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# ISUS NEWSLETTER

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# 01 100th ISUS Urban Infra Forum

On 21 November 2025, the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) hosted its landmark 100th Urban Infra Forum at the Natural Science Building Main Hall, featuring *H.E. Ban Ki-moon*, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, as the distinguished keynote speaker. Drawing on decades of diplomatic leadership, he delivered a wide-ranging and deeply personal address that reflected on multilateral cooperation, the evolution of global climate governance, and the shared responsibilities of emerging urban leader



H.E. Ban emphasized the hard-won achievements of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals while warning that global progress remains fragile amid geopolitical tensions and intensifying climate impacts. He urged students to become principled “global citizens,” uniting passion with compassion, and to recognize cities as critical arenas where climate mitigation, adaptation, equity, and innovation converge. He stressed that the future of sustainability will be won or lost in urban environments, where both the challenges and solutions are most concentrated.

The forum concluded with a special segment in which H.E. Ban addressed a series of pre-collected student questions on climate justice, energy transitions, financing, and Africa’s development prospects. His responses were candid and encouraging, calling on students to raise their voices, challenge leaders constructively, and help shape a climate-resilient and inclusive global future. (JT)



# 02 2025-2 ISUS Completion Ceremony



The International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) held its second biannual Completion Ceremony for 2025 in December at the Natural Science Main Hall, celebrating an important milestone for three graduating cohorts. The event opened with acknowledgements of dignitaries, program chairs, faculty leaders, and guests whose support has strengthened ISUS's academic mission throughout the year.

The Dean delivered congratulatory remarks, commending the dedication and achievements of graduates from the International Urban Development Program (IUDP). She highlighted how students from the Master of Urban Development (MUD-8), the Master's Program for Future Global Leaders in Environmental Policy (MGLEP-10), and the Master of Urban Development and Sustainable Infrastructure Planning (MUDSIP-7) have grown academically, professionally, and personally through rigorous coursework, collaborative research, and real-world learning experiences.

Following her address, certificates were formally awarded to graduates across all programs, after which a short student-produced video offered a reflective and heartfelt look at their collective journey at ISUS. The ceremony also included special recognitions for exceptional academic performance, leadership, and community contributions.

Family members, friends, and faculty joined in celebrating the graduates' accomplishments and the promising career paths that lie ahead. The ceremony concluded with confidence that the new cohort will play meaningful roles in shaping sustainable and resilient urban futures worldwide. (J.T)

# 03

## 2025 MUAP Alumni Policy Partnership Program & MUAP Alumni Night

: Building Sustainable Global Collaboration Through the MUAP Network



ISUS successfully launched the first MUAP Alumni Policy Partnership Program, followed by the two-day MUAP Alumni Night, bringing together MUAP alumni, international delegates, and current students to strengthen global policy collaboration and the MUAP network.

### *A New Initiative for Sustainable Global Partnerships*

The MUAP Alumni Policy Partnership Program, newly introduced this year, was designed to strengthen practical cooperation between the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and MUAP alumni who serve as public officials in their home countries. Each year, one MUAP alumnus and two representatives from their organization are invited to Seoul for targeted policy meetings, site visits, and the development of joint project concepts. For its inaugural edition, Jakarta, Indonesia was selected, focusing on sustainable waste management policy collaboration.

Over three days (November 18 ~ 20), the Jakarta delegation engaged in policy consultations with SMG's Resource Circulation Division and Jung-gu Office, and visited key facilities including Seoul Upcycling Plaza, Mapo Resource Recovery Facility, Nanjido Story Exhibition Hall, and the Sudokwon Landfill Site Management Corporation (SL Corp.). These sessions provided practical insights into Seoul's waste reduction, recycling, and landfill management systems that could be adapted to Jakarta's urban context.

### ***MUAP Alumni Night: Strengthening Our Global Urban Network***

The subsequent MUAP Alumni Night brought together MUAP alumni from Jakarta and four additional countries, alongside current MUAP students, creating a truly cross-generational and international gathering. The event opened with a policy-sharing seminar where alumni presented their recent achievements, shared insights from their home cities, and explored future collaboration opportunities with students. Current MUAP participants also introduced their ongoing projects and partnership ideas, fostering an open dialogue across cohorts.

To strengthen personal connections, a team-building workshop followed encouraging alumni and students to interact beyond formal discussions and build a supportive global network. On the final day, participants joined a cultural exploration program at Incheon Open Port Street, including a modern-era costume experience, offering an engaging way to deepen their understanding of Korean history and culture while bonding with fellow MUAP community members.

