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# ISUS NEWSLETTER

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# 01 GULP 3rd Batch Begins Global Urban Leadership Journey

The International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) proudly announced the launch of the third batch of the Global Urban Leaders Program (GULP) in September 2025, marking another milestone in advancing global urban leadership. Following the announcement, the newly selected cohort of senior public officials and urban professionals from across the world arrived in the University of Seoul to begin their academic journey.

By October, the participants had fully commenced their activities, engaging in intensive coursework, policy dialogues, and collaborative field visits centered on urban innovation and sustainable development. GULP's holistic curriculum fosters cross-cultural exchange, critical reflection, and the co-creation of practical solutions to complex urban challenges.

As the third batch settles into its rhythm, the participants are already demonstrating GULP's core values of collaboration, curiosity, and forward thinking. Building strong connections with fellow ISUS students, they bring fresh perspectives and a shared commitment to shaping more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. (J.T)



# 02 ISUS Students Participate in the 9th Regional Symposium on Effective Governance and AI Transformation



In late September 2025, several students from the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) took part in the 9th Regional Symposium on Effective Governance and AI Transformation, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

Organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) and Incheon Metropolitan City, the event convened both international and local experts to examine how artificial intelligence can enhance

governance, innovation, and progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Under the theme “*Strengthening Institutions through Technology and Innovation for SDG Acceleration*,” the symposium featured in-depth sessions on generative AI, digital inclusion, and resilient public systems. Speakers emphasized that foresight and inclusive engagement are key to building ethical, transparent, and resilient governance systems in the digital era. Through active participation in panels and workshops, students learned and exchanged insights on ethical AI and sustainable urban management, demonstrating ISUS’s enduring commitment to cultivating capable, forward-looking leaders for the cities of tomorrow. (J.T)



## 03 ISUS Students Visit TOPIS Seoul – Exploring Smart Mobility Management

On October 17, 2025, MUD and MUAP students, led by Professor Joon Park, visited the Seoul Transport Operation and Information Service (TOPIS) – the city’s central hub for traffic monitoring and intelligent transport management. Operated by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, TOPIS integrates real-time data from buses, subways, CCTV cameras, and road sensors to ensure efficient, safe, and responsive urban mobility across Seoul.





During the visit, students gained firsthand insights into how data analytics and AI-driven systems are applied to manage congestion, optimize public transport routes, and respond swiftly to traffic incidents. The tour of the control center provided a close look at the digital backbone of Seoul's transport system – where policy, technology, and urban management converge.

Guided by Professor Park, the visit offered a valuable learning opportunity to understand how Seoul's smart mobility model contributes to sustainable and inclusive urban transport planning. The experience reinforced ISUS's commitment to blending classroom theory with real-world urban innovation. (K.S)

## 04 ISUS Students Experience Chuseok in Korea



During the Chuseok holidays, ISUS students experienced one of Korea's most cherished and meaningful traditions. Often described as the Korean Thanksgiving, Chuseok is a time when families gather to honor their ancestors, share special meals, and celebrate the autumn harvest. For many international students, it was their first time witnessing this festival and understanding its cultural depth.

Some students joined Korean friends and host families to prepare traditional dishes such as *songpyeon* (rice cakes) and *gimbap*, while others explored cultural sites and festive events around Seoul. The city's markets and palaces came alive with colorful *hanbok* attire, folk performances, and a warm holiday spirit.

For ISUS students, Chuseok was more than a cultural event—it was a moment of connection and appreciation, allowing them to experience the heart of Korean heritage and deepen their sense of belonging during their stay in Korea. (K.S)



# 05 ISUS Students Participate in Metropolis 40th Anniversary Seoul Congress and MITI Sharing Forum

From September 29 to October 1, 2025, ISUS students participated in the Metropolis 40th Anniversary Seoul Congress, held at the Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP) and COEX, bringing together city leaders, policymakers, and urban experts from around the world. The event, themed “Metropolitan Futures,” celebrated four decades of collaboration among global cities committed to building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient urban environments.

Throughout the congress, students attended keynote sessions, interactive panels, and the Metropolis International Training Institute (MITI) Sharing Forum, gaining valuable insights into urban innovation, digital governance, and metropolitan cooperation. The event also provided opportunities for networking with professionals and exploring how major cities are addressing challenges related to climate change, mobility, and housing.

By engaging directly with experts and practitioners, ISUS students strengthened their understanding of global urban issues and witnessed how Seoul continues to serve as a model for future-oriented metropolitan development. The experience reflected ISUS’s vision of cultivating globally minded professionals who bridge academic learning with real-world urban transformation. (K.S)



# 06 MUAP students Visit Mapo Resource Recovery Facility



On September 30, MUAP students enrolled in the course “Issues in Urbanization of Seoul”(Prof. Yeonsik YOO) visited the Mapo Resource Recovery Facility to learn about Seoul’s waste management and energy recovery systems.

The visit began with a short introduction video, followed by an on-site briefing on how the facility operates to convert household waste into energy. Students also toured the plant to observe its incineration and power generation processes, gaining a deeper understanding of Seoul’s approach to sustainable urban management. (D.K)



# 07 MGLEP Students Visit Paldang Dam for Field Learning

On October 17, 2025, MGLEP-11 students, led by Professor Seung Beom Seo, visited the Paldang Dam, one of Korea's most important water management facilities and a key source of water supply for the Seoul metropolitan area. The visit offered students firsthand exposure to Korea's integrated water resource management strategies, flood control mechanisms, and sustainable hydropower operations.

