

February 2023

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

What's inside?

<2023 Spring Semester UOS Academic Schedule>

The Spring semester will commence on Thursday, 2nd March. Students are advised to check for class schedule updates in advance and keep themselves abreast of the announcements made by the university administration from time to time to avoid any inconvenience. Class registration will be open from the 13th to the 17th of February.

<Interview>

For February's interview, we had the honour to interact with Ms. Chaturanganie Amarasekara (MURD 1) from Sri Lanka about her experiences and achievements as an ISUS alumnus. She is working as an Urban planner at the National Physical Planning Department since 2005.

<Winter Internship>

During Winter Break, ISUS introduced an internship program for MUAP students'. Fifteen students from the MUAP batch participated in the program. The students were assigned to 5 different organizations associated with Seoul Metropolitan Government.

<2023 Global Internship to Cambodia>

The International School of Urban Sciences hosted a Global Internship Program for 12 Korean students from February 13rd to 19th. The program resumed after two years of absence due to COVID-19. We present four travelogues of the participating students.

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[2023 Global Internship to Cambodia]

– Chohyun LEE, Department of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD 9)

The Global internship is a special program that can only be experienced at ISUS. We have opportunities to build networks with international students from various countries including Cambodia in the GPD classes. This global internship allowed us to build on strengthen this network and visit public institutions in Cambodia, providing us with an opportunity to gain a wider perspective.

We visited many organizations, including the MLMUPC–Ministry of Land Management, RUPP–Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh City Hall, Aeon Mall 3 site, KOTRA office in Phnom Penh, MoE–Ministry of Environment, and Siem Reap Tourism Department. We were briefed on contemporary issues on urban development, infrastructure construction, and environmental issues. We also had many discussions about the current topics, smart cities and the environment and so strong interest in digitization and education to develop these issues.

Furthermore, the entire program led by Professor Hyeon PARK, Professor Shin LEE, and Professor Jun won SEO in cooperation with RUPP, left a lasting impression on me. I could feel their passion and dedication during the whole program. This experience helped me understand our role and direction in overseas construction.

Taking Professor Park’s comment “International cooperation is difficult to achieve without passion” to my heart, I hope that my participation in this internship will motivate me to develop my life...

[Overseas training after COVID-19]

– Minho SONG, Department of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD 9.5)

I report the ISUS Global Internship Program. We started our journey by putting aside our busy daily life for a while.



Day 1

The MLMUPC was like a castle, and the huge entrance was impressive in the beginning. The first people to greet us were ISUS Cambodian alumni. Even though we met for the first time, we felt like we have known each other for a long time. We were greeted by a high-ranking official, H.E. Leang Monirith, Secretary of State of MLMUPC, in a big conference room. Mr. Junsob LEE and I had chance to present urban planning practice in Korea.

In the afternoon, I visited RUPP (Royal University of Phnom Penh). Dr. Try, a member of the steering committee of "Leading University Project for International Cooperation" at the RUPP, presented a lecture and we looked around the newly created lecture room sponsored by the project.



Day 2

Afterward, we visited Phnom Penh City Hall, experiencing traffic jams in Cambodia. I was able to meet ISUS Cambodian alumni here as well, and it was impressive to see them reminiscing about the memory and having conversations with the professor. After the meeting, we were guided to an exhibition room showing the entire Phnom Penh city planning with a miniature model. It was an opportunity to learn about the future construction of a new airport and large-scale urban development plans.

After the meeting, we visited the AEON Mall3 construction site by Hyundai E&C and listened to the kind explanation from the site manager. An important information is that the price of a newly built high-end house in an area where large-scale facilities are located corresponds to 1 billion KRW. Considering the average income of Cambodia, we can see that the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer.

Afterward, we visited the Killing Field, one of the tragic places in Cambodia, on a cloudless sunny day. This place was the site of the massacre of innocent citizens and displayed numerous remains. It was hard for me to look at the situation, and I realized once again how human being can be an evil. In the night, we had a ISUS gathering joined by ISUS alumni in Cambodia. We became one ISUS family beyond nationality and race and came to have deep sense of family.



Day 3

We visited KOTRA. Kim Jong-sang, director of KOTRA office in Phnom Penh, gave a presentation on Cambodia's overall situation and confirmed that Cambodia's main investor is China, and there is a difference of more than 10 times from Korea. In the meanwhile, Professor Hyeon Park attended the signboard unveiling ceremony of DSUPD, RUPP, the first urban planning department in Cambodia with technical assistance of ISUS. In the afternoon, we visited NCSD/MOE. Professor Shin LEE gave a short lecture on global trend of ESG and environmental issue in KOREA. Afterward, we departed for Siem Reap, and it took 6 hours to arrive.



