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# ISUS NEWSLETTER

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# 01 ISUS Community Recharges with a Vibrant Field Trip to Seoul Forest

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) enjoyed a refreshing and joyful day outdoors with a community-wide field trip to Seoul Forest. Students, faculty, and staff came together for a much-needed break from the semester's demanding pace, turning the park into a lively gathering filled with laughter, conversation, and shared experiences.

The outing began with a colorful potluck picnic, as everyone brought a dish from home, ranging from homemade snacks to traditional favorites, creating a warm, multicultural food spread that perfectly reflected the diversity within ISUS. With plenty of sunny weather and open space, participants relaxed on picnic mats, played casual games, and wandered through the forest's beautiful autumn scenery.

Beyond the fun, the trip provided a rare chance for the entire community to reconnect outside the classroom, strengthen friendships, and welcome new members into the school's vibrant network. By the end of the day, students and faculty returned home recharged, grateful for the pause, and excited for the rest of the semester. This year's Seoul Forest outing was truly one of ISUS's most memorable community moments yet. (J.T)





## 02 99th ISUS Urban Infra Forum ✨



The 99th ISUS Urban Infra Forum took place on October 29, 2025, featuring Dr. Jungwook Kim, Executive Director of the Center for International Development at the Korea Development Institute (KDI). Dr. Kim delivered a lecture titled *“Enhancing Knowledge Sharing through KSP and EIPP,”* focusing on how Korea’s development cooperation model leverages knowledge as a key asset in supporting partner countries.

During the forum, Dr. Kim explained how the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) and the Economic Innovation Partnership Program (EIPP) transform international experience and policy know-how into localized capacity, practical tools, and investable projects. By combining diagnostic studies, policy consultation, and project preparation, these platforms help partner governments design and implement reforms that are grounded in evidence and adapted to local contexts.

The lecture emphasized the importance of evidence-based policy reforms and collaborative learning, showing how structured knowledge sharing can reduce policy risks, accelerate learning-by-doing, and generate measurable public value. For ISUS students, the forum offered practical insights into Korea's evolving role in global development cooperation and the ways in which informed policy dialogue can support sustainable and inclusive growth. (K.S)

## 03 MGLEP Students at the 3rd Songsan Global Cooperation Forum



In November, MGLEP students took an active role in the 3rd Songsan Global Cooperation Forum, a major event held in Incheon as part of the 2025 Incheon International Environmental Technology Conference.

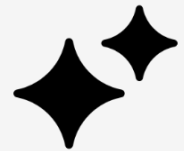
Hosted by K-water, the forum brought together experts and emerging scholars to explore how Korea's advanced technologies and policy models can address global challenges such as climate change, water resource management, and renewable energy innovation.

K-water's Vice President of Human Resources Development emphasized the vital role of international cooperation and technology-driven solutions in shaping a more sustainable future. Contributing to the academic program, MGLEP students presented research on net-zero resilient public buildings and smart water management systems, showcasing potential applications for developing countries.

The forum wrapped up with a high-level panel discussion featuring leading experts, including Professor Seo Seung-Beom, who shared insights on enhancing global collaboration in environmental and water-related technologies. (J.T)

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## 04 GULP Batch 3 Field Trip to Gangwon Province



From October 31 to November 2, students from the Global Urban Leadership Program (GULP) Batch 3 visited Gangwon Province to explore regional development and infrastructure. The trip highlighted how environmental resources, tourism, and local governance work together to support sustainable growth beyond major cities.

During the visit, students explored iconic local temples, visited innovative games zones, and spent time at the beach, gaining both cultural and practical perspectives on the region. The experience demonstrated how urban planning principles are applied in smaller communities and how local initiatives contribute to long-term development.

The trip, which also marked the final field experience for the cohort ahead of their program completion, gave students an opportunity to connect classroom knowledge with real-world examples while enjoying the unique attractions and natural beauty of Gangwon Province. (J.T)



## 05 ISUS Students Explore PPP Practices at Cheongnyang Middle School

On October 31, 2025, IUDP students, led by Professor Hyeon Park, visited Cheongnyang Middle School as part of their Public-Private Partnership (PPP) class. The visit aimed to bridge theory and practice by examining how educational facilities operate and how PPP models can support infrastructure management and service delivery.

During the visit, students observed the school environment and learned about the operational responsibilities involved in maintaining public facilities.



