

This Library Contribution Award recognizes local government leaders who have driven the development of the library profession, as well as individuals and groups with influence and outstanding performance in various types of libraries. It is hoped that this commendation will effectively enhance the professional image of libraries, enable Taiwan's library system to move steadily forward in the tide of the times, and move towards becoming internationally competitive high-quality libraries, and continue, with professionalism and enthusiasm, to let the light of knowledge illuminate every corner of society.

## Chinese Studies Symposium

### ■ National Central Library hosts the 2025 CCS Workshop for International Youth

To promote understanding and exchanges among young international scholars in the fields of Taiwanese humanities and sinology research, the Center for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library hosted the 2025 CCS Workshop for International Youth on October 23, 2025. The event attracted nearly 30 participants, including young students from the US, Europe, Japan, Vietnam, India, and Singapore, as well as scholarship recipients in Taiwan. Through specialist lectures and cultural visits, international scholars gained a deeper understanding of the diverse aspects of Taiwanese society.

In his address at the event, Han-Ching Wang, Director-General of the National Central Library, pointed out that the library has long promoted international connections between sinology and Taiwan studies, places particular emphasis on dialogue and cooperation among young scholars, and that Taiwan's ability to become an important international center for sinology research stems from four main advantages, which include: a research grant program launched in 1989, which has supported and hosted nearly 2,200 foreign scholars conducting research in Taiwan; the continued availability of over 13,000 ancient Chinese books and 7.5 million pages of digital archives, including images; the establishment of 54 Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies in 29 countries around the world to promote research; and the creation of a platform for cross-cultural knowledge exchange and cooperation through lectures, exhibitions, and international workshops. The

event was an important one in the promotion of young international scholars' understanding of the current state of Taiwan studies and their cultural context.

For the inaugural Global Sinology Alumni Lecture—The Chinese Civil War Exodus and the Making of Taiwan's Ethnicity—the invited speaker was Dominic Meng-Hsuan Yang, an associate professor in the department of history at the University of Missouri and visiting scholar funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2025 Taiwan Scholarship. Dr. Yang used the example of people who migrated to Taiwan during the Chinese Civil War to explore how war trauma and displacement experiences have shaped Taiwan's ethnic identity and historical memory. The lecture sparked a lively discussion among the attendees. Dr. Yi-Tze Lee, Head of the Department of Ethnic Relations and Cultural Studies at National Dong Hwa University, was invited to deliver the second lecture, on the theme of Taiwan Studies", and titled, "Situating Animal Kin in Urban Infrastructure: Three Stories of the Amis' Lifeworld and Their Entangled Indigeneity." Dr. Lee used the example of the Amis people's lives in urban spaces as a starting point, combining ethnographic and environmental anthropological perspectives to present the multifaceted coexistence of Taiwan's indigenous peoples alongside nature and cities in contemporary society.

In addition to academic lectures, participants also visited the National Central Library's themed exhibitions to learn about the library's collection features and digital archiving achievements. In the afternoon, they went to the Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines for a cultural tour and hands-on experience. Through hands-on participation in indigenous craft creation, the participants gained a deeper appreciation for the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Taiwan.



*Students visit Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines and experience art creation*

At the end of the event, Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng presented participation certificates, bringing the day's course and visit to a successful close. Participants generally agreed that the lectures combined theoretical depth with a local perspective, while the cultural experiences added a human touch to the academic exchanges.



*Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng of the National Central Library presides over the closing ceremony of the training course*

### ■ 2025 MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Presentation and Farewell Tea Party

In the National Central Library's briefing room on December 17, 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Central Library held the 2025 MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Presentation, with the theme "Crossing the Indo-Pacific, Linking the World." For this event, not only were nine award-winning scholars from Europe, Asia, and Oceania invited to present their research findings in Taiwan, but in-depth exchanges were also facilitated with domestic scholars. The opening ceremony was jointly hosted by Kuo-Ting Tan, Minister of the Department of Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Han-Ching Wang, Director-General of the National Central Library.



