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ISUS UOS NEWSLETTER

International School of Urban Sciences
University of Seoul

01 ISUS Students and Alumni Take Part in the 2023 Policy Sharing Conference



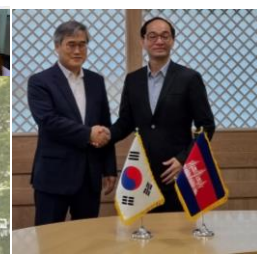
02 ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH Chinthaka Rathnasiri



04 SEOUL FRIENDS Online Presentation



06 2023 ISUS Commencement Ceremony



EMBARKING on the Thesis Journey 03

Capacity Building for MLMUPC from Cambodia 05



01 ISUS STUDENTS & ALUMNI Take Part in the 2023 Policy Sharing Conference

On August 21st, students and alumni representing various ISUS Master's Programs, along with professors and government officials, converged to actively engage in the 2023 ISUS Policy Sharing Conference. This event aimed to foster comprehensive discussions on global urban challenges, the tangible outcomes produced by ISUS training programs, and the establishment of stronger collaborative bonds with partner organizations.

The conference comprised three distinct presentation sessions, each led by former students hailing from diverse countries: Brazil, Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, Serbia, Vietnam, and the United Arab Emirates. These presentations were followed by panel discussions, featuring experts representing a range of governmental and academic institutions, both from within Korea and from the invited countries.

From Korean side, accomplished experts from institutions such as the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements, Korean Overseas Infrastructure & Urban Development Corporation, Seoul Metropolitan Government, Seoul Metro, Seoul Institute, CityNet, and the University of Seoul participated. Meanwhile, invited nations were represented by distinguished figures from entities like the Ministry of Planning and Finance of Myanmar, Teach for Poland, National Building Research Organizations of Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Land and Management, Urban Planning and Construction of Cambodia, and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh.





Throughout the conference a multitude of critical topics took the spotlight. These encompassed collaborative initiatives for fostering sustainable urban development, addressing challenges and opportunities in urban planning and development, and the invaluable insights gained from ISUS, contributing to the realization of sustainable urban progress.



Seth Sopunnaleap, a member of MUAP 14 from Cambodia, expressed, "Cambodia has much to learn in the realm of urban development, especially drawing lessons from countries like Korea that have successfully mainstreamed new laws and policies".





02 ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH

Chinthaka Rathnasiri | MURD 3

Q1. Can you introduce yourself, your organization and position?

I am Chinthaka Rathnasiri with a degree in Town and Country Planning from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (2009) and a MURD alumni from the University of Seoul (2018). I am currently working as the Acting Director for the Human Settlements Planning and Training Division at the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), a self-financed research institute in Sri Lanka focusing on disaster resilience. My division emphasizes settlement adaptation for sustainable development and climate resilience.

Q2. What projects have you engaged in after your master's studies in Korea?

After completing my MURD, I utilized my Korean network for local development projects. During my internship at Dohwa Engineering Co. Ltd., I contributed to crafting the 'Smart Resilient City Master Plan' alongside ISUS alumnus Mr. No Jun Park and Dohwa's team. Furthermore, I engaged in discussions with the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT regarding a technology innovation center for cost-effective resilient housing in Sri Lanka. Additionally, I assisted Prof. Yong Tae Kim's 2018 delegation visit, resulting in a consultancy role offer from the International Contractors Association and UOS's Global Urban and Infrastructure Research Center.



Q3. Could you describe your most recent participation in a project with Korean counterparts and future project expectations?

I collaborated with Chaturangani from MURD 1 on a consultancy for UOS's Center for Urban Research and Global Infrastructure, focusing on the EDCF Ex post-Evaluation for the Hatton Nuwara Eliya Road Improvement Project—this involved data collection from local agencies. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we effectively managed the project outcome through surveys covering road conditions, traffic, travel time, IRI, and opinions.

We embrace collaboration with the Korean government, academia, and private sector for a resilient built environment and sustainable settlements amid climate change. The ongoing projects involve a Sri Lankan national building code, an integrated digital platform for risk communication, advocating affordable disaster-resistant housing and settlements, and establishing a geo-informatics lab for technical assistance.

