

# Bios for IOIA Board Candidates 2012

## Homero Blás Bustamante – Oaxaca, C.P. MEXICO

Agronomist, University of Chapingo, Mexico

**English:** During 2011 I conducted 14 inspections were few in relation to hundreds of inspections carried out yearly in the last five years, my inspections in the past were mainly to community growers groups, but I recently inspected processing plants and livestock. Currently my work is fully as an independent, but most of time in the last three years has been dedicated as President of the Mexican Society of Organic Production, a nonprofit organization in Mexico.

I heard about IOIA in 1993 and I remember two friends ever since Gaby Soto Monique Scholz with whom I shared my first training IOIA and since that time I begin my work as an organic inspector, I'm currently a member and training coordinator of IOIA.

I want to be a member of the IOIA Board because I know the potential that the organic sector has in Latin America and I can contribute with my ideas and work in order to carry the tools and IOIA professionalism to the Latin-American inspectors. I want to include in international discussions the role and importance of independent inspection guarantee systems in both third-party certification as participatory certification systems.

I am an organic inspector since 1993, agronomist since 1992 and currently I am an organic farmer, all allowed me to understand the processes of quality both on the producer and consumer, I confess that IOIA has been important in my professional work and now I want to work to maintain the greatness of our International Organic Inspectors Association.

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**Spanish:** Durante 2011 realicé 14 inspecciones, fueron pocas en relación a cientos de inspecciones que realicé cada año en los últimos cinco años, mis inspecciones en el pasado fueron principalmente a grupos comunitarios de productores, pero recientemente he inspeccionado plantas de proceso y ganado. Actualmente mi trabajo es totalmente como independiente, pero la mayor parte de tiempo en los últimos tres años lo he dedicado como Presidente de la Sociedad Mexicana de Producción Orgánica, una asociación sin fines de lucro en México.

Escuché respecto de IOIA en 1993 y recuerdo desde entonces a dos amigas Monique Scholz y Gaby Soto con quienes compartí mi primer entrenamiento de IOIA y desde esa fecha inicié mi trabajo como inspector orgánico, actualmente soy miembro y coordinador de entrenamiento dentro de la asociación.

Me interesa estar en la Junta Directiva de IOIA porque conozco el potencial que el sector orgánico tiene en América Latina y puedo aportar con mis ideas y trabajo para que los inspectores latinos tengan las herramientas y el profesionalismo de la IOIA en su trabajo. Quiero incluir en las discusiones internacionales la función e importancia de la inspección independiente dentro de los sistemas de garantía tanto en certificación de terceras partes como en los sistemas de certificación participativa.

Soy un inspector orgánico desde 1993, agrónomo desde 1992 y actualmente soy productor orgánico, todo ello me ha permitido comprender los procesos de calidad tanto del lado del productor como del consumidor, confieso que IOIA ha sido importante en mi trabajo profesional y ahora yo quiero trabajar para mantener la grandeza de nuestra Asociación Internacional de Inspectores Orgánicos.

**Martha Santizo Castillo – Quetzaltenango, GUATEMALA**

University Degree Agricultural Production Systems, Centro Universitario de Occidente, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala

During 2011, the inspections I did were not that many. I did 9 in the area of rural Guatemala. I helped with logistics in coordination with other inspectors due to that I know the Guatemala area. I work as a trainer as well as a link between a certifier and farmers, processors, and exporters regarding information of how to get the certification. The most important job is to inform the farmers of all the steps that are required to go through to certify their product, but also the importance of knowing the basics of this certification and what it means to the consumer. I participated in a training event in Guatemala with IOIA and Agexport (Guatemalan Exporters Association). I have also participated as a co-trainer in several trainings for farmers, processors and exporters for a certifier regarding NOP, UE and JAS guidelines and formats.

IOIA has worked for a meaningful IOIA Inspector Accreditation Program; this will give all inspectors the backup they need when fulfilling the job as freelance or a contractor with a certifier. The training institute has also a commitment to develop updated training not only with attendance but also through webinars. I see more involvement and participation of international inspectors, also IOIA developing tools for that international participation. IOIA has done a great work getting involved in issues that are important not only for inspectors, but for farmers, processors and exporters as well. I see IOIA sending out information to the inspectors throughout the world regarding changes in guidelines and updates that can make a difference when performing inspections. Updated training is also a great part of what IOIA is committed to inspectors.

**Stuart McMillan – Manitoba, CANADA**

B.Sc. in Agro ecology, University of Manitoba; M.Sc. in Biology, Swedish University of Ag Sciences

I performed 50 inspections in 2011, which is similar to the past few years as I do them part-time. I am planning to start inspecting full time later in 2012.

