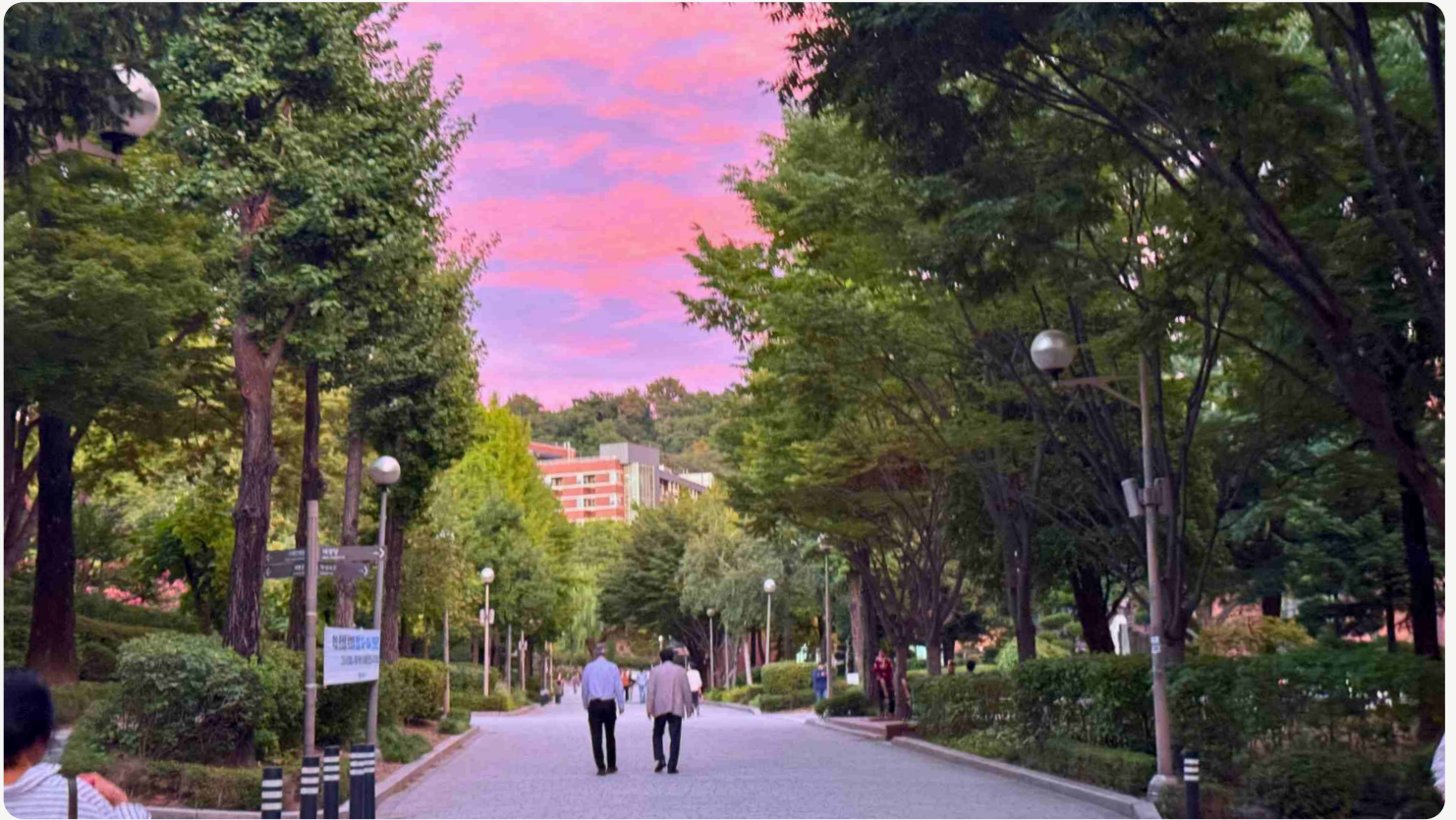


ISUS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF URBAN SCIENCES – UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL



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2026 ISUS Commencement Ceremony: Celebrating New Achievements and Beginnings



On August 21, 2026, the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) celebrated its 2026 Commencement Ceremony, marking an important milestone for 26 graduating students. The graduates, including students from MUAP 17, Global Construction, and Sustainable Urban Development, gathered with faculty members and members of the ISUS community to celebrate the completion of their studies at the University of Seoul. The ceremony was a moment to reflect on their academic journey, the experiences they shared in Korea, and the friendships and international connections they built along the way.

