

Providing organic inspector training and networking services worldwide

Our Mission: To address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training, and to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.

Message from the Chair

Prepared by Stuart McMillan, February 24, 2017



In 2017, I am honored to be the first Canadian to chair an IOIA annual meeting in Canada as we celebrate our 25th anniversary in Ottawa.

2016 was a year of bold steps forward to further IOIA's mission, including the **first ever annual meeting in Asia**. Inspectors from **nine countries** came together on Jeju Island, Korea. IOIA continued to strengthen financial reserves, made significant positive changes in the Training Institute, and took concrete steps toward a Succession Plan for IOIA - the major focus of the 2016 BOD Retreat.

- **Field Training** - IOIA took the lead and collaborated with certification agencies to launch this critical missing step in inspector training - structured apprenticeship.
- **IFOAM North America** - Our Executive Director served on the organizing Steering Committee, and IFOAM North America was launched in Baltimore. Inspector member Lisa Pierce of Canada agreed to represent IOIA on the ballot. She was elected to the founding Board.
- **Peer Evaluation Program** - IOIA submitted a report to the USDA NOP and received a congratulatory response. In 2016, IOIA nearly doubled the number of inspectors evaluated over the previous year. This success corresponds to a 40% jump in the number of accredited members. Accreditation is a prerequisite qualification to serve as a peer evaluator.
- **Trained 777 participants** - an increase of 13% over last year. About half of those were trained by webinar.
- **Cuba** - was the focus of a new IOIA discussion group. Bilingual Board member Garth Kahl traveled to Cuba where he introduced agronomists, veterinarians, researchers and representatives of the ministry of agriculture to IOIA at "The 11th Encounter on Organic and Sustainable Agriculture".



India, USA, Australia, Ghana, Korea,
Thailand, USA, Japan -
New friends, old friends, meeting in Jeju.

Spotlight on International Activities



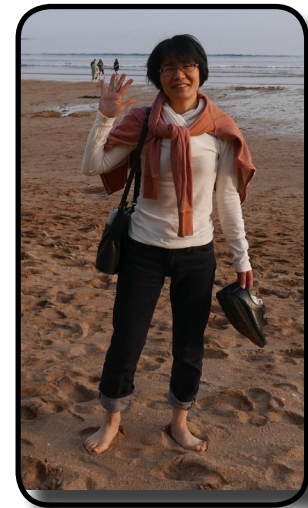
Asia Pacific Committee - Chair, Isidor Yu, Korea.
 Committee members hail from Korea, Japan, Australia, Nepal, Thailand, and India.

The year's chief activity was planning the training in Jeju.

- Train the Trainer for Asia - participants from Thailand, Australia, Korea
- Processing inspection training in Korean language
- Organic Aquaculture training
- Advanced inspector training

The committee is now developing training in India for 2017.

IOIA's newest trainer, Kathe Purvis of Australia, is an auditor and trainer for Fairtrade ANZ and the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia. She travels across the Asia Pacific region auditing grower groups. In 2016, she organized an IOIA advanced training workshop in Korea on inspecting to multiple standards.



IOIA Trainer Mutsumi Sakuyoshi of Japan was elected to the BOD in 2016. She serves as BOD liaison to the Asia Pacific Committee.



Garth Kahl (in green hat) in Cuba

Canadian Committee - Chair, Bill Barkley.

Committee members include all IOIA inspectors in Canada (20% of the membership). Barkley facilitates advanced inspector training every two years at the Guelph Organic Conference in Ontario. Activities in 2016 were advanced training in Guelph and planning for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Kelly Monaghan represents IOIA on the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture of Canada's General Standards Board.



Basic trainings all begin with instruction in the standards, followed by classroom preparation for the practicum. Small groups conduct mock inspections of organic operations and write a report.

Latin America - Chair, Martha Santizo Castillo

- IOIA delivered processing and advanced training in Mexico. Both of these trainings are delivered in Spanish much less frequently than the farm inspection course.
- 200-level in/out balance training materials were translated into Spanish.
- The most significant trip of the year - Cuba.

Garth Kahl represented IOIA at the biannual meeting of the Cuban Association of Agronomy and Forestry Professionals ("Asociación Cubana de Técnicos Agrícolas y Forestales").

IOIA as Membership Organization

IOIA Strengthened Membership Benefits and Membership in 2016 by -

- Taking a bold step by investing in basic training in response to course evaluations and IOIA's professional trainers. Preparatory webinars in the standard(s) are now prerequisite to basic courses. This opens up time for hands-on training and a deeper application of standards. Trainers provide collaborative feedback as course participants write reports. Success rate in the courses went up. Ratings on course evaluations went up correspondingly.
- Initiating field training in response to the critical shortage of inspectors and available mentors.
- Garnering support from business - IOIA supporting business membership jumped 40%, a recognition of IOIA's role in protecting organic integrity through rigorous inspections and inspector training.
- Invigorating IOIA's accreditation program. 2016 saw a **40% increase in new accreditations.**
- Expanding support and resources for inspector members:
 - Big webinar discounts to encourage continuing education.
 - Peer Field Evaluation Program - to efficiently coordinate evaluations of inspectors who work for multiple certifiers, while increasing oversight of inspectors.



