

March 2021

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

Cover Story

<2021 Spring Semester Starts>

As Spring semester starts, ISUS arranged semester **online opening ceremony**.

During this semester, classes open **mainly via online**, but some classes will be instructed through offline. For the offline classes, all the students have to follow the guideline wearing masks and try to keep the social distance.

<2020 ISUS Completion Ceremony>

The Master of International Urban Sciences in Global Construction Management, Global Construction Engineering, Global Infrastructure Development students **graduated on February 22, 2021**. They had spent the long one and half year journey of their courses, and finally ended with a blast.

<Winter Internship for MGLEP, MIPD, MUAP >

Three IUDP programs, MGLEP, MIPD, MUAP students **successfully finished their internship** during **winter break**. ISUS highly appreciate the opportunities provided by various organizations.

<News for ISUS Faculty >

Starting 2021 Spring semester, the **new professor, Hyemin Park**, has joined the ISUS at the department of **Global Construction**. Please welcome our new professor Park and wish all the best for her at ISUS.

2020 ISUS Completion Ceremony



The Master of International Urban Sciences in Global Construction Management, Global Construction Engineering, Global Infrastructure Development students graduated on February 22, 2021 with online ZOOM link. They had spent the long one and half year journey of their courses, and finally ended with a blast.

Although it was uncertain to hold a completion ceremony under COVID-19 pandemic situation, ISUS managed to happen in online format. It is more than blessed to hold such a great completion ceremony.

Total 14 ISUS students had completed their studies.

The individual awards given during the ceremony are as follows:

Academic Excellence, Dean of ISUS

- HONG SUN YOUNG, YOU DONG GYUN

Distinguished Thesis, Dean of ISUS

- PARK JI HOON, JANG JUN SOO

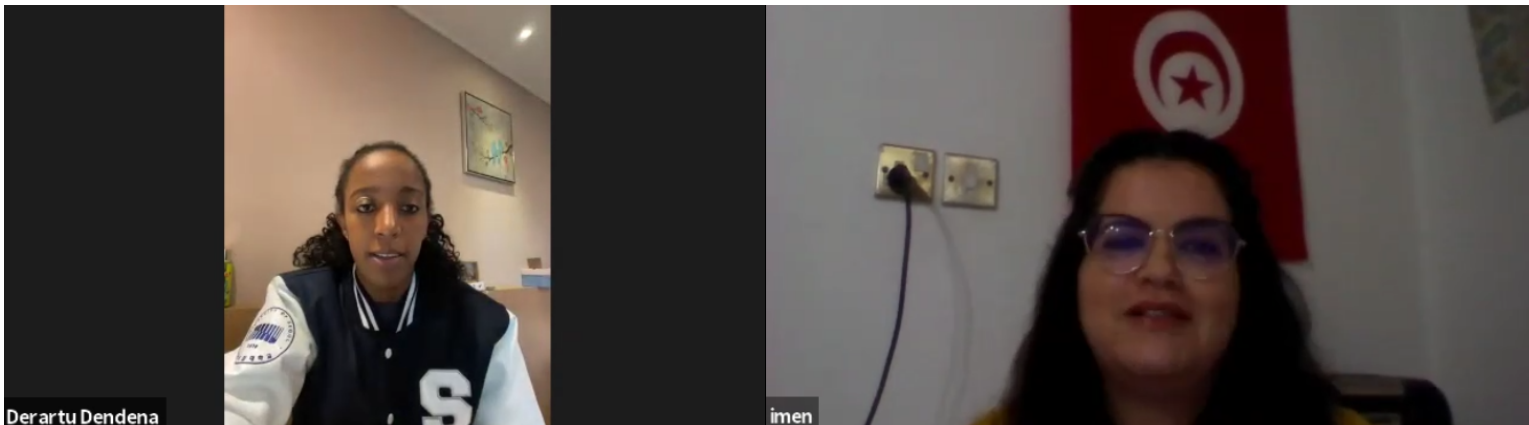
Dean's Award

- HONG SUN YOUNG, JANG JUN SOO

Interview of ISUS student representatives

Following the previous interview article, this month covers the interview of the student representative of MUAP 13th and MURD 4th.