The ceremony also recognized students for their academic achievements. The Academic Excellence Award was presented to Kang Yechan, Lee Jeongmin, Khulanzaya Bud, and Cesar Hanndrey Chaves Campos, while the Distinguished Thesis Award recognized Kim Hosan and Khulanzaya Bud. Certificates of Merit were also presented by the Mayor of Seoul to Khulanzaya Bud and by the President of the University of Seoul to

Cesar Hanndrey Chaves Campos. These awards highlighted the academic achievements and contributions of the graduating students during their time at ISUS.



The ceremony also featured farewell speeches from Lee Jeongmin of Global Construction and Dolly Anne Zoluaga of MUAP 17, representing the graduating students. As they prepared to leave the university and begin their next chapter, the ceremony became not only a celebration of graduation but also a farewell to classmates, professors, and the ISUS community. For the graduates, their time at ISUS brought together academic knowledge, international experiences, and lasting connections that they can carry forward into their professional and personal journeys. (R.R)





When the World Meets at ISUS: A Night of Global Friends

What do 80 countries, 195 cities, 1,380 students, and one evening have in common? For a few hours on 21 August 2026, they came together under one roof at the University of Seoul. It was not a conference. It was not a classroom. And it was certainly not just another dinner. It was Global Friends Night, a night when the ISUS community paused from its busy academic and professional lives to meet, reconnect, celebrate, and simply enjoy being part of something global. Held at the International Conference Room of Centennial Memorial Hall, the 2026 Global Friends Night brought together around 300 participants, including Korean and international alumni, current students, diplomats, and representatives from ISUS partner organisations.

Ten Years. One Growing Global Family.

There was another reason this year's gathering felt special. Global Friends Night reached its 10th edition. Since its launch in 2015, the event has grown alongside ISUS's international community. Today, the school's network reaches more than 195 cities and 80 countries, with over 1,380 students. Numbers can tell us how big the network has become. But they cannot tell us what it feels like when people from different countries finally meet face to face. That is where Global Friends Night comes in.

From “Where Are You From?” to “What Can We Do Together?”

The evening began with formal moments including registration, opening remarks, guest introductions, congratulatory remarks, the Dean's address and awards before moving into something more personal: sharing, performing, eating, talking and networking. The event brought together people connected to urban development, construction, infrastructure, environment and international cooperation. Representatives from organisations including the Seoul Metropolitan Government, KOICA, Korea Environmental Conservation Institute, International Contractors Association of Korea, Seoul Human Resource Development Center, CityNet, Seoul Water Recycling Corporation, and Korea Expressway Corporation joined the celebration. And this is where the evening became more than a celebration. Conversations moved naturally from introductions to urban policies, professional experiences and international cooperation. Participants exchanged ideas about their countries and explored opportunities for future collaboration. In other words, Global Friends Night created a space where a simple conversation could become the beginning of a professional connection.



When Countries Take the Stage

Then came one of the most colourful parts of the evening. Public officials participating in ISUS international training programmes introduced their countries and shared their cultures through performances. For a moment, the room became a small world of its own different languages, traditions, stories and experiences sharing the same stage. This cultural exchange added something that a classroom cannot always provide. You do not simply learn about another country. You meet someone from there. You hear their story. You laugh together. And suddenly, a country that once seemed far away has a familiar face.

A Global Network That Keeps Growing

The evening also recognised the organisations that have supported ISUS's international education and training programmes over the years. CityNet, Seoul Human Resources Development Center, Seoul Water Recycling Corporation, and Korea Expressway Corporation received plaques of appreciation for their longstanding cooperation. This reflects another important part of the ISUS story. A global network does not grow through one institution alone. It grows through partnerships, people, trust and continued exchange. As Dean Lee Shin said during the event, Global Friends Night brings together alumni, current students, members of the diplomatic corps and partner organisations to share the achievements of ISUS's international education programmes and strengthen the foundation for future cooperation.



And Yes, Global Friends Night Made the News

The event also attracted attention beyond the ISUS community. The Korea Times covered the 2026 Global Friends Night, reporting on the event's 10th edition and its gathering of around 300 alumni, students, diplomats and representatives from partner organisations. The media report captured the scale of the event. But there is another story behind those numbers. For ISUS, Global Friends Night is also about the person you met during dinner, the alumnus you unexpectedly reunited with, the country you learned something new about, the performance that made everyone smile, and the conversation that might continue long after the evening ended.

