6th ALGOA Summit “Building Alliances Beyond Asia”
in conjunction with the Inauguration of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts
12th to 16th October 2020, Goesan County, South Korea

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My Beloved ALGOA members and Organic Friends from all over the world,

This year we meet for the ALGOA Summit but due to the unusual circumstances of Covid-19, we are meeting virtually for the first time since the birth of ALGOA. Nothing is more important to us than the health of our members and we have taken every health and preventive measure to make the event in Goesan as safe as possible.

One of my first duties after being elected as Mayor of Goesan County in 2018 was to attend the Organic Asia Congress in Bislig City, Philippines and there, I experienced firsthand the influence and scope of ALGOA. Since then, I have seen the exponential growth of ALGOA members and the impact our Organic Foundation Course has made on the local governments in Asia. More than a hundred trainees work in their respective local government offices to foster the growth of organic agriculture and to work directly with the farmers and other relevant stakeholders.

This year is an incredibly unique year as it heralds the start of the globalization of ALGOA. This February, I had the privilege to personally visit Rome to negotiate the formation of a global network with international organizations such as the International Network of Ecoregions (INNER). All these international networking came from the successful “ALGOA+4 International Summit on Organic Agriculture Policy” held last year in Goesan County. What started as an international gathering has led to the establishment of an alliance of likeminded organizations beyond Asia.

Now I also have the wonderful opportunity of hosting the launching of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) at our 6th ALGOA Summit this year. I am pleased to have the honour of serving as the Co-Chair of GAOD - with ALGOA being chosen as the Asian Secretariat for GAOD.

ALGOA has now gone truly global.

I hope that ALGOA and GAOD can have more impact on the future development of the global organic sector and I will be looking into more areas of cooperation to solidify the alliance. Nothing can be more important at this time than a transformation of our food systems into organic and more sustainable forms of production to safeguard the health of people and all forms of life on our planet.
My dear Organic Colleagues, ALGOA Members,

Today we stand here celebrating the 6th ALGOA Summit and the title of “Building Alliances Beyond Asia” contains all the significance of this Summit. ALGOA is now truly global with a vast network of members and partners in all the continents of the world.

Since its establishment in 2015, ALGOA has grown by leaps and bounds. ALGOA started small with three members in three countries - now, we have recorded more than 220 members in 16 countries in Asia including Central Asia.

From the onset, ALGOA realized the importance of capacity-building among local government officials and young people for the necessary progress to be made in the regional and local developments in organic agriculture.

The ALGOA Organic Foundation Course (OFC) which started in 2016 has trained more than two hundred organic enthusiasts and the young trainees of the OFC have further taken the organic movement forward by spontaneously forming the Asian Organic Youth Forum. And in 2020, this group of young and innovative leaders have taken a momentous step forward by creating the Young Organics Global Network.

With its vast and rapid growing membership, ALGOA has decided to diversify and concentrate its activities with the establishment of three ALGOA Centers. The ALGOA Center for Organic Governance to be hosted by LOAMCP-Ph, the ALGOA Center for Public Procurement will be hosted by New Taipei City, and the ALGOA Center for Organic Leadership will continuously be supported and hosted by Goesan County, the current holder of the Presidency of ALGOA.

I do not have enough words to express my gratitude to LOAMCP-Ph, New Taipei City and Goesan County for their utmost loyalty to the progress of ALGOA.

Lastly, I want to highlight again the international character of ALGOA. ALGOA has been crucial in the initiation and formation of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) which is now actively promoting cooperation of local governments of the world in developing organic sector and ALGOA will for sure further play an important role in linking Asia to the rest of the world.

ALGOA’s vision in working in partnerships with both the public and private sectors to create a more transparent and horizontal structure of governance and cooperation will continue to prevail while looking to broaden its horizons by networking with other partners and supporters beyond Asia.
Dear Organic Friends, ALGOA Members, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with the greatest pleasure that I extend my words of greetings to you again at this historic Summit. It is most unfortunate that I cannot meet all my distinguished guests in person, but nothing is more important than our health at this point in time.

The 6th ALGOA Summit is reaching another momentum in history – ALGOA is expanding its network globally. It is now spreading from Goesan County, the organic hub in Asia to Europe and the other continents through its vast network of partners and supporters. My beloved Goesan is truly international with its many friends and supporters around the world.

From a small organization of a few members, ALGOA has grown into an organization with international impact. Its members are the most exemplary actors in promoting the organic sectors in Asia and understand that such networking within ALGOA will further bring about the transformations into more sustainable methods of production.

The establishment of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) at the 6th ALGOA Summit is an exciting development in the growth of ALGOA and now we can forge relationships with likeminded organizations and local governments towards a common goal of achieving more growth in organic agriculture. We go from local to regional to cross transnational borders from Asia to the other continents in our efforts to expand the organic and sustainable farming and its relevant sectors.

More policies and cooperation models need to be developed to foster growth in the respective GAOD member countries and organic districts and all the members of the Goesan Local Council will be more than happy to provide assistance for such work. We promise all the support that we can provide to make the efforts of ALGOA and GAOD a great success.

May you and your families stay safe and maintain good health during the pandemic!

Greetings from the President of the Goesan Local Council
Opening Ceremony of the 6th ALGOA Summit
Launch of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD)

6th ALGOA Summit “Building Alliances Beyond Asia”
in conjunction with the Inauguration of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts
12th to 16th October 2020, Goesan County, South Korea
1. Background of the 6th ALGOA Summit

With the successful hosting of the “ALGOA+4 International Summit on Organic Agriculture Policy” in 2019, ALGOA has made great strides in forming global alliances across the world. On Feb 6th, 2020, in Rome, Italy, ALGOA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Network of Eco-regions, supported by IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM EU, the Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and the members of the Organic Food System Program for future cooperation.

In the same month, IFOAM Asia also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with New Taipei City, outlining the details of the establishment and activities of the ALGOA Center for Public Procurement (ACPP), marking the start of the expansion of ALGOA work through the establishment of specific Centers with partners in different countries in Asia.

On April 15th, the signers of the MoU in February invited other organizations such as Regeneration International, League of Organic Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH), etc and in the ensuing discussions, the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) was born.

2. 2020 is the 5th Anniversary of ALGOA

Due to the unusual COVID-19 situation, the Summit will take place through two events:

1) 5th Anniversary of ALGOA & Asia Organic Day1: Sept 18th, 2020
   - Designation of the ALGOA Centers
   - Official Launch of the Young Organics Global Network (YOGN)
   - Official Matriculation Ceremony of the 2020 Organic Foundation Course

2) 6th ALGOA Summit: Oct 12th ~ 16th, 2020 (5days)
   - Keynote speeches
   - Official Launch of GAOD
   - Official Launch of Asian Organic innovation and Technology Platform

3. Rationale for the theme of the 6th ALGOA Summit “Building Alliances Beyond Asia”

The theme of this year’s Summit is an output of the 2019 international conference and is based on the progress for GAOD already made in the first half of 2020. The networking efforts will be further consolidated through cooperation and membership in various international like-minded organizations such as 4pour1000. Consensus has been reached among the relevant stakeholders to have the inauguration of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) at the upcoming Summit.

4. Special Characteristics of the 6th ALGOA Summit

The Summit is a concerted action between Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA), International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.), Regeneration International (RI), and the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces-Philippines and is supported by IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM EU, Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and Organic Food System Programme.

