

July 2022

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

What's inside?

<New Graduate Admissions recruited & Summer Vacation>

New Graduate Admissions recruited four students, for the Department of Global Construction & Sustainable Urban. They will be enrolled on September 1st.

This Summer Vacation period will finish on August 31st and the Fall Semester will start on September 1st.

<Interview>

For July's interview, let us read about Khin Ohnmar Myint Thein (MURD 1), head of the Tanintharyi Region Central Statistical Organization, of the Ministry of Planning and Finance. She will share her experiences, and how the ISUS program has affected her career.

<ISUS team won the 2022 WeGo Championship >

The just-ended 2022 WeGo Championship announced the first-place winners as Aced Millennials, a team that was led by Master of Urban Administration and Planning (MUAP) students Tilyenji Mwanzan (Zambia) and Sufyan Danjuma Ibrahim (Nigeria).

<New COVID-19 cases surge>

Due to the fast spread of a highly contagious new Omicron subvariant, new confirmed cases surged recently. The new infections dropped markedly from the peak of more than 620,000 in mid-March but have risen again to hit over 40,000 last week for the first time since mid-May.

Newsletter Interview Article: MURD Alumna Khin Ohnmar Myint Thein

ISUS presents a special series of interviews to share stories of ISUS members. For July's interview, let us read about Khin Ohnmar Myint Thein (MURD 1), head of the Tanintharyi Region Central Statistical Organization, of the Ministry of Planning and Finance. She will share her experiences, and how the ISUS program has affected her career.



Q1. Please, introduce yourself.

Khin Thein: Hello. I am Khin Ohnmar Myint Thein from Myanmar, known as the golden land for having many famous pagodas in South-East Asia. I was one of the first MURD students who graduated in 2015. I am currently working as Regional Head for the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the Ministry of Planning and Finance, located in the lower part of Myanmar, namely Tanintharyi Region.

Q2. I heard that you were promoted as the head of the Tanintharyi Region Central Statistical Organization last year. Congratulations! Could you describe the organization you belong to and what your job position is like in detail?

Khin Thein : Thank you. After a year of my accomplishment on my master's degree and returning to my country, I was promoted as an Assistant Director at the head office of CSO and working for head office. Then, last year, I was promoted as Deputy Director and assigned as a Head of the Tanintharyi Region CSO office. As a statistical regional office, we are responsible for collecting, compiling, and analyzing socio-economic statistics of the region while monitoring and evaluating the socio-economic conditions to make sure of a timely report to the regional cabinet and then to the head office. Moreover, we conduct regular and ad hoc surveys such as Industry Zone Survey, Myanmar Household and Expenditure Survey, Mortality Survey, Informal Sector Survey, Business Survey, and Disaster Survey, etc., to get information from the private sector and supporting the planners, as well as policymakers with suitable and doable policy recommendations and directions.

Q3. Do you have any impressive projects you participated in? Could you share with us the most impressive one of the projects?

Khin Thein : I collaborated with UNESCAP and ADB, where I was provided the opportunity to in-depth understand the procedure and principles of how the international collaboration was implemented in practical ways. Besides, the improvement of spiritual collaboration and international experience made me one of the pioneers in developing Statistical Business Register in Myanmar. During the project implementation, we had written a replication study paper on SBR development and presented it at the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2019 which was organized by UNESCAP. At present, SBR is well developed, and it can provide survey frames and available data to planners and researchers.

Q4. What motivates you to be in this field?

Khin Thein :During my time at the Institute of Economics, I studied many courses relevant to my degree, and I did especially well in Mathematics, Statistics, and Econometrics. After four years of studying economics and intensive learning in related fields, I felt that statistics is fundamental and key to eliminate the development barriers of our country which is still neglecting the importance of data and still failing to make available and make use of them in effective and efficient ways. So, I joined the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the government organization, MNPED (Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development) right after graduation in 2004. While I was collecting and structuring the data, I have become more and more understanding the importance of data for the development process of our country, especially for urban and regional development. Only if the data is collected, analyzed, and interpreted properly, it would help us to support our nation's development efforts better. I strongly believe that being a statistician not only makes us enjoy intellectual challenges but also become stronger with the challenges.

Q5. How did the ISUS programs help you with building you career?