That is the part that statistics cannot measure.

More Than One Night

When the lights go off and everyone goes home, Global Friends Night does not really end. An alumnus returns to another city. A public official goes back to work. A student continues the semester. A partner organisation starts another project. But the connections remain. And perhaps that is the real meaning of Global Friends Night. It is not simply about bringing the world to ISUS for one evening. It is about building a community that can continue connecting the world long after that evening is over. Ten editions have passed. More than 195 cities are connected. 80 countries are part of the story. And the next chapter is already waiting to be written. Because at ISUS, sometimes the most meaningful global connection begins with something very simple: "Hello. Where are you from?" Or perhaps, a familiar flashback for many of us: "안녕하세요 (Annyeonghaseyo)." A smile, a slight bow, and then: "어디에서 오셨어요? (Eodieseo osyeosseoyo?)" *Where are you from?* A simple question that brought strangers together and, after all the memories, goodbyes and journeys home, brought some of us together again. (N.J.Nash)



2026 ISUS Policy Sharing Conference:

From Seoul to the World, ISUS Alumni Shaping Change



How can knowledge gained in Korea be applied to real urban challenges around the world? On August 20, 2026, the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS), University of Seoul, hosted the 2026 ISUS Policy Sharing Conference under the theme “From ISUS Learning to Local Innovation.” Held at the International Conference Room of the Natural Science Building, the conference brought together ISUS alumni from eight countries, students, faculty, and representatives from partner institutions to share how knowledge and experiences gained at ISUS have been applied in their home countries. The event focused on two themes: mobility and urban planning, and climate action and sustainable urban development.

The first session, “Building Partnerships for Mobility & Urban Planning,” featured four alumni presentations. Karen Elizabeth Landazuri Proano (Ecuador, MUAP 14) presented “Building Bridges Beyond Borders: My Journey from ISUS Student to Korea-Ecuador Infrastructure Cooperation,” highlighting her experience connecting Korea and Ecuador through

through infrastructure cooperation. Khurram Shahzad (Pakistan, MUD 8) presented “From Seoul to Punjab: Applying Urban Policy Learning to Sustainable Mobility and Urban Governance,” focusing on applying urban policy knowledge to sustainable mobility and governance in Punjab. Ikechukwu Victor Udeh (Nigeria, MUAP 16) shared “From Seoul TOPIS to Abuja: Transforming Urban Mobility Through Knowledge Exchange and Smart Traffic Innovation,” exploring how Seoul’s smart transportation experience can provide insights for urban mobility in Abuja. Dana Phal (Cambodia, MURD 1) presented “Policy Framework and Progressing on Urban Planning in Cambodia,” discussing urban planning policy development in Cambodia. The session was moderated by Dr. Jun Il Kim, Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Yonsei University, with Dr. Song Chang Hong, Director of the Center for International Development Cooperation at the Korea Development Institute (KDI), and Deputy Director Hyunjoo Shin of the International Cooperation Division, Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG), serving as discussants.



The second session, “Building Partnerships for Climate Action & Sustainable Urban Development,” brought together four alumni working on environmental and sustainable development challenges. Dalia Ghareeb Elsaied Mansour (Egypt, MGLEP 10) presented “From Knowledge to Impact: Transforming ISUS Learning into Climate Action and Egypt-Korea Cooperation.” Mercyleen Nakha Ndatho (Kenya, GULP 2) shared “Translating Korean Knowledge into Practice: Smart Solid Waste Management in Konza Technopolis, Kenya,” focusing on the application of Korean experience to waste management. Kamonchanok Wangwittaya (Thailand, MIPD 4) presented

presented “From ISUS Classroom to Corporate Climate Action: Driving Thailand’s Energy Transition through Sustainability Strategies,” exploring sustainability strategies and Thailand’s energy transition. Finally, Don Gihan Ramesh Karunanayake (Sri Lanka, MUAP 14) presented “Applying ISUS Knowledge to Healthcare Master Planning and Korea-Sri Lanka Development Cooperation,” connecting his ISUS learning with healthcare master planning and Korea-Sri Lanka cooperation. The session was moderated by Dr. Hyeon Park, Professor of the International School of Urban Sciences, with Dr. Chang Goo Jung, Managing Director of the Policy Division at the International Contractors Association of Korea (ICAK), and Dr. Kyungjin Shin, General Manager of K-water HRDI, serving as discussants.