Day 4

We visited the Siem Reap Tourism Department to hear about tourism policy of the world most popular tourist attraction city. Also we met Mr.Sokkhim, an ISUS alumnus, and we were able to receive a detailed guide about the Angkor Wat temple and the surrounding historical sites. Mr.Sokkhim was full of a sense of duty to promote the culture of his country, and I could see his passion to tell even more. We were able to capture the ancient culture and relics of the Khmer Empire with our eyes and hearts following Mr.Sokkhim's guide.



Day 5

In the morning of the fifth day, as the last itinerary before leaving Cambodia, we did free trip for relaxing and sightseeing. Some watched the sunrise at Angkor Wat and the sky view through the ad balloon, and then some visited the National Museum of History. The museum had numerous Hindu and Buddhist artifacts on display.

Through this overseas training, I was able to understand Cambodia more, and it served as an opportunity to further increase the bond among ISUS alumni. Lastly, I would like to close by expressing my gratitude to Professor Hyeon PARK, Professor Shin LEE, Professor Jun won SEO, Teacher Sujin KIM, and Chairman Jihoon KANG for preparing and leading this program.

[다크투어리즘 & 순수한 캄보디아인의 삶과 무한 감동]

- 첨단녹색도시개발학과(SUD) 9.5기, 이준섭(LEE Junsub) 원우

▪ 다크투어리즘

인류에게 일어난 잔혹한 참상이 벌어졌던 역사적 장소나 전쟁과 학살, 재난과 재해 등 비극적인 현장을 둘러보고 희생자 추모와 이러한 일들이 반복되지 않도록 교훈을 얻기 위해 떠나는 여행을 다크투어리즘 또는 블랙투어리즘이라고 한다. 캄보디아에는 S-21 수용소라 불리는 뚜어슬랭 박물관과 쯡아익에 집단학살 센터가 대표적일 것이다.

예정에 없었던 일정이라 뜻을 같이하는 원우들과 아침 일찍 나섰다. 비참한 모습의 흑백사진들처럼 수용소 시설들이 많이 낡았으나 그 시절의 뚜렷한 고통의 현장이 머릿속에 너무나 뚜렷이 각인되었다.

오후, '킬링필드'라고 부르는 쯡아익에 집단학살 센터로 갔었다. 오전 뚜어슬랭 박물관에서 오디오를 미리 들은 터라 우리나라 말로 나오는 오디오 가이드는 여기서는 불필요했다. 조용히 동료들과 걸으며 50여년 전 잔혹한 학살극 속에 빨려 들어가 맘속 깊은 곳 눈물과 기도로 희생자를 추모할 뿐이었다. 이 잔혹함의 끝은 어디였을지 모를 무한한 상상만을 증폭시켰다. 돌아 나오는 길에 우리나라도 서대문형무소, 제주4.3사건 그리고 광주민주화운동 등이 현재까지도 아물지 않은 고름 같은 상처가 아닌가 하는 생각을 했다.

▪ 순수한 캄보디아인의 삶과 무한감동

ISUS 캄보디아 원우들과의 만남을 통해, 그 어느 누구보다 순수하고 情이 많음을 느꼈다. 그리고 마지막 일정인 시엠립 관광청 방문 후 이어진 앙코르와트 사원 방문. 돌로 지어진 신의 성전인 크메르 제국의 최대 걸작인 앙코르 유적지는 웅장함과 신비함으로 견학 내내 나를 매혹시켰다. 이는 ISUS 동문인 Sokkhim의 열정적인 가이드 덕분이 아닐까 싶다. 순수한 그들의 삶에 무한 감동을 받고 왔다. 무사히 귀국하여 본업에 복귀한 지금도 여운은 쉽사리 가시지가 않는다.

인턴십 과정의 준비와 마무리 까지 수고하신 박현 교수님, 이신 교수님, 서준원 교수님, 김윤기 선생님, 김혜미 선생님, 그리고 연수기간 내내 온탕과 냉탕을 들고났을 김수진 선생님, 강지훈 원우회장님 등 한마음으로 인턴십에 참여한 모든 분들께 다시 한번 감사 인사를 드린다.

