

corporate governance, transparency obligations, and working to prevent risks from deepfakes. However, implementation has been challenged by the struggle to balance innovation and regulation, insufficient enforcement capabilities, the applicability of regulations in the face of technological evolution, as well as conflicts with data protection and copyright.

Professor Chung-Hung Cho provided analysis of transatlantic Europe-US relations in President Trump's second term, pointing out how the US policy shift from shared values to "national interest first," has forced the EU to redefine its strategic autonomy. The relationship between the US and Europe has shifted from a systems and values-based alliance toward a cooperative model centered on transaction and national interest. Professor Cho believes that Europe must take these structural pressures as an opportunity to work toward economic and military autonomy and further maintain global competitive advantage through the establishment of rules and regulations, and the spreading influence of those rules beyond Europe.



*Moderator, Professor Tai-Lin Chang (Adjunct Professor, Department of Public Affairs, Fo Guang University; Forum Convener)*

Professor Tzu-Li Lin discussed the effects of the Iran war on the European Union and Great Britain. Europe is facing energy impacts, military predicaments, asymmetrical threats and waves of refugees, exacerbating the rise of the extreme far-right. However, EU policy tools available to face those threats are limited, with only the IPCR as an emergency mechanism. Britain, on the other hand, has adopted a realist strategy, maintaining defensive operations on legal grounds. However, reductions in military and aid spending have diminished its

influence in the Middle East.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Yueh-Ching Chen focused on French Diplomatic Policies in her analysis of the French role in the contradicting approaches of the EU and the US. France has gradually supported Ukraine in their campaign to join the EU and NATO and provided military aid; however, France emphasizes maintaining strategic autonomy through EU mechanisms, avoiding the freezing of Russian assets and the heavy burden that places on finance and industry. Chen highlighted France's independent and key position within the European geopolitical context.

Forum discussant Roy Chun Lee pointed out that in the next five to ten years, the EU will face the multiple crises of reliance on Russia for energy, dependence on China for their economic market, and reliance on the US for military security. At the same time, the rise of the far right is causing policy fragmentation and schisms in Brussels' leadership. He called for a strengthening of research into Taiwan-EU relations, exploring new opportunities for economic and technological collaboration.

At the end of the forum, Professor Yun-Chen Lai and Associate Professor Wei-Fang Chen discussed their new books, *The European Union: Evolution and Theory* and *The European Union: Structure and Policy*, sharing the motives behind their work, their writing structure and core topics, as well as providing observations and analysis of EU strategic shifts in 2026. At the forum, discussions and exchange among experts and scholars served as a platform for deepening observations of EU political, economic, and technological development. In addition, audio and video of the forum were uploaded to NCL's Digital Audio Visual Archive System to make its content available for broader reference.

## Chinese Studies Symposium

### ■ 2026 National Central Library Hosts 2026 Lunar New Year Networking Tea Reception for Foreign Scholars

The NCL and MOFA held the 2026 Lunar New Year Networking Tea Reception on March 3 for foreign scholars and the diplomatic community. The event welcomed about 70 guests, including MOFA and NCL grant recipients and their families, as well as diplomats from 29 nations. Representatives

from missions such as South Korea, Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, Malaysia, and Austria were in attendance to kick off the Year of the Horse. The reception provided a spirited platform for global researchers to connect and celebrate Taiwan's hospitality.

Secretary General Daniel Kuo-Ching Chen of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided over the gathering, celebrating the 16th year of the Taiwan Fellowship. He noted that the program has successfully hosted over 1,600 scholars globally since 2010, with 130 attending this year. Chen called upon the fellows to become 'ambassadors' for Taiwan, using their research and digital platforms to present a real and vibrant Taiwan to their home countries, ultimately strengthening Taiwan's international ties.



*Group photo of the attendees*

Professor Elizabeth Larus, a Taiwan Fellowship recipient and Pacific Forum Senior Fellow, shared her insights on living and researching in Taiwan. She discussed incorporating the Taiwan perspective into international relations and her experience studying Taiwan-related topics in Poland. Her story served as an inspiration for other scholars to explore Taiwan's history, culture, and social diversity from various academic angles.



*Group photo of the lucky draw prize winners among the visiting fellows*

Timed with the Lantern Festival, the reception welcomed international scholars with a lucky draw and traditional Taiwanese refreshments. Cultural experience booths offered hands-on sessions in dough figurine making, lantern painting, and calligraphy. Attendees also engaged with an interactive wall showcasing mythical beasts from the library's Southern Branch, providing a deep dive into Taiwan's festive traditions alongside their professional networking.

### ■ **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 January and March, 2026, 1 scholar gave his presentation. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On January 23, 2026, Prof. Hyun-Sun Lee, Seoul National University, South Korea, gave the lecture on "Two Neo-Confucian Interpretive Trajectories of the Taijitu shuo: Zhu Xi and Luo Qinshun, Yi Hwang and Yi I."

### News from Taiwan Libraries

#### ■ **Inauguration of Taitung County Library: Featuring "Mountain Mist" Book Walls and "Rift Valley" Reading Zones**

The newly opened Taitung County Library, currently in its trial operation phase, was designed by renowned architect Chang Shu. Centered on the concept of "Mountain Mist," the architectural lines mirror the rolling mountain ranges of Taitung. Incorporating wooden slats and sloped geometries, the structure emerges as a cultural landmark that appears