

like enthusiasm, uncovered historical details revealing that during the February 28 Incident, Chaotian Temple suspended the Mazu pilgrimage procession due to soaring prices, as documented in meeting records. He also noted that during the post-martial law period, even small gatherings required police permits, and, through receipts, traced Chaotian Temple's support for Hsing-Hsien Chang, Taiwan's first Olympic athlete, thereby reconstructing aspects of daily life in Beigang during the Japanese colonial period. Volunteer Wei-Chen Lin added that a large number of postcards from the Japanese colonial period featuring Chaotian Temple were discovered, many accompanied by English and Japanese descriptions, indicating its international recognition. Despite periods of economic downturn, invitation cards enthusiastically encouraged participation in pilgrimage processions, reflecting the resilience of religious belief. In addition, a railway map from the period prominently marked Chaotian Temple and included detailed historical notes, underscoring its historical significance.



Yen-Hsiang Chiu, researcher at the Chaotian Temple Museum, presenting the outcomes and future prospects of the collaboration

Researcher Yen-Hsiang Chiu of the Chaotian Temple Museum systematically outlined the significance of the digitized files, emphasizing that the large-scale release of images may have a substantial impact on academic discourse. He also presented several key documents, providing rich materials for future research. He further noted that Chaotian Temple still holds a considerable number of documents and rare books from the Qing dynasty awaiting digitization, indicating broad potential for continued collaboration between the two parties.

The presentation concluded with a group photo of all participants, followed by a guided visit to the reading area to view the digitized files and the accompanying exhibition, which ran through March 1, 2026. The results of this collaboration have been made publicly available through the Taiwan Memory system (<https://ncl.taipei/beigangctt>), providing access for all and inviting feedback. The project sets a model for cross-sector collaboration among libraries, temples, community organizations, and civil society, while enabling Taiwan's Mazu culture to be disseminated globally through digitization—preserving history and fostering international exchange and scholarly research.

■ **NCL and the Qingshui Temple in Bangka Sign Digitization Cooperation Agreement**

On January 23, 2026, NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang and Chairman Cheng-Tse Chou of Qingshui Temple signed a digitalization cooperation agreement. The two parties will collaborate to digitize the temple's documents and materials for digital archiving, and upon completion, the content will be made publicly available through NCL's Taiwan Memory system.

The Qingshui Temple is a municipally designated historic site in Taipei. Dedicated primarily to Qingshui Patriarch Chao-Ying Chen, the temple was originally completed in the late Qianlong period of the Qing dynasty. It underwent restoration during the Jiaqing era and, after being destroyed by warfare in the Xianfeng period, was rebuilt in the Tongzhi era. It stands as a major center of religious belief and local history in northern Taiwan. Beyond serving as a site for religious worship, the temple embodies the migration history and cultural memory of Bangka (the modern Wanhua district in Taipei). Together with the Longshan Temple, the Qingshan Temple, and the Tianhou Temple, it is collectively known as the "Four Great Temples of Bangka." The Qingshui Patriarch holds a revered position in folk religion, attracting a steady stream of worshippers, and has inspired local legends such as that of the "Noseless Patriarch," symbolizing devotees' aspirations for protection and divine guardianship.



Dignitaries learning about the temple and the Bangka region

Director-General Han-Ching Wang noted that the Qingshui Temple is not only one of the four major temples in Bangka, but also the first local religious temple in greater Taipei to collaborate with NCL's Taiwan Memory system, giving it both historical and cultural significance. The temple itself bears witness to early ethnic conflicts in Taiwan, such as the Dingxijiao Conflict. It also supported the emergence of modern education. In its early years, both Zhongshan Girls High School and Chenggong High School used the temple as their campus, symbolizing the starting point of over a century of education. Since its establishment in 2002, the Taiwan Memory system has accumulated extensive collaborative experience with schools, research institutions, government agencies, and civil organizations, transforming dispersed documents into public resources that can be read, understood, and reused. Through this collaboration, historical events, traces of everyday life, and local voices will be preserved and reinterpreted.

Chairman Cheng-Ze Chou noted that the Qingshui Temple has preserved a large number of meeting records and temple administration documents. Temple staff are currently working around the clock to organize these materials and compile inventories in preparation for subsequent digitization. Through this collaboration, the temple hopes to clarify historical uncertainties and piece together a more complete historical narrative. Even if some findings differ from past understandings or sentiments, they still carry important value and significance.



A group photo in front of the temple

Following the signing ceremony, Ms. Chen-Yin Lu, Special Assistant to the Chairman, and Ms. Yi-Chin Lin, Project Specialist, guided attendees through the history and architectural features of the Qingshui Temple. The digitization project is scheduled to officially commence within this year. Upon completion, the resulting materials will be made available through the Taiwan Memory system for public access and use, enabling historical memory to become a cultural foundation that is accessible to all and open to reinterpretation.

■ **NCL and Tamkang High School Sign Digitization Cooperation Agreement**

On the afternoon of January 15, 2026, Director-General Han-Ching Wang of NCL led a delegation to visit New Taipei Private Tamkang Senior High School (hereafter referred to as Tamkang High), where she signed a cooperation agreement on the digitization of documentary materials with Principal Kuo-Sheng Chou. Through this agreement, both parties will collaborate on the digitization of the school's historical archives.

Since launching the Centennial Education Documentary Resources Digitization Cooperation and Taiwan Memory Co-construction and Sharing Project in 2019, NCL has partnered with numerous century-old high schools across Taiwan to digitally preserve images and documentary resources from their institutional histories. These have been made available to the public and researchers through NCL's Taiwan Memory and Chinese E-book Platform, among others. In addition, NCL has gradually expanded the scope of collaboration to include universities as well as