

February 2022

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

Cover Story

<2022 Spring Semester UOS Academic Schedule>

The Spring semester will start on Wednesday, 2nd March. In advance of the beginning of classes, please check for updates regarding the schedule and announcement.

The class registration period will be from 14th to 18th of February, so please be prepared for enrolling in classes.

<Interview >

For February's interview, let us read about Otabek Fayazov (MUAP 11), who is a deputy head of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan. He was recently awarded a Jubilee Medal from SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).

<Winter Internship>

This winter vacation, students from the IUDP programs attended internship. Due to COVID-19, there are restrictions for having internship offline. However, most of them had the valuable opportunity to have an on-site experience at Korean organizations.

<Omicron Continues to Surge>

The Omicron, COVID19 variant, continues to spread in Korea, on 9th February the number of daily cases exceeded 50,000 for the first time since the start of the pandemic. So, please be careful not to be exposed to crowded areas and follow preventive measures.

Newsletter Interview Article: MUAP Alumnus, Otabek Fayazov

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

For February's interview, let us read about Otabek Fayazov (MUAP 11), who is a deputy head of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan. He was recently awarded a Jubilee Medal from SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), in this interview he talked about his experience at the organization, and his motivation to receive the award.



Q1. Please, introduce yourself.

Otabek Fayazov : I am Otabek Fayazov, MUAP 11 fellow. Currently, I work as a deputy head of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan.

Q2. We heard that you won the award from SCO (Congratulations!) Could you introduce the award, and what was your motivation to get it?

Otabek Fayazov : The Award that I received is the commemorative medal dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Jubilee Medals of SCO were issued by the initiative of the Republic of Tadjikistan. They were presented to heads of governments and officials of SCO member countries, who played a specific role in the development of the organization.

For reference: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, also known as the Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance. It is the world's largest regional organization in geographic scope and population, covering three-fifths of the Eurasian continent, 40% of the world population, and more than 20% of global GDP.

Apart from my responsibilities at the Ministry, I am in charge of international cooperation within SCO member countries in science, technology, and innovations. In the framework of this activity, I had chances to organize and participate in several events, high-level meetings, and work on several issues.

Q3. Next, could you explain your organization, the Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan? And what are your responsibilities in the Ministry?

Otabek Fayazov : The Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan was created in 2017 to ensure accelerated innovation-driven growth of all sectors of the economy and social sphere based on advanced foreign experience, modern achievements of world science, innovative ideas, developments, and technologies.

The Ministry carries out a unified state policy in the sphere of innovative and scientific-technical development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, aimed at all-round development of public and state life, increasing the intellectual and technological potential of the country.

Also, it evaluates innovative development based on indicators of its effectiveness, determines main development areas in relevant sectors and spheres requiring early implementation of advanced technologies.

Lastly, it coordinates the performance of public administration institutions, scientific research and analytics institutions, and other organizations in the sphere of implementation of innovative ideas, developments, and technologies.

My main role in the Ministry is a coordination of all external affairs and activities initiated and carried out by the departments and organizations of the Ministry. Moreover, I am in charge of establishing new relations, finding new partners. Briefly, I do what usually the Ministry of Foreign affairs does.

Q4. How did the ISUS programs help you with the job or project that you've been working on?

Otabek Fayazov : A year of education in the ISUS program and living in Korea made a lot of changes in my life and my mind.

Since I joined the program, I started to compare the education system, the city and government management, and of course, the lifestyle of Korean and Uzbek people. There are a lot of lessons I learned and I'm still trying to implement those advantages of Korea in my personal life and workplace. Particularly, as ISUS is specialized in urban sciences, I have been preparing proposals to the city administration of Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan, where I formerly worked as a foreign affairs officer, to improve the urban infrastructure and management system of the city.

Moreover, thanks to close relations with Seoul City Hall and as a result of our cooperative ideas and work, recently "Smart Mayor's office" project, which allows the Mayor and City administration to monitor the situation in the city in real-time, has been launched and presented to the President of Uzbekistan.

One more fact is that, at the beginning of the pandemic, when the government barely knew how to manage the situation, the advice and instructions of Seoul City Hall presented to Tashkent city municipality in time were exclusively helpful.

Q5. Could you share with us the most memorable experience in ISUS?

Otabek Fayazov : I had a lot of memorable moments in ISUS. They are from exceptionally informative and interesting courses to “drinking day” at the University. But the most memorable one is my time spent with my international friends. Totally different people with their national, religious, and professional backgrounds became one big family and supported each other during their stay in Korea. I remember the first person who helped me to adapt new atmosphere was Isa (Aissa Boizidi, MUAP 10), the group with whom I tried many Korean attractions and entertainments were my Latinos friends (Wladimir, Andrew, Pedro) and the football team of ISUS (Caio Fabiano, Julio, Andrew “Lukaku” Muriithi and many others) with whom we created a new tradition to play football on Sundays at the high-school-field and it became special event even for the local community around the University.

