

**JULY
2024**

ISUS NEWSLETTER

International School of Urban Sciences
University of Seoul

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GULP1 Concludes Their 5-month-long Life and Training in Seoul

- A Note from the Dean

Have you noticed we had a brand-new group of participants at ISUS, starting from March this year? Of course, many of you have worked with one of them in group for the GPD (Global Project Development) class. Others might have spotted them at the UIF venue each month. Yet others might have played with them in a team on the ISUS Sports Day. Or, you have taken a picture with them at the University-wide international seminar with Professor Carlos Moreno. That's right, they have been everywhere.

They are proud public officials and leaders in their own government units, like many of you at ISUS, representing 10 nations: Brazil, Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Egypt, Nigeria and Sierra Leon. They arrived at the campus early this year for the start of Global Urban Leaders Program in March and have been with us for the last five months. The program consisted of lectures and fields visits as well as PCP (Project Concept Paper) writing with their respective advisors assigned individually (similar to your thesis advisors). In the middle of their rising career, they survived a full academic semester in Seoul, hundreds-, and in cases, thousands of miles away from home –like many other ISUS members.

They have arguably been the most active group in the university in terms of participation in different sorts of activities taking place on campus. They were diligent attendees at our monthly seminar series Urban Infra Forum and other various public lectures – including those organized by other departments at the University. On occasion, they proactively sought to put up additional meetings and events with the institutions and people they have personal contact with (some of them not being a first-timer in Seoul) and thus created networking opportunities for themselves beyond what was initially set for the program. Some of them gave lectures/presentations to groups outside the University. One of them (Jabed from Bangladesh) voluntarily published a Newsletter for the entire group. In effect, they autonomously expanded the scope of the program by themselves. They did not just survive. They seemed to be making the most of the University – thoroughly enjoying their five months in Seoul!

Not just that. They also made sure they had the full flavor of the city and country they were visiting – socially, culturally and visually. The rumor has it that more than half of Melania's (Dominican Republic) extensive list of 'places to visit in Korea' has been struck through.



I had the pleasure of endorsing, recognizing and celebrating the successful completion of 2024 Global Urban Leaders Program by all 10 participants on behalf of the International School of Urban Sciences. The completion ceremony and the final PCP presentations were held at the City Hall, July 11, and were covered in several daily newspapers. The certificates were awarded by SMG Director-General for Global City Policy, 이해선, and the ceremony attended by the new Director for International Cooperation Division, 이기웅; Deputy Director for International Cooperation Division, 이준학 and Ms 노은희 from Seoul Urban Solution Agency, among others.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to our sponsoring organization, Seoul Metropolitan Government and its Global Urban Policy Bureau, who has given us the privilege of hosting the program and accommodating this stellar group of participants.

The program is headed by Professor Joon Park and coordinated by Mr Gumin Jung and Alex Young-gun Yoo, the latter of who has recently made a professional move to Dong-A Ilbo (one of the major daily news agencies in Korea). Alex and his dedicated assistance were fondly remembered and appreciated by all. And ISUS will remember, with much affection, each of the 2024 GULP and the passion they exuded and shared while they were here in Seoul.



The Spring semester at ISUS has ended, and it has been quite a whirlwind! Known for its busy schedule, the Spring semester includes rigorous classes, numerous assignments, intense papers, and challenging presentations. Not to mention the student thesis that started off the semester. But we made it through!

Projects, Pizzas, and Presentations

The grand finale of this bustling semester was marked by the student presentations for Global Project Development 2 (GPD 2). On June 13th and 20th, we saw a range of impressive projects that wowed everyone. We also enjoyed a pizza party that kept us energized during the long presentation sessions.

After a few weeks of anticipation, the campus has announced the winners of the GPD 2 class. Here are the winning teams:

Week 1: "Avio" and "Smart City for Smart People"

Week 2: "The Bridge: Connect" and "Earth Saver"

These stellar projects showcased the innovative spirit and dedication of our students. From futuristic to sustainable environmental and urban planning solutions, these teams brought their best and impressed us all.

