

Academia Historica Director Wu Mi-cha Delivers a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies at the University of Tokyo, on the Theme of Taiwanese Historical Research and Official Documents

Taiwan's National Central Library (NCL) and the University of Tokyo recently co-hosted a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies at the university. The lecture took place on the afternoon of October 13, 2017, at the university. The director of Academia Historica, Wu Mi-cha (吳密察), was invited to give the lecture, which was entitled "Government Records and Taiwanese Historical Research."

The lecturer, Wu Mi-cha, is currently the director of Taiwan's Academia Historica, and formerly a professor in the Department of History at National Taiwan University. During his time working in public institutions, he also participated in preparatory work for the National Museum of Taiwan History and National Museum of Taiwan Literature, while serving as the first director of the former and as deputy minister for the Executive Yuan Council of Cultural Affairs. Director Wu's main research fields are Taiwanese History and Modern Japanese History; he has worked tirelessly for many years to develop all aspects of Taiwanese historical research. Director Wu Mi-cha is a deeply accomplished scholar with a long-standing relationship with the University of Tokyo. In this lecture, he drew upon his personal contribution to Taiwanese historical research over many years, together with his experience serving in his current post as director of the Academia Historica, to share with the audience the various layers of scholarly research and in particular historical research using government records. Director Wu expressed the view that Taiwanese historical research to a great extent relies on official support. He reviewed each era of Taiwanese historical research conducted by the history departments of National Taiwan University and National Taiwan Normal University,

pointing out how the background of their research reflected the issues faced by society at the time. At the same time, he described the role played by the Academia Sinica Institute of Modern History and National Chengchi University Graduate Institute of Taiwan History in the field. Regarding the Academia Historica's role in the field of archival research, Director Wu said that the Academia Historica continues the work of publishing archives, documents, and history-themed books in print and electronic form, in response to the demands of researchers and the general public. This includes archive summaries, presidential and vice presidential archive catalogue series, historical material compilations, and also working to promote the use of the Academia Historica's archives in each field. For readers requesting documents from the archives, adhering to the principles of open government, the Academia Historica has set up a system that provides readers with a way to carry out an online search of its own archives, historical materials, and cultural artifacts catalogues. Director Wu emphasized that both managers and users of official documents both have responsibilities which include jointly confronting the issue of personal data protection.

This Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies was jointly hosted by the University of Tokyo's Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS), its Institute of Advanced Studies on Asia, and the University of Tokyo Library System's U-PARL project. The University of Tokyo was one of the overseas institutions that the NCL partnered with in 2014 to establish a TRCCS, a total of 24 of which have now been established worldwide. This is also the second Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies that the NCL's Center for Chinese Studies has held at the University of Tokyo since 2015. The lecture attracted many humanities faculty and students from the university. The audience took advantage of the opportunity to attend this lecture at the university, using the Q&A session that followed the lecture to discuss the current use of the Academia Historica's archives with its Director Wu Mi-cha, and comparing the Academia Historica with other institutions tasked with managing their nation's archives. The Center also handed out information about the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in

Chinese Studies and Taiwan Fellowship in the lecture room to encourage more overseas scholars to apply for financial support to carry out their research in Taiwan, and so enhance Taiwan's research. It is worth mentioning that preparations for this event began in March 2017, with Prof. Kawashima Shin (川島真) of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (and TRCCS director) acting as intermediary between the two institutions, travelling back and forth between Taiwan and Japan to discuss the lecture content. He not only offered researchers in both countries some new ideas about the use of academic resources, but also gave young scholars further encouragement to dedicate themselves to modern historical research.



Prof. Wu Mi-cha lectures at the University of Tokyo



Lin Shih-Yin (林世英), director of the Education Division of the Tokyo TECO, makes a short speech



Prof. Matsuda Yasuhiro moderates the lecture



Prof. Kawashima Shin, Director of the University of Tokyo TRCCS



A view of the lecture room