On January 29th, the interview was held via Zoom with the representative student of MUAP 13th Derartu Dendena AGAMA and MURD 4th Imen BEN HASSINE.



Their interviews provided as below:

Q1. Introduce yourself and your motivation for taking ISUS programs.

Deedee: Hello. I am Deedee from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I have worked as an urban planner for four years at the Addis Ababa city plan and development commission. I applied for this program to become a professional practitioner. When I started to work after the graduation from the university, I had been frustrated when I felt the difference between what I learned at the university and the work experience at the office. After I got a recommendation of this program from my colleagues, I decided to come to Korea and develop professionalism.

Imen: Hello. I am Imen from Tunisia, a small north African country, which is known for being a wonderful touristic destination. I am working for the Ministry of Equipment, Housing and infrastructure, as a principal civil engineer and head of service in the General Department of Bridges and Roads. Especially, I am interested in road infrastructure and land transportation. I am concentrating on how to integrate urban planning and road development to solve some of the urban mobility problems.

Imen: I applied for this program to become professional in this area by acquiring new knowledge and developing my skills. I am studying hard to gain the needed expertise in terms of urban transport to be able to implement what fits best for my country after I go back.

Q2. Can you describe the ISUS program with one word?

Deedee: ISUS program is “**fascinating**”.

MUAP course helps us to apply what we learned to our countries. All courses were great but if I have to choose one, the course ‘Urban planning and development’ was the most fascinating for me. The course was not about the principles of the book, but about how Korea adopted principles in its own way. The professor understood our countries’ situation deeply and brought one specific example from our cities and showed us how Korea had solved the related issue 50 years ago.

Also, it is interesting to get various lessons from my colleagues who came from 13 different countries.

Imen: ISUS program is a “**unique experience**”

Korea is a world-famous example of achieving successful urban development. It is a unique opportunity to improve myself on both the professional and personal levels by studying the Korean development experience, learning from high level professionals, and interacting with multinational colleagues. The flexibility of the program helps me to choose the courses that fit best my career’s orientations and my country’s needs. For example, the course, “Public investment management” which includes the cost-benefit analysis has helped me to have a better understanding of the economic evaluation of road projects and to identify the lacks that exist in my country.

However, I feel sorry for missing practical activities such as field trips, internships, and seminars due to the Covid-19 because the MURD students studied from their countries during the last semester.

Q3. What do you think is the most impressive part of Seoul city? And can you share your story of adapting to life in Korea?

Deedee: I have a funny episode that I want to share. When I arrived in Korea, Incheon International Airport was empty, different from what I expected. I came to Korea in August and it was rainy and hot. Furthermore, I was wearing a scarf at the airport so I started to feel really hot. When I checked the covid-19 test, the temperature was really high so I should wait at the designated area and should take a one-hour check-up. Experiencing the whole process of Covid-19 check-up, I was impressed by how systematically Korea was handling Covid-19.

I think the infrastructure of Seoul is amazing and unrealistically modern, for example, well-equipped transportations.

Q4. What do you expect to gain in Korea?

Imen: Actually, I already had experienced Korean culture through participating in events held by Korean embassy in Tunisia. I am really eager to go to Korea and want to experience a whole package of Korean life. I enjoy interacting with people when I go to different countries. I heard that Koreans are kind and friendly, so I am excited to interact with Koreans if I go to Korea.

Q5. Due to the Covid-19, most of the activities and classes were online. Were there any struggles?

Deedee: Covid-19 changes the whole world, and it is inevitable to face this situation. All classes and seminars were online. I think Korea is dealing with Covid-19 well and I feel safe.

Three classes in a row in one day is quite hard to concentrate fully. So, I would like to suggest dispersing the class schedule.

Recently, I heard from our program coordinator that we would have an online internship which I considered thoughtful. I could feel how hard the coordinators work for us as much as possible.

Imen: I appreciate all the efforts made by ISUS professors and staff to facilitate taking programs online. MURD 4th is a special case where all the students are taking the program in their countries. Therefore, the major difficulty is caused by internet problem for most of the students and time difference, for especially students in Latin America and Africa whose classes were taken in the early morning or late evening and it was hard to concentrate on classes fully.

