



9th ALGOA & 4th GAOD Summits

-Manifesting Organic Districts in Asia-

June 5th to 6th, 2023 / Kauswagan, Lanao de Norte, Philippines

1. Rationale of the Theme

In 2020, the success of the growth of organic districts in Europe and the strengthening of cooperation among like-minded organizations such as the International Network of Eco-regions, Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture, Regeneration International, etc., culminated in the creation of the “Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD)”.

Since then, the annual ALGOA & GAOD Summits have recorded and disseminated best practices under the 7 Working Groups of GAOD. The virtual Summits have gathered attention from more than 35 countries with an average of 800 attendees during the sessions.

The two years since the consolidation of GAOD have also seen the finalization of the Toolkits that can be used to design and accomplish similar organic districts anywhere in the world.

The time is ripe for ALGOA under its new leadership of Mayor Rommel Arnado of Kauswagan and as the head of the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities, & Provinces (LOAMCP), to consider the holistic development of organic agriculture based on the concept of organic districts.

2. Significance of the Philippines taking on the leadership of ALGOA

1. Working with LOAMCP

Undoubtedly, the existence of the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities, Provinces (LOAMCP) in the Philippines is of vital importance for the future growth of ALGOA.

LOAMCP has more than 150 local governments participating as members, and this constitutes almost half of the ALGOA membership. Under the charismatic leadership of Mayor Rommel Arnado, the network of elected mayors and governors is growing steadily.

Furthermore, many of the elected officers are young and eager to implement organic agriculture practices and ALGOA can make an impact through organizing leadership capacity-building programs, policy-oriented workshops, networking, etc.

Initial contact has already been made with some newly-elected mayors who have agreed to the proposal on the formation of the “Young Elected Officers Network (YEON)” under ALGOA. A short training program proposal is being drafted as a first step. ALGOA-YEON is expected to be formally launched at the upcoming Summit in June.

2. Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) under Implementation as Part of National Organic Regulations

One of the biggest achievements for IFOAM, was the inclusion of PGS as part of the national organic regulations. It was 5 years of advocacy that led to the ratification by the Senate of the Philippines in 2020.

The successful implementation of PGS will be an example to other countries and ALGOA and IFOAM will continue to assist the relevant government agencies.

3. New ALGOA Presidency: Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte - “From Arms to Farms: Walking through the Paths of Peace”

Since the 1970s, Kauswagan was the center of decades-long conflict between local insurgencies and the military with the poverty rate at an all-record high of 90%.

In 2010, a new local government under the charismatic leadership of Mayor Rommel Arnado started to address the root causes of the conflict, which were found to be poverty, food insecurity and inequalities between population groups. The project ‘**From Arms to Farms: Walking through the Paths of Peace**’ was implemented to help former combatants to reintegrate into society while at the same time addressing the food security problem. These combatants agreed to lay down their arms in exchange for farm materials and a decade later, they have become the most exemplary organic farmer leaders in the municipality. **The poverty rate has decreased to 20% levels.**

For its efforts, Kauswagan was awarded with the **UCLG Peace Prize** in October 2016 and the **Honorable Mention of the Future Policy Award** in 2018 from the World Future Council and IFOAM-Organics International.

4. Program (Summary)

Date	Detail	Notes
June 4	Arrival in Kauswagan	
June 5	Summit Day 1	
June 6	OAC Opening ceremony Summit Day 2 & Closing Official Banquet	
June 7	Attend OAC Day 2	
June 8	Attend OAC Day 3	
June 9	Field Trip Official Closing of the OAC	