A. The Summit will be conducted virtually due to the situation surrounding COVID-19.
   a) The opening ceremony in Goesan County will be streamed live under the physical presence of local VIPs and other dignitaries. There will be simultaneous translation available.
   b) Keynotes and main sessions will be pre-recorded and streamed live for 3 hours daily (from 14:00 to 1700 hours Korean Standard Time / 0700 to 1000 hours Central Europe Standard Time) through the various social media.
   c) Thematic sessions will also be conducted by GAOD members and will be streamed live at the following times:
      - [Korean Standard Time] 18:00 ~ 19:30
      - [Central Europe Standard Time] 11:00 ~ 12:30

B. Designation of the GAOD Asia (ALGOA)

ALGOA under the Presidency of Goesan County will be designated as the GAOD Asia Secretariat.
5. Schedule (Summary) of the Summit

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6. Detailed Program of the 6th ALGOA Summit “Building Alliances Beyond Asia”

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Part 1 // 14:00~15:45 KST / 07:00~08:45 CEST / Opening Ceremony

1. Opening Remarks
2. Introduction of VIPs
3. Message of Greetings
   • Mayor Lee Cha Young, Goesan County
4. Message of Welcome
   • Zhou Zejiang, President of IFOAM Asia
5. Messages of Congratulations for ALGOA Members (Local)
   • Shin Dong-un, President of the Goesan Local Assembly
   • Hong Seong-ryeol, Mayor of Jeungpyung County
6. Messages of Congratulations (Foreign)
   • Stefano Pisani, Mayor of Pollica and President of Cittaslow International
   • Armindo Giacinto, Mayor of Idanha a Nova
7. ALGOA Annual Progress Report
   • Shaikh Tanveer Hossain (ALGOA Ambassador)
8. Opening of the ALGOA Centers (Photo Slides)
9. Signing Ceremonies of Agreements Among ALGOA members and Partners (Physically and Virtually)
10. Signing of the Membership of Commitment of New ALGOA Members
## Part 2 // Official Launch of GAOD

1. **Special Presentation**  
   - Francisco Sarmento, ESP in FAO - senior rural development officer

2. **GAOD Progress Report**  
   - The Establishment of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) and Future Activities  
     - Salvatore Basile, President of INNER, Co-President of GAOD

3. **Inaugural Declaration**  
   - Introduction by Jostein Hertwig  
   - Read by the Founding Members of GAOD

4. **Designation of ALGOA as the GAOD Asia Secretariat**

5. **Closing**

6. **Photo Session**

## Part 3 // Food from 5 continents** 18:00 – 18:20 (KST) / 11:00 – 11:20 (CEST)

(Short videos from countries in each continent showing people and activities from farm to table)

### Asia and Europe

## Part 4 // GAOD Work Groups & Breakout Sessions 18:20~19:30 (KST) / 11:20~12:30(CEST)

**GAOD 7 Work Groups and Break Out Sessions (Day 1)**

1. **General introduction of WGs by Cesare Zanasi**

2. **Introduction of the Session Leaders/Rapporteurs**
   - **WG 1:** Organic Districts’ Integrated Management, Planning – Governance – Policies
   - **WG 2:** Tourism / Gastronomy
   - **WG 3:** Regenerative/Organic farming - Agroecology - Natural resources management and Energy production
   - **WG 4:** Food: Processing – Distribution - Consumption. Food and nutrition security, Quality and Health
   - **WG 5:** Social issues, Social agriculture - communities’ enforcement - urban-rural relations
   - **WG 6:** Communication
   - **WG 7:** Youth and organic agriculture

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## Oct 13th, 2020 (Tuesday) (14:00~17:00 KST) / (07:00~10:00 CEST)

### Part 1 // 14:00~15:45 Theme: Framework for Food Systems Transformations  
(Moderator: Salvatore Basile, Co-President of GAOD)

#### Keynote: “One Planet Network - Collaborative Framework for Food Systems Transformations”
- Marina Bortoletti, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

#### Contributions from:
- Paul Luu, 4 per 1000
- André Leu, Regeneration International
- Karen Mapusua, Pacific Community & IFOAM – Organics International
- Carola Strassner, Munster University and Organic Food System Programme
- Ove D. Jacobsen, Nord University in Norway
- Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM-Organics Europe

#### Part 2 // 15:45 ~16:05

**Thematic Speech:**  
“Organic food consumption- a step forward for sustainability”  
Scientific data from the French Bionutrinet cohort study, Denis LAIRON, Emeritus research director (INSERM, National Institute of Health, OFSP Steering Committee)

#### Contributions from:
- “Pregnant Women’s Food Scheme” Jack Choi, Goesan County officer
- “Consumers Trust Organic” Representative from Hansalim Organic Consumers’ Cooperative, South Korea
- “PGS Groups Response to Covid-19” Mathew John, Keystone Foundation, India

### Part 3 // “Food from 5 continents” 18:00 – 18:20 (KST) / 11:00 – 11:20 (CEST)

(Short videos from countries in each continent showing people and activities from farm to table)

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## Part 3 // Food from 5 continents** 18:00 – 18:20 (KST) / 11:00 – 11:20 (CEST)

(Short videos from countries in each continent showing people and activities from farm to table)
Part 4 // GAOD Work Groups & Breakout Sessions 18:20~19:30 (KST) / 11:20~12:30(CEST)

GAOD 7 Work Groups and Break Out Sessions (Day 2)
- WG 1: Organic Districts’ Integrated Management, Planning – Governance – Policies
- WG 2: Tourism / Gastronomy
- WG 3: Regenerative/Organic farming - Agroecology - Natural resources management and Energy production
- WG 4: Food: Processing – Distribution- Consumption. Food and nutrition security, Quality and Health
- WG 5: Social issues, Social agriculture - communities’ enforcement - urban-rural relations
- WG 6: Communication
- WG 7: Youth and organic agriculture

Part 1 // 14:00~15:30 / Theme: Important Sectors Promoting Organic Agriculture

“School Meal Programs of local governments – Lessons Learned and Ways Forward
Short introductions by:
- Miyoshi Satoko (Japan)
- Representative from Goesan County (South Korea)
- Representative from New Taipei City (ALGOA Center for Public Procurement)
- Gilles Peroles, Mouans Sartoux, Un Plus Bio, France
- Laura Rodrigues & Paula Mota Rodrigues, Torres Vedras, Portugal
- Sara Jervfors, Södertälje Municipality, Sweden

Part 2 // 15:30~17:00 / The Young Organics Global Network and Local Governance

The Young Organics Global Network and Local Governance
- Li Feng (China)
- Julia Lernoud (Argentina)
- Youth Representatives Around the World

Part 3 // “Food from 5 continents” 18:00~18:20 (KST) / 11:00~11:20 (CEST)

Americas

Part 4 // GAOD Work Groups & Breakout Sessions 18:20~19:30 (KST) / 11:20~12:30(CEST)

GAOD 7 Work Groups and Break Out Sessions (Day 3)
- WG 1: Organic Districts’ Integrated Management, Planning – Governance – Policies
- WG 2: Tourism / Gastronomy
- WG 3: Regenerative/Organic farming - Agroecology - Natural resources management and Energy production
- WG 4: Food: Processing – Distribution- Consumption. Food and nutrition security, Quality and Health
- WG 5: Social issues, Social agriculture - communities’ enforcement - urban-rural relations
- WG 6: Communication
- WG 7: Youth and organic agriculture
Part 1 // 14:00~15:30 // Theme: Best Practices of ALGOA Members & OFSP

