

Initial Contributors to
Kuo-Shu Liang Memorial Award and Lecture

Chen Ching CHIH
ICBC Cultural & Educational Fund
Lawrence Lau
Taipei Foreign Exchange Market

The Inaugural Kuo-Shu Liang Memorial Award and Lecture

By

Emeritus Professor SUN Chen



Dr. Kuo-Shu Liang

Dr. Kuo-Shu Liang
1930-1995

Dr. Kuo-Shu Liang was born in Taiwan in 1930, a time when Taiwan was still a poor Japanese farming colony that lagged behind in economic development. Tough conditions fostered Dr. Liang's life-long concern over promoting economic growth and improvement of living standard and the quality of life for his fellow countrymen. Dr. Liang majored in economics at National Taiwan University, where he spent much of his time on economic development. He received a Fulbright scholarship and completed his doctorate at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, which was known for its graduate program in economic development.

After receiving his degree he taught at National Taiwan University with a research focus on Taiwan's economy. He served as Deputy-Minister of Research Development and Evaluation Commission (RDEC). He drafted the "Economic Stabilization Plan" which navigated Taiwan's economy to its recovery through the first energy crisis in the early 1970's. During this time Dr. Liang designed and oversaw more than 50 projects. In 1975, Dr. Liang became the first native Taiwanese deputy governor of the Central Bank of China. Nineteen years later, he was again its first native Taiwanese governor.

In 1979, Dr. Liang took up the chairmanship of the First Commercial Bank at a time when it was mired in a deep crisis. The reform efforts he initiated returned First Commercial Bank to the top of the industry table. In 1985, Dr. Liang headed the Chang Hwa Commercial Bank and directed it to open new business lines and

overseas branches, and bolster the use of information technology. He also served concurrently at the cabinet's Economic Reform Commission, playing a major role in financial reform. In 1989, Dr. Liang became Chairman of Chiao Tung Bank, then a leading industrial and investment bank in Taiwan, where he furthered its investment banking functions and raised its international profile. During the many years he worked as a banker, Dr. Liang never lost sight of finding ways to promote sound economic and financial development in Taiwan. He wrote and published numerous articles on economic development, fiscal and monetary policy, international trade, banking and finance. Dr. Liang made significant contributions to Taiwan's economy across a broad spectrum of issues.

Dr. Liang returned to the Central Bank as Governor in 1994. He conducted monetary policy with an emphasis on stability. He restructured reserve requirements, incorporated the postal savings system and credit cooperatives into the interbank call-loan market, introduced offered rates for large deposits, and launched the interest rate reporting system and the interbank funds transfer system, etc. During his nine months as Central Bank Governor, Dr. Liang's many accomplishments won him the distinction "Mentor of Taiwan's Finance."

Dr. Liang was a prolific economist. After his death, Mrs. Liang worked with his students to organize his writings into four volumes for publication. His writing covers numerous topics including economic development, international trade, and money and finance. Dr. Liang preached what he believed, and practiced what he preached. He will always be remembered as a scholar in action and a man of integrity.