The 2025 program marked an important step toward building a more engaged and collaborative MUAP global community. ISUS will continue expanding the initiative to support sustainable urban development and strengthen international cooperation among alumni and cities worldwide.(H. K)



# 04 MUD-8 Students Visit K-water for Field-Based Learning



On December 5, 2025, MUD-8 students visited K-water (Korea Water Resources Corporation) as part of their field-based learning activities. The visit offered students valuable insights into Korea's advanced water management systems and K-water's vital role in ensuring safe water supply, flood control, and sustainable water resource development.

During the session, students learned about integrated water management, smart water technologies, and large-scale infrastructure planning that support urban and regional development. The visit demonstrated how policy, engineering, and data-driven decision-making come together to manage one of the most critical public resources. For MUD students, the experience strengthened their understanding of water governance as a core component of sustainable and resilient urban development. (K.S)



# 05 From Classroom to Sports Ground

## Friendly Match Between Professors' Teams



The spirit of friendship and fun extended beyond the classroom as teams led by Professor Joon Park and Professor Seung Beom Seo faced off in a lively and friendly football match. Students and faculty gathered on the sports ground to cheer, laugh, and enjoy a moment of healthy competition, creating an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm and camaraderie.

More than just a game, the match reflected the warm and close-knit culture of ISUS, where academic life blends naturally with sportsmanship and community bonding. From lectures to the football field, the event highlighted how teamwork, energy, and mutual respect bring together students and faculty, strengthening connections and adding vibrancy to campus life. (K.S)

# 06 MGLEP 10 Final Field Trip to Gangchon

In early December, the MGLEP 10 cohort undertook their final field trip to Gangchon, symbolically marking the culmination of their two-year academic journey. The visit opened with a structured feedback session with faculty, providing students an opportunity to reflect on key lessons, program achievements, and areas for future growth. This thoughtful exchange was followed by a lively barbecue dinner set against the scenic Gangchon mountains, where students enjoyed informal conversations and celebratory dances. The trip concluded with a renewed sense of unity and accomplishment, offering the cohort a meaningful space for reflection, bonding, and celebration before graduation. (J.T)



# 07 MUDSIP 7 Final Field Trip to Gangneung

On December 7, 2025, the MUDSIP 7 cohort traveled to Gangneung for their concluding field excursion, marking the final chapter of their academic experience. The visit allowed students to immerse themselves in the city's coastal atmosphere, taking in its serene beaches, cultural landmarks, and winter shoreline scenery.

Highlights included leisurely walks along the Gyeongpo coastline and time exploring Gangneung's traditional markets, where students engaged with the local community and regional heritage. The day drew to a close with a thoughtful moment of connection and shared reflection, offering the cohort a memorable farewell in one of Korea's most picturesque coastal destinations. (J.T)



# 08 MUD-9 Students Explore Heritage and Culture in Seoul



On December 5, 2025, MUD-9 students took part in a cultural and educational visit to Gyeonghuigung Palace and the National Territory Balijeon Exhibit Hall (Museum) in Seoul. The visit provided a meaningful opportunity to explore Korea's historical governance, architectural heritage, and approaches to national land development through guided tours and interactive exhibits.

Later in the day, students enjoyed a kimchi-making experience at the Seoul Kimchi-making Cultural Experience Center, where they learned about Korea's iconic food culture and the tradi-

tions behind kimjang, recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. The day offered a rich blend of history, culture, and hands-on learning, enhancing students' understanding of Korean heritage while fostering shared experiences and cultural exchange. (K.S)



# 09 ISUS Students Enjoy the First Snow of the Season

ISUS students welcomed the first snowfall of the season with excitement as the campus transformed into a picturesque winter wonderland. For many international students, it was their first experience of snow in Korea, making the moment especially memorable. Students gathered around campus to take photos, enjoy peaceful snow walks, and share laughter with friends, capturing the joy of the season.

The first snow marked the official arrival of winter at ISUS, bringing a sense of warmth and togetherness despite the cold. These simple yet special moments added a unique seasonal charm to student life and created lasting memories during a busy academic semester. (K.S)

# 10 Alum of the Month

## : Izzatul Aini Binti Ibrahim (MUAP 15)



Izzatul Aini Binti Ibrahim is an alumna of the MUAP 15 and currently serves as Deputy Director of the Protocol and International Affairs Division under the Corporate Planning Department of Kuala Lumpur City Hall. In this role, she leads Kuala Lumpur's international engagements and city diplomacy efforts, coordinating global partnerships and high-level exchanges.