I hope we can make it to Korea soon and experience the practical activities that we missed during the previous semester.

Q6. In what ways do you think this experience will affect the work in your country?

Deedee: This program changed my perspective to view urban planning. As I mentioned earlier, I was frustrated that I could not see the expected result when I tried to implement what I learned at my university. However, I would not be frustrated anymore even if the expected result does not happen right away. Because now I understand making a change takes time and enforcing systemic function such as integration and communication is more important than a tangible result in a short time.

Also, I hope all the cities in Ethiopia are led by a systematic plan not by variable circumstances.

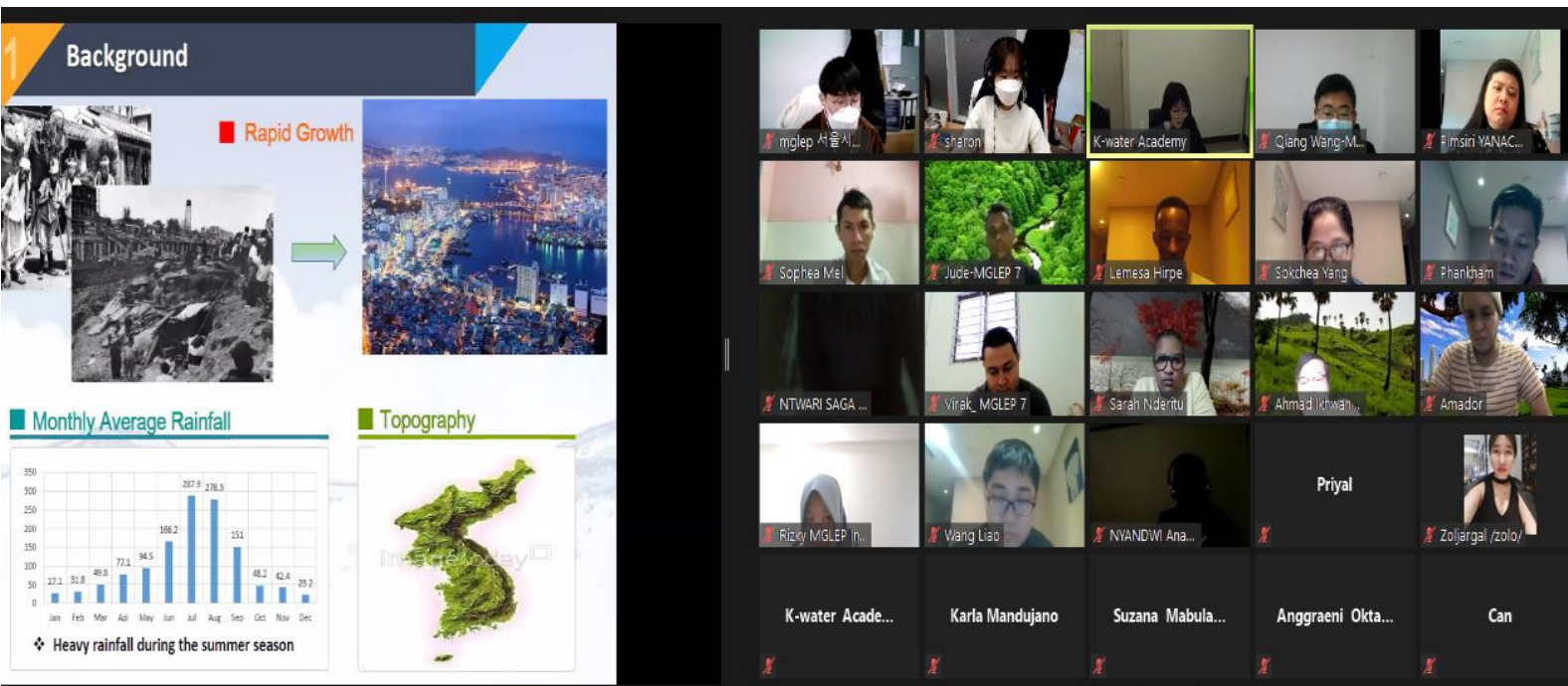
Imen: Through this program, I can improve my analysis skill such as detecting and identifying the issues.