An Unforgettable Semester

This semester won't just be remembered for the academic hustle; it's also a bittersweet moment as we bid farewell to two of our beloved programs, GULP 1 and MUAP 16. These programs have been integral to ISUS, and their departure marks the end of an era. It's been a journey filled with learning, growth, and countless memories.

Celebrating Success and Looking Ahead

As we close the chapter on this Spring semester, we celebrate not just the academic achievements but also the ups and downs that got us through. From late-night study sessions to collaborative projects, every moment has contributed to making this semester truly unforgettable.



Join the Celebration

While we say goodbye to the stress and hello to summer break, let's take a moment to appreciate the hard work and dedication that made this semester a success. Stay tuned for more exciting updates and enjoy the well-deserved summer break! Remember, ISUS is not just about hitting the books; it's about building friendships, exploring new ideas, and preparing for the future. So, here's to a fantastic semester behind us and an even more exciting experience ahead!



"Innovate, Inspire, Impact!"

ISUS students had the opportunity to attend the 2024 United Nations Public Service Forum (UNPSF) in Korea. Held from June 24-26, 2024, at the Songdo Convensia in Incheon, The forum was filled with innovation, inspiration, and international collaboration.

What's the Forum About?

The UNPSF is an event that gathers ministers, senior-level decision-makers, and public officials from 89 countries and 184 ministries. This year's theme, "Fostering Innovation Amid Global Challenges: A Public Sector Perspective," highlighted the importance of harnessing the power of innovation to transform public administration and tackle global issues. It offered a unique opportunity for students to see how global leaders work to enhance the capabilities of public administration through digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

What was the Packed Agenda?

The three-day event was filled with keynote speeches, plenary sessions, workshops, and a welcome dinner. Day 1 kicked off with an opening ceremony and keynote speeches, followed by Plenary I on "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Government." The day continued with a series of parallel workshops, providing deep dives into topics like digital sandboxes and AI applications in governance, and wrapped up with a welcome dinner where participants could network and exchange ideas.

About the Variety of Workshops

The forum included seven thematic workshops, each delving into crucial areas of public service and innovation. Topics ranged from empowering women leaders for future-ready public administration to engaging young people for a more inclusive and effective public sector. There was also a focus on changing mindsets, fostering innovation through digital sandboxes, enhancing global resilience to disasters and climate change, navigating future government with AI, and strengthening public institutions for climate action. Each workshop provided actionable insights and strategies that participants took back to their home countries.

The 2024 UN Public Service Forum showcased where innovation meets action, and it was exciting to witness.



On Wednesday, June 12, 2024, ISUS held its 89th Urban Infra Forum. Professor Sangkyung Lee, Dean of the Law School at the University of Seoul, captivated the audience with his engaging personality and deep knowledge during the lecture.

This month's forum addressed a highly relevant topic: the roles of the Korean Government and local cities in improving and protecting citizens' lives. With the development of the modern welfare state under the Constitution of Korea, the importance of quality of life has become paramount for the Korean people. As a result, both the central government and local municipalities have taken on significant responsibilities, including safeguarding human rights and advancing living conditions and housing development.

Professor Sangkyung Lee provided an in-depth analysis of these issues, explaining how government policies are crafted to enhance living standards. His insights into legal frameworks and their practical applications were both enlightening and thought-provoking. Professor Lee's ability to simplify complex concepts and engage with the audience made the lecture particularly memorable, with his dynamic presence keeping everyone focused.

The 89th Urban Infra Forum marked the conclusion of the Spring Semester. Throughout the semester, these forums have provided valuable opportunities for students to interact with experts and delve into important urban science topics. As we wrap up this semester's Urban Infra Forums, we eagerly anticipate future sessions that will continue to inspire and engage our community.

**UR
BA
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FORUM**



Ekhsanudin, an MGLEP 7 alum of ISUS, has been a Government Officer at Indonesia's Ministry of Environment since 2014. His career includes roles such as Project Implementing Officer for the World Bank's Forest Investment Program, involvement with the REDD+ Project Management Unit, and serving as a board member of the National Advisory Board Council on Climate Change. He was also involved in the recent cooperation initiative between the Indonesian and Korean governments.

