

## Special Exhibition Commemorates Former Academia Sinica President Shih-Liang Chien

Academia Sinica in association with National Taiwan University and Qian Wang (Emperor Qian) Temple in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, is holding a Special Exhibition entitled “A Memorial Exhibition of Former President Dr. Shih-Liang Chien” to celebrate his 108<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dr. Shih-Liang Chien was the fifth President of Academia Sinica between 1970-1983. The exhibition will last for two weeks, from February 22 to March 5, 2016 and is being held in the 2F, Lecture Hall of the Center of Academic Activities, Academia Sinica. President Chi-huey Wong hosted the opening ceremony at 10 am on February 22, which was attended by several distinguished guests, including incoming Vice President Chien-Jen Chen, Academician Pan-Chyr Yang, President of NTU, and two of Dr. Chien’s sons, Academician Dr. Shu Chien and Dr. Fredrick Chien (Chien Foo), a former Foreign Minister who also held several other governmental positions in Taiwan.

The exhibition displays relics, photos and precious documents related to former President Chien, including his lab notes during his period as a Ph.D. student, and his teaching notes from the period he was a professor at the Department of Chemistry at National Taiwan University. Furthermore, some of his valuable audio and video clips are also being displayed for the first time. Visitors can also read some lesser-known stories about the former President Dr. Chien.

Dr. Shi-Liang Chien was the fifth President of Academia Sinica from 1970-1983. During his tenure, he contributed to increase academic research at the academy and established the Institute of American Studies (now the Institute of European and American Studies), the Institute of The Three Principles of The People (now the Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences), the Institute of Earth Sciences, the Institute of Biological Chemistry and the Institute of Information Science. Moreover, he also founded preparatory offices in four areas that later became institutes; biomedical sciences, statistical science, atomic and molecular sciences and molecular biology. He drove a five-year-development plan to lay the foundation for the development of humanities, mathematics and life sciences, and extended collaboration with local and foreign universities and academic and scientific organizations. Due to his effort, Academia Sinica established a leading position of research in Taiwan.

Dr. Shi-Liang Chien was also the fifth President of National Taiwan University from 1951-1970. Over these 19 years, he pressed for the protection of freedom of speech and the recruitment of excellent faculty members. He also emphasized the importance of the expansion of departments and graduate schools, and the improvement of equipment and teaching quality. In the 32 years, he devoted to Taiwan’s tertiary education and academic research, he had an immense influence.

President Chien was known to be modest and introvert. He is known to have always worked in a prudent manner, with honesty, sincerity, and consideration. Because of his noble manners, he was regarded as a model scholar. His three sons have become very notable in different fields. His eldest son Robert Chien (Chun Chien) was a former Minister of Finance; his second son Dr. Shu Chien is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A. and an academician of Academia Sinica; and his third son Dr. Chien Foo is a former Foreign Minister who also held many other governmental positions in Taiwan.