

## **Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies Invites Prof. Chu Ping-tzu to Lecture at Kyoto University**

On June 26, 2018, the National Central Library (NCL) and Kyoto University jointly hosted the third Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies of the year at Kyoto University's Institute for Research in Humanities. Prof. Chu Ping-tzu (祝平次) of National Tsing Hua University's Department of Chinese Literature kindly accepted an invitation to give the lecture, which was entitled "The Digital Humanities in Taiwan: Past, Present and Future."

Kyoto University is one of Japan's most respected seats of learning. In 2016, the university partnered with the NCL to establish a Taiwan Resource Center on Chinese Studies (TRCCS). The resource center provides scholars and students in the Western Japan region with access to Taiwan's high quality Chinese Studies research resources, while helping to disseminate Taiwan's Chinese Studies research in Japan.

The speaker, Prof. Chu Ping-tzu, obtained his Ph.D. from Harvard University, and is currently an assistant professor in National Tsing Hua University's Department of Chinese Literature. He has published many papers exploring Neo-Confucianism and Confucian ethics, and worked tirelessly to promote the Taiwan Association for the Digital Humanities. The lecture was moderated by Prof. Christian Wittern of Kyoto University's Institute for Research in Humanities Center for Informatics in East Asian Studies. Before the lecture, short speeches were given by Prof. Takashi Hikihara (引原隆士), director-general of Kyoto University Library Network, and Mr. Lo Kuo-lung of the Osaka TECO.

Prof. Chu began his lecture by explaining what the digital humanities are and why they are important. He followed this by giving an account of the history of the digital humanities in Taiwan, dividing it into three phases. The first began in 1984, with the era of full-text databases. The next phase started in 1998, with the advent of digital archives. Finally, the last phase, the digital humanities era, began in 2012. He then

discussed the work of several of the main bodies working to develop the digital humanities in Taiwan, such as the NTU Research Center for Digital Humanities, Academia Sinica Center for Digital Cultures, and Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts, introducing the digital research platforms they have built. The types of research commonly conducted in the digital humanities include keyword searches and statistical analysis, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) analysis, time distribution analysis, and internet analysis. The development of digital humanities in Taiwan is often linked with international sinological studies. Prof. Chu concluded by summarizing the problems faced by Taiwan's digital humanities: a lack of funding, personnel, and position; a crisis of identity in the humanities. On the bright side, there is an increasingly open research environment, an increasing number of online tools and international ties, and the digital humanities are increasingly influential.

This lecture was the first Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies to be held at Kyoto University since the establishment of the TRCCS two years ago. At the end of the lecture, many experts from the university raised questions and exchanged views on the development of the digital humanities and its prospects for the future. After the discussion, Ms. Keng Li-chun, director of the NCL International Cooperation Division made a short speech thanking the professor. She then screened a video introducing the NCL, Center for Chinese Studies, and TRCCS, bringing this international scholarly event to a successful conclusion.



Prof. Chu Ping-tzu gives a lecture on the digital humanities in Taiwan



Prof. Christian Wittern, moderator



Director-General Prof. Takashi Hikihara makes a speech



Mr. Lo Kuo-lung gives a speech



Post-lecture group photograph