Khin Thein : Master of Urban and Regional Development was a new field for me, and I received considerable quantities of applications in various subjects, such as National Territorial and Regional Development Policy and Planning, Housing and Land Policy, Transport Policy, Comparative Regional policy, and Public Investment Management. The Korean Experiences and Challenges were also a must to study during that program. It had been the most enlightening academic experience I have ever had. As I mentioned before, I was promoted right after the graduation of my master's degree and then I had to participate in some research studies. With the academic knowledge I gained from this program, I could perform very well. I could also apply the regional planning and development policy knowledge gained from the ISUS programs in supporting recommendations for the regional plan and policy.

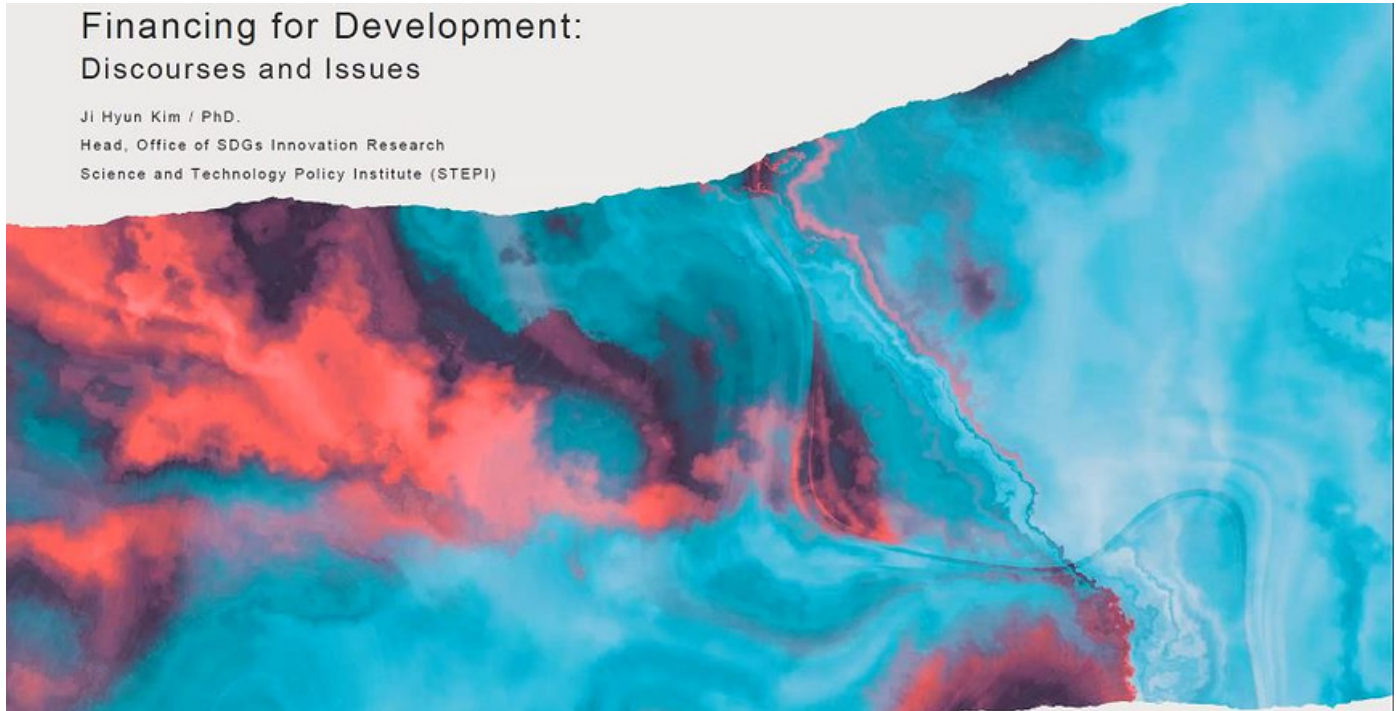
Q6. Could you share with us the most memorable experience from ISUS?

Khin Thein : Korea's miracle of development capability encourages many developing countries in urban development, public investment management and better facilities to improve the lives of the people and its transition to an innovative country. It was a great opportunity for me to learn about public investment management courses which include Public-Private Partnership. The comprehensive course included PPP practices in Korea, theoretical instruction, discussion of practical examples, and assignments designed to engage students in discussions related to the course content. I learned a lot about PPP practices and gained knowledge on how to create a PPP enabling environment that is needed to be implemented in Myanmar. In addition to my study in public investment management, I had a chance to work as a research assistant with Professor Hyeon Park, Dean of the ISUS: on two projects namely public investment management for Myanmar and institutionalizing the Project Bank for Myanmar. From those mentioned experiences, I have gained valuable experience in developing critical thinking, analyzing, integrating theories and practices, and research processes.