After I go back, I would like to work on solving the problem of traffic congestion in the capital Tunis by presenting the demand side policies as an alternative solution for the supply side policies adopted currently in my country and which is consisted of mainly adding more capacity to the road infrastructure. According to the course of “Sustainable Transportation and Urban Development”, we learned that the experience of Korea in supply side and demand side and how Korea opted more for the demand side policies to resolve the urban traffic congestion problem, as it does not cost much since they are consisted of implementing certain laws and policies to control the demand for vehicle traffic.

Imen: In my country, adding the capacity to the road becomes almost impossible because there is not enough space, so we can take the alternative way, by adopting the demand side policies as it could be effective in lessening the traffic congestion. For example, adopting a policy of congestion pricing for driving cars at specific hours like rush hours can reduce the number of road users.

I am also hoping to bring some enhancement to the economic evaluation system of road projects in my ministry and make it more efficient.

New Paradigm of Internship: Webinar

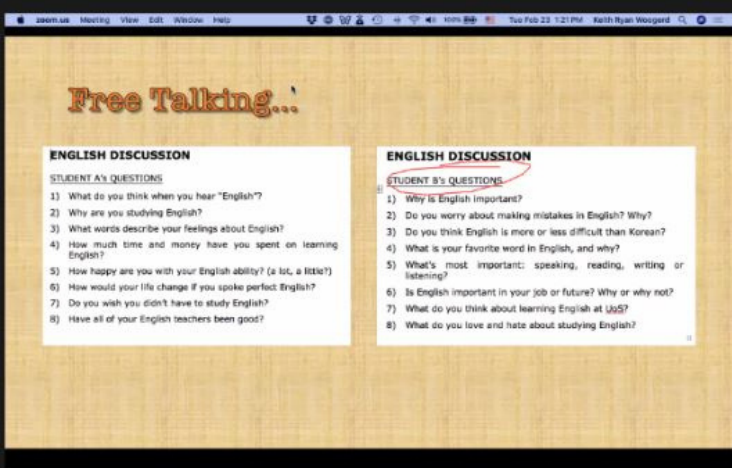


The MGLEP 5,6,7 batch students participated in the internship webinars. A total of 7 organizations participated in the seminar, including K-WATER, KECO, NIFOS, AFOCO, ICLEI, KIND and SLSMC. The presenters described the organization's business and vision through various contents such as video and brochure, and students asked questions about the organization's environmental policy and ODA project. The webinar held for 2 days, February 18-19, 2021 with MGLEP program director Professor Chunho Yeom, and three MGLEP coordinators as moderators.

Both presenters and students were satisfied that it was a great time to share environmental policy with the organization. MGLEP students said that they would like to visit the organization and talk about environmental policy when the COVID-19 situation gets better, and the organizations also are looking forward to it.

Prof. Yeom mentioned that if the situation gets better during the summer vacation, MGLEP will promote organization internships and hope that today's webinar will help their study.

Welcoming MGLEP 7 with Online Preliminary Session



This year March, the new MGLEP7 has joined the ISUS family. However, due to the COVID19 situation, it was a hectic schedule for them to fly to Seoul so the preliminary session was held via Zoom from March 22-26, 2021.

During this session, students had a chance to glance at the Academic English and Basic Korean along with the living culture in Korea. Although not many of MGLEP7 could make it to Korea on time, COVID19 can't stop their eagerness of studying. Many would have suffered from time differences and bad internet connection, but all of them had successfully started a new semester and hopefully we meet in Seoul as a whole MGLEP family.