4. Details of Program

June 5th, 2023 / Official Opening Ceremony		
Moderator: Vic JF Tagupa (Chief Operating Officer, IFOAM-Organics Asia)		
Time	Details	Remarks
09:30	Opening Remarks & Introduction of VIPs	
09:35	Message of Greetings - Mathew John, President of IFOAM-Organics Asia - Salvatore Basile, Co-President of GAOD	
09:45	Handover Speech & Ceremony - Song, In-hern, Mayor of Goesan County	
09:48	Acceptance Message - Rommel Arnado, Mayor of Kauswagan Municipality	
10:00	Signing of the Agreement of ALGOA Presidency IFOAM-Organics Asia & Kauswagan Municipality	
10:05	Message of Congratulations - Benjamin Abalos Jr, Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government - Zamzamin Ampatuan, Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture - Bernadette San Juan, Director, National Organic Agriculture Program - Imelda Quibranza, Governor of Lanao del Norte - Khalid Dimaporo, Congressman of the First District of Lanao del Norte - Karen Mapusua, President of IFOAM-Organics International	
10:30	ALGOA Progress Report (ALGOA Ambassador, Konrad Hauptfleisch)	
10:45	Signing of the Membership of Commitment (New ALGOA Members) & Photos with New ALGOA President	
11:00	Signing of MoUs	
11:10	Official Launching of the ALGOA-LOAMCP-Ph Academy	
11:15	Message of Support for the ALGOA-LOAMCP-Ph Academy from the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP)	
11:20	Official Launching of ALGOA-Young Elected Officers Network (YEON) Javier Benitez, Mayor of Victorias City	
11:30	Designation of Organic Youth Ambassadors	

11:40	ALGOA Recognitions - Goesan County, South Korea - Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippines - Negros Occidental, Philippines - New Taipei City - Victoriano Ihong Tagupa - Andre Leu	
11:45	Group Photo & Lunch Break	
Session 1 Organic Districts Around the World Moderator: Jostein Hertwig (Executive Director, GAOD)		
14:00	Keynote Speech: Introduction of GAOD & the Status of Organic Districts in the World By Salvatore Basile (Co-President of GAOD)	
14:30	Case study 1: The Story of Cilento – the first organic District in the world By Giuseppe Cilento, Mayor of Cilento, Italy	
15:00	Case Study 2: The First Bio-territory in Africa: The Case of Tunisia By Samia Maamer, Tunisia, Ministry of Agriculture, Organizing World Congress 2024 Organizing Committee	
15:30	Q&A	
Session 2: Case Studies of ALGOA Members Moderator: Shaikh Tanveer Hossain (Director of Strategy, IFOAM-Organics Asia)		
16:00	Case Study 1: LOAMCP-Ph and its Impact in the Philippines By Victoriano Ihong Tagupa (Executive Director, LOAMCP-Ph)	
16:30	Case Study 2: The Progress and Opportunities of Organic Agriculture in Saudi Arabia By Abdullah Dekhel Albahi Alkhthani (General Director, Department of Organic Production) & Mazen Alkhateeb (Program Manager, Organic Farming Development Program)	
17:00	Case Study 3: Organic Agriculture Strengthens Ecological Preservation By Li Tian Gang (Yangxian County)	
17:30	Case Study 4: Implementation of Organic Agriculture Towards Sustainable Development in East Manggarai Regency By Agas Andreas, SH., M.Hum	

18:00	Closing of Day 1	
18:30	Dinner	

June 6th, 2023 / Official Opening Ceremony 6th Organic Asia Congress		
10:00	Attend Official Opening Ceremony	
12:30	Lunch	
Session 3: Ways Forward Moderator: David Gould (Facilitator, Organic Food Systems Programme)		
14:00	Panel Discussion: Implementing Organic Districts in Asia By <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jostein Hertwig (Executive Director, GAOD), • Victoriano Ihong Tagupa (Executive Director, LOAMCP-Ph), • Edgardo Uychiat (Director, Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture Rural Development NISARD, Negros Occidental), • Akali Sema (Director, Nagaland Organic Konnect) 	
15:30	Break	
16:00	Special Presentation: The Status and Prospects of Organic Agriculture in Sri Lanka By Rajitha Hapuarachchi, Chairman of Agriculture Service Development Authority (ASDA) and Thilak Kariyawasam, President of Lanka Organic Agriculture Movements (LOAM)	
16:30	Bidding for the 2027 IFOAM Organic World Congress By Representative of Negros Occidental	
16:50	Opening of the ALGOA Organic Marketing Platform	
17:10	Adoption of the Summit Declaration	
17:20	Closing	
18:30	Dinner	