[새벽이 아름다운 나라 캄보디아]

- 첨단녹색도시개발학과(SUD) 9기, 강혜영(KANG Heayoung) 원우

첫 날은 도저히 잠이 오지 않았다. 해가 뜨자마자 프놈펜 시내를 산책하였다. 도시는 생기가 돌았다. 공원에서는 사람들이 체조나 요가 등으로 아침을 시작하였다. 나도 그들과 함께 그곳의 아침을 활기차게 맞이하였다. 첫날은 MLMUPC(캄보디아 국토부)를 방문했다. 먼저 건물 스케일에 한번 놀랐고, 참석한 공무원 숫자에 또 한 번 놀랐다. 다만 화려한 외관과 달리 심각한 전력상황과 느린 인터넷 속도로 진행이 매끄럽지 못하여 아쉬움이 남았다. 오후에는 RUPP 대학을 방문하여 목요일에 있을 DSUPD 학과 현판식 등을 체크하고, Dr. Try Thuon의 특강을 들었으며, 여러 관계자분과의 만남이 있었다.



둘째 날도 어김없이 습관처럼 프놈펜 시내를 산책하면서 시작하였다. 강변을 따라 산책을 하면서 혼란스러웠던 그들 만의 교통체계가 나름의 방식으로 질서를 유지하고 있었음을 알게 되었다. 선착장에서는 조금 낯선 풍경을 만났다. 오토바이와 차를 실은 선박이 정차하자, 선박에서 내린 이들이 물밀 듯이 시내로 향하면서 이곳의 아침이 시작되었다. 오전일정은 Toul Sleng Museum 방문이었다. 역사 속에서 희생된 이들의 이야기가 담긴 이곳에서 잠시 내가 누리고 있는 이 자유와 행복이 앞선 이들이 간절히 원했던 것이고, 그들의 희생을 반석삼아 이뤄진 것임에 잠시 숙연 해졌다. 오후 일정은 CITY HALL과 AEON MALL 3, ISUS 캄보디아 동문과의 만남을 끝으로 하루를 마감했다.



셋째 날 아침은 동반자와 함께 공원산책을 하였다. 밤사이의 흔적들을 치우는 이들과 모이를 찾아 몰려든 새들이 아침의 활기를 불어넣고 있었다. 오전은 KOTRA를 방문해서 캄보디아의 현황과 문제점 등에 대한 상세한 설명을 들을 수 있었다. 무엇보다 기억에 남는 것은 국내 수출품목 1위가 박카스라는 것이다. 마케팅은 똑같은 제품을 어떻게 포장하느냐에 따라 전략적으로 성공할 수 있다는 것을 새삼 느낄 수 있었다. 오후에는 우리나라 환경청에 해당하는 MoE에 방문하였다. 이신 교수님의 ESG 정책관련 발표와 서준원 교수님의 캄보디아 도시화 관련 발표 후에 MoE 측 지원사업에 대한 발표가 이어졌다. 원조가 시급한 국가이다 보니 모든 정책은 결국 투자로 귀결되는 듯하였다. 일정을 마치고 씨엠림으로 향하는 긴 여정이 시작되었다. 늦은 밤 도착한 그곳은 프놈펜과는 또다른 모습이었다. 관광지로서의 화려함과 여유로움이 차창 밖으로도 느껴지는 듯하다.

넷째 날, 늘 하던 대로 아침 조깅을 하면서 개발도상국의 이른 아침을 감상하였다. 6시30분 이른 시간임에도 불구하고 그들의 아침은 이미 시작되었다. 학생들은 등교를 하고 이를 도와주기 위한 부모님들의 오토바이 행진이 이어지고 있었다. 도시의 화려함 뒤에 좁은 골목길은 초라하고 무질서했다. 부지런함은 개발도상국이 할 수 있는 유일한 무기다. 이를 발판으로 그들은 한발자국 더 전진해야 하고, 이른 새벽 등갓길로 향하는 학생들에게 더 나은 미래를 보장할 교육이 절실하며, 이를 위해서 더 나은 교육환경을 제공해 줄 여러 도움의 손길이 절실함을 느꼈다. 이들의 모습에서 우리나라의 도시 성장과정의 단편을 볼 수 있었다. 값진 경험이었다. 오전에 관광청을 방문하고 앙코르와트 유적지를 방문하였다. 놀라움, 경이로움 그 자체였다. 우리는 이 거대한 문화유산 앞에서 작아질 수밖에 없다.

