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ISUS NEWSLETTER

International School of Urban Sciences
University of Seoul

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ISUS: Fostering Unity Through Sports

(Core significance of 2024 ISUS Sports Day)

Sports have a remarkable ability to unite people worldwide, transcending boundaries and fostering connections. Recently, students from the ISUS, dedicated to the study of urban science across the globe, came together to celebrate this spirit of unity through sports.

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, the ISUS community gathered for the much anticipated "2024 ISUS Sports Day," an event jointly organized by the ISUS Staff, the ISUS Student Association, and headed by Chris Kim, the SCSP (Seoul Case Study Program) manager.

Hosted by the ISUS Student Association, this year's Sports Day attracted nearly 100 participants, including Korean students, alumni, international students, and faculty members. It served as a vibrant platform for fostering communication and camaraderie among ISUS members.

Taking place primarily at the UOS Stadium, the event featured a diverse array of sports activities. From essential sports events like the 4x5 relay and relay race to Korean traditional sports such as Jegi chagi (Korean hacky sack) and Juldarigi (Tug-of-war), participants engaged in spirited competition while embracing cultural exchange.

Notably, this year's Sports Day introduced new team sports like foot volleyball and kickball, enhancing the overall experience and encouraging greater participation.

Reflecting on the event, Chris remarked, *"Juldarigi (tug-of-war) emerged as a particularly enjoyable activity for participants. While it holds a special place in Korean sports culture, it offered international students a unique experience.*

The dedication and enthusiasm displayed by all participants, including students and organizers, undoubtedly contributed to the success of the event."

But why is ISUS Sports Day so essential?

According to organizers, Sports Day plays a vital role in alleviating academic stress and fostering a sense of belonging among ISUS members.

"As organizers, witnessing international students and alumni come together, collaborate, and enjoy the games reaffirmed the significance of ISUS Sports Day.

Given the scheduling constraints faced by Korean students, who often have evening classes, and the rigorous degree programs, events like Sports Day provide invaluable opportunities for students to bond and create lasting memories."



2024 UNITAR CIFAL Jeju Capacity-Building Workshop on Sustainable Transportation in Asia-Pacific: ISUS Students Demonstrate Future Urban Science Expertise

UNITAR Jeju International Training Center (JITC) hosted an in-person capacity-building Workshop titled "A Pathway towards Decarbonized and Cleaner Mobility in Asia and the Pacific – Envisioning green possibilities of public mobility" on Jeju Island from April 30 to May 2, 2024.

The Workshop brought together 17 participants from 8 developing countries across Asia-Pacific. Its aim was to support the adoption of low-carbon and cleaner solutions for public transportation in the region.

Four students, Shanshan WANG (MUAP 16), Anouvong CHANTHABOUPHA (MIPD 6), Krittanan PANAPONG (MIPD 6), Md TUSHER (MIPD 6) who are public officials specializing in related fields from the Asia-Pacific region, represented their respective home countries and ISUS at this workshop.

During the Workshop, participants actively engaged in developing green public mobility projects and action plans tailored to their countries, using insights gained from the sessions.

Shanshan (MUAP 16), a Principal Staff Member at the Beijing Municipal Commission of Transportation, focused her action plan on improving and upgrading Beijing's existing MaaS (Mobility as a Service) platform to build an Integrated, Green, Safe, and Intelligent Modern Transportation System.

From her perspective, the enhanced platform's guidelines and services would enable citizens to have a better green travel experience and make more reasonable and environmentally friendly travel choices.

Anouvong (MIPD 6), a Governor officer at Laos' Public Works and Transport Institute, proposed two key activities during the Action Plan presentation. Firstly, he suggested "Investment in Infrastructure: Collaborate with private partners to finance and develop public transport infrastructure." Secondly, he recommended "Identify priority public transportation projects based on demand, population density, and urbanization trends."



Krittanan (MIPD 6), an Engineer Level 6 at the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand, explained the impact of a paradigm shift with the following logic: If the price of EV cars decreases, they will become more affordable for users. Additionally, if Thailand can produce parts domestically, the maintenance costs will decrease. Moreover, with adequate infrastructure to support the growing number of users, people will favor EVs because EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions.