Beyond the individual presentations, the conference provided an opportunity for alumni to exchange experiences and discuss how policies, technologies, and approaches learned in Korea can be adapted to different local contexts. The discussions following each session allowed presenters and experts to explore the challenges and opportunities involved in translating knowledge into practice. With examples ranging from smart transportation and urban planning to climate action, energy transition, waste management, and healthcare infrastructure, the conference demonstrated the diverse ways ISUS alumni are applying their education after returning to their home countries. The event also strengthened connections between alumni, the University of Seoul, and international partner institutions, supporting continued knowledge exchange and international cooperation. (R.R)

From Government Offices to Lecture Halls: A New Chapter at ISUS



Have you ever imagined your life changing within a day from a packed schedule of official meetings and professional responsibilities to a new chapter filled with classrooms, campus life, field visits, and first-hand exposure to Korea's rapid development?

For many international public officials arriving at the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS), this is more than a change of place. It is a change of perspective.

This semester, **GULP 5**, **MUDSIP 9**, and **MUAP 19** bring together public officials from different countries and professional backgrounds, all arriving in Korea with a shared purpose: to learn, experience, exchange ideas, and bring new knowledge back to their own countries.

Three Programmes, One Learning Journey

The three programmes represent different pathways within ISUS, but they share an important foundation connecting academic knowledge with Korea's development experience.

GULP 5: Learning from Seoul's Urban Experience

The Global Urban Leaders Program (GULP) welcomed eight students for its fifth cohort. The students arrived in Korea on September 15–16, followed by an Opening Ceremony on September 17.

GULP is a training programme hosted by ISUS and the Seoul Metropolitan Government, designed for senior and decision-making public officials from developing countries. The programme focuses on sharing Seoul's urban development experiences and best practices while encouraging international cooperation.

Its learning approach goes beyond classroom lectures. The programme includes policy case studies, field trips, special lectures, smart city topics, urban management, infrastructure development, and project development practicum. Students also work on Project Concept Papers aimed at connecting Seoul's experience with urban challenges in their own countries.

For the students of GULP 5, their journey in Korea therefore begins not simply as students, but as experienced public officials looking at Seoul through the lens of their own cities.



MUDSIP 9: Connecting Korea's Development with Smart Infrastructure

Meanwhile, 20 students from MUDSIP 9 arrived around 10 August 2026, representing 13 countries. The cohort includes students from Indonesia, Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, Myanmar, Rwanda, and Cambodia.

The Master of Urban Development and Smart Infrastructure Policy (MUDSIP) provides public officials from Korea's partner countries with opportunities to gain first-hand knowledge of Korea's development experience, particularly in smart infrastructure and territorial development. The programme combines theoretical learning with practical experiences and field visits.

The programme covers areas such as smart infrastructure planning, urban planning and development, construction project management, water resource management, Korean urban development, smart cities, transportation and infrastructure, regional development, climate change, and sustainable urban development. It also includes an internship component.

For participants who work in infrastructure and public-sector development, studying these subjects in Korea offers something a textbook cannot provide: the opportunity to see how policies, infrastructure and technology are translated into actual places and systems.



MUAP 19: Seeing Urban Administration Beyond the Classroom

At the same time, 20 students from 19 countries joined MUAP 19, with their arrival taking place on 10 August 2026. Their first weeks already included a series of activities designed to introduce them to ISUS, Korean society and the wider urban environment.

The activities included a campus tour with MUAP 18, a meeting involving MUAP 17, 18 and 19, a special lecture with Dr. Gumin Jung, and a Seoul Friends field trip to Cheonggyecheon Stream and the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History.

The Master of Urban Administration and Planning (MUAP) is designed to train mid-career public officials in urban planning and administration by introducing Seoul's development experiences through theoretical education and site visits. The programme also provides opportunities for students to experience Korean culture and language and to build collaborative relationships between Seoul and its sister cities.

And perhaps one of the most meaningful ways to understand Seoul's transformation is simply to walk through it.

A visit to Cheonggyecheon Stream, for example, turns an urban development concept into something students can physically experience in a space where urban planning, environmental restoration, public space and everyday life meet.



More Than Studying in Korea

For these three programmes, being at ISUS is not only about attending classes. It is about seeing the connection between policy and practice.

A lecture on smart cities becomes more meaningful when students see smart infrastructure in operation. A discussion on urban planning becomes more tangible when they visit an actual development site. A conversation about environmental sustainability becomes different when they experience Seoul's public spaces, transportation systems, water management and urban regeneration first-hand.