Under Professor Park's guidance, the session offered insights into how PPP frameworks can improve efficiency, enhance the learning environment, and contribute to more sustainable approaches to public service delivery in the education sector. (K.S)

## 06 MUD Students Explore Korean Culture with KOICA KOWORKS



On November 7, 2025, MUD Cohorts 8 and 9, accompanied by KOICA KOWORKS Coordinator Yujin Park, enjoyed a cultural field trip across Seoul. The day began with a hands-on Mother-of-Pearl craft workshop in Insadong, where students learned about traditional Korean craftsmanship and created their own pieces. The group then visited the historic Gwangjang Market, sampling local flavors and experiencing one of Seoul's liveliest cultural landmarks.

The trip continued with tours of the National Museum of Korea and the Seoul Sky Observatory, offering both historical insight and stunning panoramic views of the city. Alongside cultural learning, the experience strengthened friendships and encouraged cross-cultural exchange, reflecting ISUS's commitment not only to academic excellence but also to meaningful cultural immersion. (K.S)



# 07 MUAP Students Explore Data-Driven Urban Policy at Seoul Big Data Campus

On October 20, MUAP students enrolled in the “Research Methodology” (Prof. Jaeteuk CHIN) visited the Seoul Big Data Campus to deepen their understanding of data-based urban analysis and policy design. During the visit, students learned how Seoul collects, manages, and applies large-scale public and private data to support evidence-based decision making in city governance.

The program included an introduction to the Campus’ secure data analysis environment and platforms, followed by case presentations demonstrating how big data has been used to improve public services such as transportation and urban planning. The visit provided students with practical insight into connecting academic research methods with real-world policy applications, reinforcing the role of data analytics in sustainable urban management.(B.P)



# 08 GULP Completion Ceremony ✨

The Global Urban Leader Program (GULP) at ISUS successfully concluded on November 13, 2025, celebrating the achievements of participants from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The closing ceremony marked the end of an intensive capacity-building program designed to strengthen leadership in urban policy and development. Through lectures, case studies, and field visits, participants deepened their understanding of sustainable urban governance and practical policy tools. They reflected on the practical skills, collaborative learning, and global perspectives gained during their training, as well as the friendships built across countries and regions. The program once again highlighted ISUS's commitment to cultivating urban leaders capable of addressing diverse development challenges in their home countries. (K.S)



# 09 ISUS Hosts Cuba's Urban Transport Electrification Training and Signs MOU for Future Collaboration

The International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) at the University of Seoul successfully concluded the “Capacity Building for Electric Mobility on Urban Transportation in Cuba (2025)” program, held from October 27 to November 10 with KOICA support. Eight senior policymakers from Cuba's CITMA, MES, and MITRANS attended the two-week training focused on Korea's electric mobility policies, EV infrastructure, and intelligent transport systems.

At the closing ceremony on November 6, ISUS signed an MOU with the Faculty of Technical-Economic Sciences at the University of Sancti Spiritus. The agreement promotes collaboration in sustainable mobility, civic engagement, smart-city solutions, and digital prototyping through joint research and academic exchange.

Participants took part in lectures and field visits to the Seoul Climate & Environment Headquarters, Seoul TOPIS, the Korea Electrotechnology Research Institute, and the Korea Expressway Corporation's Road Traffic Research Institute. The program offered hands-on insight into EV promotion strategies, charging technologies, C-ITS, and autonomous cooperative driving, supporting Cuba's efforts toward cleaner and more sustainable urban transport. (G.J)



# 10 Korea–China Environmental Cooperation Seminar



In mid-November, ISUS and UNESCO i-WSSM co-hosted a seminar on Smart Water Environment Management for Climate Resilience at the University of Seoul's Natural Science Building. The event underscored growing Korea–China cooperation and global perspectives on sustainable water governance. Opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Shin Lee (Dean, ISUS), Dr. Sunhee Ryu (UNESCO i-WSSM), and Ms. Jieyun Wu (Korea-China Environmental Cooperation Center).



Presentations followed from Chinese researchers and Prof. Seung-ho Lee (Korea University) on Korea's water governance reforms. Mr. Akalanka Wickramaratna (MGLEP) also shared a Sri Lankan case on river water quality management. The seminar closed with a panel led by Prof. Seung-Beom Seo. (J.T)



# 11 ISUS Completes 3rd-Year KOICA Training for Cambodia

ISUS has successfully completed the third-year domestic training program under KOICA's global training initiative CIAT (Capacity Improvement & Advancement for Tomorrow), led by Prof. Hyeon Park and Prof. Junwon Seo. The program is part of the ongoing "Capacity Development for Sustainable City Planning and Development in Cambodia ('23-'25)" project. Held from October 12 to 25, 2025, the two-week training invited 15 government officials from the Sustainable Urban Technical Working Group under Cambodia's National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), including central ministries and major city governments.