1. LOAMCPPP (Philippines): PGS in the National Organic Regulations
2. Xichong County, (China): Organic Promotion Activities of Xichong County
3. Nagaland Organic Konnect (India): Asia Organic Youth Forum
4. Indonesia Organic Alliance (Indonesia): Organic Asia Congress
5. OFSP Best Practices
6. Goesan County (South Korea): 2022 International Organic Expo

Part 2 // 15:30~17:00 // Launch of the Asian Organic Innovation Technology Platform (OIT)

1. Keynote Speech: “Innovation and Technology in Organic Agriculture”
   - Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain (Ambassador, IFOAM Organics International and Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture, ALGOA)
2. Background and Progress Report on the Asian Organic Innovation Technology Platform (OIT)
   - Dr. Wahyudi David (Professor of University Bakrie, Indonesia)
3. Launch of the Asian Organic Innovation Technology Platform (OIT)
   - Zhou Zejiang (IFOAM Asia President)
4. Congratulatory Messages
   - Professor Dr. Ji Li, China Agricultural University, China
   - Dr. Yoko Taniguchi, Miyagi University, Japan
   - Digna Ruth Daliva, National Council Member, Ecosystem Stakeholder for Sustainable Agriculture (ESSA)
   - Dr. Li Qu, Director of Asia Organic Research Xichong Center, Xichong County, China
   - Director Li Guoqiu, Beijing Century Kehuan Ecological Agriculture Institution
   - Victoriano I. Tagupa, Executive Director, LOAMCP-Ph
5. Future Prospects of the OIT
   - Li Feng (IFOAM Asia China Office Director)
6. Closing

Part 3 // “Food from 5 continents” 18:00~18:20 (KST) / 11:00~11:20 (CEST)


GAOD 7 Work Groups and Break Out Sessions (Day 4)
1. WG 1: Organic Districts’ Integrated Management, Planning – Governance – Policies
2. WG 2: Tourism / Gastronomy
3. WG 3: Regenerative/Organic farming - Agroecology - Natural resources management and Energy production
4. WG 4: Food: Processing – Distribution- Consumption. Food and nutrition security, Quality and Health
5. WG 5: Social issues, Social agriculture - communities’ enforcement - urban-rural relations
6. WG 6: Communication
7. WG 7: Youth and organic agriculture
Special Presentation

• Pathways to Cooperation
  The Global Agricultural Heritage Systems” (GIAHS) and the Sustainable Development Goals
  By Francisco Sarmento, ESP in FAO - Senior Rural Development Officer

• Introduction
  The world is not on track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 and the COVID-19 pandemic will make things worse, putting millions of people at risk of suffering acute hunger and malnutrition in the next years. More than ever, a profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed at all levels. Territorial strategies to promote sustainable food systems and healthy diets are crucial to increase food resilience, livelihoods and access to healthier food to millions of people.

  To promote these strategies, it would be important to strengthen partnerships to develop and pilot appropriated territorial methodologies to promote sustainable territorial food systems. Increased cooperation between FAO and Bio-districts can be part of a broader effort to make it thus contributing to Zero Hunger, poverty reduction and the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2.

• Territorial approaches to sustainable food systems
  A number of lessons learnt with the implementation of territorial development approaches are abundant in FAO’s work in different continents. FAO partners are also developing a number of “place based” development initiatives across the world. In some cases, territorial approaches were adopted by regional bodies and national governments and informed the implementation of development programs aiming to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

  However, there’s still need to further develop and pilot an integrated and coherent methodology to make the necessary participatory diagnosis, promote local-national actions plans and adjusted policies and programs governed and monitored by lasting multi-stakeholder platforms.
Some regions and countries are moving into this direction. This is the case of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). CPLP’s Food and Nutrition Council approved in June 2018, a plan of activities which includes the promotion of sustainable territorial food systems with pilots involving possible GIAHS and Eco-regions territories.

FAO is supporting this process in São Tomé e Príncipe and Cape Vert through the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equity unit (ESP) and the Food and Nutrition Division (ESN).

- **GIAHS and Bio-districts**

  As defined by FAO in 2002, GIAHS are remarkable land use systems and landscapes “which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development.” The overall goal of the global initiative is to identify and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems. By other words, GIAHS sites can be a fundamental component in several sustainable territorial food systems.

  A Bio-district is the result of an integrated territorial approach to territorial sustainable development based on the differentiated quality of its agro-food productions and related services, including tourism. The Bio-districts can be, therefore, an important mobilization and marketing strategy to GIAHS sites and their related food systems.

  GIAHS sites and Bio-districts are expected to aim at development not only of agricultural production and resource management, but also of social and economic territorial aspects necessary to make traditional food systems to overcome the threats and challenges they are facing while developing appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, the identification of threats and challenges, including socio-economic pressures and environmental changes to the continuity of the existence, sustainability and viability of traditional food systems; the proposed policies, strategies and actions that will contribute to its dynamic conservation and how multi-stakeholders will be empowered to develop appropriated marketing strategies for local products and services translated in to concrete multi-stakeholders action plans, can be better addressed through increased cooperation between both initiatives. The same applies for related territorial policies, governance, and monitoring platforms at territorial level.

- **Pathways for Cooperation**

  Increased cooperation between FAO and Bio-districts can contribute for the systematization of lessons learnt involving different regions, countries, and territories. The development of pilot projects in mountain areas in Asia, for example, will allow knowledge exchanges with ongoing pilots in Africa, thus contributing for FAO’s strategy for the promotion of sustainable territorial food systems. This will contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger as specified in SDG 1 and SDG 2.
Keynote Speech

The Establishment of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) and Future Activities
By Salvatore Basile, President of IN.N.E.R. (International Network of Eco Regions)

• Introduction

Movements urging governments to change decisively towards the ecological transition - often led by young people - are quickly spreading around the world. This happens in a global context of climate change, biodiversity loss and overexploitation of natural resources, with serious consequences for environment, society and health.

More and more rural communities have organized themselves to respond in a concrete and effective way to these requests, promoting alternative, sustainable food systems, such as those created in the organic districts (or eco-regions). These experiences have shown a capacity of facing the global challenges of the 21st century, starting from an integrated, multidimensional, participatory, inclusive and territorial approach.

Organic districts are based on the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture of health, ecology, fairness and care, facilitating interactions between all the actors (producers, public administrators, consumers, etc.). Each territory is unique, following its local nature, lifestyle, human relations and food culture. They are concrete examples of how “Organic 3.0” can be realized in practice.

However, it is necessary to put together and coordinate all the experiences already developed, in order to involve other governments, other organizations, other territories, to build together an example of a global sustainable organic food system. This is the main goal of GAOD.

• The establishment of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD)

Many organic organizations, international agencies, governments - coming from all continents - met at the “ALGOA + 4 International Summit on Organic Farming Policy” held last year in Goesan County, in South Korea.

Following all the works, I had the opportunity to compare the experiences of the organic districts (eco-regions), developed for the first time in 2004 in Cilento – Italy, with territorial organic initiatives carried out in other countries and continents. There were many aspects in common and it was “natural” to talk about common strategies and building new alliances.

