



2025 Taiwan Reading Festival Launch Ceremony



Group photo of distinguished guests at the Taiwan Reading Festival

■ **National Central Library’s Reading Jamboree is Launched: Twelve National Cultures Gather to Share a Global Reading Feast**

The Taiwan Reading Festival, a major cultural event held from December 6th to 7th, 2025, saw the National Central Library join hands with embassies and representative offices from 12 countries in Taiwan to present “World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment” as the theme for international exchanges on reading culture. The diverse and engaging exhibits offered Taiwanese readers a rich journey into international culture.



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Han-Ching Wang, Director-General of the National Central Library, said that, in recent years, the National Central Library has been actively promoting cooperation and exchanges between Taiwan and the world in reading culture, and has set up a "World Reading Exchange" section at the Taiwan Reading Festival, which has become one of the highlights of the event. Participating organizations in 2025 came from 12 countries and regions: France, the Czech Republic, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Israel, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Mexico, Poland, and the European Union Centre in Taiwan. This group covered such regions as Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Central America, allowing Taiwanese readers to travel the world through reading without leaving the country. At the same time, it allowed international friends to understand the importance that Taiwanese society attaches to reading, and work together to achieve the goal of "letting the world see Taiwan and reading the world from Taiwan".

The vibrant exchange of cultures from multiple countries once again illuminated the entire event, allowing readers to use reading as a bridge to enter the worlds of different nations. 2025 was particularly noteworthy because the Swedish Trade and Invest Council was celebrating the 80th anniversary of the creation of Pippi Longstocking, a classic literary character created by Astrid Lindgren and beloved worldwide. During the event, visitors were able to participate in performances of Pippi's story, role-playing, reading lessons, and coloring activities to gain a deeper understanding of the childlike innocence, independence, and courage that Pippi symbolizes, and to convey the charm of Swedish literature to the public.



The Representative from the Swedish Trade and Invest Council Taipei Office gave an address and a performance of the Pippi Longstocking story

In addition, booths from France, the Czech Republic, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint

Lucia, and other countries offered unique cultural experiences. The French Office in Taipei's French-Chinese bilingual reading program allows readers to get closer to French children's literature, learn basic French, and embark on a cross-cultural reading journey. The Czech Economic and Cultural Office brought the festive atmosphere of Czech winter to Taiwan, showcasing Czech culture to the Taiwan public through such activities as gingerbread making and Christmas star creation. The Embassy of Belize focused on the country's unique multiculturalism, inviting everyone to experience the colors and rhythms of Central America through books, traditional clothing, and drumming lessons.

An in-depth presentation of European culture was also one of the highlights of the event. The Goethe-Institut (Taipei) German Cultural Center, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nobel laureate Paul Thomas Mann, introduced his emblematic works, *Death in Venice* and *Doctor Faustus*. In addition, the European Union Centre in Taiwan showcased the latest books published by the EU and the world's first set of bilingual (Chinese and English) EU board games, and interns from various countries shared stories and insights into the diverse cultures of Europe.

The cultural exchange between Asia and the Americas was equally exciting. The Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei presented a DIY spinning top and Hebrew cultural picture book exhibition themed around Hanukkah; Mexico, on the other hand, led children to become little archaeologists and explore the charm of ancient civilizations through the *Aztec Color Adventure*. Countries like Japan and Belize also offered a wealth of cultural activities, allowing readers of all ages to experience exotic cultures at first hand.

In addition, the Kaohsiung Public Library International Picture Book Center showcased original Taiwanese picture books through the "Good Picture Sprouts" project, and introduced Taiwanese stories in both Chinese and English, promoting local creations on the international stage. Taiwan's International Cooperation and Development Fund—which upholds the spirit of global concern and assists friendly or developing countries in their economic, social, and human resource development, promotes economic relations with friendly or developing countries, and provides humanitarian assistance to countries affected by natural disasters or international refugees—

introduced Taiwan's achievements in international development assistance and demonstrated Taiwan's contributions on the global stage.

In 2025, the National Central Library's "World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment" used reading as a bridge to build an open reading market connecting people with global cultures. From the works of European literary masters and the festive stories of the Caribbean to the handicrafts and festivals of Central America and Asia, children and adults alike were able to embark on their own unique reading adventure here.

Events

■ **The Cross-Disciplinary Exhibition on History and Nature, "The Sea Unruffled: Oceanic Visions Between the Pages" and "Marine Life: Medicine or Not?" Mobile Museum, Opens at Pingtung County Library**

Jointly organized by NCL, National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, and Pingtung County Library, the cross-disciplinary exhibitions "The Sea Unruffled: Oceanic Visions Between the Pages" — A Rare Books and Historical Documents Exhibition and "Marine Life: Medicine or Not?" — A Mobile Museum Touring Exhibition officially opened on the afternoon of December 13, 2025, at Pingtung County Library. Centered on the ocean, the two exhibitions integrate history and natural science, guiding the public in an in-depth exploration of the sea's multifaceted dimensions while promoting nationwide reading engagement and strengthening environmental literacy.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony, NCL Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng observed that the exhibition represents not only an in-depth exploration of maritime history, but also a comprehensive presentation of the contemporary applications of marine life. He emphasized that the collaboration between NCL and National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium is intended to advance nationwide attention to marine culture and biodiversity. Through this touring exhibition format, these valuable historical and scientific resources will be more accessible to a broader public.