

August 2022

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

What's inside?

<2022 Fall Semester UOS Academic Schedule>

The fall semester will start on Thursday, 1st September. In advance to the beginning of classes, please check for the updates regarding schedule and announcements. Class registration process will be from 15th to 22th of August, so please be prepared for enrolling classes.

<Interview>

For August's interview, let us read about Candido Balagot Balaba (MURD 2), who is the head of Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO). He will share his experiences, and how ISUS program has affected his career.

<MGLEP 6 completion ceremony >

The completion ceremony for MGLEP 6 was held on Friday, July 8th, as part of the graduation of ISUS. Many people attended the event to celebrate all the members of MGLEP6, including their families who joined the virtual event to congratulate them.

<2022 Global Friends Night>

ISUS is planning to host the "2022 Global Friends Night (GFN)" on Monday, August 22, 2022, from 16:30~20:00. This annual networking event aims to build a global network, which helps to promote the relationship between Korea and major partners, as well as to build a network between Korean experts, alumni and university students.

Newsletter Interview Article: MURD Alumnus Candido Balagot Balaba

ISUS presents a special series of interviews to share stories of ISUS members. For August's interview, let us read about Candido Balagot Balaba (MURD 2), who is the head of Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO). He will share his experiences, and how ISUS program affects his career.



Q1.Please, introduce yourself.

Candido Balaba: Anneoyong Haseyo! Good morning! My name is Candido B. Balaba, Jr., a graduate of the Master's in Urban and Regional Development at the University of Seoul, under the KOICA scholarship program, in 2016.

Q2.Could you describe the organization you belong to and what is your job position there?

Candido Balaba: At the time I studied in Seoul, I was then connected with the National Economic and Development Authority – Region X, as a Senior Economic Development Specialist. Just to give you a background, the NEDA

is the highest planning and policy-making body in the Philippines. So, years after completing my service obligation at the NEDA, I transferred to the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Villanueva, Misamis Oriental as head of office in the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO). The local government unit of Villanueva is the richest municipality in Northern Mindanao, based on LGU income (that excludes cities). A portion of the LGU's land of 1,790 hectares is allocated for industries under the Phividec Industrial Estate. The said industrial zone was supposed to be the Hanjin's Mindanao shipyard, which was aborted in 2008 – for your information. Our office is in charge of formulating and updating the comprehensive land use plan; coastal resource management plan; climate change action plan; as well as the issuance of various permits relating to construction and business operations, among others.

Q3. Could you tell us about one of the projects you participated in and got impressed the most?

Candido Balaba :Aside from working as an urban planner, I am also a GIS advanced user and a computer programmer that develops computer solutions to make government transactions more efficient. Taken from the insights I learned during our visit to Korea Statistics and lectures about big data at the University of Seoul, I developed the Innovative Platform for Programs/Projects/Activities' (PPAs) Location Assessment, Monitoring, and Budgeting for Development Planning and Governance (IPA-LAMDAG). It is a web-based geospatial platform for the efficient generation of monitoring reports, which includes datasets submitted by the regional government agencies in the implementation of programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) in Northern Mindanao.

Using data analytics and location assessment, the system can efficiently generate information that is useful in the preparation and updating of the Regional Development Plan, Regional Development and Investment Program, and the Annual Investment Program, among other development plans and investment programs.

The IPA-LAMDAG system aims to enhance planning and strengthen its linkage to investment programming, budgeting, and project monitoring through assessment of the project location and other project details. It also aims to utilize geospatial technology in producing reports for better appreciation and assessment by decision-makers. Currently, the system is replicated in other regions in Southern Philippines. Because of its significant contributions, I received recognition as development partner awards in the Regional Development Council, Northern Mindanao.

Formulation of a Master Plan for the Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development in Cagayan de Oro. I have utilized the various concepts, exposure, and training acquired during my studies in South Korea in crafting, data analysis, and enhancements of the said master plan.

Q4. How did the ISUS program help you with building your career?

Candido Balaba : First, right after I completed the program, I immediately prepare myself to take the board examination, to acquire a professional license in urban planning. Luckily, in 2017, I passed the board examination. One big factor which helped me get through the licensure examination was the background, the concepts, and the exposure I had with the ISUS. Kudos to our ISUS professors and staff as well.

Second, I learned the concepts of smart city, planned urban development, housing, smart transportation, green infrastructure, and bus rapid transit, among others which contributed a lot to simplify my work in land use and socio-economic planning and policymaking. Of course, noteworthy to mention is the exposure I had with the global network seminar wherein we were taught how the proposals are made in close coordination with our assigned GNS professor.

Q5. Could you share with us the most memorable experience from ISUS?

Candido Balaba : We had so many memorable experiences during our studies in Seoul, but one of the most memorable exposures I engaged in, was the big data training with the Korea Expressways (KoEx). We were taught in advance the use of R software and how these can be applied in various research applications concerning solutions to urban issues. But more interesting were our trips to various infrastructures managed by the KoEx particularly the Seohae Bridge in Pyeongtaek and the 11km long Inje twin-tube tunnel.