This combination of classroom learning, field experience, cultural exposure and international exchange is at the heart of ISUS's approach to international urban education. ISUS describes its broader mission as nurturing urban and construction professionals through a combination of knowledge, skills, professionalism, theory and practice.

New Faces, New Perspectives

What makes the beginning of a new semester particularly interesting is not only the programmes themselves, but also the people behind them. GULP 5 brings a group of senior public officials with professional experience from different countries. MUDSIP 9 brings together 20 public officials from 13 countries, while MUAP 19 connects 20 students representing 19 countries. Different countries. Different professions. Different development challenges. But now, they share one learning environment in Seoul. As they begin their programmes, the campus becomes more than a place for lectures. It becomes a meeting point where experiences from Africa, Asia and other parts of the world meet Korean development experience creating opportunities for conversations that may continue long after the semester ends.

From Seoul to Home

Eventually, these students will return to their countries carrying more than certificates or lecture notes. They will carry observations from the streets of Seoul, lessons from Korean institutions, conversations with experts and friends from different countries, and perhaps new ideas about how some of Korea's experiences could be adapted to their own cities. Because sometimes, the most important part of studying abroad is not simply learning what Korea has achieved. It is asking: "What can I take from this experience, and how can I transform it for my own city and my own people?" For GULP 5, MUDSIP 9 and MUAP 19, that journey has only just begun. (N.J.Nash)

Summer Internship: Bringing Classroom Knowledge to Life



What happens when knowledge moves beyond the classroom?

For 19 ISUS students, the answer was clear: learning becomes more meaningful when it is tested, experienced, and applied in the real world. This summer, ISUS students took part in internship programmes with leading organisations in Korea, gaining opportunities to connect their academic learning with practical challenges in water management, environmental policy, hydrological monitoring, urban development, and climate resilience. The internships were conducted throughout August 2026.

From Classroom Concepts to Real-World Practice

A total of 19 ISUS students participated in the summer internship opportunities. Eight students joined the K-water Songsan Global Internship Program at the Songsan Global Education Center, while 11 students participated in internships with organisations including the Korea Institute of Hydrological Survey (KIHS), Seoul Water Recycling Corporation, WEKOTEC/Korea Environmental Conservation Institute, Saman Corp., UNESCO-iWSSM, Korea Water Partnership, and Korea National Park Service.

The experience went far beyond lectures. Participants were introduced to Korea's practical approaches to water and environmental management through field visits, laboratory training, technical discussions, facility tours, data analysis, and project-based teamwork.

At K-water, interns explored topics such as urban water cycles, Low Impact Development (LID), AI-based water treatment, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Digital Twin technology, and urban development at Songsan Green City. They also worked in international teams to develop a solution to a real water-management challenge in Bab El Oued, Algiers, Algeria, and presented their proposed solution at the end of the programme.

Meanwhile, the KIHS internship provided hands-on exposure to Korea's hydrological survey system. Activities included sediment laboratory practice, hydrological field surveys using Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP), RCS drone operations, streamflow analysis using CalPad, soil moisture and evapotranspiration sessions, and training on hydrological information management systems. Participants also visited the KIHS facilities and engaged in technical discussions with experts.

These activities offered an important reminder: some lessons cannot be fully understood through textbooks or presentations alone. Seeing equipment in operation, discussing challenges with experts, and working on real cases can turn academic concepts into practical knowledge.



Three Interns, Three Perspectives

Mohammed Hilal Mohammed Al Qarni: Connecting Policy Knowledge with Practice

For Mohammed, the K-water internship created a direct connection between his Environmental Policy master's studies and practical water-management solutions. Visiting K-water facilities and learning from experts helped him understand how LID, AI, and Digital Twin technologies can contribute to climate-resilient and sustainable urban development. One of the highlights was working with an international team to apply these concepts to a real case in Algeria. The experience strengthened his interest in integrated water and environmental management and showed him how technologies developed in Korea can be adapted to different environmental and urban contexts.



Reshani Anupama Samarasinghe: Learning Through Hands-On Experience

For Anupama, the KIHS internship provided an opportunity to gain practical knowledge in modern hydrological monitoring and water resources management. Through lectures, field activities, laboratory practice, and technical exchange preparation, she experienced different aspects of hydrological surveying. Her experience included sediment laboratory practice, learning the theoretical foundations of hydrological surveys, ADCP field practice, and RCS drone operations for river spatial surveys. Looking ahead, she hopes to contribute to the modernisation of hydrological monitoring and water resources management in Sri Lanka, including the expansion of real-time telemetry and data transmission systems.

