materials that may

appear “seemingly insignificant.”

During the event, many members of the Self-Awareness Association also shared their experiences. Professor Chih-ping Situ spoke about the editorial process of *Records of the Chinese Youth Self-Awareness Movement*, a publication intended to present the motivations behind the association’s founding, the nature of its activities, and its impact on its members. For many years, this volume served as almost the only channel through which the public could learn about the Self-Awareness Association. Secretary-General Wen-nan Wen described how his involvement in the association transformed him from a timid youth into an individual actively engaged with social issues. He recalled the “Sending Warmth in Winter” campaign initiated in 1966 and explained how this experience later inspired him, after retirement, to establish a community development association. Through this organization, he provided meal delivery services to elderly individuals living alone for a period of ten years. Mr. Shun-chi Chou, who had been among the early non-student members of the Self-Awareness Association, shared firsthand accounts of his role in conducting household surveys for the “Sending Warmth in Winter” campaign and of his active participation in various protest movements. He also noted that the title of an article published in the association’s bulletin, “Action Speaks Louder Than Words,” became his lifelong guiding principle, and he displayed at the venue the association’s flag and emblem, which he has preserved for sixty years.

The artifacts donated by the Self-Awareness Association on this occasion comprise nearly two hundred items, including documents, photographs, and various administrative materials spanning from the association’s early founding period through its later reestablishment. Selected artifacts were also displayed outside the signing venue. Upon completion of digitization, the materials will be made publicly accessible through NCL’s Taiwan Memory system, further contributing to the preservation and transmission of Taiwan’s social memory and the history of postwar student movements.



NCL presents a certificate of appreciation to the Self-Awareness Association



A group photo after the event

■ The Third Ministry of Education Library Contribution Award Ceremony – Let Knowledge Shine

The Third Ministry of Education Library Contribution Award Ceremony was held on the afternoon of December 16th in the International Conference Hall on the third floor of the National Central Library's Arts and Culture Center. The ceremony recognized 16 award winners and has been of great significance in promoting the development of the National Central Library's cause.

Political Deputy Minister of Education Kuo-wei Liu delivered a speech and presented the award. He said that library work is not only a career, but also an extremely noble cause. Only by regarding library work as a profession can one persevere and continue to contribute on the professional path with enthusiasm and belief. Furthermore, libraries play a very important and stable role in the overall social structure. The Political Deputy Minister emphasized that libraries are the well-deserved "Center for Citizens," and their status and value in society

have been widely recognized. Just as in Europe and America, almost every city library is the most important center in the local area. We must therefore gain deeper understanding and expectations for the importance of libraries.



Political Deputy Minister of Education Kuo-wei Liu delivers an address

Following the Political Deputy Minister's address, five major awards were presented: the Local Leader Award, the Model Library Award, the Outstanding Library Supervisor Award, the Outstanding Librarian Award, and the Special Contribution Award.

Local Leader Award: Mayor San-cheng Chang of Taoyuan City invested large-scale infrastructure resources to build a high-quality, borderless service network and successfully integrated the public library system with the education system. He used smart technology to create a happy reading city, significantly improving the overall reading environment and atmosphere in the county and city.

Special Contribution Award: The Yushan Cultural and Educational Foundation, with its corporate culture of "Knowing Blessings, Cherishing Connections, and Being Grateful," has made large-scale donations to build nearly 200 Yushan Libraries, covering rural and outlying island areas throughout Taiwan. To date, it has distributed nearly 500,000 new books, benefiting over 170,000 students and significantly improving the reading ability of children in rural areas. The schools that have received donations have also been recognized by the Ministry of Education's Reading Rock Award. Professor Chao-chen Chen, Chair Professor at Chung Yuan Christian University and Honorary Professor at National Taiwan Normal University, has been deeply involved in reading education. Since 2009, she has been commissioned by the Ministry of Education to host the Library Reading Promotion Teacher Training Program. The number of schools participating in the program has increased significantly to over 500, fundamentally