Q6. Do you have any other words to share with ISUS students?

Candido Balaba : I express my profound gratitude to all the mentors I had in the ISUS, to Dean Hyeon Park who taught me more than the concepts of Public-private-partnership I am grateful for your guidance sir; to Professor Shin Lee, thank you for unlocking the opportunities to learn transportation concepts and applications; my thesis advisor Dr. Hyunjoo Kim for the completion; Dr. Joon Park for the GIS expertise and to Dr. Man Hee Han (former Dean) for all successes in program implementation.

I would like as well to posit the challenge to all ISUS students who are currently studying, to eagerly learn and absorb the knowledge that is shared by the professors, and translate those into wisdom, as a catalyst to change and improve the lives of their fellow country people.

MGLEP 6 Completion Ceremony



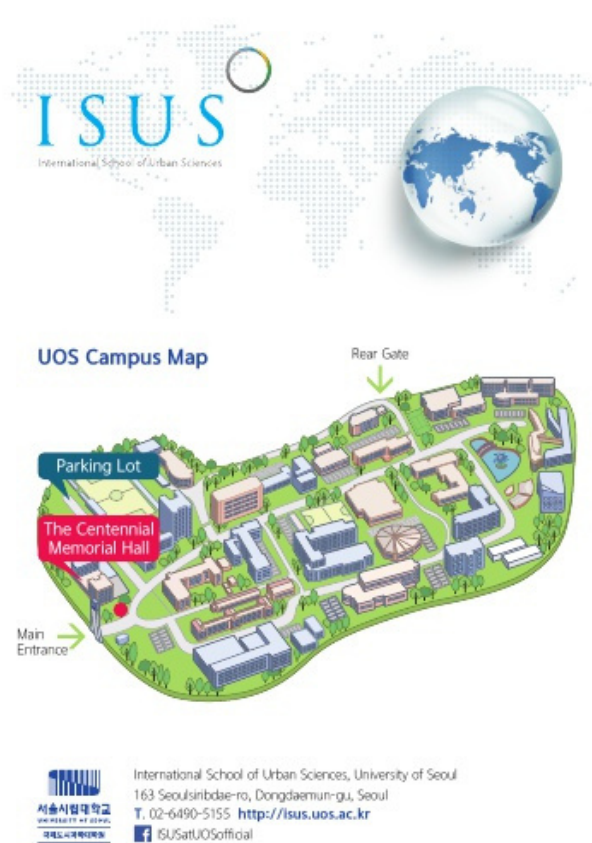
The completion ceremony for MGLEP 6 was held on Friday, July 8th, as part of the graduation of ISUS.

Many people attended the event to celebrate all the members of MGLEP6, including their families who joined the virtual event to congratulate them. The opening of the ceremony was led by the dean; professors and sponsors of KEITI also participated in this ceremony.

Now, they have already gone back to their countries, to implement the knowledge and abilities that they acquired while studying at the University of Seoul.

We wish them the best of luck! We will miss you!

2022 Global Friends Night



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August 22, 2022



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This event will be hosted in the International Conference Room, 3F at the Centennial Memorial Hall of the University of Seoul.

We hope all of you can join this event.

Asean Global Biodiversity leaders training program



Fifteen MGLEP students took part in the Asean Biodiversity Leaders Training Program which was held by the National Institute of Ecology for five days, July 18~22nd.

They visited the National Institute of Ecology, located at Chungcheongnam-do, where they studied not only Ecosystem and Environmental policy but also discussed and shared about their country's ecosystem.

Furthermore, they were able to experience various environmental systems and learned about other policies, status, and opinions from other countries.

MUAP International Dinner

Written By Tilyenji J. Mwanza (MUAP 14)

As the final grains of sand drop off the MUAP hourglass, the class stands together as one, embracing its diverse culture.

Excited to learn about each other's culture and share it, the Master of Urban Administration and Planning (MUAP) class students hosted a dinner to show appreciation to their chairman Professor Joon Park as well as their coordinators Hyemi Kim and Dabin Kim.



The class of 20 students from 16 nationalities all prepared a special dish from their country's cuisine to share at dinner.

Professor Park, who joined the buffet in an attempt to try all meals was elated at the gesture and thanked the students for the invite.



Merry chat filled the kitchen cafeteria as a variety of starters, main meals, and desserts were colorfully displayed on the table.

"We are family," said class representative Sopunnaleap Seth from Cambodia. She describes the experience at the University of Seoul as one that has made her acquire not only an education but a sibling from 16 nations and very strong corporate ties.

The journey for MUAP 14 began under strict Covid regulations but the class experienced a relaxed year in the second half of the program year. The MUAP 14 class commenced in August 2021 will be concluding its academic year in Korea on August 22, 2022, with a highlight at the Global Friends Night, where they will have the opportunity to meet the previous and incoming MUAP batches.

During their study, students have had the opportunity to not only get “book knowledge” but to experience firsthand knowledge through tours and trips to the various urban reforms Korea has implemented to tell its successful story.



UOS Campus in August



Get Ready for the Fall Semester!



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