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ISUS UOS NEWSLETTER

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01 GLOBAL FRIENDS NIGHT 2024: A NIGHT OF GLOBAL VIBES & EPIC CONNECTIONS!

On August 21, 2024, ISUS pulled out all the stops for one of its most epic events of the year—Global Friends Night (GFN)! This isn't just any old event; it's the ultimate gathering where the world comes together right here in Seoul. With over 1,000 students and alumni, plus a network spanning 150 cities in 71 countries, GFN 2024 was the place to be!

The night kicked off with a bang as ISUS students, proudly repping their countries, mixed and mingled with alumni who flew in from every corner of the globe. Professionals from top Korean companies like KIND and TOPEC Engineering added their own touch of expertise. And the international flavor? Let's just say it was spiced up with embassy reps from Peru, Algeria, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia!

Prof. Shin Lee, Dean of ISUS, got the party started with a warm welcome, setting the tone for the night. Then, we had Prof. Yongkul Won, President of the University of Seoul, and Mr. H.E. Paul Fernando Duclos Parodi, the Ambassador of Peru, both giving some inspiring words that made everyone feel the global love. Mr. Young Hee Kim, President of the ISUS alumni Association, also stepped up with some encouraging remarks.





alumni stories? Oh, we had those too! Mr. Sangchul Lee from Global Construction 3 and Lokuketagodage Chandana Manoj Perera from MUAP 11 shared their journeys and how ISUS helped them level up. Then came the toast proposals from embassy reps of Rwanda , Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia—cheers to friendship and unity!

Now, let's talk performances—because GFN knows how to bring the talent. First up, Victor from Nigeria (MUAP 16) hit the stage with a killer rendition of "African Queen" that had everyone swaying. Next, Lei Sun from China (MGLEP 9) serenaded the crowd with a beautiful Chinese opera number that left everyone in awe. And for the grand finale? Sixteen students from all over the world came together to belt out "We Are the World," reminding everyone why ISUS is such a special place.

But wait, there's more! The night got even more exciting with a lucky draw—prizes galore, with the grand prize being a shiny new smart watch. The anticipation was off the charts! The evening wrapped up with a mouth-watering buffet and closing remarks from Prof. Chunho Yeom, leaving everyone full and happy.

Global Friends Night 2024 wasn't just a gathering—it was a celebration of cultures, connections, and good vibes all around. If you missed it, well, you missed out big time!









02 2024 ISUS POLICY SHARING CONFERENCE

On August 21, 2024, International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) hosted the Policy Sharing Conference. Around 100 participants, including 14 distinguished alumni who are currently serving as government officials from eight countries: Myanmar, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cambodia, Kenya, Colombia, and the Philippines, attended this event.

This conference is an important platform to highlight the outstanding policy achievements made by alumni of ISUS. This event also aims to explore opportunities for ongoing collaboration with cities abroad and Seoul and South Korea.

The event featured three key themes, each followed by an in-depth discussion.

- Theme 1 was "Development Strategies Utilizing ISUS and Korean Experience and Knowledge". Innovation cases from institutions in Myanmar and Cambodia were shared, and regional development cases from Indonesia were presented.
- Theme 2 was "Urban Development Strategies Utilizing ISUS and Korean Networks". Mr. Ekhsanudin shared 'communication strategy with Korean organizations', Ms. Barbara CARVAJAL PINTO presented 'persuasion process within affiliated organizations', Ms. Annielyn COSTINIANO shared 'linkage strategy between Korean organizations and affiliated organizations' development goals', and Mr. Samsul BACHRI shared 'knowledge diffusion strategy within affiliated organizations.'
- Theme 3 was "Strategies for International Development Cooperation." 'government/private, and government/industry/research multi-agency international cooperation strategy' were shared, and 'government-international organization international cooperation strategy', and Sri Lanka's 'international cooperation-based career development experience' were presented.



This conference served as an important platform to share experiences and knowledge gained through education at the ISUS and in Korea, while exploring innovative development strategies. The event reaffirmed the importance of global urban development and international cooperation, offering valuable insights into future development directions. This conference was not just about sharing knowledge, it emphasized the need for collaboration and innovation to address urban challenges faced by the international community. It significantly contributed to exploring various ideas and practical approaches for sustainable development in the future.





