

Opening Remarks at the International Conference on Food Culture in Asia 2024

16 May 2024

Lee Ping Yuen Chamber, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Professor Luiz Oosterbeek, Professor Philip Buckley, Professor Hsiung Ping-chen, Professor Gilbert Fong, Dr. Chan Chi Kit, Dr. Wong Muk Yan, distinguished scholars, guests, colleagues, students and friends,

Welcome to the International Conference on Food Culture in Asia 2024, co-organised by Global Humanities Initiative (GHI) of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) and Asian New Humanities Network (ANHN).

The Global Humanities Initiative (GHI) was established as one of the University's major initiatives that actively promote interdisciplinary research and studies, especially advocating the power of humanities and humanity qualities via our unique "Liberal + Professional" education model. Connecting HSUHK to the world and examining humanities issues from different and innovative perspectives, GHI emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the exploration of cultural references. Today, we take this opportunity to put them in the context of fascinating food culture in Asia.

Food culture is not just about the flavors and textures that tantalize our taste buds. It also encompasses the historical, social, and economic dimensions that shape our relationship with food. It is about the stories behind the ingredients, the techniques passed down through generations, and the rituals and celebrations that accompany meals. By studying food culture, we gain a deeper understanding of the societies and individuals that have shaped it.

This conference aims to address how Asian food culture embodies regional values and collective history, with each dish reflecting centuries of tradition and memory. The expertise and insights of our esteemed scholars, researchers, and practitioners will undoubtedly enrich our understanding and inspire new avenues of research on food culture, especially in Asia.

I would like to express my appreciation to the organizing committee, especially Dr. Chi Kit Chan and Dr. Muk Yan Wong, Co-Chairmen of the Conference Organising Committee, the Global Humanities Initiative Committee, Asian New Humanities Network (ANHN), the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences

(ICPHS), and the Schools, Departments and Offices that have supported this conference. They include School of Translation and Foreign Languages (STFL), School of Communication (SCOM), Department of Art and Design (AAD), Common Core Curriculum Office (CCCO) and Institute for Youth Sustainability Leadership (IYSL), which have made an amazing team that brings esteemed scholars to us internationally.

I invite you to engage fully in the programme today and tomorrow, which I am sure, will be filled with insightful discussions, engaging presentations, and valuable networking opportunities. Let us share knowledge and continue to build bridges across cultures and disciplines. I wish you all a fruitful conference.

Thank You.