Wisconsin Advanced Training was developed in collaboration with MOSA in response to a membership idea. That idea was to draw from local resources to develop one-day training attractive to local inspectors.

Peer Evaluation Program

"I came away from the process with some helpful advice on how to be a better inspector, which is what this is all really about". - Darren Maum, inspector

- Regular technical articles in our newsletter, a benefit to all members.
 - "Ask the Experts - A recent Forum Discussion on Boiler Additives"
 - "Assessing Soil Quality in the Field: Uses, Interpretation, and Limitations of Soil Tests"
 - "The Top Five Things Inspectors Should Know About GMO's"

☞ In Memoriam ☞

Linda Kaner, Minnesota, was a founding board member of IOIA and served 25 years on the Accreditation Committee, from its inception to the time of her passing.

Maarten Samsom, Vermont, inspector member since 2000, served as Membership Committee Chair and member of the Board of Directors. He was known for his ethics and a passion for organic integrity. 3

Customized Training to meet the needs of the Organic Community

- Field Training was launched to meet the need for structured apprenticeship. Participants are expected to first complete the basic training in the related scope. They complete two inspections in teams with experienced inspectors/trainers. The goal - graduates are ready to go solo on 100-level inspections. For the debut, IOIA partnered with MOSA in Wisconsin, focusing on Livestock. It was a resounding success.
- GAP On-farm Food Safety Plan Training - The Training Services Director led workshops for 52 farmers, educators, produce retailers, community produce growers, Farm-to-School garden managers, Food Banks, and staff from MT Dept of Ag and MT State U.
- Transition to Organic Trainer Workshop - for Cooperative Extension agents in Kentucky.
- Increased webinar participation of 14%. This was partly a result of making webinar topics more accessible to certification agencies by using a new in-house model.
- IOIA/OMRI Processing Inputs webinar Canada was launched.
- Processing inspection trainings doubled - in 4 languages and 4 countries (Korea, Japan, USA, and Hong Kong, China).
- Advanced trainings doubled - in 3 continents in 3 languages. (Mexico, Korea, Canada, and the US).



Twice in 2016 -
Organic Aquaculture workshops

IOIA Training in 2016		
Type of Course	Number of Events	Number of Participants
Basic Crop	5	109
Basic Livestock	2	35
Basic Process	6	75
Advanced	4	67
Field Training (Livestock)	1	8
Webinars (100 Level)	14	291
Webinars (200 Level)	4	46
Webinars (300 Level)	1	12
Standards Workshop (Webinar)	1	30
Non-GMO Verification (In-person)	1	9
Organic Aquaculture (In-person)	2	26
GAP On-Farm Food Safety (In-person)	3	52
Train the Trainer for Asia (In-person)	1	5
Transitions Workshop (In-person)	1	12
TOTAL	46	777

Annual General Meeting Snapshots - April 9 - Jeju



Andre Leu, president of IFOAM, delivered the keynote on “Organic 3.0, Children’s Health & Climate Change.”

Organic 3.0 is resonating around the world. People on every continent are in the process of developing a new collective vision for the organic movement. Leu explained in simple

but powerful terms the global impact of putting carbon back into the soil. He also acknowledged the essential

role that inspectors play in healing the planet and our bodies as we forward organic agriculture.



IOIA Collaborates with Key Players

Partnerships

ACA - Accredited Certifiers Association
COTA - Canada Organic Trade Association
Canadian General Standards Board's
Organic Technical Committee
Guelph Organic Conference, Ontario, Canada
IFOAM - Organics International
Lake County Community Development Corp.
MNA - Montana Nonprofit Association
MOA - Montana Organic Association
NCAT - National Center for
Appropriate Technology
NOC - National Organic Coalition
New Hope Natural Media - Expo East/Expo West
Organic Connections, Saskatchewan, Canada
OMRI - Organic Materials Review Institute
OTA - Organic Trade Association
WFA - Wild Farm Alliance

2016 Training Cosponsors

Australian Certified Organic (ACO)
Driscoll's
FoodChain ID
Hong Kong Organic Research Centre (HKORC)
Isidor Sustainability Research Institute, Korea
Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA)
Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA)
Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association (OEFFA)
Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK)
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
Washington State Department of Ag (WSDA)

Participants at the IOIA/HKORC
cosponsored basic crop inspector training,
Hong Kong, China



Policy Work

- IOIA submitted comments to both the spring and fall meetings of the USDA National Organic Standards Board, in writing and via the web. Members of the BOD (Ib Hagsten, Ph.D., vice-chair, and Garth Kahl, secretary) spoke in-person at both meetings. In response to *Personnel Performance Evaluations of Inspectors*, IOIA advocated for rigorous inspector qualifications. IOIA promoted inspector accreditation as a viable option to satisfy NOP's instruction that all certifiers annually evaluate every inspector in the field. Board members represented IOIA at the meetings of NOC at each NOSB event.
- IOIA's Executive Director served on the Steering Committee in 2015-2016 that led to the launch of IFOAM North America. Lisa Pierce of British Columbia was elected to the founding Board of Directors. Stuart McMillan joined them in Baltimore at Expo East for the historic event.
- IOIA joined Canada Organic Trade Association. Stuart McMillan participated in the COTA "Parliament Day" in Ottawa, as well as Guelph Organic Conference and Organic Connections in SK.
- Al Johnson, Co-Chair of the Peer Field Evaluation Committee, joined the Executive Director at the annual meeting of the ACA to present the outcomes of the pilot Peer Field Evaluation Program.

