

AUN Executive Director, Choltis Dhirathiti, PhD
Welcome Remarks (delivered in absentia) to the the 1st Meeting of ASEAN University Network on Culture and Arts, at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Friday, 3 November 2017

Ms. Glorife Samodio, Chair of the ASEAN University Network on Culture and Arts (AUN-CA);

Distinguished participants;

Ladies and gentlemen -

I am most grateful to De La Salle University for hosting the AUN Thematic Network on Culture and Arts (AUN-CA), and to Universitas Gadjah Mada for hosting the first meeting of AUN-CA.

ASEAN University Network, or the AUN, was established in 1995 as an autonomous inter-governmental organization with its primary objective to strengthen the network of cooperation among leading universities in the ASEAN region, in order to help hasten solidarity and develop regional identity of ASEAN. The current directive of AUN is to collaborate in whatever fields, areas, or subject-matters among our members, either the members of AUN30 or the members of all AUN Thematic Networks, for the benefits of higher education advancement in our region. Whenever it is considered essential that there be created and organized in ASEAN University Network, the “AUN Thematic Network” or the sub-network of AUN, with the mission concentrated on the specific or specialized academic subject matter, AUN Member Universities may initiate the establishment of the Thematic Network and may put themselves forward to host the Secretariat by submitting the *Proposal on the Establishment* to the AUN Secretariat for the discussion and approval by the AUN30’s presidents/rectors/vice-chancellors, and then the *Proposal* shall be endorsed by the AUN Board of Trustees (AUN-BOT). The establishment of such sub-network is known as an **AUN Thematic Network**. As of now, there are 14 AUN Thematic Networks, including AUN-CA.

The establishment of **ASEAN University Network on Culture and Arts (AUN-CA)** was proposed by De La Salle University and was endorsed on July 17, 2017, at the 33rd AUN-BOT Meeting, in Nha Trang, Vietnam. This Network aims to serve as a collaborative **platform** among art practitioners from universities to promote the art learning sessions, research collaboration, collaborative productions and policy development.

The objectives and activities of this **platform** will not duplicate the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Youth Cultural Forum (AYCF+3), which is one of AUN annual youth flagship platforms in partnership with AUN30 member universities as the host on a rotation basis. **AUN-CA aims** at building up the cross-border collaboration among the arts and culture educators and students from different universities together with the partnership with other stakeholders especially from the creative industry/sector. And, hopefully, this collaboration would ultimately have an impact to creative economy in our region(s).

Thank you so much for participating in this meeting. I and my team at the AUN Secretariat look forward to working with you all to strengthen the culture and arts education in our universities, and I share your conviction that universities could contribute hugely to the prosperity of the creative economy.