A first important attempt to create a link between these experiences has already been started by one of the main actors of the Summit: the OFSP - Organic Food System Program, the United Nations Core initiative with the main aim to use the Organic food systems as models and living laboratories for transformation processes, towards sustainable food systems. Jostein Hertwig, one of the OFSP coordinators, will also become a leading part of the GAOD coordination team. So, there will be closer cooperation on certain points.

At the end of the Summit 2019 in Goesan County, the proposal to create a common platform between all the initiatives was launched.

In the following months an intensive work has done to put the agreement into practice and on Feb 6th, 2020, at the Italian Ministry of Agriculture in Rome, ALGOA signed a first Memorandum of Understanding with the International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.), supported by IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM EU, the Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and the Organic Food System Program, for future cooperation.

Following the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, world public opinion was reminded how the world is interconnected and how environmental and health issues required a global ecological transition to be adequately addressed.

The organic districts, with their complex, multisectoral and international approach, are gaining an increasing importance as concrete experiences able to tackle these challenges and give answers to the new demands coming from the civil society and governments.
Many on-line conferences were held to discuss strategic issues (e.g. organic and regenerative agriculture, soil fertility, carbon reduction, ecological economy, organic procurement by public administration, food quality and health and sustainable diets, Tool kit and Monitoring tool developed by IN.N.E.R. for the creation and the management of the organic districts); steps were also taken to expand the Alliance.

On April 15th, the signers of the MoU in Rome invited other organizations such as Regeneration International and League of Organic Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH). Further to these events, the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) was born!

• Future activities
GAOD intends to develop and strengthen a coherent strategic framework for the development of the organic districts.

These strategies will be devoted to:
- improve the quality of life of the citizens, especially the ones resident in rural areas;
- increase the employment opportunities and the quality of jobs, especially for young people and women;
- increase the power of attraction of rural areas, boosting the connections between strategies of sustainable development of the rural and urban areas;
- fight climate change, biodiversity loss and its impacts, starting from the development of good local practices, and to be globally interconnected;
- promote and improve transnational cooperation.

The GAOD aim will be to become the “global space of change” for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, resources, projects between peoples of all continents, who have decided to act for an ecological worldview, with a clear and shared vision. GAOD is open and accessible to all, with equal rights.

To this end, GAOD has worked from the beginning to widen the Alliance as much as possible and has organized in working groups, which have the task of providing good practices and supporting local activities with clear guidelines.

The results of the meetings of the seven working groups, which will take place during this Summit, will also be of great importance.

Let’s work together, with positive energy, for One Planet and One Health!

• Sources
Contact: presidente@ecoregions.eu

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ORGANIC DISTRICTS

Supported by:
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
(April 2020 Updated Version)

This Memorandum of Understanding between Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA), International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.), Regeneration International (RI) and League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-Ph) with the participation and support of IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM EU, Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and Organic Food System Programme (collectively referred to as the Parties) has been signed at the place and date specified below.

The Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) is an integrated body of IFOAM Asia (a regional body of IFOAM-Organics International) and was established on the 19th of September 2015, in the Republic of Korea, to promote a model of public and private partnership and a model of bottom up approach of policy planning from local to national policy development for the promotion of organic agriculture.

ALGOA consists of an Annual ALGOA Summit of local government leaders and the ALGOA Organic Foundation Course (OFC), participated by government officials from more than 14 countries in Asia. The purpose for the establishment of ALGOA is to facilitate the full adoption of organic agriculture in Asia. Examples of its activities are: Policy Support, Information Exchange, Mutual Exchanges, Capacity-Building and the meeting of the local government representatives at the annual ALGOA Summit. In 2019, the annual ALGOA Summit became global through the “ALGOA+4 International Summit on Organic Agriculture Policy” and aims to cooperate with other similar groups and like-minded organizations outside Asia to further enhance the growth of organic agriculture in the world.

Since its establishment in 2015, the ALGOA Presidency has been held by Goesan County, an organic county in the Republic of Korea. It is one of the birthplaces of organic farming and has become an organic hub in Asia with the hosting of the 2015 International Organic Expo and the “Organic 3.0 International Conference.”

The International Network of Eco Regions “IN.N.E.R.” was officially established as International Association on the 14th of December 2014 in Italy, where the Cilento eco-region model was implemented in 2004 and successively disseminated worldwide. At present about 40 bio-districts/eco-regions are operating in Italy. Other countries where the eco-regions have been implemented are: Portugal, France, Austria, Switzerland, Spain. An interest for establishing Eco-Regions has been shown also from North Africa and Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) such as Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Equatorial Guinea. Eco-Regions acts based on the principles of organic agriculture of health, ecology, fairness and care and are applying a food system approach facilitating interactions between all actors. Each Eco-Region is unique following nature, lifestyle, human relations and food culture.

Regeneration International (RI) was formed in 2015 with the mission to promote, facilitate and accelerate the global transition to regenerative food, farming and land management for the purpose of restoring climate stability, ending world hunger and rebuilding deteriorated social, ecological and economic systems.

Our vision is a healthy global ecosystem in which practitioners of regenerative agriculture and land use, in concert with consumers, educators, business leaders and policymakers, cool the planet, feed the world and restore public health, prosperity and peace on a global scale.

We work with multiple stakeholders in key regions of the world who are committed to building alternative food and farming systems on a regional or national level. We are a global network of 284 partner groups on every arable continent.

We are currently assisting in the building of numerous Regeneration Alliances, including those in
Southern Africa, India, Myanmar, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Canada, regional U.S.A. Chile, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand.

The League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH) is the only national organization of the Local Chief Executives (LCEs) or Mayors and Governors in the Philippines and was established on 2012 as an outcome of the 2012 Gold One World Award (OWA) of Dumingag municipality in Zamboanga del Sur and intensively replicated in family farms, municipalities and cities territories all over the Philippines after the 2016 Bogota, Columbia Gold Peace Prize of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) awarded to the previously in heavy conflict and war torn municipality of Kauswagan with entry of “From Arms to Farms” anchored in municipal-wide local policy framework of programs in sustainable organic agriculture.

The principal aims of LOAMCP-PH is to liberate the family farms and citizens from poverty, hunger (food secured with high nutrition) and sickness anchored on the best examples of local self-organized initiatives and innovations of functional participatory governance and development processes in Family Farms Climate-resilient Investment Master Plans and thereafter upscaled to legal policy framework in Municipal/City/Provincial-wide Climate-resilient Investment Master Plans covering at least 1,200,000 hectares into organic conversion by 2022 through Inner Conditioning and mobilization of its societal three folds of government, business and cultural organizations at the context of Organic 3.0 as societal transformations mindset to sustainable organic food and consumption and healthy lifestyle development agenda.

Globally, LOAMCP-PH aims to significantly contribute to the achievement of interdependent SDGs 2030 specifically in Goal 1, Goal 2 and Goal 17. In the Philippines’ context, LOAMCP-PH on the ground initiatives are parallel implementation of the Philippine’s Republic Act 10068 or Organic Agriculture Law of 2010.

**INTRODUCTION**

Sustainable food production and consumption are key to increasing both human and ecological capacities to cope with major challenges such as health, food and nutrition security, climate change and loss of biodiversity. The transformation of global food and farming systems is also key towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to this end, building effective partnerships and scaling up examples of practical solutions is highly important.