03 RUPP PROJECT TEAM'S VISIT TO CAMBODIA

Establishing a new academic program at a university demands dedicated effort and expertise from professionals.

In this context, ISUS Cambodia project team is working to create a Sustainable Urban Planning and Development undergraduate program at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP). This initiative aims to cultivate a new generation of urban planning experts. From July 29th to August 3rd, Professors Hyeon Park and Junwon Seo led the team on a mission to advance this goal.

During the trip, the team engaged with DSUPD students and held a Steering Committee meeting to discuss future plans. They also visited key organizations, including the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), KOICA, KOTRA, and local companies, to explore job opportunities and training programs for DSUPD students. Furthermore, Prof. Seo conducted an on-site Urban Space Design Intensive Course, where he introduced crucial urban design concepts and interacted directly with the students.

On July 30th, the team met with MLMUPC to explore potential collaborations. The session provided a platform to introduce ISUS and the RUPP project, outlining both current and future partnership opportunities.



Additionally, Prof. Hyeon Park delivered a talk to the students on "Urbanization and the Role of Urban Planners," inspiring them to tackle urban challenges in Cambodia and contribute to a sustainable urban future. The bright and enthusiastic expressions on the students' faces underscored ISUS's significant impact on the future of Cambodia's cities.

The trip also included a first-time visit to Sihanoukville on August 1st, where the team had the opportunity to tour the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and the provincial hall. This visit provided a valuable opportunity to explore local urban development and discuss potential future collaborations with ISUS.

One of the key moments of the visit was meeting Sreyneang SRUN, a MUAP 8 alumnus and the current Director of the Sihanoukville Administration. She expressed deep gratitude for the support she received from ISUS, which she credited with significantly contributing to her professional growth. Her help, along with the assistance of her team, was instrumental in ensuring a smooth exploration of Sihanoukville.

Another significant moment was their meeting with H.E. LONG Dimanche, former Cambodian Ambassador to Korea and current Vice Governor of Sihanoukville. His previous support for ISUS and advocacy for collaboration between Cambodia and ISUS were evident during the meeting. The discussion provided valuable insights into local urban planning conditions, crucial for advancing Cambodian urban planning education.

The discussions and meetings held during this trip underscored the importance of building strong partnerships with local stakeholders and supporting the development of future urban planning experts. Through these efforts, ISUS is dedicated to fostering sustainable growth in the region. These collaborative efforts will continue to shape the future of Cambodia's cities and the leaders who guide them.





04 MUAP 16: A YEAR OF LAUGHTER, LEARNING, & LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS!

Hold onto your hats, ISUS family! The time has come to wave goodbye (but not for too long!) to the fabulous Master of Urban and Administration Policy (MUAP) 16th cohort. This lively crew of 19 students from every corner of the globe is wrapping up their year-long escapade in Seoul. It's been an adventure packed with knowledge, friendship, and a ton of unforgettable experiences. Sponsored by the ever-supportive Seoul Metropolitan Government, these students have truly made the most of their time in Korea, and now it's time for the next chapter!

But first, let's meet the dream team! Straight out of Mongolia, we've got the "Zen Choker" Namuundelger Natsagdorj. From the sunny shores of Panama, Nicole Estefany Montenegro Aparicio brought her vibrant energy to Seoul. Diego Nehuen Martigani Crespillo from Argentina kept things cool and collected, while Cambodia doubled the fun with Lybomnong Bin and Manith Ean adding their unique charm to the mix.

Representing Thailand with a smile as bright as the sun is Manlika Wichalek, and from the heart of Africa, Muke David Mandona of Zambia brought a dose of determination and a bit of Manchester United jersey. Miraziz Mirkhayotovich Mirpulatov from Uzbekistan wowed everyone with his insights, and Sagynysh Dyussebekov from Kazakhstan proved that hard work and fun can go hand in hand.



China's own Shanshan Wang brought grace and wisdom as the mother of MUAP 16, while Stephen Mucheru Chege from Kenya reminded everyone that a positive attitude can move mountains. Yagany Arquinego Mochcco from Peru showed us how to mix dedication with a bit of South American flair.

