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ISUS UOS NEWSLETTER

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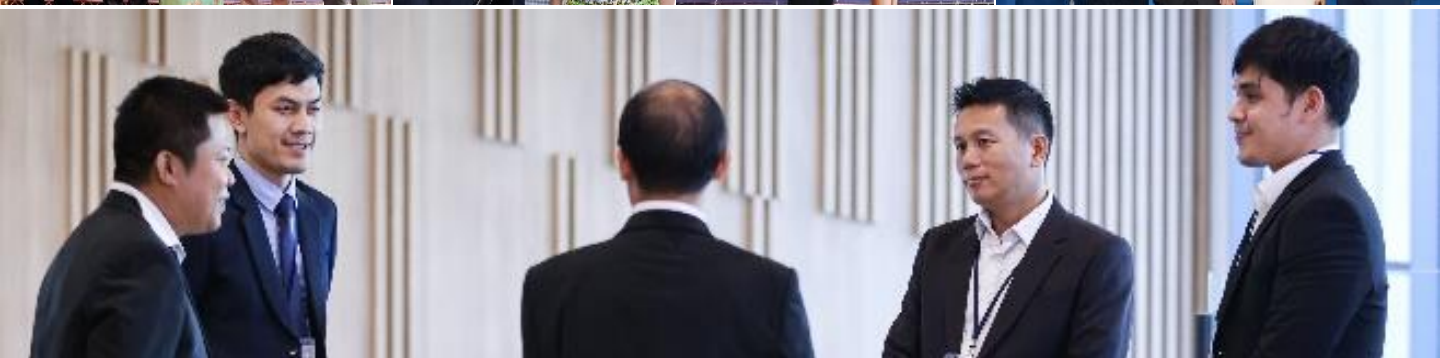
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01 A Decade of Dedication & Progress: ISUS Celebrates 10 years Milestone at GFN 2023

This year's Global Friends Night (GFN) held a particular significance as the International School of Urban Science (ISUS) joyously celebrated its 10th anniversary. As always, the event provided a distinct opportunity for attendees to expand their global networks, forge new friendships, and explore prospects for cooperation and growth.

Since it was launched in 2013, ISUS has expanded its family to over 1,000 students, and its alumni network now spans 70 countries and 150 cities. Professionals from various fields such as urban development, construction, infrastructure, environment, and other related fields got to connect with like-minded individuals worldwide, enriching their perspectives and fostering meaningful bonds that will undoubtedly pave the way for future collaborations.





This year's festive event welcomed distinguished guests from various embassies and affiliated organizations. Some participants, embracing the spirit of unity and diversity embodied by ISUS, were dressed in traditional attire for the occasion, symbolizing the global community that defines this unique institution.

As Professor Shin LEE (ISUS Dean) emphasized in her opening address; GFN 2023 was a momentous occasion to reflect on ISUS's remarkable journey over the past decade. It is a testament to the continued dedication and hard work of its founders, faculty, students, and partners, each of whom has played a vital role in the school's extraordinary achievements.



The evening was filled with congratulations and heartfelt gratitude towards supporters of ISUS and its initiatives. Special awards were given to sponsors for their invaluable contributions. In a moving moment, ISUS deans were recognized and honored for their dedication and hard work in advancing the institution's success and evolution.

The evening was further enriched by speeches and toasts shared by esteemed Ambassadors, offering their perspectives and insights on the importance of ISUS's mission and global impact.





The highlight of the evening was the speeches delivered by ISUS alumni. They shared their transformative journeys from their student days at ISUS to their professional achievements, highlighting the impact of the extensive network they built. Their speech emphasized a strong sense of belonging to the ISUS family, which continues to drive their engagement in global collaboration for sustainable development.

For each participant, their presence at Global Friends Night 2023 symbolized more than just sheer presence; it was a celebration and an affirmation of their commitment to promoting urban science and working towards a sustainable and inclusive future for all.





ISUS STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR HIDDEN TALENTS AT GFN

Claudia Marcela Abello Avila (MURD 6) and Valentina Rudd (MGLEP 9) evoked the Spirit of Colombia with "La Pollera Colorá," a traditional Colombian song and dance that is popular throughout the country, especially in the Caribbean coastal region. The phrase which means 'The Colourful Skirt' was well complimented by the attire of the performers. Adorned in Traditional, Colorful Skirts, and Dancing to the Rhythm of the Nation; the two Columbians truly stole the evening.

"Gracias a la Vida" (Thanks to life), a Chilean song famous worldwide, was beautifully performed by Irene Cardenas (MURD 6), Prideel Majiedt (MGLEP 9), and Brook Vega Dvies (MGLEP 8), accompanied on guitar by Vincent Macauley (MGLEP 9). The song was a treat to the ears and kept the audience mesmerized for quite some time.