Climate Change is one of the greatest existential threats to all communities on this planet, especially small holder farmers who are the vast majority of the world’s farmers and produce the overwhelming majority of food that is eaten by people. Agricultural systems that regenerate soil organic matter by drawing down carbon dioxide via photosynthesis are more resilient to weather extremes caused by climate change. These systems can also make a considerable contribution to reversing climate change by drawing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

ALGOA, IN.N.E.R., RI and LOAMCP-PH have established working models and living laboratories for transformation processes towards sustainable food and farming systems based on actions from local and sub national governments.

Many of the municipalities and regions of ALGOA, IN.N.E.R., RI and LOAMCP-PH are in rural areas and main activities are related to agriculture. As such, they produce food from the land with the supply also to the population living in cities and represent a cultural heritage with nature and landscape in living vital ecosystems. Seen in the perspective of the need for an integrated food system approach for healthy and environmental friendly dietary patterns, this opens up for developing new rural-urban linkages to provide more and better jobs for youth in agriculture and food systems and in general, a potential for the revitalization of rural areas.

Reference is also made to the Memorandum of Understanding signed 6 February 2020 in Rome between Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) and International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.) with the participation and support of IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM EU, Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and Organic Food System Programme has been signed by the aforesaid Parties at the place and date specified below.

Furthermore, with the cooperation initiated we will also be working to support key initiatives at national and pan national level such as the European Green Deal and the Green New Deal in the US and in particular their focus to combat climate change and biodiversity losses and to build a new economic system that is more environmental friendly, supporting health and social fairness globally.
OBJECTIVES OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The main objectives of this MoU are:

I. To facilitate the sharing of the experience from processes, examples and knowledge from the Parties

and

II. To invite other local governments of the World (Africa, Americas, and countries in Oceania and the PICT - Pacific Islander Countries and Territories) into the cooperation network and to form an example of a dynamic global organic food system.

Examples of issues to be dealt with are:

i. Partnerships, resources available, institutions and working groups

ii. Youth engagement including Out of School Youth, training and employment in organic agriculture and food systems

iii. Practical achievements for organic farming, agroecology and regenerative agriculture in food and farming systems

iv. Policies and policy – making processes including needed structural economic, cultural, social and spatial transformations

v. Innovation, new technologies and common research framework

vi. Preparing for a “new deal” between rural and urban (cities) areas

vii. Prepare a declaration to be presented during the next Organic World Congress in Rennes, France inviting other local governments of the world (Africa, Americas, and countries in Oceania and the PICT (Pacific Islander Countries and Territories) in the cooperation

viii. Expansion of cooperation to other similar groups, like-minded groups and civil society organizations

ix. Advocating the cooperation work in the international fora, UN agencies, and on regional and national levels

WORKING GROUP

The Parties to this MoU agree to establish a working group for the fulfillment of the objectives and each of the Parties is encouraged to nominate a representative to this working group for the implementation of the objectives and activities of this MoU.

Signed Online, April 2020
Introduction to the Main Partners and Supporters of GAOD

• Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA)

Established on 19 Sept 2015 by IFOAM Asia, ALGOA works with more than two hundred local governments all over Asia to promote the expansion of Organic Agriculture. Under the full sponsorship of Goesan County, South Korea since 2016, the annual ALGOA events have become one of the largest organic events – the largest gathering of the organic movements and local governments with a common objective.

The ALGOA Summit is an annual gathering of local governments, IFOAM Asia members and other stakeholders in the region to exchange best practice and to discuss ways to enhance government action, support, and policy to foster growth in the organic sector. The ALGOA Summit has grown tremendously over the years, with the 5th ALGOA+4 Summit in 2018 going global, bringing in more than 100 foreign delegates from around the world.

Currently, ALGOA has over 220 members in 16 countries in Asia and Central Asia. Annual events include the Organic Foundation Course (OFC) for local government officers and organic stakeholders as well as the ALGAO Summit which bring together local government leaders and organic stakeholders to discuss and share best practices and find common solutions for the progress of the organic sector.

• International Network of Eco-regions (INNE.R)

I.N.N.E.R. is the International Umbrella Organisation of the Bio-Districts/Eco-Regions: Territories naturally devoted to organic, where farmers, citizens, public authorities, realize an agreement aimed at the sustainable management of local resources, based on the principles of organic farming and agro-ecology. I.N.N.E.R. gives assistance to stakeholders or organic and agro-ecology sector and provides services to build shared strategy of Bio-districts development; it offers training, research and documentation services. Bio-districts are promoted and sustained in their territorial governance processes, thanks to European partnerships and international cooperation projects.

• Regeneration International (RI)

In June 2015, about 60 people from 21 nations, representing businesses, the farming and scientific communities, educational institutions, policymakers and NGOs, convened in Costa Rica to draw up a blueprint for an international movement united around a common goal: to reverse global warming and end world hunger by facilitating and accelerating the global transition to regenerative agriculture and land management.

In January 2017, Regeneration International (RI) achieved 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Today, RI engages with a network of more than 250 international partners and a growing number of Regeneration Alliances throughout the world, including in the U.S., South Africa, India, Canada, Belize, Mexico and Guatemala.

• League of Organic Municipalities, Cities & Provinces in the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH)

LOAMCP-Ph is an alliance of 168 mayors and governors in the Philippines with the aim to accelerate the implementation and promotion of sustainable organic agriculture in the Philippines. LOAMCP-Ph recognizes that the local government units, through the implementation of local policies is one of the fastest ways to spread organic agriculture in the country. What makes this organization unique from other organic organizations is that membership is limited to mayors and governors only. These local leaders spearhead the implementation of policies in their communities. They, with the assistance of the rest of local government units see to it that their communities strictly adhere to the principles of organic agriculture. Implementation varies from municipality to municipality, with some mayors completely banning the use of synthetic chemicals in their domain.
• IFOAM-Organics International

Based in Bonn, Germany, IFOAM Organics International has been leading, uniting and assisting the Global Organic Movement since 1972. It has occupied an unchallenged position as the only international umbrella organization of the organic world, i.e. all stakeholders contributing to the organic vision. This allows IFOAM to unite, lead and assist the organic movement - all IFOAM Affiliates - in its full diversity, while providing a common voice on relevant organic issues. IFOAM implements the will of its broad-based constituency, with Affiliates in more than 100 countries and is governed by a World Board originating from all continents. The IFOAM Action Network comprises self-organized IFOAM regional and sector groups and daughter organizations.

• IFOAM Asia

IFOAM Asia is one of the regional bodies of IFOAM Organics International which consists of more than 270 members in 22 countries. IFOAM Asia aims to improve the life and conditions of its members while restoring nature’s balance and working with different stakeholders by organizing different events and projects in Asia including ALGOA, the Organic Youth Forum, and Organic Asia Congress. IFOAM Asia aims to develop and promote regional and domestic organic markets as well as increase consumer awareness of organic food and its benefits. IFOAM Asia also recognizes the need for scientific research, education, and development in relation to organic production, processing, and marketing to benefit organic farmers/ producers in Asia and networking for different stakeholders.

• IFOAM Organics Europe

IFOAM Organics Europe is the European umbrella organization for organic food and farming and advocates for the adoption of ecologically, socially, and economically sound systems based on the four principles of organic agriculture – health, ecology, fairness, and care.

With more than 200 member organizations, the work of IFOAM Organics Europe spans the entire organic food chain and beyond, from farmers and processors, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies.

