



Women on the move – Her Story:



Name:	Huang Shuhui (aka Sophia Tung)
Country of origin:	Taiwan
Date of birth:	1944
Church:	Taiwan Lutheran Church
Period of Mandate:	1977 – 1997: 1977-1984: member of the LWF Commission on Studies and LWF Vice-president for Asia
Short biography:	<p>A native from Taiwan, is well-known as a lay leader in the Taiwan Lutheran Church and a respected figure in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). She was the first Chinese woman to serve as vice-president of the LWF.</p> <p>Born into a middle-class family with three children, Huang is the only girl, wedged in between two brothers. Her mother, who influenced her greatly, was a trained midwife and her father, a reporter. She recalls that her mother was a licensed midwife before her own marriage in order to augment the family income and to assist poor families through her skills. Education was important to her parents, who sent her and her brothers to school at a young age. Through her parents were not associated with a particular religion, Huang attended a church-sponsored kindergarten. She would share the Bible stories learned from school with her family.</p> <p>But an anti-government incident on February 28, 1948 resulting in numerous deaths, changed their lives. After the incident, her father feeling the instability in the affairs of human life, sought peace in Christian belief. This was her family's first time entering a church, and the pastor was suspicious of her father, because of his profession. A few years after the incident her father became unemployed but the church continued to care for</p>

the family. Thus at the age of 15, Huang and her mother received baptism in the East Gate Presbyterian Church, Jiayi.

After graduation from high school, Huang entered National Taiwan University. To reduce the family's financial burden, Huang became a part-time private tutor. The only extracurricular activities that she participated in during her university days were all church related. After receiving her BA degree in 1966, she worked for the Christian Haldesheimer Mission for the Blind for six years and there met her future husband Dong Shangyong, president of Taiwan Lutheran Church. Because of him, Huang became a Lutheran. They were married in 1970 in the Twin Cities, MN. After the wedding they returned to Taiwan and Huang served alongside with her husband at Truth Lutheran Church, Taibei, until her husband's retirement in 1992. During her tenure at Truth, Huang also pursued part-time theological education at China Evangelical Seminary (CES). It took her six years before she received her MDiv degree in 1990. Beginning with her first year at CES, and for the next eight years, she worked with Wendell Friest, an American missionary, as a pastoral counselor. At Truth, she assumed numerous responsibilities as a volunteer. For example she was a youth group advisor, Sunday school teacher, women's group leader, and visitation team member. Moreover, she and a few other women, with the help of the LWF, organized Lutheran church women in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia to build up their capabilities through workshops and leadership trainings. After her husband's retirement from Truth in 1992, Huang became the superintendent of Hui-Ming Home for Blind Children in Central Taiwan. She retired in 2009.

Huang was also an active and familiar figure within the LWF. In 1970 she was a youth delegate representing the Taiwanese Lutherans at the LWF Assembly in Evian, France. She was appointed to the policy and reference Committee. In 1977 when the LWF held its Sixth Assembly in Tanzania, Huang was a designated respondent to a speech at a forum. But due to difficulties in obtaining a visa, she was unable to attend. Nevertheless, she was appointed commissioner of the LWF Commission on Studies (CS). In 1985, she attended as a commissioner the Seventh LWF Assembly held in Budapest, Hungary. At this assembly, the issue of women was the hot topic of discussion. Huang was reappointed to the CS; which was responsible for the study of this issue. In 1970, Huang attended, again as a commissioner, the Eighth Assembly held in Brazil. She was elected to the LWF Executive Committee prior to being elected as one of the LWF's six vice presidents, making her the very first Chinese woman to occupy such a position. When the LWF held its Ninth Assembly in Hong Kong, in 1997, Huang – along with Zuo Ruiyun, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong – became persons in high demand. Traditionally the LWF next president comes from the region where the assembly is held. Thus, it was highly expected that one of them would become a candidate for the office. However, they declined to become candidates. In retirement Huang lives in Taiwan, serves a local congregation as a volunteer and travels to the US to visit her daughter occasionally.

Huang Shuhui, translated and adapted by Edmond Yee, from the book: Abundant Harvest: stories of Asian Lutherans, Edmond Yee and P. Paul Rajashekar, editors and compilers, p.265-267