Q7. Do you have any other words to share with ISUS students?

Khin Thein : Please value the time in ISUS and create the best memory including in academic aspects but also irreplaceable student life as these memories shall remain one of the best in your life.

ISUS 73rd Urban Infra Forum



Financing for Development: Discourses and Issues

Ji Hyun Kim / PhD.
Head, Office of SDGs Innovation Research
Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI)

The ISUS 73rd Urban Infra Forum (UIF), marked the fourth UIF for the 2022 Spring Semester, it was held on Wednesday, June 9th, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM as a type of webinar via Zoom. This edition's topic was "Financing for Development: Discourses and Issues", Dr. Ji Hyun Kim currently the Head, of the Office of SDGs Innovation Research & Research Fellow, Division of Global Innovation Strategy at Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI).

Through the 73rd UIF, participants were granted a valuable opportunity to listen to "the discussion of the international community to solve the financial resources required to achieve the goals of the international development cooperation and sustainable development".

To understand the measurement of ODA

- **What is ODA?** ODA flows to the DAC List of ODA recipients
 - Official : Provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies
 - Development : administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective
 - Assistance : concessional in character, provided in the form of grants or soft loans
- **What is NOT ODA?**
 - Primarily commercial objectives; Military aid and promotion of donor's security interests; Promotion of language or culture of the provider country; Religious objectives
 - Not sufficient for an activity to have a positive impact on development to qualify as ODA, it needs to have development as its primary objective



UIF is a discussion forum on Infrastructure, Sustainable Urban Development, Construction, Environment, or related issues with invited speakers. Participants of this forum are mainly ISUS members, who are Foreign Public Officials as well as Domestic Practitioners. Thanks to the combination of participants' experiences, the forum has served as a platform for international networking and mutual learning.

You can find the lecture materials of UIF on the website below.

http://isus.uos.ac.kr/freeTC/list.do?list_id=50018C7

ISUS homepage > Community > Urban Infra Forum

ISUS Team won the 2022 WeGo championship

The just-ended 2022 WeGo Championship announced the first-place winners as Aced Millennials, a team that was led by Master of Urban Administration and Planning (MUAP) students Tilyenji Mwanzan (Zambia) and Sufyan Danjuma Ibrahim (Nigeria).

The World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO), established by 50 founding members in 2010, is an international association of city and other local governments, smart tech solution providers, and national and regional institutions committed to the transformation of cities into smart sustainable cities.

This year's championship attracted over 500 students from 100 schools in 19 different countries and ISUS is proud that its students emerged in the first place.

