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ISUS UOS NEWSLETTER

International School of Urban Sciences
University of Seoul

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01 COMMENCEMENT TRIUMPH: Celebrating the Completion Ceremony

Commencement Triumph: Celebrating the Completion Ceremony

On December 15th, 2023, the Natural Science Building at the University of Seoul resonated with joy and pride as the Completion Ceremony for MURD 6, MGLEP 8, and MIPD 5 unfolded. The event brought together ISUS faculty, Korean and International students, friends and families of the proud graduates, and relevant staff members of ISUS, marking the culmination of the academic journey for graduating students.

Congratulatory remarks

Prof. Shin Lee, Dean of ISUS commenced the ceremony with her opening remarks. Her address was followed by congratulatory speeches from representatives of the sponsoring Institutions, Director Yongjun Lee, of the International Environmental Cooperation Center (IECC) from Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI), and Director Sungwon Jo, of Small & Medium Contractors Business center, from International Contractors Association of Korea (ICAK).



Valedictorian Speech

The heart of the ceremony was the valedictory speeches delivered by three distinguished students; Abdul Rasyid LUBIS (Indonesia) for MURD 6, Arafat Shawkat (Bangladesh) for MGLEP 8, and Andrés Cavero (Peru) for MIPD 5. Each speaker eloquently expressed gratitude on behalf of their colleagues. They shared poignant memories, acknowledging the ISUS family and the sponsors for their invaluable contributions and the unique opportunity extended to study at the University of Seoul.



“I can't help but smile, thinking of the friendships we have formed. We started as strangers, and now we are a bunch of awesome graduates. Together, we laughed, learned, and supported each other as a family. We survived those late-night study sessions and battled the coffee spills on our notes. Remember those times when the exams felt like an impossible mountain to climb? But guess what? We climbed it! We came out as a stronger person now” Abdul Rasyid Lubis.



“The future is ours to shape, and I have no doubt that we will do so with grace, courage, and integrity. Let's put our all strengths into saving our environment, halting climate change, and making the world in such a way that a child can get the opportunity to envision his future while walking along the way holding his parents' hands” Shawkat Imran Arafat.



“For those who stay, I leave you with a message: this is the time to take risks. You will make mistakes, sometimes you will fail, but you will grow. The reward is not in the outcome; it's in the journey, in being able to look back and be satisfied with the life we chose to live. Before you know it, that will lead you to meet the best people in your life. I can say that from my experience in Seoul” Andres Omar Cavero Prado.

The ceremony also featured special awards and the presentation of creative videos made by the students. The videos reflect the great bonds created by the students that will undoubtedly last a lifetime. As the echoes of applause and cheers filled the Natural Science Building, it was evident that the Completion Ceremony was not just a conclusion, but a commencement—an opening to new horizons and promising futures for all the graduating students.





02 SPECIAL AWARDS: Reflections of Awarded Students

In a proud moment for the 61 students who completed their courses representing a diverse array of countries, they celebrated the successful completion of their respective programs. Furthermore, 10 students were honored with special awards for academic excellence and distinguished theses.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Triana | Eskalem | Soraya



“Achieving the Academic Excellence Award is a bonus, in addition to gaining valuable and quality knowledge, experience, and global networking during my studies at UoS. Thank you ISUS!”

Triana Arinda Harlis | Indonesia | MURD 6



“I am deeply honored and grateful for being recognized for my academic excellence. This achievement is a result of perseverance, dedication, and a passion for learning. I am thankful for the support and guidance of my professors, family, and friends who have been instrumental in my academic journey. Thank you ISUS!”

Eskalem Zeleke Folla | Ethiopia | MIPD 5



“Awarded with the title of Academic Excellence is the result of a collective effort and an honor I share with my devoted professors, my MGLEP family, and the friends and family whose endless support has been my strength. I am sincerely grateful to the MoE, KEITI, and ISUS for providing such an exceptional life experience”

Soraya Behlouli | Algeria | MGLEP 8



DISTINGUISHED THESIS AWARD

Rasyid | Sevara | Andrés



Receiving the MURD thesis award is profound. Thanks to KOICA and inspiring professors, my journey from Medan embodies perseverance and the belief in impactful change from unexpected places. This achievement symbolizes more than academic success—it represents shared experiences, challenges, and growth in this transformative adventure. Terima kasih!