이제 이 도시와도 작별인사를 해야 한다. 늘 그렇듯이 새벽 조강으로 아침을 맞이하였다. 토요일인데도 도로는 학생들과 일터로 나가는 사람들로 분주했다. 걷다가 우연히 조우하게 된 고등학교 간판, 긴 골목길에 자리잡은 낯선 풍경에 이끌려 간 곳에는 전선이 복잡하게 뒤엉키고 쓰레기 더미가 가득 차 있는 좁은 골목길의 고등학교였다. 충격이었다. ‘교육이 미래다’라는 문장이 무색하게 느껴지는 순간이었다. 도시계획이 필요한 이유는 이런 것이 아닐까 싶다. 안타까운 마음과 무거운 과거들이 뇌리를 스치면서 먹먹한 마음을 안고 그 자리를 떠났다. 이제 아쉬움과 벅찬 기쁨을 뒤로 하고 캄보디아와 작별을 고해야 했다. 내가 이곳을 언제 다시 찾아오게 될지 모르지만, 새벽을 여는 이들의 성실함에서 이들의 밝은 미래가 보였다. 우리나라가 그래왔던 것처럼.

MIPD 5 Gunsan - Jeonju Field Trip

On January 28th and 29th, MIPD 5 went on a field trip to Gunsan and Jeonju. The class visited Saemangeum Development Authority. The vision and development strategy of Saemangeum was shared with the students which included the development of smart agriculture based on advanced technology, the establishment of export infrastructure, and the direction of creating an export-oriented special economic zone connected with base infrastructure such as ports and airports.



In addition, we had time to see and experience old Gunsan; a historical trading port that started as a small fishing village on the banks of the Geum river and later grew to be a major maritime logistics and distribution center by the late 19th century.



Our next stop was Jeonju. The spiritual capital of the Joseon Dynasty had a lot to offer but the paucity of time was a major constraint. We thus mostly experienced the beauty of the Hanok Village with its mesmerizing alleys, bustling shops, fascinating architecture, and beautiful views of the 19th century Jeondong Cathedral. We also experienced the making of traditional Korean ‘hand fan’, painting and decorating them multi-colors; a job well-done as seen in the picture as well.

Our trip though short was not only professionally meaningful and rewarding but was also rich in cultural experiences. The unique beauty of Gunsan and Jeonju were indeed an icing on the cake.



MUAP Internship program in winter break



<Graduation ceremony in CityNet >



<Having a meeting in SHRDC >



<Internship Orientation in Seoul Institute >

During the winter break, 15 students of MUAP 15th participated in the Internship program spanned over 2-3 weeks duration.

The students were assigned to 5 different organizations working under the umbrella of the Seoul Metropolitan Government. Details of organizations and the number of students assigned to each are as under:

1. CityNet – 3
2. Seoul Human Resource Development Center – 2
3. Seoul Institute – 6
4. Seoul Urban Solutions Agency – 2
5. WeGO – 2

All internees carried out tasks assigned to them by their respective organizations to the best of their abilities.

It was a good opportunity for the MUAP batch to demonstrate their abilities and improve networking between Korean institutions and their home countries. A time out from the monotonous academic routine was indeed an added advantage.

MUAP Winter Special Lecture Session

(26 Dec 22 - 10 Jan 23)

The recent winter vacations were not just 'Playtime' for the MUAP students. This time, the MUAP office organized Special Lectures for MUAP 15 affording them the opportunity to improve their skills in a few subjects. The vacations thus became another time to learn where the students were provided with the chance to review what they learned last semester, make up for what they lacked, and prepare for the thesis semester.

Lectures were delivered in varying modes and followed different themes as under:

1. Basic Korean Class

- Content: Basic Korean
- Instructor: Yong Sook LEE

The students reviewed the basic expressions learned during the last semester and learned/practiced practical expressions. This later helped them during their internship, also held during the winter vacations.