Then we had Elias Nesreddin Nuri from Ethiopia, who kept everyone inspired, and Ikechukwu Victor Udeh from Nigeria, who always had a brilliant idea up his sleeve. Julia Coelho Dourado from Brazil added a splash of cuteness and creativity, and Terence River a from the Philippines proved that kindness is the key to any heart.

Last but certainly not least, Frederick Maxwell Lomotey from Ghana showed us the true meaning of resilience, while Fira Fridiyani from Indonesia added her own magic sparkle of calm and loud at the same time. And how could we forget Hirwa Chressent Mugiraneza from Rwanda, who reminded us that with a little bit of laughter and dance anything is possible!

Their time here in Korea wasn't just about hitting the books (though there were plenty of those). From late-night study marathons to joyous field trips to places like Jeju Island, MUAP 16 made every moment count. Whether it was brainstorming presentations, battling through thesis writing, or simply sharing a meal together, this crew proved that teamwork really does make the dream work.

Now, as they pack their bags and prepare to return to their home countries for the next phase of their journey, we know this isn't goodbye—it's just a "see you later." Come August 2025, they'll be back in Seoul for their grand graduation ceremony, ready to celebrate all they've achieved. And who knows? Maybe they'll pop up on another adventure, in another part of the world. Because once you're part of the ISUS family, you're always part of the family.

So here's to you, MUAP 16! Go out there, conquer the world, and remember that we're cheering you on every step of the way. Until we meet again—stay awesome, stay connected, and keep our beautiful memories alive!





05 FROM SEOUL TO THE WORLD: ISUS STUDENTS BRIDGE CITIES AND CULTURES!

This summer, two lucky students from the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) embarked on an adventure that took them beyond the classroom and into the vibrant world of international urban development. From July 23rd to August 9th, Abdallah Samra El-Saied Abdalla (MGLEP10) from Egypt and Heenkenda Mudalige Dileepa Sandaruwan Heenkenda (MGLEP10) from Sri Lanka had the incredible opportunity to intern at CityNet Secretariat. It was an experience that not only broadened their horizons but also connected them with a network of global changemakers.

CityNet, a dynamic organization with a mission to connect cities and urban stakeholders, is the largest association of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its founding in 1987, with the backing of UNESCAP, UNDP, and UN-Habitat, CityNet has grown into a vibrant network of over 160 municipalities, NGOs, private companies, and research centers. Their goal? To create sustainable, resilient cities and respond to the ever-changing urban landscape. That's a mission ISUS wholeheartedly shares, making this internship a perfect match.

Abdallah and Dileepa dove headfirst into this whirlwind of ideas and innovation. As representatives of their respective countries, they didn't just observe from the sidelines—they became active participants in shaping the future. One of the highlights of their internship was the opportunity to present stories from their home countries, Egypt and Sri Lanka. Through this, they shared the unique challenges and aspirations of their cities, while also learning about Korea's urban landscape.

The discussions were anything but ordinary. With a mix of brainstorming sessions, cultural exchanges, and eye-opening conversations, the two students found themselves in the heart of meaningful dialogue about sustainable development. The experience wasn't just about learning—it was about contributing. Abdallah and Dileepa were part of conversations that could pave the way for future collaboration between Seoul, Egypt, and Sri Lanka, potentially laying the groundwork for new sister city relationships.

This internship was a true melting pot of ideas, cultures, and visions. It's a testament to the power of CityNet's mission to strengthen the bonds between cities across the globe. For Abdallah and Dileepa, it was a stepping stone toward a future where they can continue to bridge cultures and contribute to the sustainable development of their cities.

As the students return to ISUS, they carry with them not just the knowledge they've gained, but also the connections they've forged. This experience will undoubtedly inspire others in the ISUS community to reach out and engage with the world in meaningful ways.

So, what's next for Abdallah and Dileepa? Only time will tell. But one thing's for sure—their journey is far from over, and the world is their canvas!





06 **ALUM OF THE MONTH:** **L.C. MANOJ PERERA | MUAP 11**

L.C. Manoj Perera, a MUAP 11 in 2020, currently works as the Director of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at the Urban Development Authority (UDA) under Sri Lanka's Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. The UDA was to promote integrated planning and the implementation of economic, social, and physical development in designated urban areas.