1. Could you share your experience with the recent cooperation initiative between Indonesia and Korea Government? How did you get involved, and what was your specific role in the project?

Recently, the world has been grappling with the Triple Planetary Crisis: climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. These interconnected challenges urgently need to be addressed. During the 6th United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA 6) in Nairobi, Kenya, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) of Indonesia and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Korea initiated a bilateral meeting to address these issues.

One outcome of this collaboration was the establishment of a Mangrove Research Center in Meru Betiri National Park, Eastern Java, funded by KOICA. I was appointed as a Project Management Unit (PMU) board member, responsible for communicating and managing the sustainable collaboration between KOICA and the MoEF until the center's establishment. Korea's Green New Deal policy, aimed at fostering economic growth post-pandemic, provided a strong foundation for this international collaboration.

During the bilateral meeting at UNEA-6, I mentioned that I was an alum of the MGLEP program at ISUS. This was well-received, especially since another MGLEP-7 alum represented the Kenyan government. I emphasized to the MoE of Korea the successful outcomes of the scholarship grants for government officials and urged them to continue and expand the program. This will enable more graduates to spread Korean values globally, particularly the "PALIPALI" (fast, fast) way of doing things.

2. What challenges did you encounter during the collaboration, and how did you address them? Do you have any advice for current students or alumni who might be interested in pursuing similar initiatives?

The collaboration with the Korean government ran smoothly with few issues, though the project timeline was quite short. This challenge was manageable, thanks to the skills and knowledge I gained during my master's program at ISUS, specifically from the Global Project Development (GPD) class. This course was instrumental in teaching us how to build high-quality projects within tight deadlines. Additionally, it significantly boosted our confidence in presenting projects professionally.

Our professors and academic staffs provided us with real-world cases and examples, reflecting Korea's expertise. This experience honed our ability to handle public problems, identify issues, and develop projects effectively. These are unique privileges that I believe other graduates may not experience to the same extent.

3. How did your education and experiences at ISUS prepare you for your involvement in this international cooperation? Were there any specific skills or areas of knowledge that were particularly useful?

I have attended various international conferences and meetings, such as the UNFCCC Conference, UNEA, UNFF, ASEAN, and INC. During these events, I often encounter fellow ISUS alum, which makes me feel proud and grateful.

ISUS hosts a diverse student body every year, with four majors (MGLEP, MIPD, MUAP, and MUD). Each major includes at least two batches, allowing us to interact and blend, especially during the GPD class. This interaction is a great privilege, creating a strong network among ISUS alum. Maintaining these connections after graduation is essential, as our time on campus fosters relationships that extend beyond just classmates to a global friends network.

From my experience, the GPD class has equipped me with essential public service skills: generating ideas, negotiating, collaborating, and winning projects. The experience was invaluable, and I always tried my best with my team.

4. Since you are involved in the field of Forestry Policy, could you give us a brief preview of what you will be presenting at the ISUS Policy Sharing Conference in August?

At the ISUS Policy Sharing Conference in August, I will discuss Indonesia's forestry policy, highlighting the country's rich natural resources and challenges with deforestation. Key points include:

- **Significant Policies:** 2011 Forest Moratorium, 2014 Land-Use Plan, 2017 Law on Forestry, and the One Map Policy.
- **International Commitments:** Involvement in REDD+ and commitment to UN SDGs.
- **Recent Developments:** Focus on sustainable forest management, improved transparency, and increased international cooperation.



MUAP 16 and MUD 7 Field Trip to Jeju

“Jeju Joyride: A Must-Visit Adventure!”

