



Historic Launch of ALGOA – the network of Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture

The Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) was initiated by IFOAM Organics Asia in 2013 with the aim of fostering dialogue and cooperation among Asian local governments for the development of organic agriculture and its related industries. ALGOA is a daughter organization of IFOAM Organics Asia.

Official Launching of ALGOA

ALGOA was officially inaugurated on September 18th, 2015, in Goesan County, Chungbuk Province, South Korea. There were 17 countries in Asia represented at the historic occasion including the Minister of Agriculture of Bhutan, His Excellency Lynpo Yeshey Dorji, who was invited as the chief VIP to honor the occasion.

«ALGOA, a forum of cooperation between the local governments and the private sector in Asia will facilitate the exchange of information and technology and provide the basis for the equal development of Organic Agriculture in Asia.»

Mayor Lim Kak Soo, Goesan County

Goesan County, the first hosting local government of ALGOA



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At the historic launch, Goesan County signed a Memorandum of Commitment with IFOAM Organics Asia to host the operations and activities of ALGOA for the Years 2015 to 2017.

The 1st ALGOA Summit

With the sponsorship of Goesan County, the 1st ALGOA Summit was held on September 19, 2015, with more than 43 representatives from 17 countries in Asia, participating at the historic event.

The main purpose of the establishment of ALGOA is to bring together the private and the public sectors together in efforts to promote the **100% adoption of organic agriculture in Asia**. The annual summit allows heads of local governments and IFOAM Asia affiliates/partners to discuss and share ideas and policies on the promotion of organic agriculture and find new ways of collaboration.



«Today the establishment of ALGOA will provide an important platform for sharing and exchanging of experiences of the Asian local governments and this will be significantly beneficial not only to the Asian but also to the global organic movements.»

Zhou Zejiang, President of iFOAM Organics Asia

Purpose of ALGOA

The purpose for the establishment of ALGOA is to facilitate **the 100% adoption of organic agriculture** in Asia.

ALGOA pursues activities with IFOAM Organics Asia to achieve the adoption of organic agriculture in Asian countries.

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 Organics Asia.

- a. Policy Support for countries developing Organic Agriculture
- b. Information Exchanges on the best practices and innovations on Organic Agriculture
- c. Mutual exchanges of local government personnel / experts & organic stakeholders
- d. Education for local government officials on organic agriculture
- e. Hosting of the Annual ALGOA Summit
- f. Others

ALGOA 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).

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”**.

Annual Membership Fees

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

Special Membership Fees

The hosting local government (the “Presidency of ALGOA”) may pay a special membership fee annually for the duration of the Presidency. The special membership fee will be determined by the Executive Council.



The 2016 ALGOA Organic Foundation Course

(July 3rd to 13th, 2016 / Goesan County, South Korea)

The ALGOA Organic Foundation Course is a training program on organic agriculture offered to local government officials and IFOAM Asia affiliates as part of the ALGOA project.

Application to the 2016 ALGOA Organic Foundation Course is offered to ALGOA members, IFOAM Asia affiliates and partners in Asia. Priority will be given to participants from developing countries. Full and partial sponsorships are offered to all eligible participants.

All participants will receive a “Certificate of Completion” on the successful completion of the course and will be eligible for future in-depth training offered by ALGOA.

What is the Organic Foundation Course?

- An intensive, practice-centred further education course on organic agriculture;
- Tuition by prominent organic experts;
- Short, intense residential course, complemented by online learning and collaboration;
- Global outlook, regionalized approach.

What are the Benefits for Participants?

- The full picture of Organic Agriculture: from field to plate;
- Effective, sustainable strategies tailored to individual needs;
- Deepened understanding of the organic principles;
- Inspiration for organic development;
- An action network of likeminded peers.

What are the Learning Objectives?

The training will broaden the knowledge of the participants and develop their skills. After the course, participants will be able to:

- Analyze situations holistically and draw conclusions in line with the principles of Organic Agriculture;
- Design strategies in an effective and ethical way;
- Apply productivity increase strategies and find appropriate information for technology innovations;
- Develop projects - includes planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation;
- Build relationships, networks and cross-sector alliances;
- Make their value chains more sustainable and competitive;
- Use services from the organic sector to develop operations;
- Access research, advice and training.



Matriculation Ceremony, July 3rd, 2016/ Goesan County Office/ Main Hall



The Graduates of the 2016 ALGOA Organic Foundation Course, July 12th, 2016



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, (name of local or central government) and (name of IFOAM Asia affiliate), apply for membership in ALGOA and hereby pledge to fulfill our responsibilities as FULL MEMBERS 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 "100% Organic in Asia!"

Date

Signature

Signature

Name of Representative

Name of Representative

(title, name of local government)

(title, name of IFOAM Asia affiliate)