

January 2022

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

Cover Story

<Happy New Year!>

The new year of 2022 has begun, and we wish you all the best. Every new year, we reflect on our past and promise ourselves to be a better person in this upcoming year. History is in the past, now is time for you to seize the opportunity and walk towards your bright future with brand new you! Happy New Year, and stay safe always!

<MIPD & MURD Completion Ceremony >

On December 17, 2021, the collaborative completion ceremony for MIPD 3 and MURD 4 was held offline. Almost 100 people joined the event including special guests Seong Ik OH, director of MOLIT, and Young Tae KIM, vice president of ICAK.

<Interview>

In this interview of December, we have Lyna KHAN (MUAP 11), who is a consultant in the project of establishing from the Department of Sustainable Urban Planning and Development at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), cooperating with ISUS, University of Seoul.

<ISUS 69th Urban Infra Forum>

The ISUS 69th Urban Infra Forum (UIF) was held on December 9, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM as a type of webinar via Zoom. The topic was “Sustainable urban development in Asia: Theories and Practices”, and it was delivered by Bambang Susantono, who is currently the vice president of Asian Development Bank.

Newsletter Interview Article: MUAP Alumnus, Lyna Khan

ISUS presents a special series of interviews to share stories of ISUS members.

For January's interview, let us read about Lyna KHAN (MUAP 11), who is a consultant in the project of establishing from the Department of Sustainable Urban Planning and Development at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), cooperating with ISUS, University of Seoul. He will share his experiences in the project, and how ISUS program affects him and as well.as the project that he has been participating in.



Q1.Please, introduce yourself.

Lyna Khan : I am Lyna Khan. I am a lecturer at the Department of Natural Resource Management and Development, at the Faculty of Development Studies of the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. I have an interest in the linkage of ecosystem and community livelihood for poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. However, during my work I have noticed that there was a big change over the last five years since 2015: more and more people are immigrating to the urban area to ger a job and extra income.

This movement has led to a big change in agglomeration of the population in the cities and cause urban issues in Cambodia including traffic congestion, livelihood change, and sprawl which require great attention to ensure the sustainable urbanization and development. For this reason, I change my field of interest into urban planning and administration. I applied to International Urban Development Program at the International School of Urban Science (ISUS).

Q2. You have been participating in a project with RUPP and ISUS. Could you tell us about the project and about your responsibilities?

Lyna Khan : The project RUPP and ISUS aim to open a Department of Sustainable Urban Planning and Development (DSUPD) and an undergraduate program of Sustainable Urban Planning and Development at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. It will help build human resources in the field of urban planning by bringing together a multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary collaboration of engineering, socioeconomics, administration, and public finance for urban planners and decision-makers to build a prosperous and livable city for citizens in the present and in the future. I am working on the project as a consultant for establishing the new department of sustainable urban planning and development.

Q3. Next, what do you, or your team expect to accomplish from the project? What is the goal of the project?

Lyna Khan : The goal of this project is to achieve cooperation between Korea and Cambodia education to build human resources for filling the needs of sustainable urban planning and regional development in Cambodia. This new department will provide training courses for undergraduate students in the field of urban planning and development. In addition, this new department is an important standpoint as a platform for ISUS alumni in Cambodia to share knowledge and experience in urban, infrastructure, and public finance regarding urban science in planning and design. It is also a platform for a future cooperation research project in an urban study for ISUS alumni in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar.

Q4. How did the ISUS programs help you with the project?

Lyna Khan : ISUS programs have provided me with knowledge, skills, and professional performance in the field of urban sciences and urban studies which will lead to understanding the needs of the curriculum of urban planning in higher education. During the two years I spent at the master's program, I attended different courses that focused on both engineering and public administration. These courses have provided me with what I needed for my projects.

Q5. Could you share with us the most memorable experience in ISUS? Such as impressive courses/projects/friends or anything else.

Lyna Khan : I was always impressed with all the courses in the MUAP program. I met experienced professors and friends from many fields and countries around the world. I felt like I was so lucky to have the opportunity to join the ISUS program. I also experienced cultural shock with many different people and learned it well after all. Notably, I was really impressed by the course "Public-Private Partnership". I remember the bitterness and difficulty of project analysis including activity framework and economical equations. It was the most difficult course I had ever gone through. However, I am applying these methods and approaches in my present career. Overall, I wish that I had the opportunity to show my gratitude to professors, program coordinators, and friends in the ISUS program.