Q1

*Congratulations on your recent promotion. Could you tell us about your current role in the Corporate Planning Department at Kuala Lumpur City Hall and the key responsibilities you oversee?*

Currently, I am the Deputy Director of the Protocol and International Affairs Division under the Corporate Planning Department of Kuala Lumpur City Hall. I oversee Kuala Lumpur's bilateral and multilateral engagements, including foreign mayoral visits, participation in global city networks, and coordination with ministries to ensure alignment with Malaysia's national foreign policy.

Q2

*How has your MUAP experience at ISUS shaped your professional growth and the way you approach urban administration today?*

Being a part of MUAP really has a profound influence on my professional growth and approach to urban administration. The programme strengthened my confidence in engaging with diverse stakeholders across cultures, disciplines, and governance systems, an essential skill in international city diplomacy.

Studying alongside peers from various countries exposed me to different administrative traditions, development priorities, and institutional constraints. The MUAP programme underscored that; solutions must always be context-sensitive. This understanding has shaped my appreciation for adaptive policy making rather than one-size-fits-all approaches.

The programme provided a strong conceptual foundation that I now apply in practice. More importantly, it nurtured a mindset of comparative learning, where cities learn from one another while respecting local realities. This perspective is central to my current work in managing international cooperation for Kuala Lumpur.

*During the recent visit of the Mayor of Seoul to Kuala Lumpur—an event that highlighted initiatives such as the 'Car Free Morning' and various urban development exchanges—what role did you play, and what aspects of Seoul's policies or practices do you believe could be adapted to KL's urban planning?*

Q3

During the 6th to 8th of December 2025 visit by the Mayor of Seoul, I was part of Kuala Lumpur City Hall's core coordination team, responsible for ensuring seamless interaction between city leadership, ministries/agencies, and the Seoul delegation. My primary focus facilitating site visits, and coordinating protocol and inter-agency activities in relation to the visit.

Highlights of the visit included the Seoul Mayor's observation of Kuala Lumpur Car Free Morning, where I personally escorted him and the Seoul delegates. I also coordinated his other visits to several of Kuala Lumpur's active initiative locations such as the Perdana Botanical Garden, the SMART Tunnel and the River of Life initiative.

In my view, Kuala Lumpur can draw valuable lessons from Seoul's governance initiatives, particularly in data-driven city management. Seoul's use of IoT and integrated digital platforms to support traffic management and urban safety demonstrates how technology can enhance operational efficiency. Equally important are Seoul's structured citizen engagement mechanisms, such as its digital voting system, and the strong collaboration between city government and universities in translating data and research into actionable policy. The Smart Seoul Data of Things (S-DoT) infrastructure further illustrates how environmental, population, and safety data can be systematically leveraged to support informed and timely decision-making. Equally important are Seoul's approaches to climate resilience and disaster management, including flood mitigation, slope management, and comprehensive spatial mapping of underground utilities.

Beyond systems and technology, Seoul's ability to balance modernization with cultural preservation through outdoor libraries, riverfront spaces, festivals, and heritage programming offers valuable lessons.





Q4

*Lastly, would you like to share any message with the ISUS community?*



The ISUS experience provides a strong foundation for engaging across institutions and governance systems, equipping its community with both technical grounding and global perspective.

To current students, I wish you every success as you progress through the programme and shape your professional paths. To the faculty and staffs, thank you for your dedication and commitment to delivering a rigorous and meaningful learning experience.

And to fellow alumni, I look forward to meeting again through cities, projects, conferences, and future collaborations. Thank you ISUS. I UOS U!





### ***Editing Team***

Shin Lee, Dabin Kim, John Twumasi, Khurram Shahzad, Jayeon Lee

### ***Contributors***

*Hyemi Kim, Sanaur, Adharshani Anishma Kumar, Anisha*



**UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL**

**ISUS** International School of Urban Sciences

University of Seoul 163, Siripdaero, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 02504 KOREA

Tel. 82-2-6490-5137~8  
E-mail. [isus@uos.ac.kr](mailto:isus@uos.ac.kr)

Fax. 82-2-6490-5141  
Homepage. <http://isus.uos.ac.kr>

