

Remarks from Chair of ASLE

Distinguished guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of *the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment in ASEAN* (ASLE ASEAN), it is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you all to our 6th ASLE-ASEAN Ecocritical Conference and the 13th Literary Studies Conference which over two days will explore Literary Narratives, Climate Change, and Social Inequality from diverse ASEAN Perspectives.

This conference marks not just another gathering, but a celebration of ideas, collaboration, and progress. It is inspiring to see so many familiar faces, as well as new ones, united by our shared commitment to raise awareness about climate change, its impact on Southeast Asia, and most importantly, the role that literary and cultural narratives have played in our distinctive and collective histories, and continue to play currently, in understanding and indeed rectifying our shared environmental predicament.

Over the next few days, we will engage in stimulating discussions, share research and experiences, and explore new pathways for growth and partnership. Conferences like this remind us that our greatest strength lies in our community, the network of dedicated professionals, scholars, and advocates, who continue to move our field forward.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to our organising committee led by Dr Paulus Sarwoto and Simon Arsa Manggala, and the faculty members of the English Letters Department of Universitas Sanata Dharma for their tireless efforts in organising this conference. We are also deeply grateful to the Rector, Dean and Trustees of Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta, Indonesia for so generously supporting us and to each one of you for making the time to be here.

As we begin, I encourage everyone to participate fully—ask questions, share insights, and connect with new colleagues. Let us make this conference not only an exchange of knowledge, but also a source of inspiration and renewed purpose. Once again, welcome to the Conference. I wish you a fruitful and memorable experience.

Thank you and enjoy the conference!

Prof. Dr Chitra Sankaran (Department of English, Linguistics and Theatre Studies, National University of Singapore)

President, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment in ASEAN (ASLE ASEAN)