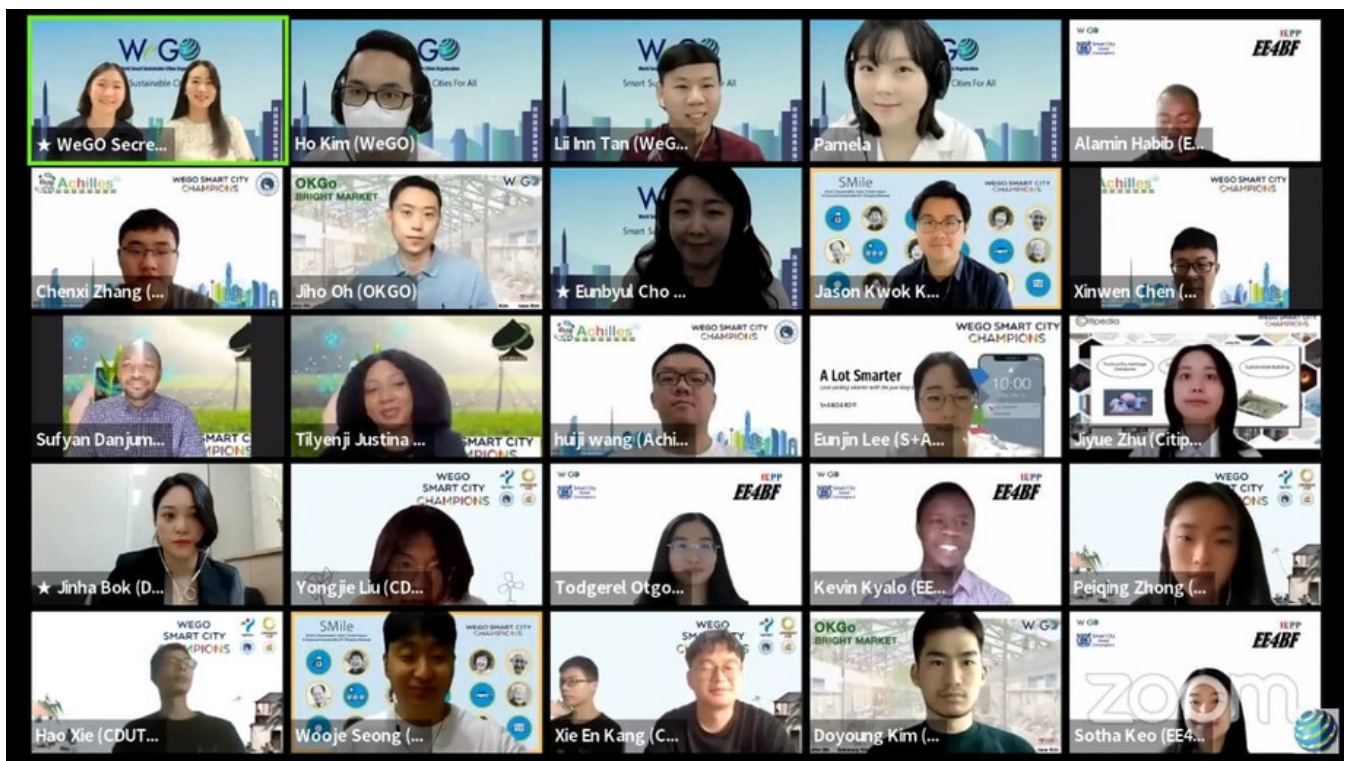
WeGo announced that the champions will receive a prize of KRW3,000,000 along with the WeGO President Award signed by the Mayor of Seoul Metropolitan Government and a certificate signed by WeGO. Furthermore, the winners will have a chance to present their projects during the "Youth Session" of the Seoul Leaders Forum, organized by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, which will take place on September 27, 2022.

According to WeGo, "The team's main proposal was to promote smart agro-tourism by fashioning an optimum cultivation environment to enhance productivity and quality of agricultural goods with less use of labor, energy, and fertilization than before, and form new combined tourism products that contribute to the sustainable development of less developed areas... Funding would be possible through "public-private partnership, [or] even from international funding organizations. For example, Dohwa Engineering, World Bank, and the European Union." Thus, with those comments, the team showed they had a realistic focus to put the ideas into practice." And the team was awarded a first place on 17th June 2022.

“In addition to participating in the Seoul Leaders’ Forum, finalists will be invited to other WeGO international events including WeGO’s Year-end Ceremony 2022, where they will have space to meet top-notch leaders and professionals in their field of interest,” stated WeGo on their website.

Meanwhile, Tilyenji and Sufyan have both thanked the University of Seoul for providing them with this opportunity, which can be a life-changing event for the students from Zambia and Nigeria.

WeGO Smart City Champions is one of the main programs conducted by the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO). It consists of a 15-week youth program that aims to recruit youth in member cities from all around the world to gain knowledge and build consensus around the future of smart cities.



Source: <https://we-gov.org/news-2022/press-release-winners-of-wego-smart-city-champions-2022-who-are-this-seasons-youth-leaders/?fbclid=IwAR2pDgQSKdykU5hJ9LuYRXyFjOrmvdhzNW8Yg5NuiaKcL5bbmuC4kryxC0U>

2022 Capacity Building Program for Next Generation Leaders in water security

The Eighth Batch of Masters' Programs for Future Global Leaders in Environment Policy (MGLEP 8) participated in the 2022 Capacity Building Program for the Next Generation Leaders in Water Security. The training program was held from June 27 to July 1st in Daejeon and Daegu cities. This initiative was a collaborative effort, organized by the International Center for Water Security and Sustainable Management (i-WSSM) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) and the University of Seoul. The weeklong program combined lectures and field visits on climate change, carbon neutrality and water security.



