



On December 13th, 2024, the International Urban Development Program (IUDP) lit up the academic and professional world by hosting its 2024 Completion Ceremony. This momentous occasion celebrated the achievements of various cohorts such as the Master's Program for Future Global Leaders in Environmental Policy (MGLEP 9), Master of Urban Development (MUD 7), and Master of Infrastructure Planning and Development (MIPD 6), showcasing the transformative journey of students who have mastered the complexities of urban development, policy innovation, and global leadership.

The ceremony, held in a vibrant and celebratory setting, brought together graduates, faculty, friends, and distinguished guests from diverse fields. The atmosphere was one of pride, joy, and reflection, as attendees gathered to honor the hard work, resilience, and accomplishments of the graduating cohorts. Graduates were recognized not only for their academic achievements, but also for their commitment to driving meaningful change in their respective fields.

The ceremony featured heartfelt speeches from faculty members who reflected on the students' journeys. They lauded the graduates' ability to adapt to rigorous coursework, collaborative projects, and real-world problem-solving experiences that have prepared them to shape the future of urban landscapes and sustainable policies globally.

One of the most memorable moments was the keynote speech by the Dean, Prof. Shin Lee, who emphasized the critical role of multidisciplinary education in addressing urbanization challenges. She urged the graduates to remain curious, innovative, and empathetic as they step into leadership roles.

Adding a personal touch to the event were students' reflections from each cohort. Their stories of friendship, perseverance, and growth resonated deeply with the audience, underscoring the bonds formed during the program. The ceremony also featured award presentations to outstanding students in each cohort, serving as a symbol of encouragement to inspire them to make a significant impact on the world stage.

As graduates embark on their next chapters, the completion ceremony was not just an end but a powerful beginning. It reaffirmed the IUDP's role as a beacon of excellence in international urban development education and inspired all present to think boldly about the future. The 2024 ISUS Completion Ceremony will undoubtedly remain a cherished memory for all involved.

With its commitment to nurturing leaders who can transform cities and communities worldwide, the IUDP continues to shine as a pioneer in shaping the urban future. The graduates of MGLEP 9, MUD 7, and MIPD 6 now carry this legacy forward, ready to make their mark on the world. Congratulations to all! (J.T.)



"From "둘도 많다!" (Even two is too many!) to 'Please Have More!' – The Gender Revolution Turning the Tide on Fertility!"

On November 27th, Dr. Joeun Kim, an assistant professor at the Korea Development Institute (KDI), delivered a compelling lecture titled "The Gender Revolution and Fertility Decline in High-Income Societies." This presentation explored the diverging fertility patterns in affluent countries, distinguishing between low fertility and "lowest-low" fertility rates. Dr. Kim highlighted how the ongoing gender revolution, marked by shifting roles and expectations for women and men affects fertility behaviors. Using South Korea as a key case study, alongside examples from other nations, the lecture delved into the relationship between gender equality and fertility rates and evaluated policy interventions addressing population decline in developed societies.

A memorable aspect of the session was the mention of South Korea's historical family planning campaign, symbolized by the slogan "둘도 많다!" ("Even two is too many!"). During the country's rapid economic and social transformation, this campaign promoted smaller family sizes to align with national development goals. The iconic image of two anthropomorphic fingers forming a "V" symbol resonated deeply with the public, blending humor with a serious message about limiting population growth. While this initiative was effective during its time, the cultural mindset it embedded has persisted, contributing to the sharp population decline seen today.

South Korea's current birth rate is among the lowest in the world, way below the standard replacement rate of 2.1. This troubling trend stems from a combination of economic, social, and cultural factors. A primary challenge is the high cost of living, especially in cities like Seoul, where housing prices are prohibitively expensive. The financial burden of raising children, compounded by the costs of private education and tutoring, further discourages young couples from expanding their families. Additionally, intense work culture and job insecurity make it difficult for many to balance their careers and family life.

Gender inequality also plays a significant role in this decline. Women in South Korea face substantial career setbacks after childbirth, with societal expectations often placing the bulk of household and childcare responsibilities on their shoulders. This imbalance discourages many women from having children, as they struggle to maintain their professional aspirations alongside family obligations. Delayed marriage, influenced by financial instability and shifting priorities, further exacerbates the issue, as marriage is traditionally seen as a prerequisite for parenthood.



In response, the South Korean government has implemented various measures to address the declining birth rate. These include expanding parental leave benefits, offering financial subsidies to working parents, and enhancing access to childcare services. For example, the "6+6 Parental Leave Compensation" policy allows both parents to take extended leave, now expanded to three years, with increased financial support. Subsidies of up to 2 million KRW are also provided to alleviate childcare costs, particularly for dual-income households. These initiatives aim to ease the financial burden of parenting and create a more supportive environment for families.