Q6. What do you want to do in this project in the future? Or what is your next career plan?

Lyna Khan : In the future, I want to expand research activities in the field of urban planning and development in Cambodia and in the region by making cooperation with other ISUS alumni in Korea neighboring countries to share and exchange knowledge, good practice of urban issues, management, planning, and development. In this context, it will strengthen cooperation between countries and the ISUS network for future research and knowledge sharing.

Q7. Lastly, do you have any words you want to say to ISUS members?

Lyna Khan : I am pleased to be a part of ISUS program, and I will continue to expand the ISUS network in the region by building collaboration in research and knowledge building in urban planning and development in Cambodia. In this context, I really appreciate all the support of ISUS alumni in Cambodia who always provided great support for the success of the project. Most importantly, I would like to show great gratitude to ISUS professors who bring this project to RUPP, and to all lecturers and staff in ISUS. After I started using knowledge from UOS in real Urban issues analysis, I have felt that there are many more things to learn. Also, I would like to thank Seoul Metropolitan Government for giving me that opportunity. I hope that I can get more experience to apply in my country. At last, I am honestly greeting all alumni who will be partners with me in the future knowledge and research sharing.

ISUS 69th Urban Infra Forum

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Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Multilateral bank committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty

1966 Year of Establishment	68 Current Members (49 regional, 19 nonregional)
31 Founding members (19 regional members, 12 nonregional members)	33 Field Offices Headquarter: Manila, Philippines
3,548 Employees (as of Oct 2021)	64 Nationalities of Employees

The participants were granted a valuable opportunity to listen to the story about “An overview of the urbanization theories, trends and practices that are impacting livability in cities, based on ADB’s extensive experience in the urban development sector in the Asia and Pacific region”.

UIF is a discussion forum on Infrastructure, Sustainable Urban Development, Construction, Environment, or related issues with invited speakers. Participants of the forum are mainly ISUS members. The forum has served as a platform for international networking and mutual learning

Please find the lecture materials of UIF on the website below.
http://isus.uos.ac.kr/freeTC/list.do?list_id=50018C7

ISUS homepage > community > Urban Infra Forum

MIPD & MURD Completion Ceremony

On December 17, 2021, the collaborative completion ceremony for MIPD 3 and MURD 4 was held offline. Almost 100 people joined the event including special guests Seong Ik OH, director of MOLIT and Young Tae KIM, vice president of ICAK.

Each program had a valedictorian speaker and shared videos of their lives as ISUS students. The certificate of completion was conferred one by one, as well as special awards: ICAK award, certificate of Merit, Academic Excellence Award, and Distinguished Thesis Award.

Thanks to the eased social regulation, MIPD and MURD enjoyed the completion ceremony and shared precious moment with each other. In February 2022, students will be conferred their Master's degree.





Even though they have already gone back to their home countries, their stories will continue. We wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors!

MGLEP Songdo and Cheorwon Field Trip

On December 3 and 4, 2021, MGLEP 6 and 7 had a field trip to Songdo and Cheorwon, Coordinators and Chairwoman Professor Shin Lee also participated. Given that MGLEP program is a huge group, it had to be divided into 2 groups in compliance to KCDC regulations due to COVID-19.

Day 1: Songdo

MGLEP students visited Sudokwon Landfill Site Management Corp. However, due to the COVID19 sanitary restrictions, they were not able to get off the bus and have a tour inside the corporation. Regardless this situation, they had a chance to ride the bus along and had a tour around the whole site. According to the corporation, Sudokwon Landfill Site is considered as the largest landfill site in the world.

They also visited the Sorae Marsh Ecological Park, which used to be a salt storage and has been converted into an ecological exhibition space. The walking paths and the windmil are the iconic features of this park.



<Sorae Marsh Ecological Park>



<Sudokwon Landfill Site>

Korea's First China Town in Incheon, was another spot visited, where students had a chance to experience one of its famous restaurant and had a glance of China Town.