<Field Visit toGongju Eco Park>



<Presentation on Action Plan>

The lectures featured prominent experts in academia and industry who had knowledge and skills in climate change adaption, water policy management, WEF nexus, carbon neutrality, and Nature-based solutions for urbanization and climate change. The study visits were to various institutions and other innovative facilities such as Integrated Water Resources Center (IWEM Center), the National Drought Information Analysis Center (NDIC), the

National Groundwater Information Center, Gongju Eco Park, Gongju Shinkwan Public Sewage Treatment Plant, Hapcheon Dam, Korean Water Cluster facilities and Mt. Biseul Rain Radar.

Another interesting aspect of the program was the workshop to design an Action Plan to address any identified challenge in the water and environment sector. The Plan consisted, first, on identifying a topic, assessing its relevance, analyzing the problem using causal mapping, and selecting and evaluating alternatives. For this activity, five teams were formed to discuss various problems in their nations and the proposed possible solutions.

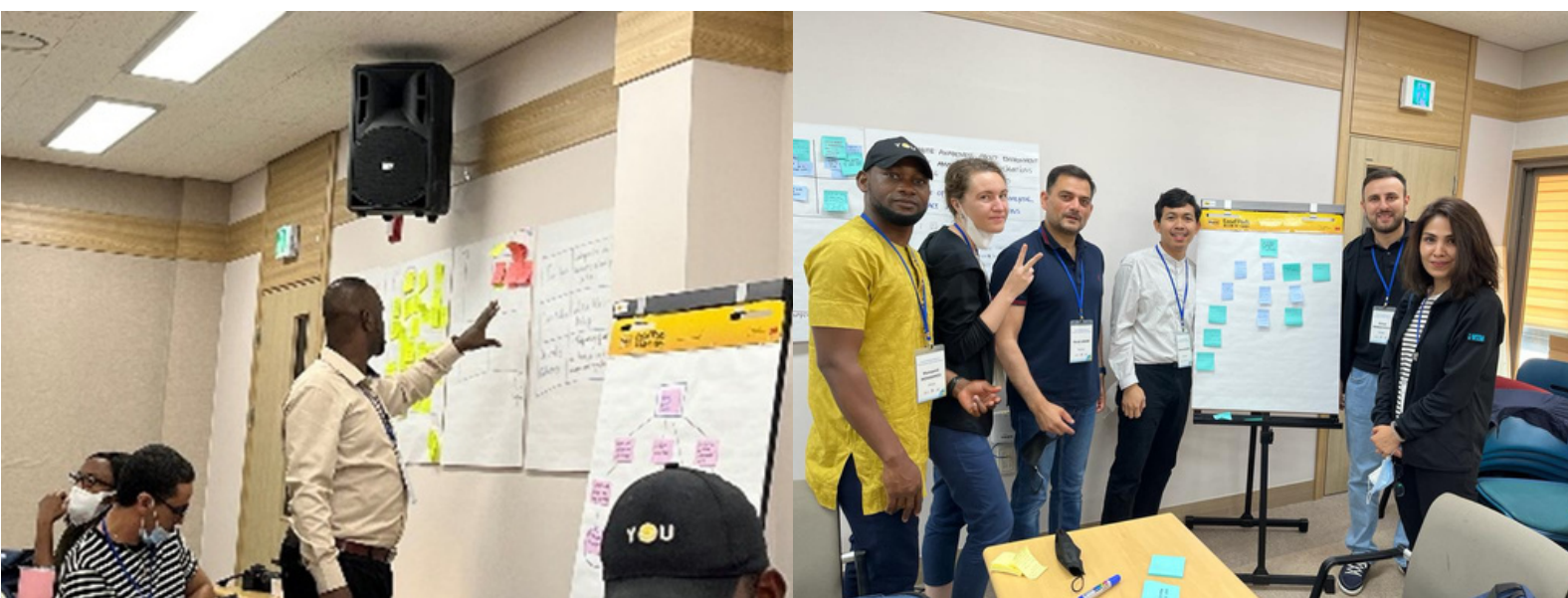


<Field Visit to Mt. Biseul Rain Radar>



<Presentation on Waste Water Demo Plant>

The training program was successfully organized and offered first-hand experiences to over 26 participants in countries such as Algeria, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and USA. Attendees expressed delight and congratulated the organizers, after that, participants expressed their commitment to sharing and implementing the lessons learnt about Korea's experience in water management and climate change adoption.