• Organic Food System Programme (OFSP)

The OFSP aims to further the development of the organic food system as a pilot model and living laboratory for sustainable food systems. We use the organic food system as a model to understand drivers of sustainable food consumption and to link this to real-world examples of sustainable production and consumption. It is important to understand that the OFSP will use the organic food system as a kind of window for exploration but not as the exclusive solution. There are many commonalities between healthy and sustainable diets; organic agriculture is not necessarily a component of achieving either of these goals, but can contribute to enhancing both and may act as a model to bridge human and planet sustainability.

• Baltic Charity Foundation

Since 2005, the Baltic Charity Foundation provides services to the rural population, which is necessary for the versatile support and assistance, starting with the presentation of information and consultation, as well as material aid in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The Baltic Foundation has many years of experience in working with the rural population, constantly improving its services, it seeks innovative means by which rural community members are being motivated and encouraged to develop and improve themselves and the surrounding environment, be socially responsible and participate in community life. Organic farming is an integral part of all the Foundation’s activities, be it large-scale transnational projects or local community training.
Manifesto of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD)

• FOUNDING PARTIES
The founding parties of the Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD) are Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA), International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.), Regeneration International (RII) and League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH) with the participation and support of IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM Organics Europe, Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and Organic Food System Programme.

• THE FUTURE WE WANT AND THE NEED FOR ACTION NOW!
Sustainable food production and consumption are the keys to increasing both human and ecological capacities to cope with major challenges such as health, food and nutrition security, climate change and loss of biodiversity. The transformation of global food and farming systems is also crucial achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to this end, building effective partnerships and scaling up examples of practical solutions is highly important.

Climate Change is one of the greatest existential threats to all communities on this planet. Agricultural systems that regenerate soil organic matter by drawing down carbon dioxide via photosynthesis are more resilient to weather extremes caused by climate change. These systems can also make a considerable contribution to reversing climate change by drawing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and store it in the soil.

The founding parties have established working models and living laboratories for transformation processes towards sustainable food and farming systems based on actions from local and sub national governments and integrating public and private institutions, civil society, farmers, small and medium enterprises.

With the cooperation established and reaching out to all continents we will also be working to support initiatives at national and pan national level and in particular their focus to combat climate change and biodiversity losses and to build a new economic system that is more environmental friendly, supporting health and social fairness globally.

More than ever, amidst the current Coronavirus situation, the Global Alliance for Organic Districts together with other likeminded organizations must lead the way making definite impact in the local, national and global levels – and action is needed NOW!

• VISION
The vision of the Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD) is to co-create a global network able to support the local development of Organic Districts in different territorial contexts and scaling up examples of practical solutions; the transformation of global food and farming systems as key towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general and Sustainable Food Systems in particular.
6th ALGOA Summit “Building Alliances Beyond Asia”
in conjunction with the Inauguration of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts
12th to 16th October 2020, Goesan County, South Korea

Best Practices of
ALGOA Members
PGS in the National Organic Regulations

By LOAMCPPH (Philippines)

The Organic Agriculture Policy Framework in the Philippines was institutionalized upon the signing of Philippines’ Republic Act 10068 of 2010 (Organic Agriculture Law of 2010) by the President of the Republic of the Philippines. The organic agriculture law was the outcome of the challenging significant journey of the national CSOs/NGOs from the mid-1980s.

In the local geographic areas, the CSOs/NGOs with Farmer Organizations were directly working for the implementation of sustainable/organic agriculture in the farming households. In the historical accounts of MISSAS (Mindanao and Solo Social Action Secretariat) of the Mindanao Catholic Church, the entire organic value chain based on the principles of Organic Agriculture.

• The Participatory Guarantee System

The success of institutionalizing the national organic agriculture policy through the RA 10068 was entirely not a success of CSOs/NGOs/FOs due to the provision of the law or the rule that only recognized the expensive commodity-based Third Party Organic Certification (TPOC). With the CSOs/NGOs support on small family farms organic diversifications, the TPOC is not appropriate and does not support the ground initiatives and practices of small holders which constitute the majority in the Philippines.

In fact, the law strongly marginalized the accessibility of small organic farmers to the economic benefits of the law. Hence, CSOs/NGOs continued the advocacy of a genuine organic agriculture law – a law that encompasses the principle of fairness through group certification and/or through Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).

In the strictest sense, the small organic family farm practitioners are deprived of their rights to affordable organic certification. As early as 2011, the PGS Filipinas strongly advocated the amendment of the National Organic Agriculture Policy Framework or the Republic Act 10068 for the inclusion and recognition of PGS. The network submitted the position paper in 2013 to National Organic Agriculture Board with the support of the IFOAM-Organics International for the recognition of PGS.

The advocacy is directly targeted at the members of the legislative chambers of the Senate and Congress especially to members of the Committee Chairs of Agriculture and Food and Agrarian Reform. From the beginning of 2017, the League of Organic Municipalities, Cities and Provinces (LOAMCP-PH) intensified its direct engagements with the various congressmen and senators and the respective Chairs of the Senate and Congress Committees on Agriculture and Food and Agrarian Reform including the Senate hearings of the amendment of the law.

As part of the strategic engagements, LOAMCP-PH invited the IFOAM Asia for the direct negotiations with Senator Cynthia Villar (current Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food and Agrarian Reform) on PGS and NOAB memberships expansions in the amendment of the law. Senator Villar formally announced the PGS inclusion in the amendment of the Organic Agriculture Law during the IFOAM Asia 3rd Organic Asia Conference in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur on September 18-21, 2018.

The amendment of the Organic Agriculture Law was approved by the Senate on June 1, 2020. To complete the legislative proceedings, the approval of the PGS amendment in the law shall be completed with the approval in the Bicameral Conference (Senate and Congress Conference) and for final RA 10068 Amendment approval to be signed by the President of the Philippines.
Clearly, the success in the policy advocacy in amending the Organic Agriculture Law with emphasis on PGS is a parallel engagement strategy of CSOs/NGOs/FOs led by PGS Pilipinas and the hybrid CSO/NGO led by the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH). Due to the organizational nature of LOAMCP-PH with memberships from the local governments, the inclusion of PGS in the RA 10068 (Organic Agriculture Law) can be officially integrated in the development processes of organic agriculture in the respective local governments.

The recognition of PGS is the best gift of the Philippine government to the small farmers in general and small organic farmers/family farms in particular. However, one of the main challenges in the post amendment of the law is the participatory crafting of Internal Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the amended law.

The Social Benefits of Developing Organic Agriculture in Xichong

By Qu Li, Ma Piping, and Zhou Hanshu (Beijing Continental Hengtong Certification Co. Ltd)

Introduction

Organic Agriculture has three main benefits inclusive of social, economic, and ecological benefits. This paper focuses on the social benefits of organic agriculture in Xichong county - a small county located in Southwest China and famous for organic agriculture.

Unique Approach

Xichong County was established in 621 AD (Tang Dynasty) and located in the southwest of Nanchong City, Sichuan Province, with a total area of 1106.59 square kilometers and a population of about 680,000. It is a subtropical humid monsoon climate area with shallow hilly landforms. It is famous for its sweet potato, ‘Erjingtiao’ peppers, ‘Xifeng’ oranges and Chongguo peach.

Before 2008, Xichong as an agricultural county with a large population with the GDP at 6 billion yuan, and the per capita GDP at less than 10,000 yuan. As such, young people left for big cities and the county composed of mainly the elderly, children, women, the sick, and disabled people. The county had many social problems with a high divorce rate, and psychological problems among the young, etc.