Abdul Rasyid Lubis | Indonesia | MURD 6



“The moment my thesis was recognized as a Distinguished Thesis and hearing my name called was unexpectedly emotional. The tears that welled up were a mix of relief, gratitude, and the profound realization that dreams can become reality with unwavering determination. This achievement represents the beginning of my career as a recognized future global leader in environmental policy, leaving an indelible mark on my academic and personal history”

Sevara Otanazarovna Davlatova | Uzbekistan | MGLEP 8



“The MIPD Program started as an opportunity to seek knowledge and become something more. The ISUS team and my classmates are now part of my family. We made each other better professionals and better human beings. I will never forget any of them and hope that life gives us another chance to meet each other. I will wait for you in Peru with open arms!! Thank you ISUS, thank you MOLIT and thank you ICAK!”. He also received the Certificate of Merit.

Andrés Omar Caverro Prado | Peru | MIPD 5

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Daniela | Samsul



"This master's degree has been a profound challenge in various dimensions. It is an immense honor to receive this award, I treasure it as a result of obstacles overcome during my studies"

Daniela Noriega Bernabe | Mexico | MGLEP 8



"Thank you to everyone who has supported my educational journey. This award is not just mine, but also the result of hard work, support, and inspiration from family, friends, and professors. Hopefully, this achievement can be a motivation for all of us to continue learning, growing, and making a positive impact on the surrounding environment. Thank you!"

Samsul Bachri | Indonesia | MGLEP 8





03 JOURNEY ALBUM: MIPD5, MURD 6 & MGLEP 8





04 UNFORGETTABLE CHRONICLES OF the final field trips for MIPD 5, MGLEP 8 & MURD 6

In a grand finale to their academic journey, students of MURD 6, MGLEP 8, and MIPD 5, participated in their last field trip before going back to their country. These final field trips marked a poignant moment for each program, weaving together diverse experiences, lasting friendships, and a wealth of knowledge. The memories forged during these trips will undoubtedly linger in their hearts and minds as they step into the next chapter of their lives.

MURD 6: "Exploring the Demilitarized Zone"

On November 21 and 22, Members of MURD embarked on a two-day adventure that immersed them in the cultural and historical wonders of South Korea and enjoyed memorable moments before the compilation of their Master Studies.

The journey kicked off with a visit to the Imjingak Pavilion, where the group reveled in the beauty of the surroundings and absorbed the historical significance of the location. The experience continued with an exhilarating ride on the DMZ gondola, providing a breathtaking view of the Demilitarized Zone. The Korea Development Historical Hall opened its doors to offer an insightful tour that traced the remarkable journey of Korea from economic milestones to cultural evolution.

Beyond the structured tours, the MURD students engaged in a vibrant networking activity, creating connections that extend beyond the academic realm.



MGLEP 8: "Gangchon Training Center Glamping"

The students of MGLEP 8 embarked on an unforgettable field trip to the Gangchon Training Center Glamping Site, nestled in the picturesque Chuncheon, a gem within the University of Seoul's facilities. The highlight of the trip was a captivating workshop featuring the experiences of Arafat Shawkat (Bangladesh) and Nutefe Kwesi Dra (Ghana), both sharing their enriching journeys as students in South Korea and proud members of MGLEP 8. Their stories added a global perspective, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among the participants.

The day was also marked by a triumph in language learning, as the students engaged in a Korean language conquest. The group transitioned into an immersive experience of Korean culture by cooking up Korean BBQ. Amidst laughter and shared stories, the students forged lasting memories.

Exploring further, the students ventured to the Hongcheon ECO-friendly Energy Town, a beacon of innovation in sustainability. The town featured a series of plants dedicated to generating clean energy through the processing of natural and renewable resources, including biomass and solar energy.



MIPD 5: "Jeju Island Odyssey: Nature, Culture, and Innovation"

Embarking on a journey filled with excitement and discovery, the students of MIPD 5 ventured to Jeju Island from December 7 to 9. The itinerary started with a visit to Eco Land, where students explored the island's lush landscapes and learned about environmental conservation. Continuing their exploration, the group made a stop at Aqua Planet, where marine wonders unfolded, offering insights into the rich biodiversity of Korea's aquatic life.

Woljeong Beach was the next in line with its pristine shores, scenic beauty, and Eoseungsengak trail. To add a zest of local flavor, the students enjoyed the renowned tangerine-picking experience, an activity synonymous with Jeju's vibrant agricultural scene.

To complete their immersive island experience, the MIPD 5 delved into Jeju's innovative landscape, visiting Jeju Energy Corporation and Jeju Electric Vehicle Service. These insightful visits provided the students with a firsthand look at Korea's pioneering advancements in energy and electric vehicles, offering real-world applications and practices that enriched their knowledge and broadened their perspectives.





05 85Th ISUS URBAN INFRA FORUM: A Noteworthy Evening with Mayor Se-hoon OH

On December 13th, the curtain fell on the last ISUS Urban Infra Forum of the year, leaving behind an indelible mark. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Se-hoon OH, the Mayor of Seoul, who delivered a captivating seminar titled "Seoul, Going Together with the Socially Neglected." Mayor OH's excellent presentation, candid views, and insightful discourse added a meaningful layer to the forum, emphasizing the city's commitment to inclusive and socially conscious urban development. And his responses to the varied and pointed questions from ISUS students were eloquent and balanced.