<Team Presentation on Action Plan>

Development of Smart City Class Field Trip



Professor Joon Park scheduled field trips for his Development of Smart City Class. On May 24th, MIPD and MGLEP students went to IFEZ PR Center & IFEZ Smart City Integrated Operation Center and located in a futuristic city, Songdo International City. By visiting the Economic Free Zone (IFEZ) PR Center, students could see the world's top 3 free economic zones. They learned about the Center's development plan and the progress status of its projects.

After visiting the IFEZ PR center, the class straightly visited IFEZ Smart City Integrated Operation Center which is the core facility that manages all services and infrastructure in IFEZ Smart City such as transportation, crime prevention, disaster prevention, environment, and information service for residents. It handles three districts which are in Songdo International Business District such as Yeongjong District and Cheongna International City.

Lastly, the students visited the landmark of Songdo, Songdo Central Park, which provides visitors with various water activities including water taxis, canoes, and more. It was a great opportunity for students to experience the actual smart city operating system.

K-Water Field Trip

In June, over 3 days (3, 10, 17), four programs (MGLEP, MIPD, MUAP, and MURD) visited the Songsan Global Education Center. There, the students learned that K-water is managing safe and clean watersheds for the people, as well as contributing to strengthening water disaster response capabilities and strengthening the stability of water resource facilities in preparation for abnormal climate change.



Through a visit to the Environmental Energy Center, students identified trends in environmentally friendly technologies using waste resources. Also, through a visit to Multi-Techno Valley (MTV), they learned about local power generation know-how, and they had time to understand eco-friendly energy circulation and energy generation business through visits to reed wetlands and tidal power plants.



MGLEP 6 Yeosu Field Trip

The MGLEP6 students, program coordinators, and program chairman, Professor Shin Lee, went on a 3-day field trip to Yeosu and Suncheon region. Suncheonman National Garden and Suncheonman Wetland were the first-day visits. An English tour was provided so students could understand and appreciate the beauty within the National Garden and Wetland.

On the second day, despite the weather conditions, students visited U-World where they could have some spare time with coordinators and the professor. For lunch, students enjoyed the Yeosu Special Raw Crab, the local specialty, and then headed to Black Sand Beach to appreciate the scenery. Afterward, they visited the Nocte Mare exposition where they enjoyed beautiful shows of lights. Finally, the day ended on Yeosu Sea Cable Car on the way to Odong Island.

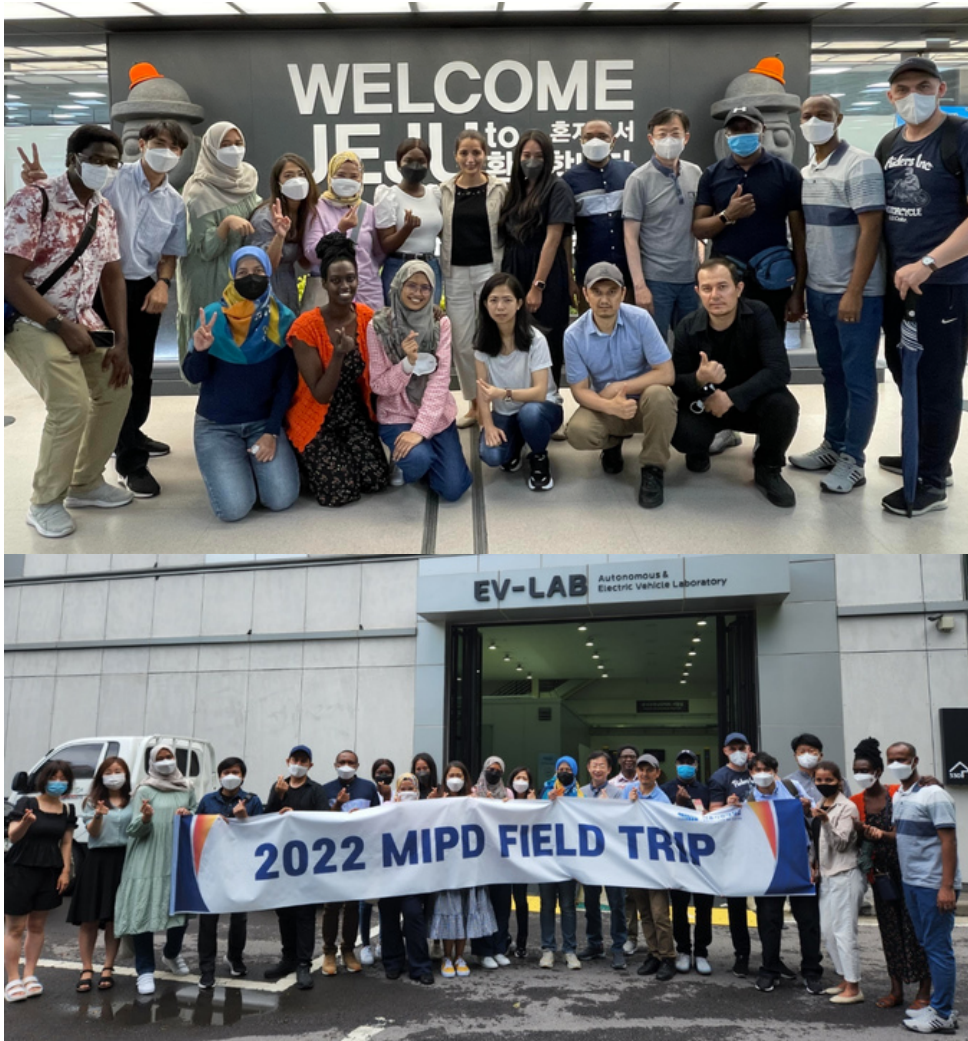
Last day, students and staff visited Yeosu Aqua Planet to learn and appreciate marine creatures.