Despite these efforts, experts argue that more structural reforms are necessary. Affordable housing, workplace flexibility, and greater gender equality are critical to addressing the root causes of South Korea's low birth rate. The implications of this demographic trend are profound, threatening economic growth and straining social welfare systems as the population ages.

Dr. Kim's lecture captivated the audience, with students listening intently to every word. The session not only shed light on the challenges of fertility decline but also underscored the importance of addressing these issues through holistic and sustainable solutions. (S.U.)

Insightful Knowledge Sharing Among Each Urban Infra Forum



MIPD 6 (Finally) Goes to JEJU!!!

“Jeju-Do: The Final Adventure of MIPD6!”

Jeju-do, the crown jewel of Korea, is a place that never fails to leave its visitors in awe. This volcanic wonderland, born from the fiery heart of Hallasan Mountain, is a paradise overflowing with lush greenery, breathtaking landscapes, and an undeniable touch of magic. No wonder it's lovingly called the “Island of Miracles!”

After 16 long months of anticipation, on the 21st of November, the MIPD 6 class finally set off on their ultimate adventure to Jeju-do, and what a trip it was! Their first stop? After they landed at the Jeju International Airport from Gimpo Airport, they visited The Yongdam-dong Urban Regeneration Center. Here, the students dove headfirst into understanding how Jeju Island balances urban charm with preserving its cultural roots. Picture quaint, old-school architecture blending seamlessly with modern design. But it wasn't just about the buildings; it was about people, too. The students were inspired by how Jeju's residents maintain strong community ties despite living in an ever-modernizing world.

Just when we thought Jeju couldn't surprise us more. *Boom!* We learned about its jaw-dropping goal: achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2035. That's right, Jeju-do isn't just about dreamy beaches and volcanic craters; it's also a leader in green innovation. At Jeju Energy Corporation, the students got the inside scoop on the island's cutting-edge renewable energy projects. From wind turbines to solar panels, Jeju-do is charging toward a sustainable future like a true eco-warrior. Who knew going green could be so thrilling?

No trip to Jeju would be complete without a visit to Aqua Planet Jeju, one of Asia's largest aquariums. Imagine walking into an underwater wonderland filled with majestic marine creatures gliding gracefully through crystal-clear waters. Each exhibit was packed with fascinating tidbits about ocean life, making it an unforgettable blend of fun and education. It was like stepping into another world, a magical blue planet teeming with life beneath the waves.

But this wasn't just a trip; it was *the* trip. The final field trip for MIPD 6 in Korea. Every laugh, every gasp of wonder, and every memory made on Jeju-do became a beautiful ending to an incredible chapter. (S.U.)

A long journey passed in a blink of an eye now we are at the Final Field Trip Together as MIPD 6 Family



DL E&C Meeting with MIPD and MUDSIP

"Building Infinite Magic! (BIM) 🤖 A transformative tool turning construction challenges into a seamless success!"

On November 25th, MIPD 6 and MUDSIP 7 had the incredible opportunity to meet with DL E&C, one of Korea's leading construction and engineering companies. This exciting session brought Building Information Modeling (BIM) to life as representatives from DL E&C visited the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) to explain how this transformative tool is revolutionizing the construction industry. Through real-world examples, the consultants demonstrated how BIM can save projects significant amounts of money while improving efficiency and collaboration.

The session kicked off with a detailed explanation of how BIM works its magic. At its core, BIM enhances collaboration and coordination among stakeholders by ensuring all project data is centralized and up-to-date. A standout feature of BIM is its clash detection system, which identifies potential conflicts between structural, mechanical, and electrical components early in the design process. By catching these issues before construction begins, projects avoid costly delays and rework. Additionally, BIM's integrated workflows keep all parties aligned, minimizing miscommunication and ensuring seamless teamwork.

BIM doesn't just stop at better coordination, it also improves design accuracy. With its powerful 3D visualization capabilities, stakeholders gain a clear and detailed understanding of the project's design, reducing errors caused by misunderstandings. Beyond visualization, BIM can simulate factors like energy performance, lighting, and structural stability, optimizing designs for both efficiency and sustainability. These tools ensure that the final product isn't just cost-effective to build but also cost-efficient to maintain and operate.

Adding prestige to the session was DL E&C itself, a company founded in 1939 and now recognized as a leader in Korea's construction industry. As the parent company of the DL Group, DL E&C has built a reputation for excellence in Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC). Their expertise and innovative use of BIM technology have positioned them at the forefront of the industry, making this session all the more insightful for ISUS students.

