



Universität Tübingen · Wilhelmstraße 19 · 72074 Tübingen

Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert
Direktor

Telefon: +49 7071 29-72715

Telefax: +49 7071 29-5733

Email: gunter.schubert@uni-tuebingen.de

website: www.ercct.uni-tuebingen.de

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

the year 2014 was an exciting one for the ERCCT and its staff. After a thorough review on the center's work since its inauguration in 2008, the Chiang Chiang Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange took the decision to promote the ERCCT to the status of a CCK Overseas Chinese Center, one of only four worldwide. This is a tremendous boost for us as this status does not only come with more long-term financial support by the foundation but also with its recognition of our past commitment to the promotion of Taiwan studies in Europe and beyond. As I have stated in my opening address to participants of an international symposium held at Castle Hohentübingen, on the occasion of signing a new MOU between the CCK Foundation and the University of Tübingen in July, we feel non only very much honored but, at the same time, obliged to continue with even more vigor and work to live up to the expectations of the CCK Foundation and the community of Taiwan scholars.

There has been much more going on at the center during the year, which is summarized in the latest ERCCT newsletter attached to this letter, which is also available on the ERCCT website. Please take particular note of the deadlines concerning the ERCCT Research Fellowship, the ERCCT Short-term Visiting Fellow Programme, and the 2015 European-Taiwan Young Scholars Workshop.

Let me thank you all for your support and assistance over the year. The ERCCT is a platform that can only flourish if you all help making it a success!

May you and your families all have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year!

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert
Chair of Greater China Studies
Director, ERCC