Michaelangelo R. Severa (MURD 6) wowed the audience with his powerful and beautiful solo performance "This is the Moment".

The band Tiamonyon, whose name translates to "your favorite thing," were honored guests at the event. The group featured Brook Vega Dvies (MGLEP 8), who set the stage on fire with her performance on the song "Wonmoqeso."

This extraordinary show of traditional African instruments, dance, and culture further ignited the enthusiasm of the audience. Special Thanks to the group members Amidou Diabate, Yacouba Diabate, Salifou Diabat, Kangbi Yun, and Jisoo Cho.

One of Lauper's signature songs, "Time After Time", was wonderfully sung by Vincent Macauley and Prideel Majiedt (MGLEP 9).





The Mega Show culminated with the spectacular dance performance of MGLEP 8 on the renowned Korean Folk Song "Arirang". The dance was inspired by the vibrant style of the popular K-pop group, BTS. The performers Assanga Deshapriya, Brook Vega Dvies, Daniela Noriega, Samsul Bachri, Soraya Behlouli, and Wenquan Wang (MGLEP 8) danced to the tune no less than professionals. This performance not only captured the hearts of Koreans but also imprinted lasting memories for all the participants.

The remarkable performances of the talented ISUS students left an indelible mark on the GFN 2023.





INSIGHTS FROM AMBASSADORS: REFLECTING ON GLOBAL FRIENDS NIGHT



HE. Mohammed Bensabri, Ambassador of Algeria

"My experience at the GFN event was extremely positive. It showcased the exceptional accomplishments of ISUS and embodied the essence of international collaboration, which is crucial in our interconnected world."

Q: What message would you like to convey to the students at our university?

A: I would highly recommend that as an international student, you should participate in the local culture, local events, and activities. Your experiences here will not only shape your individual development but also foster friendships and cooperation between nations. To my fellow Algerians pursuing their studies at UOS, I would like to express my pride in your quest for education and personal development. You represent our nation in Korea, and your achievements here reflect positively on Algeria. I invite you to actively learn from Korea's recognized experience and contribute positively to the development of our country.



HE. Tarash Papaskua, Ambassador of Georgia

"It was a privilege to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the ISUS and an opportunity to recognize the important contribution that ISUS is making in search for sustainable and effective solutions to the pressing challenges of our times".

Q: What do you think is the importance of GFN for international students?

A: It certainly motivates them as they take centre stage and sees that the experience, they bring with them matters, and that their efforts and hard work throughout the course, are being acknowledged and appreciated. The event allows them, and all of us, to appreciate ISUS's global reach and broad representation, which I think is one of the key advantages of the school.

2023 Global Friends Night



HE. Paúl Fernando Duclos Parodi, Ambassador of Peru

“GFN constitutes a highly innovative and appreciated platform for interaction between students, academics, and representatives of the states.”

Q: How was your experience in this event and what advice would you give to international students?

A: It was my first participation in such an event. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and learned about the particularities of the Korean educational system, while feeling proud of the excellent representatives we have in this educational institution and to whom I wish the greatest success. I would like to advise international students to make the most of their time in Korea and to learn as much as they can about the valuable and special historical experience of this country.

2023 Global Friends Night



HE. Savithri Panabokke, Ambassador of Sri Lanka

“GFN is indeed a great opportunity for students to promote the cultural values and heritage of their respective regions and countries. It is also a great opportunity for all of us to promote peace, harmony, and unity, especially in this challenging era of the world that we live in.”

Q: In your opinion, how do you consider this event can contribute to the future careers of international students?

A: First, I wish to extend my gratitude to the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) of the University of Seoul for the scholarship opportunities offered to Sri Lankan students, particularly to public officials and professionals in the government and semi-government sectors. I believe that the knowledge and experiences that students gain through the post-graduate courses in ISUS can largely contribute to the development of countries such as Sri Lanka. It is also a great opportunity for students to climb up the ladder in their professions and to contribute towards the economic development of the country.

[From editors:]

Special thanks to the students who assisted in conducting interviews with the ambassadors: Anna Boklan, Asanga Deshapriya, and David Nizama.







02 ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH

Mahmoud Youssif | MUAP 8

Mahmoud Youssif, an alumnus of the Master of Urban Administration and Planning (MUAP) program, Batch 8, from Egypt, currently serves as a Mobility and Transport Specialist at the Road and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. After completing his Master's studies in 2017, Mahmoud has specially joined us in Seoul to participate in the 10th Global Friends Night (GFN).