06 MGLEP STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE to Mokpo International Workshop on Island Bioresources

Four students from the MGLEP program were invited to join an international workshop held in Mokpo on November 17 and 18, organized by the program's sponsor, KEITI, and the Honam National Institute of Biological Resources (HNIBR), a research institute affiliated with the Ministry of the Environment.

The workshop focused on the preservation and utilization of island bioresources, providing an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the island ecosystem. It discussed the best methods for preserving and utilizing these resources, as well as the implementation of international cooperation plans. Students, Astungkarawati YUWAN (Indonesia), Kullarat Wisoottanawit (Thailand), and Sreythol MEACH (Cambodia) shared their countries' experiences in conserving and utilizing island bioresources. Their presentations were followed by a rich exchange of views in Q&A sessions. Participants also had the opportunity to visit facilities such as a plant storage center, a natural products extraction facility, the Insular and Coastal Bioresources Bank, and the exhibition hall.

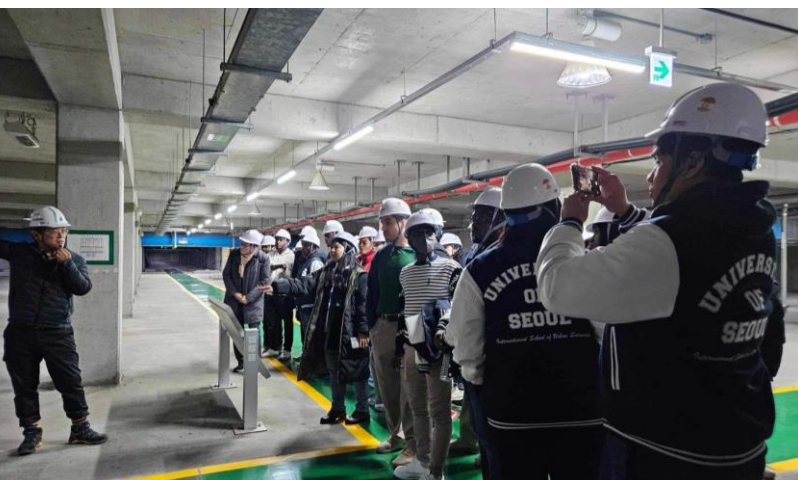




07 EXPLORING THE CONCRETE Successes of public-private partnerships

On November 24, as part of the curriculum on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), students from the MUAP, MURD, and MIPD programs took part in a field trip to Gyeonggi province, where two exemplary projects carried out under different forms of PPP were at the heart of the visit. The first stop was the Suji Respia Wastewater Treatment Plant, the result of a Build-Transfer-Operate contract between the city of Yongin and the private sector. Then, at Cheongdeok Primary School, they observed a concrete example of a Build-Transfer-Lease contract between the Gyeonggi Province Education Office and the private sector. The private construction and operation, over a fixed period, impressed the students with the exceptional quality of the facilities.

These visits offered students concrete perspectives on the success of projects realized through PPPs scheme, enabling an in-depth understanding of collaborative investment models established through contracts between government agencies, or the public sector, and private investors.



Summary of Special Topics in Environmental Technology for MGLEP Students

The 'Special Topics in Environmental Technology' lecture series for MGLEP students has proven to be a valuable addition to the regular curriculum, offering a diverse and comprehensive exploration of pressing environmental issues. Throughout fall 2023, 11 engaging sessions were hosted, each delving into distinct facets of environmental science. Experts from various fields, including water management, air quality, waste disposal, forestry, biodiversity, and international cooperation shared their knowledge.



MGLEP8 students win a competition at K-water Academy.

Samsul Bachri and Arafat Shawkat won the honors in "The Best Moments at K-water Academy" photography competition at K-water's first online alumni reunion day, "2023 K-water reYOUnite", held on November 30. Samsul also secured third place in a video competition on the general elections, organized by PPLN SEOUL 2024 in collaboration with the Indonesian Embassy. Additionally, he was awarded recognition in the foreigner category at the 8th edition of the Global Innovator Festa (GIF) competition, an annual event held in Daegu, Korea.

MGLEP 9 Hosts Farewell Dinner in Honor of MGLEP 8

The students of MGLEP 9 hosted a heartfelt farewell dinner to express their gratitude to the seniors of MGLEP 8, extending warm thanks for the unwavering support and guidance that they received throughout their academic journey. This gathering served as a bittersweet farewell, allowing the MGLEP 9 members to bid adios and convey their appreciation



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