Risma Nurfitri: Turning Data into Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

For Risma Nurfitri, the internship highlighted the importance of accurate hydrological data, quality control, and modern monitoring technologies in flood prevention and water management. Her experience covered hydrometric systems, discharge data quality control, evapotranspiration, soil moisture monitoring, flood damage surveys, and hydrological data analysis. As a professional at Indonesia's Ministry of Public Works, she sees these lessons as particularly relevant to the development of climate-resilient roads and bridges. She hopes to apply the knowledge gained to improve the use of hydrological data in infrastructure planning and contribute to stronger Indonesia-Korea technical cooperation.

**More Than an Internship**

The summer internship was not simply about spending several days at an organisation. It was an opportunity for ISUS students to observe how knowledge is applied in professional environments, learn directly from experts, exchange ideas with international colleagues, and consider how Korean experiences and technologies could be adapted to their own countries. From water treatment and Digital Twin technology to drones, hydrological data, laboratory testing, and climate-resilient infrastructure, the experiences demonstrated the wide range of ways in which classroom knowledge can contribute to real-world solutions. Most importantly, the internships encouraged students to look beyond what they have learned and ask a more practical question: "How can I use what I have learned to make a difference in my own professional and national context?" That is perhaps where classroom learning truly comes to life. (N.J.Nash)



MUAP 18 Farewell: One Year, Many Memories

After spending a year together in classrooms, field trips, group projects, and everyday life at the University of Seoul, saying goodbye is never easy. On August 19, 2026, MUAP 18 students gathered in the Dormitory Kitchen for a farewell gathering to celebrate the end of their time at ISUS. The gathering offered a warm and relaxed opportunity for the students to spend time together one more time, share memories, and celebrate the journey they had experienced as a class.

Throughout their time at ISUS, MUAP 18 experienced much more than academic learning. Their days were filled with classes and presentations, while field trips and institutional visits gave them opportunities to see Korea's urban development practices beyond the classroom. Working together on projects also brought students from different countries closer, as they exchanged ideas and perspectives while learning from one another. These experiences, together with conversations over meals, time spent around campus, and interactions with professors and classmates, became an important part of their life at UOS. As previous ISUS activities have emphasized, the combination of classroom learning and field-based experiences allows students to connect academic concepts with real-world urban challenges.

As MUAP 18 students prepare to return home and begin their next chapters, each graduate will take a different path in their professional and personal life. Their experiences at ISUS will remain part of that journey, whether through the knowledge gained in urban administration and planning, the perspectives developed through international exchange, or the friendships built during their time in Korea. The farewell gathering was therefore not simply a goodbye, but also a celebration of the memories they created together. Although their time at ISUS has come to an end, the connections made among MUAP 18 will continue beyond Seoul. Until they meet again.
(R.R)



Introducing the 2026 ISUS Book Club



Do you know that ISUS has its very first Book Club? What if one book could change the way you see a city? This summer, ISUS students had the chance to find out.

The 2026 ISUS Summer Urban Book Club was introduced as a new student-led initiative, bringing Korean and international students together to read, exchange ideas, discuss urban issues, and build connections beyond the classroom. The idea began with a simple thought: ISUS is not only a place for academic learning, but also a community where people can learn from one another.

One Book. Many Perspectives.

For its first meeting, the Book Club chose Jane Jacobs' *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, a classic work in urban planning that has influenced generations of urban thinkers. The book had also been highlighted by Dr. Shin Lee, Dean of ISUS during the previous semester's Global Urban Planning course. The first meeting was held on 15 August 2026, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM, at the Law School Building. It brought together ISUS students from different cohorts and academic backgrounds, creating a small but meaningful space for discussion. And there was one important rule: No presentations. No pressure. No "right" answers. Instead, participants were invited to share their favourite passages, personal reflections, and different ways of understanding the book.