During the session, officials briefed participants on how real-time monitoring, data analytics, and coordinated policy frameworks maintain both water quality and supply reliability for millions of residents. Students also observed the dam's role in balancing environmental protection with urban demand—an essential aspect of Korea's long-term sustainability goals.

Guided by Professor Seo, the visit encouraged reflection on how advanced technologies and institutional cooperation can ensure efficient water governance. It served as a practical learning experience linking classroom theories with real-world environmental management, reinforcing ISUS's commitment to experiential, policy-oriented education. (K.S)



# 08 ✨ ISUS Students Attend 2025 Seoul International Climate & Environment Forum



On September 23, ISUS students participated in the 2025 Seoul International Climate & Environment Forum at Seoul City Hall. The event brought together policymakers, scholars, industry leaders, and students to examine collaborative strategies for climate resilience and sustainable development. Under the theme “*Climate Action for a Resilient Future*,” participants engaged in keynote presentations and interactive panel discussions on renewable energy, green finance, and circular economy initiatives.

Students actively exchanged perspectives with international experts, exploring innovative approaches for urban climate adaptation and sustainable city planning. The discussions highlighted the importance of actionable strategies in addressing global environmental challenges and fostering resilient, future-ready cities. (J.T)

# 09 Alum of the Month: Shokhrukhbek Shukhrat Ugli NAZAROV (MUAP 14)

Since graduating from the University of Seoul, Shokhrukhbek has been actively advancing international cooperation in education, science, and innovation. Currently serving as Chief Specialist at Uzbekistan's Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, he plays a key role in building global partnerships and developing joint projects with countries including Korea, Japan, Germany, and beyond. In this interview, he shares how his ISUS experience continues to shape his professional journey and his vision for future collaboration between Uzbekistan and the University of Seoul.



**It's been a while since your last interview with ISUS. Could you tell us about your current role at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, and the main projects or initiatives you've been working on recently?**

Thank you for the question. I currently serve as a Chief Specialist at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. My work mainly focuses on expanding Uzbekistan's international partnerships in higher and vocational education, science, and innovation.

In this role, I coordinate and prepare major international events – including forums, conferences, and high-level visits – aimed at deepening cooperation with partner countries such as Korea, Japan, China, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Spain, USA and others. These events are more than just meetings; they are platforms where new agreements are signed, real projects are born, and long-term academic and research partnerships take shape.

Alongside this, I'm directly involved in implementing joint educational and scientific initiatives – from establishing branch campuses and innovation centers to launching collaborative research programs with foreign universities. Each project is different, but all of them share one goal: bringing global best practices into Uzbekistan's education system.

Overall, my work gives me a chance to combine diplomacy, policy, and real action – turning ideas into tangible progress for our country's education and innovation ecosystem.

### **How has your experience at the University of Seoul and ISUS influenced your professional journey or the way you approach your work today?**

My time at the University of Seoul and within the ISUS program was a turning point for me. It gave me a much broader understanding of how education, urban development, and innovation connect – and taught me how policy can turn good ideas into reality.

At ISUS, I learned that real progress happens when knowledge meets practice. That idea has stayed with me and continues to shape how I approach my work at the Ministry. The program also strengthened my belief that education should be inclusive, globally connected, and focused on long-term sustainability.

Just as important were the people – professors and colleagues who inspired me with their professionalism and warmth. The culture of openness and respect I experienced in Seoul still influences my approach to teamwork and international cooperation today. It reminds me that education is not only about systems and structures, but also about people and shared values.



**What plans or initiatives do you have for further strengthening collaboration between the University of Seoul and Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation?**

We truly value our partnership with the University of Seoul and the ISUS network. In the near future, I’d like to see our cooperation move to a new stage – one that’s more practical and focused on long-term impact.

We’re currently exploring opportunities for joint research and academic projects in areas where the University of Seoul has strong expertise, such as sustainable urban development, smart cities, and innovation management. We also plan to expand faculty and student exchanges, organize short training programs, and launch capacity-building workshops for Uzbek professionals.

Another important step is to strengthen direct links between the University of Seoul and leading universities in Uzbekistan – particularly in architecture, civil engineering, and urban planning. I believe such cooperation will not only enhance academic quality but also build lasting institutional relationships.

Ultimately, our goal is to turn this collaboration into a continuous and strategic partnership that contributes to both academic excellence and the sustainable development of our cities and societies.

### **Finally, is there any message you'd like to share with the ISUS community?**

I'm truly grateful to the ISUS community for staying so active and connected over the years. My experience in Seoul was not only about studying – it was about growing as a person and becoming part of a global family.

Even today, I keep in touch with many ISUS friends and professors. These connections have become a real professional and personal network that continues to inspire me. We still share ideas, support one another's projects, and celebrate each other's successes – even from different corners of the world.

To all current and future ISUS participants, I'd like to say: cherish every moment, every friendship, and every discussion you have through this program. ISUS gives you not only knowledge but a lasting community that connects hearts and minds across countries. For me, it remains one of the most meaningful chapters of my professional and personal journey.





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