

# PRESS RELEASE

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## OFA Chair Elected as President of IFOAM

***The Chair of the Organic Federation of Australia, Andre Leu, has been elected as the President of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)***

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) is the world umbrella organization that currently unites 750 member organizations in 116 countries. IFOAM is the only organization that advocates for organic agriculture at the international level.

Andre was elected at the General Assembly in Korea during the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress. Because this event only occurs once in three years it is the most significant in the organic world. This year it attracted thousands of people from around 100 countries.

Many Australians, including the Chair of NASAA, Jan Denham participated in this important international event. OFA Deputy Chair, Tim Marshall and several other OFA members presented a range of papers on organic systems at this major international event. OFA founding member Liz Clay was a keynote speaker and a Co-Chair of the General Assembly.

When asked about the priorities during his term as President Andre stated that *'I am interested in promoting the multifunctional benefits of organic systems and food in terms of health, climate change, biodiversity, small farmers, feeding the world, resilience, soil improvement, water use efficiency and poverty alleviation.'*

*'The growth in the markets for organic product sales continues to increase and defy the global market slowdown. 160 countries collected certified organic data in 2009 compared to 86 countries that collected certified organic data in 2000.'*

*'The global value of certified organic market sales is estimated to be around \$60 billion dollars. It was \$54.9 billion in 2009, \$33.2 billion in 2005 and \$15.2 billion in 1999. This shows a consistent trend of a high rate of growth'* Andre said.

Andre paid tribute to the out going IFOAM board members, especially the previous President, Katherine DiMatteo. Andre is the first Australian President of IFOAM. Previously Liz Clay was on the IFOAM World Board for around a decade.

**-ENDS-**

***The Organic Federation of Australia is the peak body and the largest representative organic organisation in Australia. For further information please visit [www.ofa.org.au](http://www.ofa.org.au)***

David Silkstone  
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