Due to the ongoing pandemic, the ALGOA Summit for this year was held virtually. This, however, did not stop the organic community from witnessing the 5th ALGOA Anniversary and Asia Organic Day on the 18th of September and the 6th ALGOA Summit: Building Alliances Beyond Asia on the 12th - 16th of October. More than 600 people registered for the events and more than 2,000 watched the Opening Ceremonies and Summit proper which were broadcasted live in the ALGOA and IFOAM Asia website, as well as in Youtube, Facebook and Zoom.

Speakers from international organizations from around the globe such as the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), IFOAM Organics International, Food And Agriculture Organization (FAO), Regeneration International, 4per1000, IFOAM Organics Europe, INRAE France, the Organic Food System Programme (OFSP), the International Network of Eco Regions (I.N.N.E.R) and the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces in the Philippines (LOAMCP-Ph) presented during the Summit’s 5-Day event.
ALGOA celebrated its 5th Anniversary together with the Asia Organic Day on September 18th, 2020 at 13:00 Korean Standard Time. Registrants for the event came from 30 countries and areas around the world. The ceremony was witnessed by more than one thousand people through Facebook live, Youtube and Zoom which featured simultaneous English and Korean translations.

The ALGOA 5th Anniversary and Asia Organic Day Ceremony

Mayor Lee Cha Young, Mayor of Goesan County and President of ALGOA gave the Message of Greetings, followed by the Message of Welcome by Mr. Zhou Zejiang, President of IFOAM Asia.

A series of congratulatory messages were given by local representatives followed by two government officials, Surigao del Sur Vice Governor Librado Navarro from the Philippines and Kisarazu City Mayor Yoshikuni Watanabe from Japan.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the designation of three ALGOA Centers: The ALGOA Center for Public Procurement to New Taipei City, The ALGOA Center for Organic Governance to LOAMCP-Ph in the Philippines and the ALGOA Center for Organic Leadership to Goesan County.

Mayor Lee Cha Young hands out the plaques to the representatives of the 3 designated ALGOA Centers for Public Procurement, Organic Governance and Organic Leadership.
The 6th ALGOA Summit: Building Alliances Beyond Asia

The 6th ALGOA: Summit, Building Alliances Beyond Asia was held virtually last October 12th - 16th, 2020. More than 400 people from 46 countries and areas registered to the event while more than 1,600 viewed the 5-day Summit Program live through Facebook, Youtube and Zoom, which featured a simultaneous translation for English and Korean.

One major highlight of the ceremony was the establishment of the Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD), an alliance of ALGOA and the International Network of Eco Regions (I.N.E.R.) to cooperate closely to promote a wider adoption of organic agriculture practices & disseminate them in other continents.

ALGOA was designated as the GAOD Asia Secretariat, which was formally accepted by Mayor Lee Cha Young of Goesan County, which also serves as the ALGOA President.

(Above picture) Mayor Lee Cha Young delivers his Message of Greetings during the Opening Ceremony of the 6th ALGOA Summit
ALGOA, GAOD and the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces in the Philippines (LOAMCP-Ph) signed an MoU on Group Membership and Membership Exchange whereby any member of ALGOA and LOAMCP-Ph gain automatic membership in GAOD, and any GAOD member in Asia would get automatic membership in ALGOA.

The Summit featured high-level speakers from international organizations and prominent organic districts in Europe. The specific topics were discussed in seven working groups which covered the integrated management of Organic Districts; tourism / gastronomy; regenerative/organic farming; food processing from distribution to Consumption and food and nutrition security, quality and health; social issues, social agriculture - communities’ enforcement and urban-rural relations; communication; and youth and organic agriculture.

(Above picture) Mayor Lee Cha Young receives a plaque signifying the historic launch of the Global Alliance for Organic Districts, GAOD
The Young Organics Global Network (YOGN) was formally launched during the 5th Anniversary of ALGOA and Asia Organic Day Ceremony on September 18th. Through a live broadcast from the YOGN’s website, hundreds of youth from all over the world witnessed the inaugural ceremony. Julia Lernoud, Co-Chairperson of YOGN gave the background of the establishment of the youth group which was initially formed last June 28th, 2020.

Mayor Lee Cha Young of Goesan County and President of ALGOA gave a message of congratulations and stressed the importance of the youth as future leaders and caretakers of the environment. “The most astonishing thing about YOGN is that it is the result of spontaneous cooperation of the young people around the world. ALGOA will support their strive for bright future of human race.”

A video of congratulations from organic pioneers followed, with messages coming from Gunnar Rundgren, former President of IFOAM Organics International, Karen Mapusua, current Vice President of IFOAM Organics International and Zhou Zejiang, President of IFOAM Asia.

Youth representatives from Goesan County read the Inaugural Declaration, a document containing the mission, objectives, and prospects of YOGN. YOGN is fully supported by Goesan County.

For more information on YOGN, please visit: www.yoglobalnetwork.com
The ALGOA Organic Foundation Course or OFC has been traditionally held in Goesan County, South Korea since its first batch in 2016. This year, however, was the first virtual OFC due to the pandemic situation. Twenty eight carefully-selected trainees from eight countries and areas logged in at ALGOA OFC's Virtual Training Room from September 18th to 24th, 2020.

For 7 days, the trainees learned various organic agriculture topics from IFOAM trained trainers, organic pioneers and organic experts from all over Asia.

The Mayor of Goesan and President of ALGOA, Mayor Lee Cha Young, gave the congratulatory message to the trainees during the Closing Ceremony of the OFC on the 24th of September. He praised the trainees for successfully completing one of the premiere training courses for organic agriculture in Asia.

50% of the 2020 ALGOA OFC trainees will be invited to Goesan County in 2021 for the ALGOA Masterclass Course which is a specially-designed course for former graduates of the OFC.

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