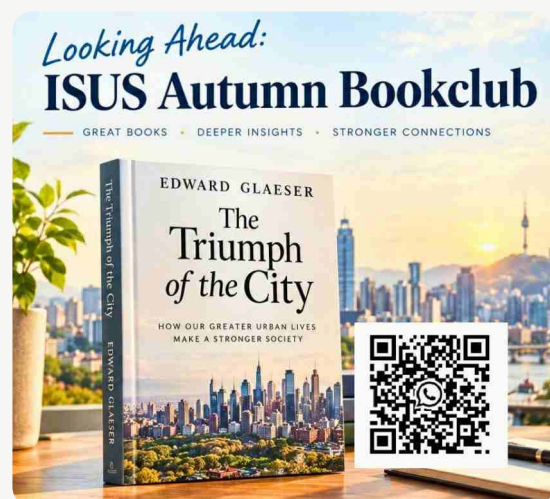
From Pages to Real Cities

The discussion did not stop with the book. Participants selected key topics from Jacobs' work for further discussion and explored how the ideas presented in the book could relate to contemporary society and today's urban environments. Different perspectives naturally emerged showing how one book can lead to many questions, interpretations, and conversations. The meeting was also conducted in a hybrid format, allowing both online and in-person participation. This made it possible for students to take part beyond the physical meeting room and connect through shared academic interests. And after all that thinking, there was time for something simpler: pizza and conversation. Participants continued networking and getting to know one another after the discussion, a reminder that academic communities are also built through informal conversations and friendships.

Small Beginning, Bigger Dream

The Summer Book Club started as a pilot programme with a small invitation-based group, mainly involving MUAP students who were preparing to return to their home countries. However, the idea was never meant to remain small. The longer-term vision is to develop the Book Club into a signature ISUS tradition connecting Korean and international students, alumni, and future urban leaders through books, conversations, and shared ideas. After all, great cities are built by people who exchange ideas. And perhaps great friendships, professional networks, and future collaborations can begin in exactly the same way with one book and one conversation.

The first chapter has been written, but the conversation continues beyond the Summer Book Club. Following discussions on urban development, community, and residents' experiences, the ISUS Autumn Book Club will explore *The Triumph of the City* by Edward Glaeser, a key textbook used by Professor Hyeon Park, former Dean of ISUS. The book offers new perspectives on how cities evolve, and shape communities. Scan the QR code to discover more about the ISUS Autumn Book Club. (N.J.Nash)





Alum of The Month: Dongjun LEE (GC 10)

“Learning from the Field, Seeing the Field Anew”

Dongjun LEE (GC 10), Head of the Resource Circulation Team at Hyundai E&C, shares his journey from environmental infrastructure to resource circulation and reflects on how his experience at ISUS broadened his perspective on construction and urban development.

Could you briefly introduce yourself and tell us about your professional background and the work you are currently involved in?

Hello, I’m Dong-jun LEE, and I am currently the Head of the Resource Circulation Team at Hyundai E&C.

I began my career in the environmental sector of the construction industry in 2004, and since then, I have worked mainly on environmental infrastructure projects. My primary areas of work have been wastewater and water treatment. I have experienced projects from beginning to end, including process design, detailed engineering, construction, commissioning, and operational support. I have also been involved in process improvements and technology development to address challenges encountered in the field..

Looking back on your time at ISUS, is there anything you learned or experienced that has been particularly helpful in your professional career?

The biggest takeaway for me was being able to step back from my day-to-day work and look at the construction industry from a broader perspective. Before coming to ISUS, most of my practical experience had been gained on projects in Korea. When working on a project, it is natural to focus on the technical requirements, schedule, cost, and quality right in front of you.

At ISUS, however, I was able to explore a wide range of topics, including the international construction market, project development, international business, finance, and policy. I learned that many different factors beyond technology are involved in developing and operating a project. What was particularly meaningful to me was meeting people from different countries and backgrounds, each with their own experiences and challenges.

Even when looking at the same topics of “cities” and “construction,” I found that people approach problems differently depending on their countries, cultures, and industrial environments. Through conversations with classmates from different backgrounds, I came to realize that what I had taken for granted might not necessarily be the right answer in another context.



Having worked in the field of construction and urban development, what changes or challenges do you think are most important for the industry today?

I believe the construction industry is going through a fundamental transition. In the past, the focus was primarily on building infrastructure efficiently within a given budget and schedule. Today, however, the industry is moving toward considering the entire lifecycle of infrastructure, not only planning and construction, but also operation, maintenance, resource recovery, energy production, and environmental impact.

One trend I am particularly interested in is the growing demand for sustainability and resource circulation. For example, biogas produced from organic waste can be used as an energy source, with further opportunities to connect it with hydrogen production technologies. Water reuse and resource recovery through wastewater treatment will also become increasingly important from the perspectives of climate change and resource security.

Another major trend is digital transformation. Technologies such as AI, automation, digital twins, and data-driven operations are rapidly changing how infrastructure is designed and operated. In the future, construction companies will increasingly be expected to go beyond simply building facilities and take an integrated approach to the entire lifecycle, including operation and maintenance.