Q1. What is the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RTA in Dubai and the Seoul Metropolitan Rapid Transit Corporation in which you have been involved?

The MOU with Seoul Metro aims to explore various aspects within the RAIL sector spanning commercial development, quality management, risk and safety policies and regulations, asset management, and operational efficiency. Additionally, the MOU covers fare ticketing policies, involving the exchange of knowledge, benchmarking with other cities, and integration of cutting-edge technologies for fare collection. It also incorporates a multitude of fields pertinent to the RTA transport industry, with the potential to enhance the standards of Dubai's mass transit sector.

Q2. How does it feel to come back to South Korea after finishing your studies?

Certainly, when I left Korea, I expressed my desire to return nearly every month. I kept mentioning this to my wife, the thought crossed my mind daily, eager to revisit the experiences I had in Korea. My time here was filled with enjoyment, play, and valuable learning experiences. I had the opportunity to explore various cities, gaining new insights and discovering how rapidly Korea had developed as a nation.

Q3. The ISUS family is delighted that you have attended the GFN. How do you perceive such events contributing to international relationships?

Activities like GFN leverage cooperation between countries. People from different parts of the world who participated in GFN had the opportunity to discover new collaborations that can address different challenges in their nations while learning from other cities that have already tackled such issues. So, each city and country can benefit from the other and gain new ideas from projects carried out in specific fields.

Q4. What aspects of the event have you enjoyed the most?

The African performance. I usually enjoy the African drums, so witnessing it made me feel quite familiar with my continent; in a way it made me feel at home. Being from an African country, this performance resonated deeply with my culture and environment. It was something I am familiar with and cherish always.





03 GFN PERSPECTIVE: The Chairperson for the ISUS Korean Student Association

In this special edition, LEE Seungjin, an enrolled member of the Department of Global Construction (GC), Batch 11, also participated as an interviewee. He is the chairperson for the ISUS Korean Student Association. Now, he is working at Korea Petroleum Group(KP), a company specialized in refining, processing, distributing, and manufacturing asphalt and other petroleum chemicals extracted from petroleum. Here, he is responsible for new business development and planning.

Q1. Please provide a brief introduction of the recent international cooperation project you have participated in.

While we do not participate in public international cooperation projects like ODA, we have collaborated with countries such as Mongolia and the Netherlands for purposes such as overseas technology transfer and development by private enterprises. In the case of Mongolia, we signed an MOU for the long-term durability paving of the highway between Chinggis Khaan International Airport and Ulaanbaatar. In the Netherlands, we engaged in technical cooperation about road surface marking systems that perform well even during nighttime and in rainy conditions in Amsterdam.

ODA 등과 같은 공공 주관의 국제협력사업에는 참여하지 않지만 민간기업의 해외기술이전 및 개발 등의 목적으로 몽골, 네덜란드 등과 협업을 진행하였습니다.

몽골의 경우 칭기스칸 국제공항과 울란바토르시 간 고속도로의 장기 내구성 포장을 위한 MOU를 진행하였으며, 네덜란드의 경우 암스테르담시와 야간 및 우천에도 시인성이 좋은 노면표지시스템에 관한 기술협업을 진행하였습니다.

Q2. How did you apply to the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS)?

I got a recommendation from a company colleague who is currently studying in ISUS. What appealed to me the most about ISUS was I could have an opportunity to network internationally. Also, I thought I could learn more through the curriculum and the activities of its alumni in various fields.

국도원 10기로 재학 중인 회사 동료들 통해 추천 받았습니다.

대학원 커리큘럼과 동문들의 활동 영역, 그리고 국제라는 말에서 알 수 있듯이 외국인 원우와의 네트워킹이 가능하다는 점이 가장 매력적이었습니다.

Q3. In what ways do you believe your career can benefit from your experiences at ISUS?

I understand that there may not be immediate, direct relevance or benefits to my career. However, I am sure that the knowledge, insights and relationships I gain from ISUS can be helpful over a long term as my company supplies, good and services needed in urban and social spaces of the world.

Many companies, including KP, are exploring new areas beyond their traditional business models. Fields such as smart city, environmental initiatives, and international cooperation present new opportunities, I have high expectations that the expertise and connections I acquire through this program will be valuable in this regard.

물론 직접적인 연관성이나 커리어에 있어 당장의 효과는 없을 수 있다고도 생각합니다.

하지만 도시, 사회 공간에 필요한 재화를 공급한다는 부분에서 분명히 국도원에서의 지식과 관계가 도움이 될 거라 기대합니다.

현재 제가 다니는 회사를 비롯하여 여러 기업들도 기존의 사업방식을 벗어나 새로운 영역으로의 도전을 꾀하고 있습니다.