MGLEP6 students are deeply grateful for this rewarding last field trip.



MIPD 4 Field Trip To Jeju

From June 28 to 30, MIPD4 went on a field trip to Jeju Island. In this field trip, MIPD students were able to increase their understanding and social perception of renewable energy through visits to public institutions that promote it and that provide experience-oriented education.



MIPD visited EV-LAB, research space for autonomous and electric vehicles established by the Jeju Free International City Development Center (JDC). This place was established to promote the Jeju Innovation Growth Center Route330. MIPD was able to learn about motor dynamometer (motor performance test for driving electric vehicles), motor emulator (electric motor simulation equipment for inverter development), battery cycler (battery charge/discharge test), 3D scanner (automotive part reverse design) in EV-LAB.



They also visited the Carbon-Free Island Energy Future Hall (CFI) established by Jeju Energy Corporation, MIPD could learn about Jeju's transition to renewable energy. By experiencing the renewable energy exhibition promotion facilities, educational spaces, 4D video theaters, and energy communication cafes, MIPD students were able to reinforce their knowledge of energy policies and gained technical information about how to make Jeju Island, a carbon-free island, and the future of Global Energy.



In addition to their indoor visits, they carried out various outdoor activities. MIPD students went to Seongsan Sunrise Peak, which has been cataloged as UNESCO World Natural Heritage. After a short hike to the top of the mountain, MIPD students celebrated the birthdays of four students with words of blessing.



Also, they were able to observe the clean sea and marine life of Jeju Island from the Seogwipo submarine.



In addition, they visited Manjanggul Cave, Woljeong Beach, and Camellia Hill to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Jeju Island. Besides environment-related activities, MIPD students visited the Dongmun Market to learn about traditional and modern Korean culture and gain insight into how Koreans harmonize with nature.