Q4. What do you miss most about your time as a student in Korea and any advice for fellow students?

I am grateful to KOICA for enabling my master's degree completion at UOS in this amazing country. I deeply miss diverse friendships and enriching cultural experiences. I value UOS professors' energetic teaching, kindness, and dedication to ISUS alumni. I encourage current students to seize this opportunity, gain knowledge, build networks, and stay connected with ISUS.





03 Embarking on the Thesis Journey: Students Present Research Proposals at Thesis Seminars

From July 18 to 25, ISUS organized thesis seminars where students presented their research proposals. These seminars represent the final stage of the compulsory "Thesis Seminar" module students took during the spring semester. The module helped students understand how to design research. It taught them to identify the different approaches to social research, to choose the most appropriate method for their research question, and to plan and conduct a research study. The module also encouraged students to think critically about their data and findings.



"In the thesis course, I learned a lot about how to write a thesis, research methodology, research objectives, and for mulating hypotheses. I also learned about research ethics and respecting intellectual property. What's more, the process of in-class presentations allowed me to develop my presentation skills and gain more knowledge about my thesis topic. I'm indeed very happy to have taken Professor Joon Park's course" **U.B. | MIPD 5**

The research proposal presentation seminar marks the close of the academic course semesters and the start of the thesis process. The students who presented their research proposals came from the MIPD 5, MURD 6, MUAP 15, and MGLEP 8 programs. Each presenter had 10 minutes for their presentation, followed by a 5-minute Q&A session where they received pertinent comments and suggestions from eminent professors, members of the evaluation committees, including ISUS Master programs directors, and student supervisors.

The students appreciated the opportunity to introduce their research proposals despite the stress and acknowledged that it has enabled them to develop their presentation skills, gain a better understanding of their thesis topic and receive valuable feedback from their professors.



"Presenting the thesis proposal was one of the most important moments of my studies at the University of Seoul. Honestly, standing in front of my professors and mentor, I felt a mixture of excitement and nervousness. Because I knew it was a chance to demonstrate my knowledge of my thesis topic, as well as my ability to think critically and synthesize complex ideas. It was a platform to demonstrate my intellectual abilities and knowledge. I firmly believe that the field I'm studying will leave an indelible mark on my academic and personal development" **S.D. | MGLEP 8**

Thesis seminars exemplify ISUS's commitment to providing students with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in their studies and careers. ISUS is proud of its students and their achievements.



04 Seoul Friends Online Presentation: Bridging Experiences for New Students

To welcome the incoming MUAP, MUD, and MIPD students of the 2023 fall semester, Seoul Friends hosted a valuable online presentation. The event aimed to assist students in adapting to life in Korea and university culture, drawing on the direct experiences of Seoul Friends.

The online presentation encompassed brief introductions to the MUAP, MUD, and MIPD programs, followed by five presentations from local students. The topics covered were: 1) Introduction to Campus Facilities & Using Public Transportation in Seoul, 2) Nearby Shopping, Hospitals, and Restaurants around UOS campus, 3) Course Enrollment, Navigating the UOS Portal, and Online Transcript Printing, 4) UOS Libraries and Korea's Healthcare System, and 5) Exploring Korean History and Culture. These sessions aimed to equip newcomers with practical insights for a smooth transition.

Seoul Friends, comprising 22 UOS students, were selected to support 55 new students in adapting to their new environment. This initiative seeks to foster international exchange and collaboration between Korean and ISUS students from abroad, enhancing global awareness within the university community.





05 Capacity Building for MLMUPC from Cambodia at ISUS

ISUS is collaborating with the Royal University of Phnom Penh in the International Cooperation Leading University Project, led by Prof. Hyeon PARK. The project aims to cultivate urban planning experts and enhance sustainable development through training officials of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction (MLMUPC). From August 17th to 22nd, H.E. Dr. Pen Sophal and six MLMUPC representatives visited South Korea for lectures, the ISUS conference, and site visits, boosting urban planning capabilities. This initiative educates Cambodian officials and underscores the need for specialized urban planning education.