*Kuo-Ting Tan, Minister of the Department of Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs gives an address*



*Director-General Han-Ching Wang delivers remarks*

The event focused on Indo-Pacific strategic security, religious and urban diplomacy, and digital influence under the New Southbound Policy. The first session focused on the theme of "Indo-Pacific Strategy, Security, and Diplomatic Narratives," and was chaired by Professor Yujen Kuo, Vice President of the Institute for National Policy Research and Director of the Institute of China and Asia-Pacific Studies at National Sun Yat-sen University. Presenters included Dr. Moreno Bertoldi, Senior Associate Research Fellow at the Italian Institute for International Political Studies, who analyzed the implications of the EU's economic security strategy for the Taiwan Strait situation; Associate Professor Jeremy Moses from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, who explored Taiwan's anti-war activism and its socio-political context; and Dr. Clara Galzerano from the University of Trento, Italy, who reconsidered Taiwan's position in Western European diplomatic narratives from the perspective of Cold War media history.

The second session, "Religion, Identity, and Urban Diplomacy," extended the discussion to a comparative perspective on religion, mobility, and local governance, presented by Meng-Hsuan Yang, an associate professor at the University of Missouri. The speakers included Assistant Professor Oded Abt from Tel Hai College in Israel (presenting online), who analyzed the intertwined relationship between Taiwanese and Filipino Muslim communities and cross-strait identity; independent researcher Sergio (Ignazio) De Francesco, who explored the interaction of Confucianism, Islam, and Christianity in funeral rites; and Associate Professor Michael Tumanut from the University of the Philippines, who used the Taiwan-Philippines sister city relationship as an example to analyze the dynamics and governance

implications of city-to-city diplomacy.

The third session, chaired by Professor Jenn-Jaw Soong of National Cheng Kung University, focused on the theme of "New Southbound Policy, Mobility, and Digital Impact." Presenters included Professor Pooran Chandra Pandey of the University of Indonesia, who discussed the potential of Indian expatriates in regional cooperation, using the Taiwan-Indonesia Labor Mobility Agreement as an example; Professor Nguyen Thi Phi Nga of CMC University, Vietnam, who analyzed the impact of short videos on the consumption behavior of Taipei youth; and Associate Professor Pham Thu Huong of the Vietnam University of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, who studied the factors influencing Vietnamese students' decisions to stay and develop in Taiwan after graduation within the context of the New Southbound Policy.

The conference, which presented the results, was attended by more than 60 scholars and experts from various fields. The scholars' research topics spanned diplomacy, security, religion, urban governance, labor mobility, and digital culture, and the exchanges were lively. During lunchtime, a special "Taiwan Scholarship Fellowship Tea Party" was arranged, allowing participants, in addition to academic exchanges, to share their research experiences in Taiwan and build friendships in a warm atmosphere.



*2025 MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Presentation and Farewell Tea Party*

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

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order 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 October and December, 2025, 1 scholar gave his presentation. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On November 25th, 2025, Prof. Park Young Hwan from the Dongguk University in South Korea, gave the lecture on "Hu Shih and Min Young-gyu's Romantic Fellowship and Several Points of Discussion—Centered on the Harvard-Yenching Academic Network and East Asian Knowledge Circulation."

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ **Empowering Knowledge and Sustainability: The 2025 LAC Annual Conference**

In a landmark event for the library community, the Library Association of the Republic of China (LAC) convened its 59th General Assembly and the 5th Conference of LIS and Practices (CoLISP 2025) from November 21 to 22, 2025. This annual gathering served as a vital platform for scholarly exchange and signaled a collective strategic shift within Taiwan's libraries toward comprehensive digital transformation.

Aligned with the Library Week theme—"Libraries: The Power of Knowledge and Sustainability"—the conference focused on how reading connects the global community and facilitates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Experts explored the practical integration of Artificial Intelligence in automated cataloging, intelligent circulation services, and digital preservation. A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the inaugural Library Service Contribution Award to Taoyuan Mayor Chang San-cheng, recognizing his exceptional commitment to local library infrastructure and symbolizing the successful synergy between municipal governance and literacy promotion.

The highly anticipated Poster Exhibition showcased remarkable creative and R&D energy.