In 2008, the Government of Xichong County recognized the importance of developing organic agriculture. Experts were recruited from various fields and the Xichong Organic Office was set up to develop organic agriculture. This momentous decision led to the rapid development on organic agriculture in the county. At that time, only two operators in the county were certified organic, which involved vegetables and miscellaneous grains. The certified area was only about 150 hectares.

In 2009, under the leadership of Xichong Organic Office, more than 10 farms applied for organic certification and the products included sweet potato, Xifeng navel orange, grapes, loquat and other fruits, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, beef cattle, pigs, chicken and other animal husbandry products. There were only few registered companies or cooperatives at that time, two of the organic conversion certificates were even issued to individuals. This is the first step in organic farming in Xichong county.
To pursue a rigorous development of organic agriculture, Xichong has formulated and issued a series of measures as follows:

1. Funding for infrastructure, facilities and equipment, and certification, such as insecticidal lamps, facilities for compost, etc,

2. Organic inputs subsidies, such as fertilizer, plant protection products. There is an organic shop for inputs in Xichong, and operators are able to buy organic inputs at cheaper prices due to the government subsidies on inputs.

3. Capacity-building programs were offered on the technical aspects including organic national standards technical training and production technology onsite training.

4. Marketing subsidies were set up to build linkages with the consumers and organic shops for Xichong organic products were opened in many big cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Chongqing.

- **Publicity**

  Xichong County fully recognized the importance of publicity and branding from the beginning of the establishment of the Organic Office. There were three main aspects.

  First, to promote organic concept through various media, the county made full use of billboards, television stations and other media. The organic principles ‘health, ecology, fairness and care’ are very well-known to the public.

  Second, the establishment of specialty stores in large cities such as Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, and Chongqing, and the sale of the characteristic organic products of Xichong have been very successful in the big cities.

  Third, the county built a unified regional brand. In 2017, it released the county-level high-quality agricultural product unified brand called ‘Haochongshi’, which includes the name of Xichong, but also makes full use of the ‘chongshi’ homonym which means ‘to enrich’, and this has become quite a catchy word. This branding has been very effective in promoting the healthy development of Xichong organic agriculture.

- **Impact**

  In 2011, Xichong was recognized by China National Certification & Accreditation Agency (CNCA) as one of the first Organic Certification Demonstration Creation Zones.

  After 12 years of development, changes take place almost daily and the county has become more and more beautiful. The changes affected the environment, economy and the society. The main changes are as follows:

  First, there were more than 50 certified organic companies in Xichong, with a total production area of 4,500 hectares. More than 100 varieties of products are produced including grains, oils, miscellaneous grains, fruits, and vegetables. This has led to increase in employment of nearly ten thousand people and attracted nearly a hundred people to return to their hometown to start businesses.

  Second, Xichong County had become a popular gold signboard in the organic agriculture although it is a small rural county. More and more local governments and enterprises visit Xichong to study and promote the experience of Xichong.
Third, in accordance to the development of organic agriculture, Xichong attracted many natives to return home, start a business, set up an agricultural cooperative or company, and engage in the production and sales of organic products. So, the number, area and product range of certified organic operators are increasing year by year.

Additionally, infrastructure construction in Xichong County had also undergone changes for urban reconstruction, ecological restoration, and natural parks such as North Wetland Park, Lianhua Lake Park, etc have been opened.

The county has also built a traffic circle that run through the entire territory of Xichong, and the county-township highway are fully connected forming a 'half-hour economic circle within the county'. Urban development is fully integrated with the strategic development other nearby cities. A 5-star Hotel has been built to facilitate international organic events. As such, the development of organic agriculture contributes not only to the growth of the GDP but also to the preservation of the environment, boosting tourism and to the overall happiness of the citizens of Xichong.

Acknowledgement
The authors would like to thank Mr Yang Congwen from the Xichong Organic Office for his assistance in the writing of this paper.
• Organised International Organic Open Forum on 29th November 2019, where international organic pioneers & experts (China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and India) interacted with about 300 participants from State Govt. Officials, students from schools and colleges, farmers and youths. Hon’ble Chief minister of Nagaland graced the program,

• Organised Pineapple Fest on 30th November 2019 at Mvorn Village (also known as pineapple village), first of its kind in the state. To commemorate this, a concrete pineapple structure was erected and unveiled by Hon’ble Adviser of Horticulture. Youths from different villages were given a platform to showcase their organic produce especially pineapples as well as their farms to promote rural entrepreneurship skills,

• Organised 5th Asia Organic Youth Forum on 26th to 28th Nov 2019. This event saw the participation of 35 trainees, both international (South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, Poland and Taiwan) and national (State Government officials, farmers and youths from all districts of Nagaland). The entire three days programme were divided into various sessions were in worldwide information and experiences on Organic sector were elaborated by various experts from different Countries. Also, the current scenario and the scope that lies ahead under organic sector in the region were also discussed. The program was graced by honourable Agriculture minister of the State. This program was made possible due to full guidance and hand holding by IFOAM Asia & sponsored by Government of Nagaland.

NOK is continuing in its strive for organic movement in the state through various activities such as online webinars on important issues in organic sector and also facilitating the state government to finalise the draft of organic policies for the state.
The 4th Organic Asia Congress “Semarang Organic Asia 2020”

By Jennifer Chang (Executive Director, IFOAM Asia)

The 4th Organic Asia Congress organized by IFOAM Asia will be held in Semarang, Central Java Province, Indonesia in 2021 and will be hosted by the Indonesia Organic Alliance and Bina Swadaya Foundation. Other supporting partners include Arla Indofood, Bakrie University and the Kehati Foundation.

The components of the OAC are the main organic conference, ALGOA and Organic Youth Forums, food and trade exhibitions, cultural and organic tours, with other local events to create synergy with the international events, etc.

The location of the main events is Semarang, the capital and largest city of Central Java province in Indonesia. A major port during the Dutch colonial era, and still an important regional centre and port today. The city has been named as the cleanest tourist destination in Southeast Asia by the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard (ACTCS) for the year of 2020 to 2022. The population of the city is approximately 1.8 million people, making it Indonesia’s seventh most populous city. Population of the city is predominantly Javanese with significant Chinese population.

Semarang is one of organic centers in the Central Java Province.

Other objectives of the OAC include:

- Uniting the organic sector to achieve the full adoption of organic practices in Asia
- Increase networking among IFOAM Organics Asia members
- Increase networking with local governments to promote organic agriculture
- Increasing Consumer Awareness of Organic Agriculture
- Disseminating Information on the Best Practices of Organic Agriculture
- Highlighting the Organic Pioneers from Asia and their Achievements
2022 International Organic Expo

By Jack Choi, Goesan County

In 2015, the world saw the largest gathering of the organic community at the International Organic Expo held at Goesan County, Chungbuk Province, South Korea. The Expo under the heading “Organic Life – Science Meets the Public” was held for 21 days and brought a total of 1.06 million visitors to the events.

One of the major organic conferences held during the Expo was the “IFOAM Organic 3.0 Conference” which brought organic leaders, IFOAM members, local government representatives and other stakeholders to discuss the features and overall strategy outlined under Organic 3.0.

The resulting “Organic 3.0 Goesan Declaration” was a milestone in the organic movements and became one of the stepping-stones for organic agriculture related policy development in Goesan County – leading to the growth of the Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA), the Asian Organic Youth Forum, Young Organics Global Network (YOGN) and the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD).