While the session was packed with valuable information, the time flew by as students from MIPD 6 and MUDSIP 7 eagerly engaged with the DL E&C team. The sheer volume of questions from the students, curious about BIM's real-world applications in Korea, showed just how impactful and thought-provoking the meeting was. It was unfortunate that time was limited, as the students were brimming with enthusiasm and keen to dive deeper into the subject. (S.U.)



In December 2024, the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) capped off the year with the Most Valuable International Projects (MVIP) Awards Ceremony, an event that brought together visionaries in sustainability, technological innovation, and social impact. Among a range of student-led project proposals, the ceremony celebrated outstanding ideas in Global Project Development.

The ceremony was an inspiring showcase of creativity and forward-thinking solutions across various urban fields. The spotlight was on projects that tackle some of today's most pressing challenges, including urban sustainability, efficient water resources management, resource circulation, renewable energy solutions, and mobility.

The first event kicked off with an inspiring address by the Dean of ISUS, Prof. Shin Lee. In her speech, she highlighted the transformative potential of global teamwork and innovative thinking while acknowledging the challenges faced by the various teams. Her remarks set the tone for the event, which proceeded with presentations from multiple teams. These were evaluated by a panel of judges comprising representatives from various ministries and esteemed institutions.

Among the most celebrated teams were Team Eco Warlocks, Water Savers, and Team Recharge. These teams impressed judges with their innovative and impactful contributions to sustainability and technological advancement. Their projects demonstrated how ambitious ideas can drive meaningful change on a global scale.



Separately, other programs (Master of Urban Administration and Planning (MUAP), Master of Urban Development (MUD), and Master's degree in Urban Development and Smart Infrastructure Policy (MUDSIP)) also had their moment to shine, as teams from various classes unveiled innovative concepts ranging from smart city technologies to urban planning strategies. These ideas emphasized a critical insight: urban challenges such as congestion, mobility, and sustainability are universal and require creative solutions that transcend borders.

The MVIP Awards did not only celebrate individual and team project conceptualization but also reinforced the importance of collaborative global efforts in addressing the challenges of the 21st century. The ceremony stood as a testament to ISUS's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders and changemakers in urban development.

As we look ahead, the innovative spirit and dedication of these teams offer hope for a brighter, more sustainable future. Congratulations to all participants and winners of the 2024 MVIP Awards! (J.T.)



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AWARDS



Byung-Jun Shim, a graduate of the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD 2), has worked as an urban planning engineer in the construction engineering industry for over 30 years. Currently, he serves as the Head of the Urban Headquarters at Sunjin Engineering & Architecture Co., Ltd.

1. Could you tell us about a memorable international cooperation project you were involved in?

A memorable project for me is the "Kenya Konza Smart City Master Plan Development" project, commissioned by KOTRA in 2022. This project, part of the Economic Innovation Partnership Program (EIPP), a component of the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP), aimed to share South Korea's smart city development experience with the Kenyan government. Konza Technopolis is located 60 km south of Nairobi, and it is a key project under 'Kenya Vision 2030'. The Kenyan government established the Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA) to drive the development, and they created the urban development master plan and are currently working on the phase-by-phase construction of basic infrastructure and buildings.

Through this project, we collaborated with KoTDA to develop a strategy for building the Konza Technopolis Smart City, providing recommendations for major smart services like transportation, safety, and the environment, as well as policies for ongoing operations and management. It was a rewarding experience to contribute to creating an eco-friendly and sustainable city in Kenya's savanna region, and it was particularly satisfying to see the team members, who initially had some hesitation about working in Africa, gain a better understanding and a positive perception of both Africa and Kenya throughout the project.

2. What is your perspective on the future of urban planning in Korea?

South Korea has implemented various measures, such as new town development and industrial park creation, to address urban issues arising from rapid industrialization and urbanization. While we have achieved significant results, we have also encountered side effects. I believe that these experiences will play an important role in solving urban issues in developing countries facing urbanization challenges. However, due to various reasons, the overseas expansion of urban planning projects is currently not very active. Therefore, I encourage the next generation of Korean urban planners to prepare for and engage in overseas projects where we can leverage our experiences, rather than solely focusing on domestic urban projects.



3. Do you have any fond memories from your time at ISUS that you would like to share?

After graduating from university in 1994, 20 years later, I entered ISUS in 2014. Although it was physically tiring because of balancing work and study, every visit to ISUS felt like returning to my twenties—joyful and fulfilling. I enjoyed the warm hearts and smiles of my fellow alumni, and through their different perspectives on cities, I was exposed to a wide range of insights. I particularly cherished the "Global Network Seminar" class, where I teamed up with NATALÍ DUARTE from Colombia to explore urban solutions for Bogotá. I fondly remember drinking Colombian coffee that NATALÍ brought and having chicken and beer together outside the school.