Tusher (MIPD 6), a Deputy Mass Transit Engineer (BRT) at the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority in Bangladesh, suggested impactful measures with the BRT system. The core of his argument was that if the BRT system is constructed and electric vehicles operate on the corridor, then private car usage and GHG emissions will significantly decrease because public bus service will increase.

It appears that the four ISUS students have effectively applied the knowledge gained from their master's program to develop practical action plans for urban development during the workshop. Their commitment is evident, and there is great anticipation for their future growth as experts in urban science.



“UOS Yoga Pals: For the health and wellness of ISUS students, John Twumasi (MGLEP 10), an energetic student, leads the yoga group”

Maintaining both physical and mental health is paramount for coping with the demanding academic schedule at ISUS. One of the most effective and efficient ways to achieve this is through yoga, which combines stretching and meditation.

Remarkably, ISUS has a student-formed yoga community. Let's explore the story of this innovative and beneficial community through its leader, John Twumasi (MGLEP 10), and learn more about the UOS Yoga Pals.

‘UOS Yoga Pals’ is a group of students who practice yoga on campus to reap its numerous benefits. Various styles of yoga combine physical postures, breathing techniques, and meditation to foster inner peace and promote both mental and physical well-being.

John says *“The group offers a variety of yoga styles. The style a participant chooses will depend on their expectations and level of physical agility. Our yoga sessions can help support a balanced and active lifestyle.”*

Upon learning his perspective, it was clear that he possesses an expertise in yoga. Has he really practiced yoga before? And what led him to lead the yoga group?

He answered, *“I've been practicing yoga for the past two years back in my home country, Ghana, with different groups of people after stumbling upon it in my search for a physical activity that engages both inner energy and mind.”*

Due to its myriad benefits, particularly in stress reduction and physical equilibrium, many individuals, regardless of their hectic schedules, joined in.



Here at ISUS UOS, I believed it would be beneficial to share that experience with fellow students and friends seeking an alternative form of physical activity/exercise beyond conventional gym workouts, hiking, or jogging.”

Also he responded with the following regarding the positive impact on students:

“Although we've only recently begun, Yoga Pals has successfully established a regular activity schedule for all members.

In addition to the physical benefits of the poses, our sessions have provided an opportunity for diverse students to connect, exchange ideas, and foster new relationships.

Members have now incorporated Yoga Pals into their routines, using it as a means of both socializing and cultivating self-discipline. We've already garnered interest from numerous students eager to join this dynamic group for its benefits.

Our hope is that this initiative will continue to nurture a lasting social network among ISUS students.

You're welcome to join ‘UOS Yoga Pals’ free of charge every Tuesday at 10:00 am in the Activity Room of the International House.”



MUAP 16 & MUD 7 Classes' joint study trip to the National Geographical Information Institute (NGII)

On April 26, 2024, the Urban GIS System class, involving students from MUAP 16 and MUD 7, embarked on an exciting field trip to the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII), a renowned hub for geographic data, mapping, and spatial analysis. Led by Prof. Chin Jae-teuk, this expedition offered more than just a break from the typical classroom routine; it provided a deep dive into the captivating world of geography and technology.

Upon arrival, students received a warm welcome from NGII staff, who had curated engaging and interactive sessions tailored for young, inquisitive minds. The day's agenda was brimming with activities designed to ignite curiosity and provide hands-on experience with cutting-edge geographic information systems (GIS) technology.

During the presentation, students learned how NGII's work impacts daily life. For example, they discovered how NGII supports urban planning by offering detailed maps to assist city officials in designing better public transportation systems, parks, and infrastructure. Additionally, they explored NGII's role in disaster management, utilizing geographic data to map areas prone to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, thus aiding in efficient emergency response and resource allocation.

Following the NGII visit, students toured the National Map Museum. Here, they marveled at historical maps and learned about the evolution of cartography from ancient times to the digital age. The exhibits provided an intriguing glimpse into how map-making techniques have progressed over the centuries.

The day concluded with a delightful lunch at Ashley Restaurant, where students enjoyed a variety of delicious dishes while reflecting on the morning's activities and sharing their favorite moments.