The next International Organic Expo is planned for the end of September 2022 for 17 days and will be composed of the following events:

- Various organic thematic exhibitions
- Organic trade expo and organic market
- International organic conferences
  - ALGOA-GAOD Summit
  - World Organic Youth Forum
  - 50th Anniversary of IFOAM-Organics International & Commemorative International Conference
  - 10th Anniversary of IFOAM-Organics Asia & Commemorative Conference
  - ISOFAR International Scientific Conference
- Organic Farm visits
- Various experiences and cultural performances

The highlights of the 2022 International Organic Expo will be the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of IFOAM-Organics International at the opening ceremony of the Expo and the 10th anniversary of IFOAM – Organics Asia at the closing ceremony. The new strategies and action plans of the global organic movements will be discussed and disseminated at these two major conferences.
Annex

• Membership of Commitment of ALGOA

ALGOA Membership Memorandum of Commitment

The Memorandum of Commitment is a statement of agreement by the parties involved in ALGOA to further the goals and activities of ALGOA and to promote the development of organic agriculture and related industries in Asia. Although it is a non-binding agreement, it should be understood as a declaration of active participation in ALGOA by the signees below.

We apply for membership in ALGOA and hereby pledge to fulfill our responsibilities as a FULL MEMBER of ALGOA.

We pledge to increase the profile of ALGOA at local and regional levels and to participate actively in assisting the development of the activities of ALGOA, towards realizing the “full adoption of Organic Practices in Asia!”

Date

(Signature)

Name of Local Government Representative

Name of Local Government

Working Methods of ALGOA

1. Name of body
   The name of the body is “Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA).”

2. Nature of body
   ALGOA is forum for dialogue and cooperation among local governments and IFOAM Asia to promote organic agriculture in Asia and was initiated by IFOAM Asia.

3. Location of ALGOA
   The Secretariat of ALGOA shall be based in the country where the Secretariat of IFOAM Asia is located. Other local offices of ALGOA shall be set up in Asia when deemed necessary.

4. Purpose of ALGOA
   The purpose of ALGOA is based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that have been signed among the founding local governments and IFOAM Asia.

   1. The purpose for the establishment of ALGOA is to facilitate the full adoption of organic agriculture in Asia.
   2. ALGOA pursues activities with IFOAM Asia to achieve the adoption of organic agriculture in Asian countries.

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1. Scope of IFOAM Asia: North Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia (Central Asia, Australia, New Zealand & Oceania also applicable)
2. MoUs were signed among the local governments in India, Philippines with Goesan County and IFOAM Asia in October and November 2014.
5. Activities of ALGOA

The following activities of ALGOA are based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that have been signed among the founding local governments and IFOAM Asia.

1. Policy Support for countries developing Organic Agriculture
2. Information Exchanges on the best practices and innovations on Organic Agriculture
4. Education for local government officials on organic agriculture
5. Hosting of the Annual ALGOA Summit
6. Others

5.1 Funding for the activities of ALGOA

Funding for the activities of ALGOA shall be provided by the hosting local government ("Presidency of ALGOA") and from contributions by ALGOA members.

6. Membership

Membership is open to all local governments in Asia and the affiliates of IFOAM Asia. Membership is finalized with the signing of the Membership Memorandum of Commitment (MoC) (see Annex 1).

6.1 Membership Criteria

Membership in ALGOA involves two parties, that is, a local government and an IFOAM Asia affiliate in each country and shall be classified as “full members”. The “Membership MoC” shall be signed both by the local government and IFOAM Asia affiliates.

Any membership application which involves only one party, that is, one local government only or an IFOAM Asia affiliate only, shall be classified as “associate members.”

Any central governments in Asia or IFOAM affiliates outside Asia applying for ALGOA membership shall be known as “honorary members.”

6.2 Annual Membership Fees

All members have the obligation to pay an annual membership fee. The membership fee will be determined by the Executive Council.

The hosting local government (the "Presidency of ALGOA") pays a special membership fee annually for the duration of the Presidency. The special membership fee is determined by the Executive Council and has been set at USD 20,000 (twenty thousand) from July 1st, 2019.

7. Management and Operations of ALGOA

7.1 Internal Structures

The internal structures are the Summit, Executive Council and the Secretariat. Other organizational structures such as working groups, task forces, advisory groups and others can be set up if required or when considered necessary. In legal or financial matters, both the hosting government ("Presidency") and IFOAM Asia have the final authority in all matters regarding ALGOA.

7.1.1 The Summit

The Summit consists of all the members of ALGOA and is an annual meeting of the heads of local governments and IFOAM Asia affiliates/partners to discuss and share ideas and polices on the promotion of organic agriculture.

7.1.2 The Executive Council

The Executive Council consists of not more than 5 persons. One representative from the hosting local government (in the role of the Presidency of ALGOA), one IFOAM Asia board member and the Executive Director of IFOAM Asia are permanent members of the Executive Council. The other two representatives are selected through recommendations from full members of ALGOA. It advises the hosting local government (in the role of the Presidency of ALGOA) to make decisions on the overall operations of ALGOA and monitors the execution of the tasks of the Presidency and the Secretariat. Members of the Executive Council are nominated at the ALGOA Summit and will be in office for a minimum of two years until the next Presidency of ALGOA is determined.
7.1.3 Secretariat of ALGOA
The Secretariat of ALGOA shall be maintained by IFOAM Asia in partnership with the hosting local government (the “Presidency” of ALGOA).
The hosting government shall provide the necessary funds (and premises if necessary) for the operation of the Secretariat.
The Secretariat assists the presiding local government to implement the decisions of the Executive Council.

7.2. The Roles and Responsibilities of the Presidency of ALGOA

7.2.1. Nomination of the Presidency
The Presidency could be self-nominated or recommended by full members of ALGOA.
In case of self-nominations, it should be seconded by one local government member and one affiliate of IFOAM Asia.
In the case of recommendations, it must be nominated by two local government members and two affiliates of IFOAM Asia.

7.2.2 Signing of the Memorandum of Commitment as the Presidency of ALGOA
The local government undertaking the role of the Presidency of ALGOA signs a Memorandum of Commitment (MoC) in agreement to the roles and responsibilities outlined in the Working Methods of ALGOA.

7.2.3 Responsibilities of the Presidency /Hosting Local Government
a. The local government undertaking the role of the Presidency of ALGOA bears responsibility for the operation of the Secretariat of ALGOA until the next presiding local government is nominated, for a period of minimum two years.
b. The local government undertaking the role of the Presidency of ALGOA bears the responsibility of the provision of funds for the activities of ALGOA and the operation of the Secretariat.
c. The local government undertaking the Presidency of ALGOA shall operate the ALGOA Secretariat with IFOAM Asia.
d. The local government undertaking the Presidency of ALGOA shall represent ALGOA at all events related to organic agriculture.
e. The local government undertaking the Presidency of ALGOA shall make efforts to monitor the development of organic agriculture in Asia and shall develop policies and personnel exchanges to foster growth of organic agriculture in developing countries.

8. Others
Any amendments to this document shall be made in writing in consensus with the hosting local government and IFOAM Asia.
### List of ALGOA Members (as of June 2020)

**ALGOA has 220 members from 15 countries and territories in Asia.**

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<td>PGS Vietnam</td>
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<tbody>
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<td>Organic Federation of Ukraine</td>
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