



Association of Adventist Women

Hok Neo “Lily” Wong

— Woman of the Year —

Family Life

2002

When Lily Hok-Neo Wong became a Seventh-day Adventist in her early teens, she was fascinated by the text, “Suffer little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” This became her mantra. Wong is truly an “inspired voice” for children’s rights. She has spent more than 30 years being their advocate around the world.

“She is more than a principal and teacher. She connects, inspires and cares deeply,” writes Lee Ki-Plin Elton, Jr., her church pastor in Singapore. “She is an ‘Andrew’ and evangelist at heart.”

In 1976, Wong earned her EdD at Andrews University, followed by post-doctoral research at both Stanford and Syracuse Universities.



Wong is a woman with clear opinions and strong convictions. One conviction was that God wanted an Adventist educational presence in Singapore. When the government acquired the property of Southeast Asia Union College (SAUC) in 1996, denominational leaders voted to relocate the Adventist college in Thailand.

Wong (who served on the faculty of SAUC) stayed in Singapore and developed plans for Advent-Link-SAUC, a highly respected program for training pre-school teachers and principals. She sought—and obtained—affiliation with Edith Cowan University in Australia. Presently Advent-Link-SAUC enrolls 300 students and is financially independent.

Wong specializes in early childhood education in the Pacific Rim nations. Recently she traveled twice to Vietnam as a “trainer of trainers,” implementing a national preschool curriculum for that country.

Nelia C. Wurangian-Cann, Associate Librarian of Loma Linda University, says: “Lily has taken many a child by the hand and has given her a chance to experience how it is to live within God’s arm of love and protection.”

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