In the next year I think it is critical that IOIA continues its work related to USDA education and training criteria for inspectors. I say this as a non-US based inspector as I think it is an issue that is important for all international inspectors too. Working to provide on-going training needs to certifier employees and independent inspectors in on-line or some form of distance based education will remain important and I think IOIA has done some excellent direct and co-sponsored distance courses recently.

One of the goals needed for IOIA in the next five years is the same as the one for the upcoming year. That is to assist with the inevitable need to demonstrate on-going education. There is an expectation to provide professional service as an inspector, and we all can benefit from tailored instructions. Also, I think it is important for IOIA to build its membership base as there are many inspectors who are not members and may not have ever taken IOIA training.

I have not worked as a certifier in a capacity other than an inspector since 2007 when I was conducting product reviews for one certifier. I have not yet had the opportunity to be involved in IOIA projects or committees as I have been volunteering with my provincial organic organization for the past three years.

**Mutsumi Sakuyoshi – Shizuoka, JAPAN**

Sociology, Saitama University

In 2011, I did 61 inspections and 60 are for organic programs (JAS organic, and also for EU reg. and NOP mainly). I will continue to do inspections and trainings in Asian countries.

I am one of founders of JOIA (Japanese Organic Inspectors Association, sister organization of IOIA) and an adviser of JOIA now. We established JOIA to hold an inspector training in Japan. Since 1999, I have been working as an IOIA trainer. In the 15 years, the organic market and certification industry in Asian countries are developed. The demands of IOIA trainings, and communications for inspections in Asia are increasing. So I would like to input more information about Asian organic industries to IOIA and I would like to make more relationships as an IOIA member in Asia. I would like to feed back of issues, ideas in Asian area (related to the inspection and certification) to IOIA to share and discuss. It may take several years, and will not stop. But I think IOIA is the only one organization that shall develop the inspection procedures to modify for various countries.

**Margaret Weigelt – Minnesota, USA**

Occupational Degree, Apprenticeship Farming, Vo-Tech Institute, MN; Carleton College; U of MN

I have has been a part-time independent organic inspector for the past 13 years while also serving as a part-time public librarian with Pioneerland Library System in Minnesota. I am a part-time "as-needed" employee of MCIA since 2008, serving both as field and organic inspector/reviewer. In 2006 I presented during an IOIA livestock inspector training offered in MN. I have volunteered as chair of the IOIA Scholarship Committee for the past six years. This past summer I mentored my fifth organic inspector and did 20 inspections this past season.

Most important short term goal for IOIA is to continue to make improvements to membership educational and trade association benefits. Long term, we need to have a stronger online presence for worldwide interactions on our website, becoming the go-to place to access search-able databases, educational webinars, and for interaction with and mentoring of inspectors, about the inspection business.

My hope as an organic inspector has always been to contribute to the preservation of family farms and rural natural resources.

**Isidor Byeong Deok Yu – Seoul, REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

B.Eng. Architecture Chungbuk National University, Cheongju, Korea

I am working as a reviewer for NOP, EU Organic, JAS, and Organic Korea. My company is Control Union Certifications headquartered in Holland. About 10 inspections were done by me in 2011, including Global GAP, MSC, cosmetics and GOTS. I am a reviewer for sustainable textile programs such as GOTS, OE, and GRS. Usual inspections are conducted by other inspectors and I certify each project. But, special cases are inspected by me, e.g., shadowing for inspector qualifications or unusual products like livestock, mushrooms, aquaculture.

I have organized IOIA trainings since 2006, and acted as trainer since 2008 in Korea. This history made it possible the government recognized IOIA training as formal course for inspector qualification in Korea.

2012 IOIA should expand activity scope in both view of physical area and service program. Geographical expansion began in Asia countries. It promoted friendship with JOIA and KOIA, which made substantial cooperation at the last IFOAM Congress. The inspector workshop at the place showed demands and possibilities of new regional inspector organizations in China and other Asian countries. We should be more active to get wider network. We should build stronger and more formal relationship to JOIA and KOIA.

Service expansion should start this year. Already organic markets have come up with new areas of textile, personal care, aquaculture, and so on. IOIA have to develop inspection methodologies and manuals for these new items as we have firm programs for crop, livestock, and processing. Advanced courses during AGM in Arizona 2010 have introduced me to new organic areas. Now we can make a concrete plan to develop inspection programs for new items.

**Note from Nominations Committee:** Each candidate was asked to respond to the following questions:

-How many inspections did you do in 2011?

-What do you see as the most important goals for IOIA in the next year?

-The next five years?

-If you work for a certifier in a capacity other than an independent inspector, please explain.

-Mention any involvement in IOIA as a trainer or on committees.