2021 MIPD Winter Internship



MIPD Internship at A Glance:

Twenty students were assigned for internship to 10 organizations. The Period was Feb~March 2021. The internee students were categorized into four groups:

#Group 1

- Period: 2021.02.15(Mon)~02.19(Fri)

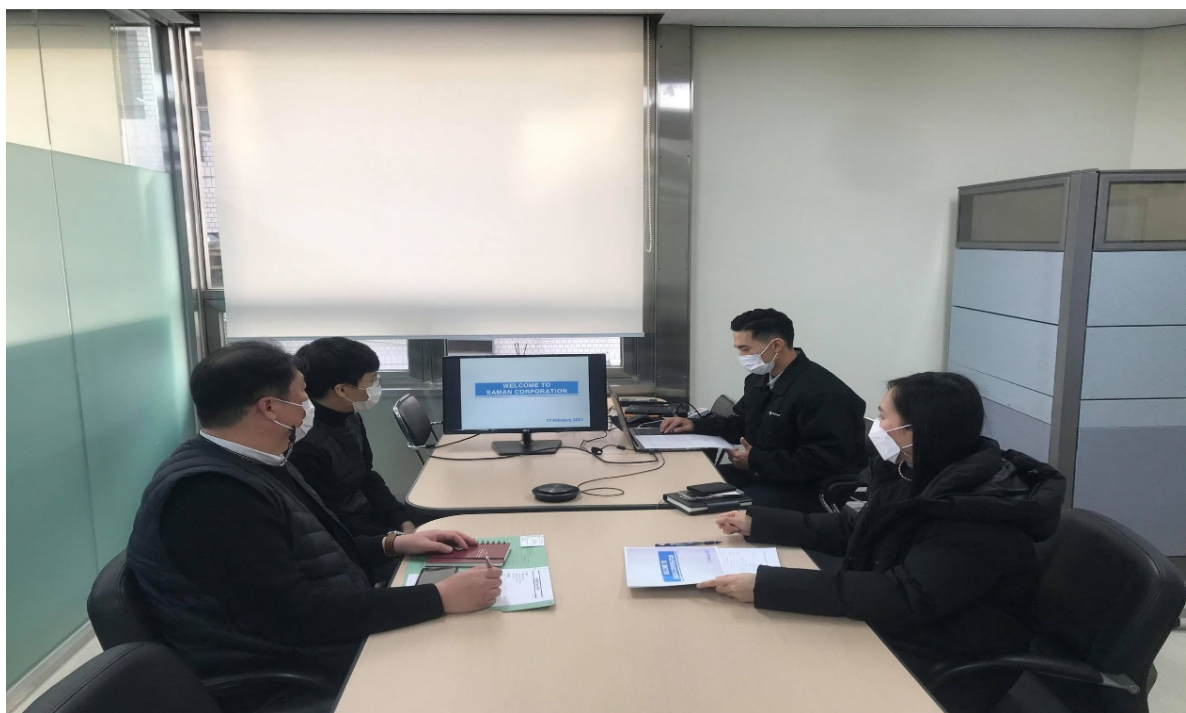
-Internship organization: Hanlim Group

Participants: Sokkhim DIM(Cambodia), Thorng CHANDARAVUTH(Cambodia), Soe Hlaing TUN(Myanmar), Phyu Phyu THIT(Myanmar), Yaowapa CHAITTIPORNWONG(Thailand), Huyen Thanh NGUYEN(Vietnam)



#Group 2

- Period: 2021.02.15(Mon)~02.19(Fri)
- Internship organization: KIND
- Participants: Aroonrot CHOOSAKUN(Thailand)



#Group 3

- Period: 2021.02.17(Wed)~02.19(Fri)
- Internship organization: Saman
 - Participants: Win Lett SOE(Myanmar)



#Group 4

- Period: 2021.02.22(MON)~02.26(Fri)
- Internship organization: Hongik engineering(홍익기술단)
- Participants: Tilahun Geleta NEGEWO(Ethiopia), Muluken Kassahun ALEMU (Ethiopia)