MLMUPC is deeply interested in 'Smart City' concepts, actively participating in lectures and site visits. Professors Myounggu Kang, Joongseok Ryu, and Dr. Daeyeon Cho lectured on smart city and urban planning systems in Korea. Post-lecture, delegates engaged in discussions and questions. During Smart City exploration, they visited two places. Firstly, IFEZ (Incheon Free Economic Zone), where MLMUPC and IFEZ Commissioner committed to establishing policies through future collaboration with UOS. Secondly, Seoul TOPIS (Transport Operation & Information Service) provided insights into the city's transportation solutions. At Changdeokgung's preservation site, they immersed in traditional architecture; the secret garden showcased harmony between nature and human creation. Walking Cheonggyecheon Stream, they focused on urban regeneration. At the Museum, they traced the stream's past and future. This interest aligns with Cambodia's goals.



H.E. Dr. SARETH Boramy, Deputy General Director:

Through training, we learned that smart infrastructure is crucial for guiding and facilitating people's movements. Enhanced safety reduces the likelihood of causing harm to others. Within this environment, individuals of all ages can innovate to sustain Korea's remarkable society. Considering the above, I strongly believe Seoul is the city full of soul, a paradigm for nations to emulate. As an Asian, having Korea as a role model fills me with pride.

Mr. SEM Thol, Deputy Director:

The training session is excellently organized, covering content comprehensively. We've absorbed and exchanged insights on urbanization, transportation, and smart city development. These lessons will be crucial for effective land management, urbanization, and drafting related laws, including sustainable and inclusive smart city development. Additionally, we explored Korean culture and cuisine, enhancing our experience.

Ms. PHAL Dana, Deputy Chief:

I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Shin Lee, Dean of ISUS, and Prof. Park Hyeon, for arranging an exceptional Smart City capacity building program for MLMUPC's delegation led by H.E. Dr. PEN Sophal. I also extend sincere thanks to ISUS members for inviting Cambodian alumni to join the ISUS policy sharing conference, which provided invaluable insights for our country's development. Lastly, on behalf of Cambodia alumni and MLMUPC's delegation, I want to convey our appreciation to UOS for the outstanding organization. We eagerly anticipate further collaboration on future projects and activities.





06 2023 ISUS Commencement Ceremony

On August 22nd, 2023, the 2023 ISUS Commencement Ceremony took place at the International Conference Hall of University of Seoul Natural Science Building. 9 students from the Global Construction and Sustainable Urban Development and 21 students from the Master of Urban Administration and Planning program celebrated their graduation amidst the joy and congratulations of their families and friends.

Dean of ISUS, Professor Shin Lee delivered a speech, saying, "[i]t is the right time to begin a new journey of lifelong learning for the rest of your career path." She urged the graduates to continue learning and remain sensitive to changes in our rapidly evolving world. She also assured that ISUS would always be there to support them.

Following this, Mr. Minho Song and Mr. Pabin Dhital recited farewell messages on behalf of the graduates. Subsequently, degrees were conferred to all attendees, and special awards were presented to the graduates who achieved outstanding performance.

Lastly, the ceremony concluded with the screening of a video featuring interviews with MUAP students and a group photo session, marking the end of the graduation event.







As 10th anniversary of ISUS, **Global Friends Night (GFN)** took place on August 21st, attracting embassies of various countries, guests from institutions and government departments, as well as alumni and current students. Their presence illuminated the splendid GFN event. Stay tuned for more details in the upcoming September issue.



On July 27th, Peruvian students Andrés Cavero Prado and David Nizama Yamunaque from MIPD joined in celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Peru and the Republic of Korea, as well as the 202nd Anniversary of Peruvian Independence. The event showcased a captivating fusion of cultural presentations from both nations.



MUAP students share foods and memories at final dinner. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, MUAP students gathered with their director, Professor Jae Teuk CHIN, for a final dinner. Each student cooked a specialty dish from their home country to share



In a heartfelt gathering, it was time to bid farewell to the MUAP15 program participants. Initiated by Andrés Cavero from Peru and Claudia Abello from Colombia, students from different programs joined together to express their gratitude for the strong bonds they've built with the MUAP15 group throughout the year.

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UOS CAMPUS

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