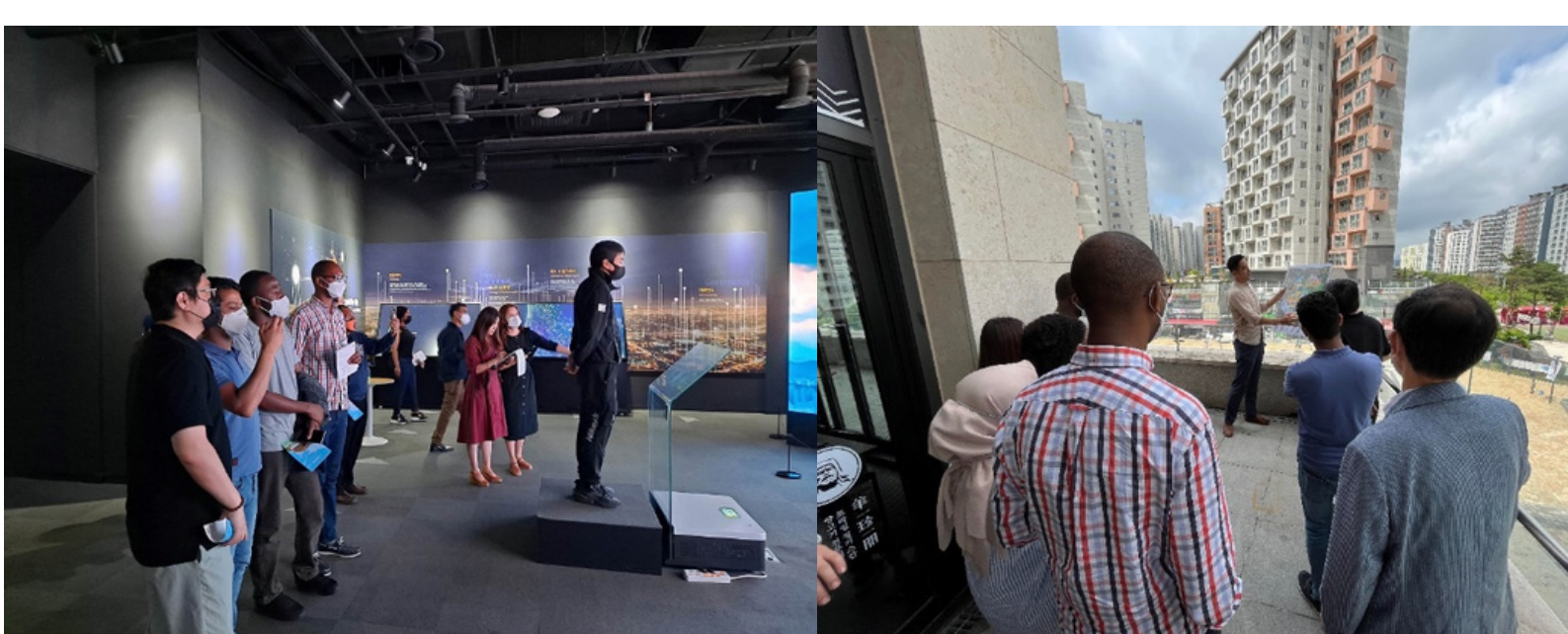
This field trip will be very valuable to them because they were able to have a good time with their classmates, Professor Yeom Chun-ho, as well as coordinators Eun A Choi and Seojung Kim, with two rainbows in the sky.

MUAP Class Field Trip

MUAP 14 students had a class field trip to Wirye New Town in Housing and Land Policy taught by Prof. Man-Hee Han.



First, students visited LH The Smartium. They could learn how to LH operate social housing and they experienced smart housing.



After that, students moved to Wirye New Town, 2nd phase new town, located between Songpa district of Seoul and Seongnam city of Gyeonggi Province. At this place, the officer from LH gave students a detailed explanation about how they organized the new town and how they have been developing its plan.



MURD Jeju Field Trip

MURD batch 5 went on a field trip. On June 22, they had an academic forum with the officers of Halla Mountain Research Center, which is the affiliated organization of UNESCO World Natural Heritage. Mr. Junggon Koh and Mr. Kwangsub JANG were in attendance. Through the forum, students obtained deeper knowledge, including the funding resources of UNESCO center, laws and regulations to protect the extraordinary bio-diversity in Jeju, and effects of the global warming on Jeju ecosystem.



Following that, they had another academic forum in Jeju Research Institute, where the president Sanghyup KIM, and Mr. Hongjin KIM joined. Especially Mr. KIM gave them a special lecture “Carbon Free Urban Development at the Jeju Special Self-governing Province”. After the lecture, they thoroughly reviewed the “Carbon Free Island 2030” scheme, and analyzed the possibility of the adaptation of the policies to the developing countries.



In addition to these academic events, MURD 5 enjoyed the beautiful nature of Jeju, visiting Manjanggul Lava Tube, Seopjikoji Beach, Halla arboretum, and Saebyul volcanic cone. They looked around famous tourist spots as well like Arte museum, Aquarium, and Jeju light garden. Cherishing these beautiful memories, MURD 5 is now facing the Summer break preparing their thesis seminar on July 20~21.



UOS Campus in July



It's rainy season in Summer!



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