

## Guest Editor Note and Introduction to the Special Issue

It is our great pleasure to present this special issue of *Horizon: Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences Research (JHSSR)*, which compiles selected papers from the 2024 ASAIHL International Conference, held at Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia in November 2024.

In today's increasingly fragile world, the climate crisis has intensified environmental, economic, and social vulnerabilities—altering global dynamics and threatening sustainable development. As one of the key actors in the pentahelix model—alongside government, industry, community, and media—Higher Education Institutions

(HEIs) play a critical role in driving solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). HEIs are uniquely positioned to foster transdisciplinary collaboration, generate impactful research, and provide future leaders with the knowledge and values necessary to face climate-related challenges. By integrating sustainability into education, creating community-based interventions, and partnering with industry and policy makers, universities can actively contribute to climate crisis mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL) is a prestigious regional consortium that brings together universities across the ASEAN region to promote academic collaboration, knowledge exchange, and collective contributions to global challenges. The November 2024 conference theme "The University's Role in Advancing Climate Crisis Reduction" served as a timely platform for scholars and practitioners to share innovative ideas and best practices in addressing the climate crisis through higher education.

This special issue features selected articles that showcase impactful programs and initiatives implemented by ASAIHL member institutions. The contributions divided into sub-theme:

- Climate-oriented curricular integration
- Green economy principles through academic-industry partnerships
- Community engagement programs aimed at fostering climate resilience



We hope this compilation will not only serve as a reference for future academic and institutional efforts but also inspire further cross-border collaborations in addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

We are extremely grateful to *Horizon: Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences Research (JHSSR)* for providing us with this valuable opportunity and an esteemed academic platform to publish our specially curated themed issue. The journal's commitment to scholarly excellence and its openness to diverse global perspectives have made it an ideal avenue for showcasing research that bridges academia and real-world challenges. JHSSR has steadily earned a reputation as a leading interdisciplinary journal in the region, recognized for publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed works that address contemporary issues in the humanities and social sciences. Its rigorous editorial standards, international reach, and inclusive approach to knowledge dissemination have significantly contributed to its growing academic impact and relevance. We are honored to be part of this continuing tradition of excellence.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all contributors, reviewers, and the editorial team for their invaluable efforts in bringing this issue into publication.



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