To cap off the experience, students took a serene walk at Gwanggyo Lake Park. As they strolled along picturesque paths, they absorbed the natural beauty of the lake and reflected on their enriching experiences of the day. The fresh air and scenic views provided a perfect ending to a day filled with learning, discovery, and enjoyment.

As students boarded the bus back to school, their minds buzzed with new knowledge and a deeper appreciation for geography. The visit to NGII, the National Map Museum, and the relaxing time at Gwanggyo Lake Park will undoubtedly be remembered as highlights of the school year, inspiring many students to view maps, geography, and the world around them with newfound curiosity and enthusiasm.



On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) of Dubai and the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) signed an agreement aimed at enhancing collaboration in the development of flying cars and autonomous vehicles.

Mahmoud Youssif (MUAP 8), Chief Specialist for the RTA in the Dubai Government, played a significant role in facilitating the connection between the two parties. We spoke with him to learn about the process and specific efforts he made to achieve this outcome and how his actions led to the successful signing of the MoU.

According to Youssif, through a serious discussion between him and the Manager of the Transportation Policy Division at SMG, they were able to clarify the key aspects of the MoU and agree on a clear plan to concentrate on 1-2 areas of cooperation outlined in the MoU.

The Parties, through the MoU, aim to prioritize cooperation in the public transportation sector. This includes exploring opportunities such as:

- Organizing a site visit for representatives from both parties to the other city
- Enhancing cooperation between the two cities including joint research projects in the field of future mobility such as autonomous driving and urban air mobility (UAM)
- Sharing experiences between the two cities to improve public transportation services in the specified areas such as shared mobility and Mobility as a Service (MAAS) and Transport integration and network planning and design.
- Exchanging insights between the two cities regarding sustainable and eco-friendly transportation policies, with a focus on overseeing the operations of electric and hydrogen bus fleets, as well as establishing and managing the charging infrastructure.

So, what specific areas does he identify for enhancing cooperation in future mobility between the cities?

Youssif says, *"First, 'Shared Mobility Services' are crucial. Collaboration between the two cities in developing and regulating shared mobility services, such as bike-sharing, car-sharing, and ride-hailing platforms, could result in a more connected network of services. This would offer residents a wider range of transportation options that are flexible and diverse.*

Second, 'Public Transit Integration' is also highly essential. By seamlessly linking various public transit systems across city boundaries, including aligning schedules, implementing unified ticketing systems, and sharing real-time data, the convenience and efficiency of using public transit can be greatly improved.

This would encourage more individuals to choose public transportation over private vehicles."

The ongoing relationship between ISUS and its alumni appears to have contributed to this achievement. This success serves as a notable example of ISUS's vision to foster international collaboration with partner countries in training global experts in urban sciences.



MUAP Birthday Celebrations: Making Every Student's Birthday Special at ISUS

MUAP recently celebrated the birthday of one of its fellow students, Terence Rivera (MUAP 16), during their Academic Writing class on April 17, 2024.

ISUS has a tradition of throwing birthday parties for students, and Terence's celebration was no exception.

MUAP students gathered to celebrate Terence's special day, exchanging gifts and warm wishes in a joyful atmosphere. The party included a delicious cake and entertaining games, creating a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Reflecting on this lovely surprise event, the birthday celebrant Terence shared his thoughts as follows.

"Being away from the Philippines for almost a year while pursuing my master's degree in Seoul has been challenging, but that day was incredibly special.

This experience is a cherished reminder of the wonderful connections I've made here in Seoul. This celebration not only marked another year of my life but also highlighted the beautiful relationships I've built during my time here.

It's a memory I will cherish forever."



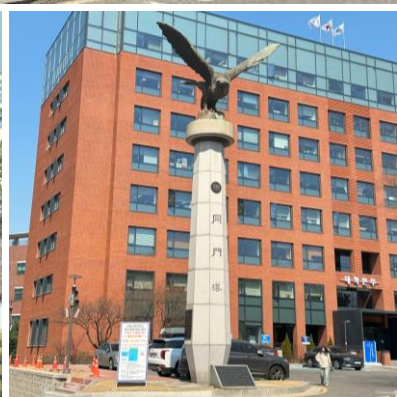
Preview of the upcoming issue

Prof. Park Hyeon visited Tanzania from May 11 to 19 and met many ISUS alumni there. More on this in the July edition.

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