<China Town>

Day 2: Cheorwon

Students visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Normally, when we think of DMZ we automatically think of Paju Imjingak. However, for MGLEP students, they had a slight detour of DMZ and went to the very north of South Korea, Cheorwon, Gangwon Province.



<Cheorwon Peace Observatory>

Not only they could see the border of North and South Korea, but they experienced an unusual and yet life time sight to observe cranes. These birds can be observed only this time of the year, and only in Cheorwon nowhere else in the world. Given that nature has to be left as undisturbed as possible, students could not get near to cranes, and had to see them through an observatory box. According to MGLEP students, this crane watching experience was memorable. Also they had the time to feed them: spreading the dried corn kernels along the fields, with these act the return of cranes to the area in later years is ensured.



<Cranes in Cheorwon>

Besides their historical and ecological importance, Cherwon is also famous for its rice and vegetables. MGLEP students had the chance to experience local food, as the villagers offered them delicious and traditional dishes.

Later on their DMZ tour, they visited other historical landmarks. The Geumgangsan Railway, which used to run through Cheorwon to North Korea inner side of the Mount Geumgang. The Woljeongri Station, the abandoned last train station closed due to the Korean War. The Battle of White Horse Field, which was considered one of the most competitive battle field during the Korean War; North and South had battled to conquer this land as it had the most advantages to win the war. The Rodongdangsa, a building built in 1946 by the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) to strengthen the North Korean dictatorial regime.



<Rodongdamgsa>

The University of Seoul is more than just an Academic Experience

Written By Tilyenji J. Mwanza (MUAP 14)

The Fall Session at the University of Seoul has been an experience that has left more than academic fulfillment to Master of Urban Administration Planning (MUAP 14). The fully packed academic calendar had imprints of memorable and teachable experiences to all the students gathered from 16 nationalities and four continents.

The class headed to south of South Korea aboard the KTX; a teachable moment to the Urban Planners because the KTX, Korea's modern Bullet Train, has made it possible for people to travel from the North to the South of the country within a timely manner.

The students first visited Pohang and made a stop to understand the future projects of POSCO one of the world's largest steel-making companies and witnessed how "water, fire, earth, and wind come together in a blast furnace to create steel" at the POSCO museum. The students also had the opportunity to see how the global steel manufacturing industry modernized to meet urban demands with various initiatives.



<Pohang POSCO Steel>

Apart from Pohang the students also visited Ulsan and Gyeongju. In Ulsan MUAP 14 students had an opportunity to not only see one of the world's largest ports (Ulsan Port), shipyard of Hyundai but also interact with staff and get to know the various acts of this port.



<Ulsan Port Authority>

They say “when in Rome, do as the Romans do” and nothing wraps up better this experience to the Southern part of Korea than getting to understand Korean by visiting Gyeongju Bulguksa Temple, where students got to know the culture of the Silla kingdom and partake in various cuisines from the restaurants dotted around the temple.



<Gyeongju Bulguksa Temple>

To wrap the working weekend the MUAP 14 students were able to see the various theories and explanations from class with regards to Urban Regeneration by taking a walk around Ulsan and seeing how the state-led initiatives have revitalized the urban core areas in an incremental and participatory manner. A focus on slum upgrade as well as mixed-use urbanization at Ulsan-Keunaegi.



<Ulsan Junang-dong Urban Regeneration Site>

As a reflection, the students have shown appreciation of how the University of Seoul has allowed them to get more than academic experience as they pursue their Master's Program.



<Ulsan Bridge Observatory>

MURD Field Trip to the Garden of Morning Calm

On 18 December 2021, MURD 4 visited the Garden of Morning Calm, located in Gapyeong. This garden illuminates all the trees so that the people can enjoy beautiful sceneries.

Due to the recent variant of COVID-19(Omicron), MURD 4 go back to their home countries earlier than the plan, therefore this trip was their graduation trip. The sky gifted them the last present in Korea: lots of snow. Some of MURD 4 students enjoyed the snow for the first time in their lives. ISUS hopes this trip will remain in their memories for a long time.



UOS Campus in January



Happy New Year!



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