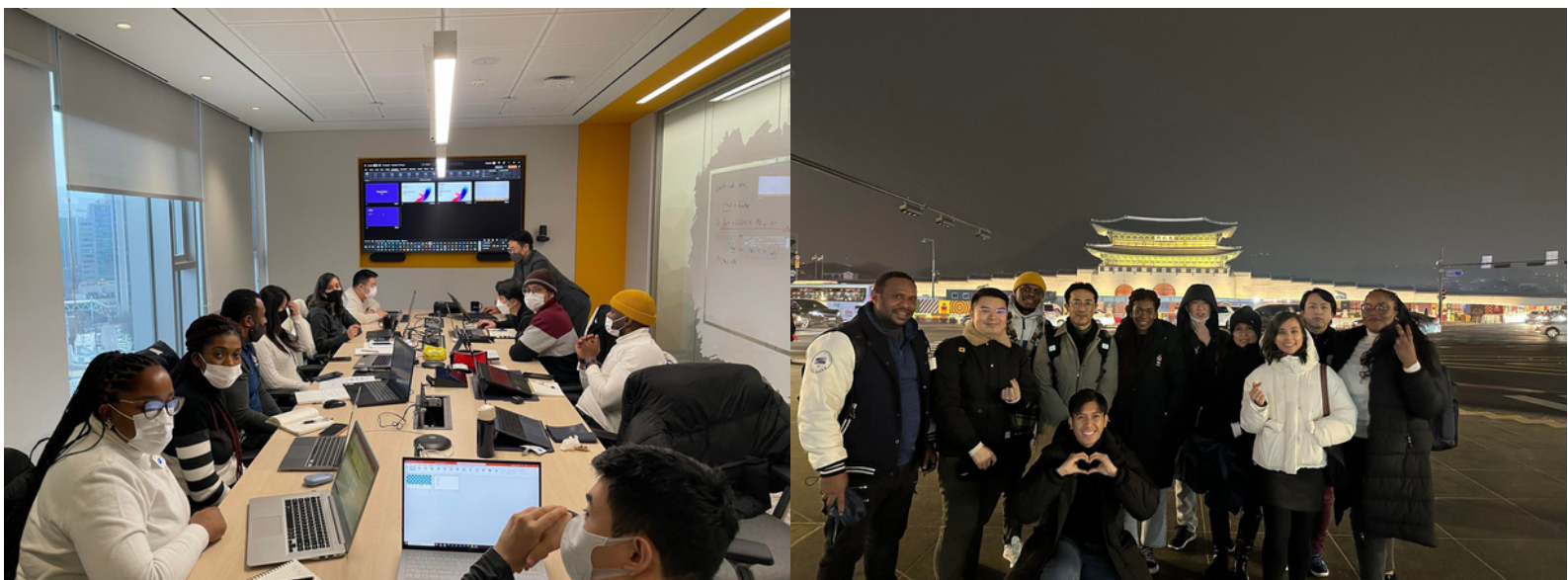
2. English Class

- Content: Writing Skills
- Class type: One-on-One Tutoring
- Instructor: Keith Wooger

The English class was designed to teach the students the English writing skills needed to write a dissertation in English. It was conducted in the form of one-on-one classes to provide a close-up learning experience, tailored for each student as per his / her level and needs.

3. MS Office Class

- Content: MS Office(Word, etc)
- Instructor: Jae Hyung Choi (Philip)



Through the MS Office class, students had time to deal with the functions of MS Word, a thesis writing tool, in more depth. Also, especially this time, students had the unique opportunity to visit the headquarters of MS Office Korea in Gwanghwamun. One of the classes was conducted in MS Office headquarters followed by a visit and tour of the office building.

The Program was an overall success. MUAP-15 students not only enthusiastically signed up for these lectures but gave excellent feedback at the culmination as well. Some of the remarks given by the students are quoted below:

- The program was interesting and helpful.
- The classes were very insightful.
- I was able to improve my experience and knowledge.
- Hope we will have more class hours next time.

Given the positive feedback, the IUDP office is likely to continue this program in the coming years as well, providing students with more learning opportunities thus allowing them to address their shortfalls while reflecting upon their experiences at the same time.

Newsletter Interview Article: MURD Alumni, Ms. Chaturanganie Amarasekara

ISUS conducts a special series of interviews each month to share stories of International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) members.

For the February review, we had the pleasure to interact with Ms. Chaturanganie Amarasekara, ISUS alumni from MURD 1.



Q1. Nice to meet you. Would you like to introduce yourself to our readers?

Amarasekara: Hello everyone. My full name is Chaturanganie Amarasekara, however, I am mostly known as ‘Chathu’ within my circle of family and friends. I have been working as an Urban planner at the National Physical Planning Department since 2005.