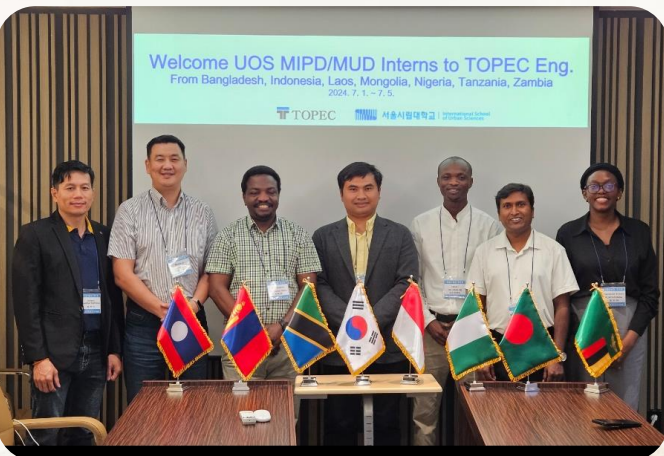
Students from MUAP 16 and MUD 7 had an amazing time exploring Jeju, which holds significant academic value in the fields of urban planning and sustainable urban development. Despite the occasionally rainy weather, their enthusiasm never waned. MUAP 16 enjoyed their adventure from July 1st to 3rd while MUD 7 set off on their trip from June 24th to 26th. After a challenging semester, both groups of students eagerly headed out on their long-awaited field trip. They visited institutions in Jeju relevant to urban development and sustainable energy, and explored various landmarks with their peers, creating unforgettable memories along the way.



Summer Internship; TOPEC Engineering Consultant Company

“Building Bridges and Breaking Boundaries!”

This summer on 1-5 July 2024, a stellar squad of ISUS students embarked on an epic adventure with TOPEC Engineering Consultant Company. Our international crew—Lamro Simatupang (Indonesia), Saul (Tanzania), Batezaya (Mongolia), Duang Keo (Laos), Md. Nazim (Bangladesh), Ismail (Nigeria), and Eva (Zambia)—dove headfirst into dynamic projects, from housing marvels in Korea to the colossal Yongsan Military Base Relocation. They even tackled international endeavors funded by KOICA! These intrepid interns absorbed unparalleled insights into engineering and national defense infrastructure, making their mark on the world, one project at a time. Stay tuned for their next big leap!

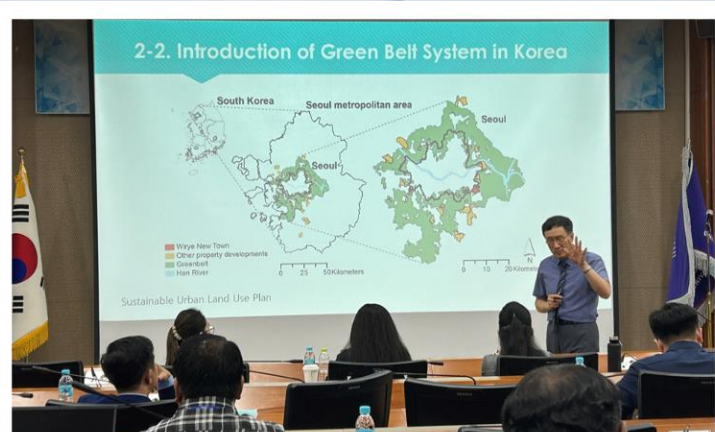


2024 KOICA CIAT (Capacity Improvement & Advancement for Tomorrow) Fellowship Program

KOICA CIAT is a program that brings policymakers, public officials, and experts from developing countries together for short-term training and knowledge exchange. This year at ISUS, we completed two CIAT programs: one with Uzbekistan and another with Cambodia.

From July 2nd to 13th, a CIAT program on water management to mitigate water shortages in Uzbekistan was conducted. Headed by Professor Seungbum Seo, the program aimed to enhance sustainable drinking water management by sharing knowledge on Seoul's water policy and urban water management system, as well as integrated water resources management in Korea.

Building on this focus on capacity development, another CIAT program was held from July 16th to 25th, this time targeting sustainable city planning and development in Cambodia. This initiative was led by Professor Hyeon Park and aimed to deepen expertise in urban planning, foster collaborative projects, and provide insights into smart city planning and development. Additionally, the program explored urbanization, development, and quality of life, drawing on the Korean experience.



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