As the Director of ICT, Manoj Perera plays a crucial role in developing and sustaining business practices in urban and regional development. His work is vital to achieve the UDA's mission: 'Planned, Sustained, and Adored Urbanization'

Q1. Is there any recent collaboration between your organization or team and Korea that you would like to share?

I began my collaborations with Korea while working as an Associate Consultant in SLIDA under the Ministry of Public Administration. At that time, I worked as a consultant to the Colombo Municipal Council for the e-Tax project, which was initiated by KOICA. This project is currently in its finalization stage, specifically the Record of Discussion (ROD), and is awaiting final approval from Sri Lanka's Attorney General before being presented to the cabinet.

In addition to the e-Tax project, I have also been actively involved in the Smart City development project. This initiative has been guided by the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS). Through these initiatives, we continue to foster valuable international relationships that contribute to the advancement of our urban infrastructure and services.

Q2. After completing your studies at ISUS, are there any areas you would like to explore further or any research fields you wish to expand upon in your work?

My initial academic background is in Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence. However, after graduating from ISUS, I decided to shift my focus towards urban administration and planning. I've since begun conducting research on smart cities and the implementation of innovative business practices in urban and regional development. I have actively participated in urban development and administration, integrating technology initiatives to facilitate centralized services for the citizens of Sri Lanka.

Q3. At the ISUS Policy Sharing Conference, you will be presenting on the implementation of business practices in urban and regional development. What do you hope the audience will take away from your presentation?

In my presentation, I aim to highlight the complexities of the construction approval process, which involves multiple steps and institutions. Delays in this process can lead to customer dissatisfaction and impede foreign investment. Therefore, there is a need to automate the entire process to ensure transparency and speed up the approval process.

Additionally, I will discuss how the knowledge and expertise gained from Korea have significantly influenced the implementation of our national transport project, specifically the Automatic Fare Collection System.

I would like to say that the knowledge gained from ISUS has played a significant role in facilitating and accelerating the implementation of business practices in urban and regional development, and I hope that the audience will gain insight into this program through my presentation.

Q4. How do you feel about being invited as a speaker for the 2024 Global Friends Night (GFN), and what message do you plan to convey to your audience?

I am deeply honored to be invited as a speaker for the 2024 Global Friends Nights (GFN). As a senior government officer, participating in national-level projects was my goal. It's an honor to have been chosen as a project committee member by the cabinet of ministers in Sri Lanka.

To successfully carry out a national-level project, it's important to have knowledge, experience, and involvement in relevant research. For example, the National Automatic Fare Collection System I mentioned before. Understanding urban administration and planning is also vital for the project. Therefore, the insights gained from ISUS will guide the implementation of any national projects. I will highlight how a solid understanding of urban administration and planning, coupled with practical experience, can drive the success of such initiatives.





01 | KDI INTERNSHIP: UNPACKING KOREA'S PPP SECRETS WITH ISUS STUDENTS!

From July 22 to 31, some lucky ISUS students got the golden opportunity to intern at the Korea Development Institute (KDI), formerly known as PIMAC. This wasn't your average internship—it was a crash course in Public Private Partnership (PPP) Korean-style! The students soaked up fascinating lectures and got hands-on with detailed practice in infrastructure planning. The internship was packed with insider know-how on Public Investment Management, giving them the skills to tackle big projects. It was an eye-opening experience that showed them how Korea's development strategies work in the real world!



02 | RIDING THE RAILS: BEHIND THE SCENES AT INCHEON'S ULTIMATE TRANSPORT OPERATOR!

On July 19, 2024, some lucky ISUS students got an exciting behind-the-scenes look at Incheon Transport Corporation (ITC). They explored the Rolling Stock Depot, seeing how the trains are maintained and kept in top shape. ITC isn't just any transport operator—they run subways, buses, GRT, taxis for handicapped passengers, and even manage bus terminals! The visit gave the students a rare glimpse into the daily hustle that keeps Incheon moving smoothly. It was a day full of learning, with plenty of "wow" moments as they discovered the secrets of Korea's most complete transport operator!

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