

from the publishing industry included Children's Publications Co., Ltd CEO Robert Lin, China Times Publishing Co. Chairman Cheng-Ming Chao, Taiwan Book Distribution Association Chairman Tsai-Hsing Lee, and many other members of the library community who came together for this grand event.

NCL Acting Director-General Dr. Chih-Tsung Weng noted that NCL is an annual participant in TIBE and even hosted the event at its facilities in its first year. The name of this year's TIBE exhibit, "Golden Radiance with the Hidden Dragon's Blessing" creatively incorporates the location of the Southern Branch in Tainan's Xinying District by referencing nearby "Golden Radiance Road" and using a homophone for "Xinying" in the Mandarin title. The theme symbolizes the convergence of national level collection resources in this location, like the blessing of a hidden dragon, waiting to make its majestic appearance. The Southern Branch will bring together support and academic resources from diverse fields, including manuscripts of many Academia Sinica fellows and Agricultural Research Institute archives, laying a foundation and building deeper roots for academic research and culture. MOE Director General Liang pointed out that the Southern Branch will include innovative spatial design and smart services, further establishing mechanisms for access to rare publications and digital resources, displaying NCL's deep commitment to actively going above and beyond in their institutional duties.



*A corner of the exhibit*

Former NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang shared that the inspiration behind this exhibit was to subvert the notion that we only go to book exhibitions "to look at books." Through polarized light visuals and interactive filter designs, the exhibit guided visitors to experience imagery from different perspectives, challenging traditional modes of

viewing and allowing people living in this digital age to gain a new recognition of the meaning and value of NCL. The 2026 International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians was also held during this year's TIBE and participating colleagues were impressed by Taiwan's innovative exhibition ideas, together sharing their rich exhibition experiences.

Corresponding with the exhibit theme, NCL organized an international salon keynote session on February 8 from 16:30-17:30, inviting Professor Hsu-Cheng Hsu of National Cheng Kung University to share his experience in applying photonics research to entertaining science education endeavors with his keynote entitled: "Light up the Planets with The Little Prince: The Dancing Magic of Light." NCL sincerely invited members of the public to attend the keynote to learn how the Southern Branch will serve as a new vital force in the connecting of knowledge, culture, and society, and to eagerly anticipate the new sparks of knowledge the Southern Branch will ignite upon its completion.

### ■ National Central Library Honors: Bronze Award for Best Booth Design at the 2026 Taipei International Book Exhibition

The results for the 2026 Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) Best Booth Design Awards have been officially announced. The National Central Library (NCL) is proud to have been awarded the Bronze Medal in the Small and Medium Booth category. Acting Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng represented the library at the awards ceremony held on the afternoon of February 8.



*Acting Director-General Dr. Chih-Tsung Weng (second from left) leads the National Central Library team at the awards ceremony*

The NCL has been a steadfast participant in TIBE since its inception—an event that, notably, held its very first edition within the halls of the NCL itself. This year, under the strategic vision and planning initiated by former Director-General Han-Ching Wang, the NCL presented the theme "Golden Radiance with the Hidden Dragon's Blessing."

Seeking to transcend the traditional boundaries of archival exhibitions, the NCL team introduced innovative interactive elements, including:

1. Polarized Light Visuals and Filter-based Puzzle Solving
2. Mobile Digital Illustration interactions
3. Digital Decryption of rare ancient texts and contemporary celebrity manuscripts

By leveraging these technological advancements, the exhibit moved beyond physical constraints, offering a visionary preview of the upcoming NCL Southern Branch and fundamentally transforming the visitor's perspective.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the readers who visited our booth, the esteemed panel of judges, and all those who cast their votes in support. The National Central Library remains committed to excellence and innovation. We look forward to the continued guidance and partnership of our colleagues and the public as we strive to exceed expectations in the years to come.



*The winners of the Best Booth Design Awards are officially announced during the closing ceremony of the 2026 Taipei International Book Exhibition*

### ■ Bridging Borders through Books: National Library of Latvia Director Visits NCL

To promote international scholarly exchange within Taiwan's library community and to broaden perspectives and professional expertise in contemporary library curation, NCL has specially

invited Director Dagnija Baltaņa of the National Library of Latvia to Taiwan to deliver a keynote lecture and engage in scholarly exchange.

The lecture began with welcome remarks by NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang, who introduced the keynote speaker, Director Dagnija Baltaņa of the National Library of Latvia. Drawing on her extensive professional background and practical experience, Director Baltaņa delivered a presentation titled "Why Do We Still Need Book Exhibitions in the 21st Century?"



*Director Baltaņa introducing the National Library of Latvia strategic development plan*

In her lecture, Director Baltaņa began by posing a thought-provoking question: In an age where digital tools are ubiquitous, why do we still need physical exhibitions? Focusing on text-centered exhibition formats, she explained how the integration of art, research, design, and interpretive guidance can transform content interpretation and foster meaningful audience engagement—an approach that plays a crucial role in contemporary curatorial practice. In addition, Director Baltaņa not only elaborated on the deeper significance of exhibition planning in libraries and the challenges it entails but also introduced the mission and vision of the National Library of Latvia, along with the structure and scale of its professional team. She further shared several curatorial case studies, demonstrating the diversity of the library's collections and its ongoing efforts to advance a national reading strategy.

Director Baltaņa also shared how the National Library of Latvia establishes connections between audiences and its collections through thoughtful planning and design. These curatorial practices