Another cherished memory is the graduation trip from the summer of 2015. With my classmates and professors, including Professor Man-hee Han, the first dean of ISUS, and Professor Shin Lee, the current dean, we went to Da Nang, Vietnam. Despite enduring the heat in Vietnam due to a broken air conditioner on our bus, we had an unforgettable experience exploring the cultural heritage of Hue and Hoi An, and the kindness of the locals. Most importantly, it was a memorable trip because I could create lasting memories with my professors and classmates.

4. Lastly, is there anything you'd like to say to your peers, juniors, or professors at ISUS?

Since its establishment in 2013, ISUS has continuously developed, and I understand that the number of domestic and international graduates now exceeds 1,000. I believe that active exchanges among these graduates will help share South Korea's urban development experiences more smoothly and assist domestic alumni in participating in overseas projects. I hope that ISUS can serve as a platform where graduates worldwide can come together to share and discuss urban issues in their respective countries and find solutions.

Finally, I wish good health and happiness to all the professors and staff who tirelessly work for the development of ISUS, and alumni, and current students.

Thank you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! (D.K.)



As the Fall Semester concludes and the world is blanketed in frost and snow, ISUS students eagerly welcome the arrival of winter vacation. This cherished break offers a chance to step away from academic demands, recharge, and savor the magic of the season.

For many, winter break is a time for exploration and personal growth. Some students will travel to new destinations within South Korea, immersing themselves in the culture and traditions of various regions. Others will use the time to pursue hobbies and passions set aside during the semester, engaging in creative pursuits like painting or writing, or contributing through community service projects that spread goodwill during the holiday season.

Some will dive into the festive atmosphere of Christmas and New Year's celebrations across Korea, exploring the unique traditions, foods, and cultural festivities that make the season so special. Meanwhile, a few adventurous spirits are traveling abroad, experiencing the vibrant winter traditions of other cultures, from bustling European holiday markets to unique celebrations in distant lands, broadening their horizons and creating unforgettable memories.

The break also offers a moment of reflection, providing students the opportunity to evaluate their progress and set meaningful goals for the year ahead. Whether spending time with loved ones, enjoying a quiet retreat to recharge, or celebrating cherished family traditions, the season is a reminder of the importance of balance and renewal.

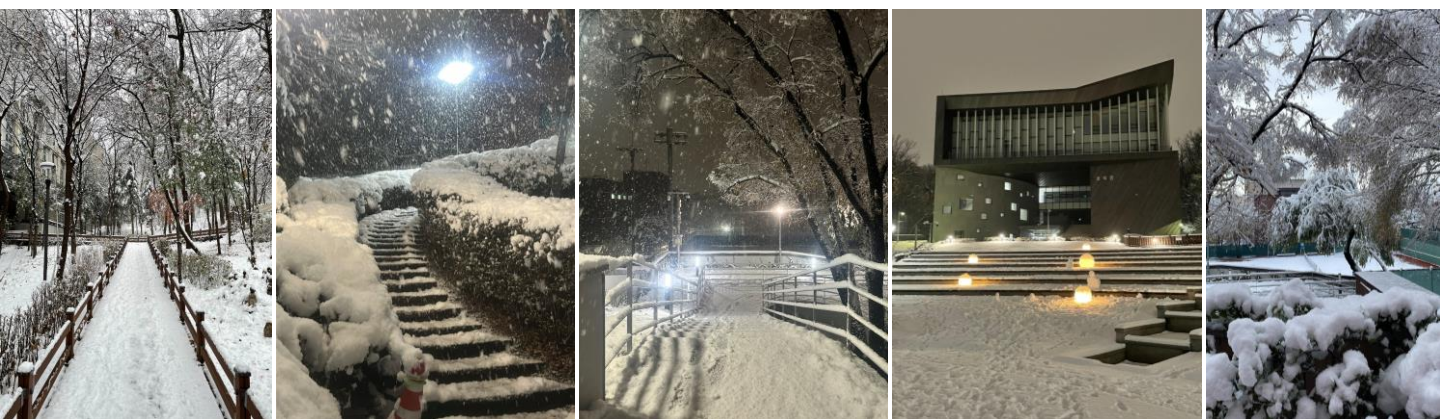
As winter vacation begins, we wish all ISUS students a joyful and rejuvenating holiday season. May this time bring rest, inspiration, and excitement for the opportunities the New Year holds! (J.T.)



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UOS CAMPUS

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