Training Scholarships - 2016

The Scholarship Committee is charged with annually reviewing applicants for the two IOIA Scholarships. Recipients receive free tuition to an IOIA Basic Organic Inspection Training. Two Scholarships were awarded for 2016.

2016 Rutherford Scholarship awarded to Craig Shroyer, Central Pennsylvania, USA



2016 Organic Community Initiative Scholarship awarded to Krishna Paudel, Kathmandu, Nepal



BOD member Margaret Weigelt has served as chair of the Scholarship committee since 2005.

Pam Sullivan, BOD Treasurer, took over the reins of IOIA's finances in 2013. One of her first actions was to urge her colleagues to initiate 100% giving by BOD. Under her leadership and stewardship, IOIA has since increased cash reserves by \$150,000+ while investing in inspector training and accreditation.



International Organic Inspectors Association Balance Sheet (Cash Basis)

As of December 31, 2016

ASSETS	Dec 31, 2016	Dec 31, 2015
Current Assets		
Total Checking/Savings/CDs	361,376.37	277,231.50
Accounts Receivable	-11,662.49	-7,722.49
Total Other Current Assets	15,346.33	13,745.50
Total Current Assets	365,060.21	283,254.51
Fixed Assets		
Total Building	38,768.86	38,768.86
Other Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation	-12,899.06	-10,690.95
TOTAL ASSETS	\$390,930.01	\$311,332.42
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Contributed Property-FMValue	29,031.80	29,031.80
Reimbursables	50.00	50.00
Restricted (Scholarship Travel Fund)	0.42	573.42
Retained Funds	281,677.20	194,201.02
Net Income	80,170.59	87,476.18
Total Equity	390,930.01	311,332.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$390,930.01	\$311,332.42

2016 Contributors

Sustainers

WhiteWave Foods
Driscoll's, Inc.

Patrons

Aurora Organic Dairy
Nature's Path Foods

Supporting Businesses

Australian Certified Organic
Ayrshire Farm Management
Basin and Range Organics
Chumley's Inspection Service
County of San Diego
CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley/Organic Prairie
Dole Fresh Fruit International, LTD
Envirocann
Georgia Organics
Montana Department of Agriculture
NASAA Certified Organic
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Organic Certifiers
Organic Materials Review Institute
Organic Producers Association of Manitoba
Progressive Agricultural Management
Quality Certification Services
Ranck and Associates, LLC.
Richard D. Siegel Law Offices
SCS Global Services
The Fertrell Company
Utah Department of Agriculture & Food
Van Drunen Farms
Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates, Inc.
Yolo County Agriculture Department

Supporting Certification Agencies

Agricert, Mexico
Agricultural Services Certified Organic (ASCO)
BCS Oeko-Garantie GmbH
California Certified Organic Farmers, Inc. (CCOF)
Centre for Systems Integration (CSI)
Clemson University
Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)
Ecocert ICO, LLC.
Global Organic Alliance, Inc. (GOA)
Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
International Certification Services (ICS)
Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA)
Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA)
MN Crop Improvement Association (MCIA)
Nature's International Certification Services (NICS)
NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC.
Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association (OEFFA)
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO)
Organic Crop Improvement Assn. - Int'l (OCIA)
Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
Stellar Certification Services, Inc.
Vermont Organic Farmers, LLC (VOF)
Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

Individuals

Although space does not allow listing the names of all our Inspector and Supporting Individual members, IOIA wishes to extend a **SPECIAL THANK YOU** and to especially acknowledge that your continued support is what sustains our unique organization.

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Stuart McMillan, Chair*
Manitoba, Canada

Ib Hagsten, Ph.D., Vice-chair*
Missouri, USA

Pamela Sullivan, Treasurer*
California, USA

Garth Kahl, Secretary*
Oregon, USA

Margaret Weigelt, Executive Director at Large*
Minnesota, USA

Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, Director
Fuji Shizuoka, Japan

Matt Miller, Director
Iowa, USA

*Indicates Member of Executive Committee



L to R - Garth Kahl, Margaret Weigelt, Pam Sullivan, Ib Hagsten, and Isidor Yu who was the catalyst to make the Asian annual meeting a reality.

IOIA's hard working board donates generously and works tirelessly to represent IOIA around the world. They forward the professionalism of organic inspectors with grace and good humor while juggling busy inspection schedules.



STAFF:

Margaret Scoles, Executive Director
Jonda Crosby, Training Services Director
Teri Lindberg, US Training Services Coordinator
Sacha Draine, International Training Manager
Cynthia Jorgensen, Membership Services Coordinator
Cil Earley, Bookkeeper
Diane Cooner, Communications Director
Tony Fleming, Newsletter Technical Editor