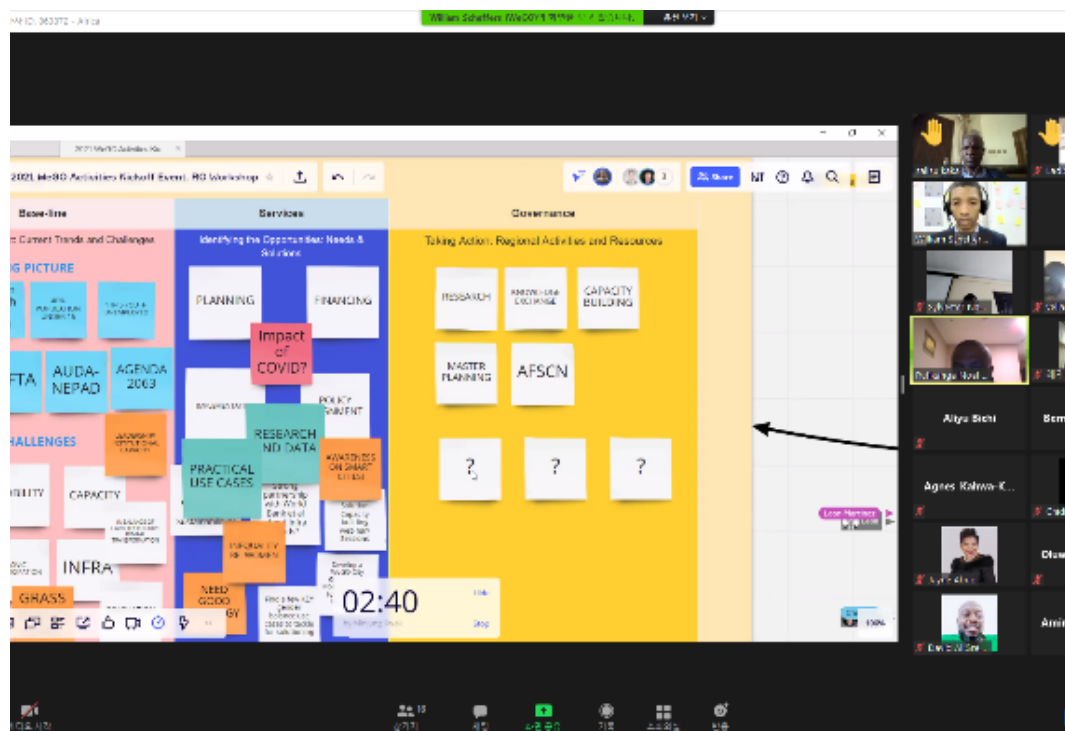


2021 MUAP online internship



Due to the COVID19 situation, the MUAP students couldn't attend offline internship program as usual. So ISUS tried to hold internship program as online from 15-24th of March 2021. CityNet, WeGO, and SUSA replied to MUAP's request and proceeded their program with assigned students. On 15th afternoon, there was a briefing session of online internship program. 3 organizations gave presentation about their work to MUAP-13th students and had Q&A Sessions. From 16th to 23rd, following organization's request and students' interest, students were assigned to each organization with assignments accordingly.

On 23rd, students who were assigned CityNet and SUSANA had a presentation about their work and got feedback from each organization to make it better. Next day, other students participated in WeGO workshop program and presented their opinion with other officials in abroad. Even though it was first online internship program, students participated very actively and tried hard to make their result while they were in difficult situation. We hope this opportunity made MUAP students have understood the 3 organizations' work principle with well manner.



