

Guidelines for Forming an International ASLE Affiliate Organization

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) recognizes the environmental humanities as global in scope. There are a number of avenues to promote scholarship and exchange of ideas in ecocriticism, and forming an organization is just one of them, so we encourage you to consider the full range of possibilities. If it does seem to be a good fit for your purposes, we offer the following guidelines for initiating an international branch of ASLE.

1. The ASLE Bylaws offer general guidance on the formation of ASLE branches:

Article 4.6 International members of ASLE are free to form international affiliates of ASLE in their respective nations *and/or region* so long as these affiliates operate in a spirit consistent with Articles 2.1 and 3.1 of these bylaws. International affiliates will adopt bylaws and procedures appropriate to their own circumstances. In order to be a recognized international affiliate, that group must be reviewed and approved by the ASLE Executive Council.

Article 2.1: The purpose of ASLE is to support the fields of environmental literature, humanities, and arts broadly defined. Consistent with this purpose, the activities of ASLE will include, but will not be limited to, the following: (articles 2.1.1 to 2.1.3 then list some of our main activities)

Article 3.1: Membership in ASLE is open to all persons who subscribe to the purpose set forth in these bylaws and who pay the annual dues. ASLE shall not discriminate in any way against members or potential members on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, nationality, ethnic origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation.

2. We recommend that applicants consider the following questions in drafting an ASLE affiliate proposal:

- Have you spoken to people in your country or region about the idea of forming a new organization and determined if there is enough interest to recruit and maintain a governing board and a substantial membership base?
- Has your group thought through an organizational structure that will allow you to be successful and self-sustaining?
- Have you evaluated what you hope to accomplish in forming an organization? This can often be articulated by developing a mission statement and a list of goals. These should ideally move beyond the concerns of a particular research project or conference/event and encompass the long-term purposes of the organization.
- Have you drafted a set of bylaws by which to govern the organization fairly, including policies that set out a leadership structure for officers/board and a process for determining what these roles are and who serves in them, etc.?

- Have you researched what you will need to do to get the necessary approvals for formation of your organization from any governing body in your country or region? Is there reason to believe that your application will be approved in a reasonable time frame?

We want to help our affiliates develop a feasible and sustainable organizational plan and to assure that the mission of ASLE affiliates is consistent. However, ASLE branches tend to adopt organizational structures and systems that are appropriate to their own cultures and to the needs and skills of founding members. It is common for these organizations to change and develop new procedures over time. ASLE can provide informal mentoring and advice on the process of getting your organization going, but it is important to realize that affiliates are independent in finances, governance, etc.

3. The benefits of ASLE Affiliate status include:

- For the purposes of ASLE's biennial conference, the members of ASLE international affiliates are considered ASLE members and are permitted to attend the biennial ASLE conference without additional purchase of membership, although they must still submit proposals and be accepted to present their work through the usual process;
- Affiliated organizations are asked to consider, where feasible, allowing ASLE members reciprocal attendance privileges to their conferences;
- Members of ASLE affiliates are eligible to submit work in our biennial Book and Paper Awards, and apply for ASLE Grants
- Affiliated organizations are listed on the ASLE website, and be mentioned in other appropriate print and electronic media as appropriate;
- Affiliated organizations have space reserved to provide summaries of their activities (such as their own conferences and publications) annually in *ASLE News*.

4. Process for requesting ASLE Affiliate status:

The organizing committee or chair of the planned organization will submit the following materials to the International Liaison and current President of ASLE (See our Leadership & Staff page on the website for current officers and contact information):

- a statement of the organization's purpose;
- a brief rationale for why the organization is seeking to form an international affiliate, including the areas of interest and the need(s) it seeks to address in that particular country or region;
- a brief overview of the planned organization, including an estimate of members it hopes to enroll, the date it was founded or hopes to have official status, a draft of founding documents (such as bylaws), plans for a website launch, plans for any ongoing programs or activities (such as a newsletter, journal, and/or conference).
- the name(s), contact information, and title(s) of the leader(s) of the proposed affiliate.

If your proposal is approved and you would like to appoint a designated international liaison to correspond with other ASLE groups, you are encouraged to do so.

5. Process of Review of Affiliate status proposals:

Your proposal will be evaluated by the International Liaison, Managing Director, and President, and voted on by the Executive Council of officers. Notification of affiliate status will be returned within 60 days of receiving the proposal. ASLE wishes to make sure that new ASLE branches are carefully planned and can be successful before approving.

6. Additional resources for advice on starting an international ASLE affiliate

You might wish to consult with some ASLE international affiliates currently operating successfully in their country or region:

ALECC (Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada): <http://alecc.ca/>, email: contactus@alecc.ca

ASLE-Japan: <http://www.asle-japan.org/>; email: Masami Yuki mryuki@staff.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

ASLE-Korea: <http://www.aslekorea.org/modules/doc/index.php?doc=group>, email liaison Simon Estok, estok@skku.edu

ASLE-Taiwan: <https://sites.google.com/site/asletaiwan/>, email: asle.taiwan@gmail.com

ASLE-UKI (United Kingdom and Ireland): <http://asle.org.uk/>; email: asleuki@gmail.com

ASLEC-ANZ (The Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture — Australia and New Zealand): <http://www.aslec-anz.asn.au/>, email: Alanna Myers, alanna.myers@unimelb.edu.au

EASLCE (European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture & Environment): <http://www.easlce.eu/>; email: president@easlce.eu

TiNai (India): <https://teff.in/>, email: Rayson K. Alex, raysonalex@goa.bits-pilani.ac.in