스마트시티, 환경, 국제협력 등의 분야는 제게도 새로운 기회이기에 많은 기대를 가지고 있습니다.

Q4. We are thankful that you have joined the GFN. How did you enjoy it and what was the best part of GFN to you?

As a freshman, I took a Global Project Development course. It was a class where we formed teams with international students to brainstorm ideas and develop concrete plans for realizing a business project. It was my first semester, and I couldn't catch opportunities to socialize with foreign classmates outside of class. I felt a sense of regret about that. However, I was delighted to reconnect with those friends at GFN and have the chance to share many stories, which brought us closer together.

저는 신입생 첫학기였던 1학기에 글로벌프로젝트개발이라는 수업을 들었습니다.

외국인 원우들과 조를 이뤄 사업 실현하기 위한 아이디어를 구상하고 구체적인 실행방안을 계획하는 수업이었습니다. 당시에는 첫 학기이기도 하고 외국인 원우들과 수업 외에는 어울릴 기회가 없어서 아쉬웠지만 GFN에서 그 친구들을 다시 만나서 여러 이야기들을 나누고 그로 인해 더 가까워질 수 있어서 좋았습니다.

Q5. Experts from various countries gathered at the GFN event. How much do you think such an event contributes to international relationships?

I know that most of the ISUS members come from various fields and are typically affiliated with public institutions in their respective countries. I believe that building relationships with those who have boundless potential for growth can have a significant impact not only on the ISUS but also on Korea's relations with various countries.

ISUS에 선발된 학생들은 대부분 자국에서 공공기관 소속으로 분야 또한 다양하다고 알고 있습니다. 앞으로도 발전 가능성이 무궁무진한 해당 국가 원우들과의 관계 형성은 국도원 뿐만 아니라 대한민국과의 관계에서도 강한 영향력을 행사할 수 있을 것이라 생각합니다.

Q6. We all know that Koreans are great singers and dancers. As the chairperson for the ISUS Korean Student Association, do you think that we will see our Korean students or alumni on the stage at next year's GFN? Any ideas?

This is the most challenging one among the questions I received today...

I agree that we can make a good stage for K-culture, just as you mentioned. However, Korean students currently in ISUS are the older generation, which is more accustomed to a culture that is hesitant to take the lead. I believe lots of persuasion and encouragement will be needed.

Specific ideas are now my assignment starting from today.

오늘 받은 질문 중에 가장 어려운데요...

말씀대로 한인학생회는 K-culture에 있어서 좋은 무대를 보여 드릴 수 있다고 생각합니다.

다만 지금 한인학생회는 지금의 젊은 세대가 아니라서 ππ 나서는 것을 꺼리는 문화가 익숙한 세대인 관계로 많은 설득과 독려가 필요할 것으로 생각합니다.

구체적인 아이디어는 오늘부터 제게 주어진 숙제네요



04 THE 16th SEOUL ODA International Conference Report

The 16th Seoul ODA International Conference was held on September 7, 2023, under the theme: 'Future of International Cooperation: Global Solidarity and Cross-Sectoral Approaches in a World of Challenges'. The event was attended by HAKIZAMUNGU Nielsen from MIPD 5 and Teeka Ram DHAKAL from MURD6. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to advance the discussion on the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda ahead of the 2023 SDG Summit.

"At the conference, I could make a conversation with Chang Wonsam, President of KOICA, and Oh Youngju, the 2nd Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, RoK, and Ambassador of Rwanda in Korea. I learned about the working principles of ODA and the role of emerging donors, including South Korea's goal in the ODA scene." **H.N. | MIPD 5**

"Recognizing the pivotal role of ODA, this event offered a chance to establish connections with global professionals. I gained valuable insights and perspectives on various aspects of international development cooperation. In particular, understanding case studies from different countries served as important benchmarks for global and strategic partnerships." **T.R.D. | MURD6**





05 MUD 7 Preparatory Courses

The KOICA-UOS Master's Program embarked on a new journey in 2023 under the name of MUD (Master of Urban Development). This year held special significance as KOICA resumed its offline orientation. Including MUD freshmen, approximately 100 students from five universities gathered at the KOICA International Cooperation Center and spent two nights during the orientation session.

A notable moment during the orientation session was the welcoming address by Professor Hyeon PARK, the chair professor of the MUD program. He emphasized the dual roles of the students as both learners and future government officials. Professor PARK also provided insights into Korean development strategies and encouraged the students to aim high. ISUS extends a warm welcome to the incoming students and wishes them the Best of Luck.

“Aim high, study hard, and enjoy your life in Seoul!”



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UOS CAMPUS

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