

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.



*The opening ceremony for the mobile exhibition*



*Deputy Director-General Weng talking about the facilities and services of the Southern Branch*

Assistant Research Fellow Shih-te Yang of National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium introduced the key themes of the “Marine Life: Medicine or Not?” Mobile Museum exhibition. Centered on the principles of “reuse, recycling, and redesign,” the exhibition integrates interactive displays that combine content from rare books in NCL’s collections with the museum’s research findings. It highlights the diverse use of marine organisms in medicine, culture, and everyday life, as well as their multifaceted connections to pharmacological use, thereby advancing the dissemination and regenerative transmission of marine knowledge.

At the opening ceremony, Hui-ju Fang, Deputy Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs in Pingtung County, also delivered remarks, expressing her pleasure at collaborating with NCL and National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium. She noted that hosting the exhibition at Pingtung County Library’s main branch allows it to harmonize with the library’s indigenous cultural elements and surrounding natural landscape, making the event not only an academic feast but also a convergence of culture and art. She further highlighted distinctive features of the exhibition space: the steel structural design of the main corridor, the triangular wooden panels adorned with indigenous motifs, and the borrowed scenery of the towering camphor tree casting its shadows nearby. Together, these elements imbue the exhibition area with a sense of historical depth while retaining a contemporary aesthetic, creating a uniquely evocative atmosphere.

**Two Thematic Exhibitions: A Profound Convergence of History and Modernity**

**“The Sea Unruffled: Oceanic Visions Between the Pages” — A Rare Books and Historical Documents Exhibition**

This exhibition features a selection of rare works preserved in the collections of NCL, presenting through historical sources how people of earlier eras perceived and described the ocean. Highlights include the mythical sea creatures recorded in the Classic of Mountains and Seas; maritime and territorial boundaries depicted in the Ming-Qing world map A General Outline of the World; and culinary texts documenting dishes derived from marine life. The exhibition also showcases four high-fidelity facsimile editions of rare works, including Illustrations of Bronzes, Stones, Insects, and Plants, enabling visitors to examine these invaluable texts at close range.

**The mobile exhibition “Marine Life: Medicine or Not?”**

Guided by the core principles of “reuse, recycling, and redesign,” this exhibition highlights the diverse applications of marine life in medicine, food, and culture. In addition to physical specimens of marine organisms, the display features interactive zones where visitors can engage with multimedia installations and on-site activities. Through these experiences, audiences gain insight into the roles these organisms play in contemporary science and traditional therapies, and explore their evolving

significance in modern society.

### Huang Ching-Hsiang's Lecture: A Historical Journey Along the Coast of Lambai Island

Another highlight of the opening program was the lecture “A Coastal Journey Through Lambai Island—From the Present to the Past,” delivered by Ching-hsiang Huang, a local historian and cultural researcher of Lambai Island. Beginning with the island’s western coastline, Huang guided the audience through its natural landscapes and historical context, offering an in-depth exploration of the interconnections between the surrounding marine environment and the island’s cultural development. His engaging and richly informed presentation deepened the audience’s understanding of Lambai Island’s cultural heritage and inspired greater awareness of marine conservation and historical preservation.

### Spatial design and cultural aesthetics

The spatial design of the exhibition artfully integrates natural scenery with cultural elements. The exhibition area at Pingtung County Library’s main branch is complemented by installation art featuring indigenous triangular motifs, along with the shifting shadows cast by the large camphor tree outdoors. Together, these elements evoke the sensation of stepping into a forest where nature and culture are intricately interwoven. Within this thoughtfully conceived setting, visitors experience not only the seamless continuity between ocean and history, but also an immersive encounter with indigenous cultural aesthetics. The result is an exhibition environment distinguished by heightened artistic expression and a strong sense of immersion.



A guided tour through “Marine Life: Medicine or Not?”

### Long-term Archival, Safeguarding Against Decay: NCL and Taiwan Theological College and Seminary Sign Digitization Partnership Agreement

In an effort to continue the acquisition and digital archival of documents and visual resources at NCL, Director-General Han-Ching Wang led a delegation to the Taiwan Theological College and Seminary on the afternoon of December 19, 2025, where both parties signed a digital collaboration agreement.



NCL and the Taiwan Theological College and Seminary with their signed agreements

The origins of Taiwan Theological College and Seminary can be traced to the itinerant theological education initiated in Tamsui by the Canadian Presbyterian missionary George L. Mackay (1844–1901). In 1882, supported by funds raised in his hometown, Mackay established the institution’s predecessor, Oxford College, in Tamsui—now preserved as Oxford College of Aletheia University. With the subsequent growth of the church and urban expansion, the institution relocated to the Shuanglian area of Taipei and was reorganized as Taipei Theological School, becoming a major center for theological education in northern Taiwan. Its operations were suspended during the Second World War, but the school resumed classes in 1945 following the war’s end. It was formally renamed Taiwan Theological College and Seminary and, in 1956, moved to its present campus at Ling-tou on Yangmingshan, where it continues to advance theological education and cultivate religious leadership to this day.