This year's program focused on advanced theoretical knowledge in sustainable urban planning and development, combined with practical capacity building through domestic field visits and workshops. Participants engaged in specialized lectures on urban planning, environmental management, transportation, and land use, and strengthened hands-on competencies through visits to key Korean institutions and best-practice sites.(H.K.)



# 12 Alum of the Month: Jieyun WU (MGLEP 1)

This month, we feature **Jieyun WU**, Deputy Director of the China–Korea Environmental Cooperation Center at CRAES. Building on her MGLEP experience, she plays a key role in strengthening environmental cooperation between China and Korea. After joining the recent smart water environment management seminar at UOS, she shared her insights on collaboration and offered warm messages to the ISUS community.

## Could you briefly introduce your current role and main responsibilities at CRAES?

Since November 2022, I have been serving as the Deputy Director (China-side) of the China-Korea Environmental Cooperation Center (ECC), which is located in the campus of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) in Beijing, China.

The ECC was established on June 25, 2018, jointly by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Environment (KME, restructured in October, 2025 to be the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, MCEE) of the Republic of Korea. CRAES is the implementing agency of the ECC representing the MEE side.



My main responsibility is to promote and coordinate the China-Korea environmental cooperation with my colleagues, to materialize the environmental cooperation requirements set out in the Joint Declarations by the heads of the two countries as well as the cooperation arrangements signed between the MEE and the KME, including the MOU on Environmental Cooperation, the Letter of Intent on Deepening China-Korea Environmental Cooperation, and the Blue Sky Plan.

**How did your experience in the MGLEP program at ISUS influence your professional development or approach to cooperation projects today?**

It has been eight years since I graduated from the MGLEP program at ISUS, UOS. Looking back into my experience, the program was found to be profoundly formative, contributing a lot to both my technical competencies and philosophy toward international cooperation.

The MGLEP program's interdisciplinary curriculum provided a robust toolkit for tackling environmental challenges, blending core environmental policy courses with technical skills in data analysis and environmental engineering. The Seminar on Global Network, and Public Investment Management advanced us to strategically align projects with cross-cultural consensus-building, long-term public value and fiscal efficiency. This dual foundation, mastering evidence-based analysis while navigating diverse perspectives, now fundamentally informs my approach to developing viable and sustainable cooperation projects.

Through the MGLEP program, I not only built lasting friendships with professors and classmates from diverse backgrounds but also grew significantly by overcoming varied challenges. These interactions instilled in me a deep-seated belief in our shared future, where environmental challenges require collective, innovative solutions. True cooperation transcends technology transfer and agreement signing. It's about fostering genuine, trust-based, win-win collaborations.

**You have been active in Korea–China environmental cooperation, including participating in the recent seminar on smart water environment management at the University of Seoul. Could you share any key insights from this collaboration and your thoughts on future directions for cooperation?**

The “Personnel Exchange and Study Project on the Smart Water Environment Management under Climate Change”, which was jointly implemented by CRAES and UNESCO i-WSSM, marked the first environmental personnel exchange initiative advanced by the ECC. It was a true pleasure that we could have the seminar be jointly organized by the UOS, where we exchanged insights on climate-resilient smart water environmental management and sustainable development alongside experts from Korea and Sri Lanka as well as students from MGLEP10 & MGLEP11. This experience reaffirmed that personnel exchange lies at the heart of substantive cooperation, bridging knowledge, building trust, and fostering innovation. Building on this, it is planned to continue similar exchange programs and warmly welcome MGLEP members to join us in shaping future collaborative initiatives.

By deepening the environmental cooperation between China and Korea and collaborating with partners like UNESCO i-WSSM and UOS, we aim to pioneer a "China-Korea Plus" cooperation model. This framework will systematically showcase and transfer the exemplary environmental policies, technologies, and experiences of both countries to a broader international audience, contributing our shared wisdom and solutions to the global pursuit of sustainable development.





## Lastly, is there anything you would like to share with the ISUS community?

To the ISUS community, I will always cherish my time here—not only for the knowledge gained, but also for the enduring friendships. My greatest hope is to see the MGLEP alumni network grow into a vibrant, global community that shares opportunities and turns the "Global Network" ideal into tangible collaborative projects.

Returning to academia while working isn't easy, but these two years fly by. Please cherish every moment of your studies here. Enjoy the journey and value each day with your classmates. Revisit campus often, if possible, to see our inspiring professors. Keep collaborating, as it's the perfect way to reunite with old friends and make new ones while contributing to a sustainable future together.





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