Belated Arrival of MURD Students to Seoul

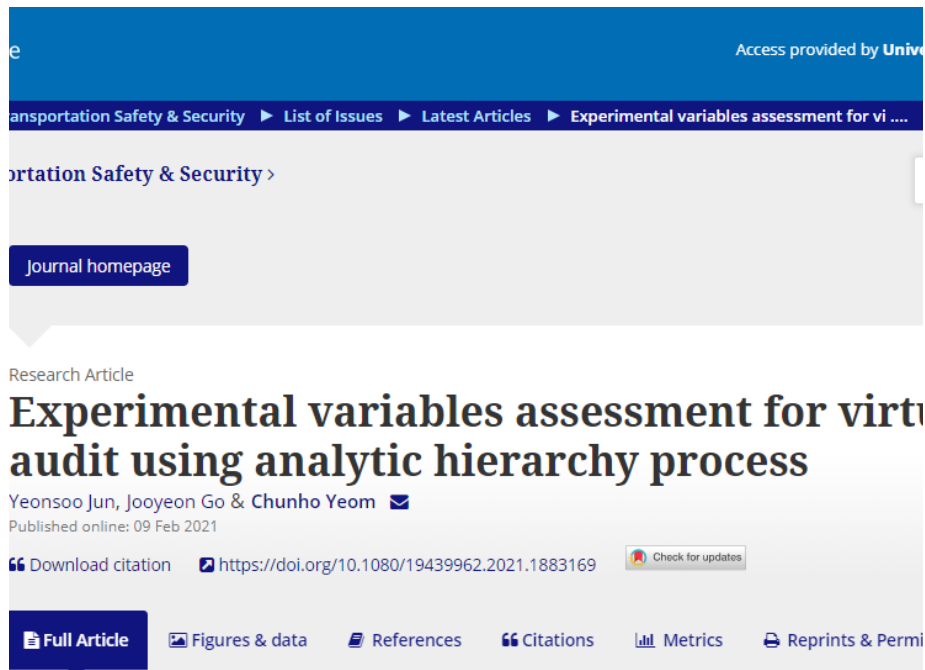


Due to COVID-19, KOICA decided to postpone the entry of MURD students until January 2021, one semester after the start of their academic calendar in August 2020. However, with a lot of expectations and preparation, MURD students finally started to enter Korea since the early February. Although they have gone through ISUS courses on the Fall semester, their life in Korea starts from now on. For the very reason, ISUS offered them the 2nd preparatory courses to help them adapt to life in Seoul. The 2nd preparatory courses are closely related to their real life in Korea: Survival Korean, sexual violence prevention program, MS-office, and three special major lectures.

Meanwhile, the admission for 2021 MURD program started. Twenty government officials from sixty-three KOICA's partner countries will be recruited to start its first semester in Fall 2021. Joining this full scholarship program, students will stay in Korea for 17 months until they finish the master program, and the Master diploma will be awarded in February 2023. Deadline for the application is until March 29th. Applicants must submit all the documents to KOICA regional office or Korean embassy. After document review, on-line interview will be held on April 28th~ May 12th. Successful applicants will go through regional medical check-up, and KOICA will announce a final list of admission on June 23. The MURD program starts in mid-August 2021.

KOICA and ISUS are looking forward to welcoming many competent applicants all over the world. For more information, please refer to the official KOICA webpage(<http://www.koica.go.kr/ciat/index.do>) or contact ISUS MURD coordinator through murd@uos.ac.kr.

Publication in the SSCI Journal (Social Science citation Index)



Ms. Yeonsoo Jun (Sustainable Urban Development 5) and Professor Chunho Yeom published an article entitled "Experimental variables assessment for virtual road safety audit using analytic hierarchy process" through the Journal of Transportation Safety & Security on 9th February 2021. Find the paper on the website below:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19439962.2021.1883169>

[Abstract]

Technological advances have reached the fusion idea of virtual road safety audits that use a driving simulator for road safety audits. To improve this concept, researchers have proposed frameworks for virtual road safety audits at the initial stage. Until recently, VRSA experiments have been performed by experts' decisions without taking into account the testability and feasibility of experimental variables. Therefore, this study attempts to propose and apply an approach to prioritize the relative importance of experimental variables for virtual road safety audits using a driving simulator. As a method, experts completed the survey for the analytic hierarchy process method, a multiple criteria decision-making process.

[Abstract]

Results showed that the “work zone and crash handling” and “sign and marking” alternative has a slight advantage over the other variables. The “pavement and drainage” variable is the least for evaluation using VRSA. Overall, the findings of this study can provide a primitive decision-making model and useful insights to design an experiment for virtual road safety audits.

News for ISUS Faculty



Starting 2021 Spring semester, the new professor, Hyemin Park, has joined the ISUS at the department of Global Construction. Before joining ISUS, she worked for the Ministry of Environment for 7 years, and for 6 years at J.P. Morgan and Citibank. When she was in Ministry of Environment, she was in charge of emission trading scheme, ecosystem service and multilateral negotiations in environmental fields such as convention on biodiversity and SDG goal setting. Please welcome our new professor Park and wish all the best for her at ISUS.

UOS Campus in March



A New Semester on its Way!



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