Finally, what are your plans or goals for the future, and is there any message you would like to share with current ISUS students and fellow alumni?

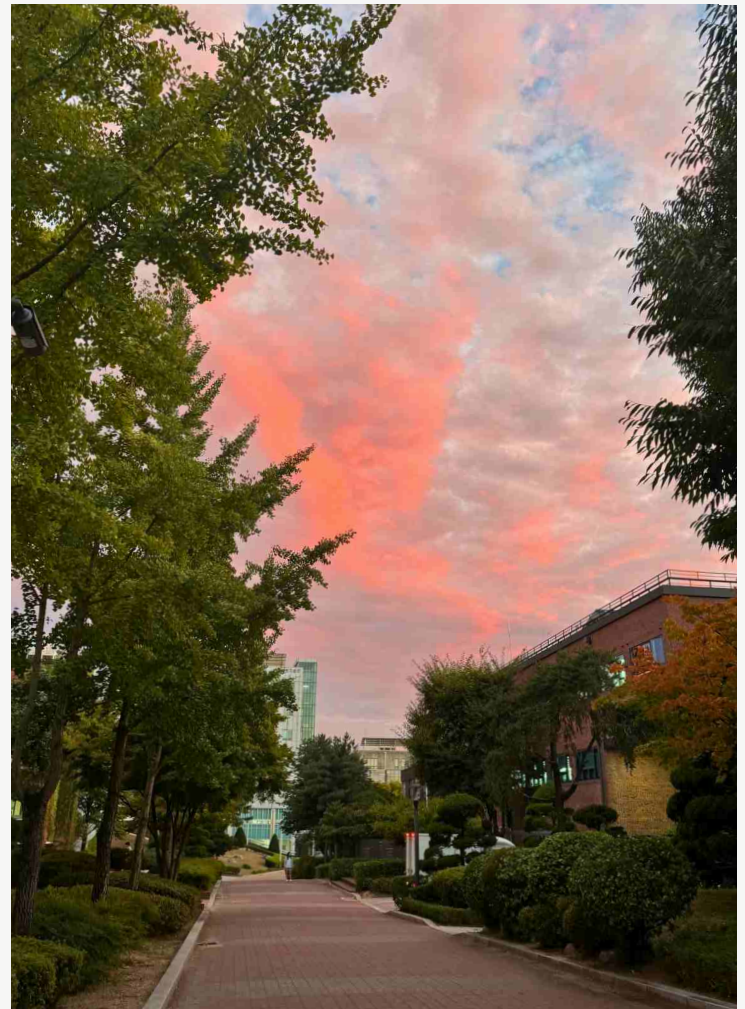
Building on my experience in environmental and water treatment, I would like to continue developing as a professional who can connect technology with resource circulation, energy, and construction. In particular, I am interested in developing resource circulation projects that turn waste into new resources, generate energy in the process, and connect these solutions to actual business opportunities.



There may be times when what you learn at school and what you do at work feel like two completely different worlds. Looking back, however, I found that what I learned at ISUS became much more meaningful when combined with the experience I had accumulated in the field over many years. Conversely, studying real problems from the field at school made the concepts in books and lectures much more tangible. I encourage you to learn from the field, learn at school, and find ways to connect the two.



One more thing I would like to share is that I hope you will not become too comfortable with familiarity and established ways of doing things in a rapidly changing world. Many industries, including construction, are changing quickly. The development of AI and digital technologies, growing demands for carbon neutrality and resource circulation, the energy transition, and the emergence of new business models are rapidly breaking down the boundaries between industries. I hope you will not overlook new possibilities simply because they are unfamiliar, and that you will continue to learn new things and take on new challenges.



Editing Team

Shin Lee, Dabin Kim, Nasyrah Binti Jemaludin, Regina Pinta Roatur

Collaborators

Yechan Kang, Reshani Anupama Samarasinghe, Berlinda Adi Puspita,
Reiza Ratri Damayanti, Mohammed Hilal Mohammed Al Qarni, Risma
Nurfitri, Nurdian Kurniawan



UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL

ISUS International School of Urban Sciences

University of Seoul 163, Seoulsiripdaero, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 0254 KOREA

Tel. 82-2-6490-5137~8
Email. isus@uos.ac.kr

Fax. 82-2-6490-5141
Homepage. <http://isus.uos.ac.kr>

Find us on:

 Instagram

 Facebook