I was part of the first Cohort of students selected to attend MURD at the ISUS, University of Seoul (UOS), Republic of Korea (RoK) from 2014 – 2015. This scholarship program was sponsored by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). While attending MURD, I also undertook my internship as a consultant at Korea Land and Housing Cooperation.

Post MURD, owing to my internship experience, I was chosen to work as Planning Coordinator (Foreign Relations) at Tech City development Project from 2016 – 19.

Q2. You have visited Korea a lot related to the project after graduation from ISUS. Would you like to share your experiences with us for the benefit of all?

Amarasekara: As I said earlier, during my stay in Korea, I completed my internship at Korea Land and Housing Cooperation (LH). While working with LH, I was extended an opportunity to implement a new town concept in Sri Lanka.

I along with some other specialists / technical staff visited Sri Lanka to work for the same proposal. During said visit, I was fortunate to introduce the group of Korean specialists to my former Ministry. This meeting paved way for further cooperation and later led to the signing of an MOU between the two countries for ‘Science and Technology City’ and ‘Aero City’ Projects. This milestone was a significant achievement of my career. Consequently, I was chosen to serve as Planning Coordinator to the Tech City Development Project.

Going further; Sri Lanka and RoK mutually agreed to cooperate with each other for the development of the Western Region in 2016. According to the inter-governmental MOU, MOLIT began to establish the master plan and implementation strategy for Tech City in 2017.

The objectives of the plan were:

1. Strengthen competitiveness of the high-tech knowledge-based industry by establishing the Tech City Master Plan to promote balanced development of the Western Region
2. Secure a strong position for Korean companies’ entry into the Sri Lankan development projects by establishing the new town master plan based on Korea’s ODA funds
3. Strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries through collaboration.

I was praised for my services in developing cooperation between Sri Lanka and South Korea. Thereafter, not only my alma mater University of Seoul but many other institutes such as Yooshin Cooperation, Hyndai Policy Institute etc. also invited me as a guest speaker to share my views on Urban Development. During recent years, bilateral cooperation between the two countries has further strengthened. The Govt of Korea has offered many other opportunities to me as well as other government servants to take part in different programs such as :-

GIICC 2016 conference, 2019 Economic Diplomacy program for high level officials in Sri Lanka, Capacity Building of Housing and Settlements Development Program, World Friends Korea (WFK) advisors' program, 2018 SEOUL HRD CENTER (SHRDC) Urban Training Programs etc.



Q3. It seems like your internship has had a very positive impact on you. Every year, ISUS provides Internship Program to students. As a senior, is there anything you want to tell your juniors?

Amarasekara: An internship is an opportunity to test drive a career without making serious commitments. It provided me with experiences, lessons, and tools required to get a full-time job in the future. I not only earned my degree

but side by side, was also able to gain valuable experience and develop lifelong professional connections within my future career field.

Having this hands-on training and opportunity to network provided me with a competitive edge in the workplace. I had the chance to apply the knowledge and skills I learnt / developed in university in the real world. I would like to advise my juniors and other students attending ISUS to take your internship as an opportunity to apply your knowledge in the field, to foster friendships and expand your Professional network. These will later prove to be steppingstones towards making a bright future not only for yourself but for the entire world.



Q4. You did many international projects! How would you say that your experience in ISUS helped you to do your job?

Amarasekara: Yes, I remained involved in many international projects using what I learned from ISUS. The concepts of Planned urban development, housing, smart transportation, and Urban regeneration proved very important for me towards development of my carrier. The exposure given by the UOS helped me solve multifarious issues in the real world. Core courses helped me understand how infrastructures are highly related with social and economic

development of a country. Site visit gave me the confidence by witnessing how the plans look like once actually executed on ground. Internships gave me a new challenge towards working and implementing medium to large size projects. Through these International projects I have gained experience in developing behaviours, thinking pattern, analysing data, applying theories and concepts to the projects and so much more. Finally, and most importantly, ISUS helped me open a new chapter between RoK and Sri Lanka for urban development; a cooperation which I consider as my lifelong achievement.

Q5. Do you have any other words to share with ISUS Family?

Amarasekara: I would to express my sincere gratitude to KOICA for giving me a scholarship opportunity to study in Korea. My special thanks also go to academic and nonacademic staff in ISUS for taking my learning experience to another level and broadening my perspective. Finally, I value the guidance which was provided to me by my Professors, colleagues and all the institutions and their staff with whom I have had the honour of interacting / working with.

UOS Campus in February



Last days of Winter Break!



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