Q6. What is your next plan in the ministry? What do you want to do in the future?

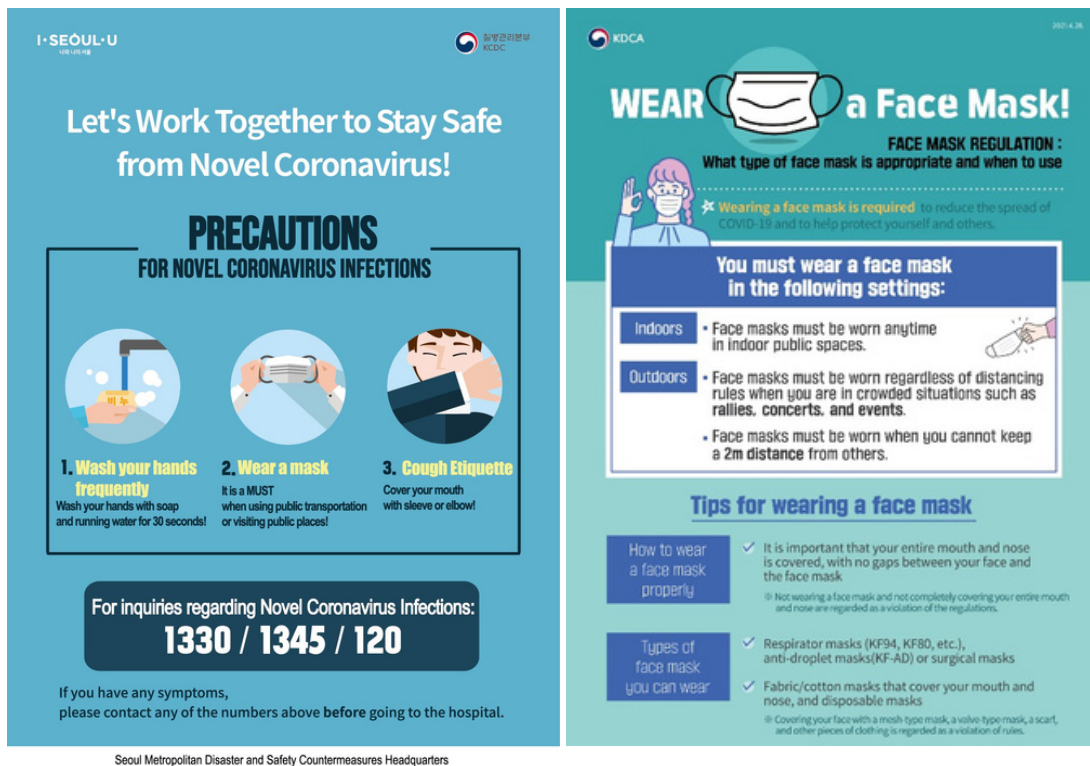
Otabek Fayazov : The main goal in my mind, which I always think about, is to organize some joint projects with the University of Seoul, especially with ISUS. I have some plans from establishing cooperative ties of the Ministry with UOS and then thinking about joint activities starting from joint some events and developing to opening the branch of UOS in Uzbekistan. I have already started some discussions with my professors and those discussions have to be upgraded to real actions in the future.

Q7. Lastly, are there any words you want to say to ISUS members?

Otabek Fayazov : The main message to deliver to the ISUS members is: “Dear my ISUS friend, ISUS is the unique platform where people from many countries join with their personal targets and mind and leave with huge family in heart and a totally different outlook. So, if you are currently studying, you must know that you are the happiest person and must appreciate and use the time effectively for 100%. If you have the prefix “former” as for me, please appreciate that you’ve got in ISUS and do not let your ISUS Family leave your life.”

Finally, I would like to express my deepest feelings of gratitude to the professors for their kindness, support, and knowledge that they gave us. I hope our cooperation will continue.

Omicron Continues to Surge



The Omicron variant continues to spread in Korea, on 9th February the number of daily cases exceeded 50,000 for the first time since the start of the pandemic. The surge in new cases is prompting concerns that daily case numbers could reach up to 200,000 by this March.

On February 4, 2022, the Government decided to extend current social distancing rules for two more weeks. Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum said it is necessary as the country struggles to contain the Omicron variant.

The Government has been enforcing enhanced social distancing rules since January 17, 2022, that allow private gatherings of up to six people with a 9 p.m. curfew imposed on business hours of restaurants and cafes.

The restrictions were originally supposed to end Sunday, but according to the latest decision, they will be enforced through February 20, 2022.

Please check the infographics about the correct use of face masks and other measures to stay safe from Corona virus.

MUAP WINTER SESSION: Did You Know That Winter Lessons Are Not A Torture?

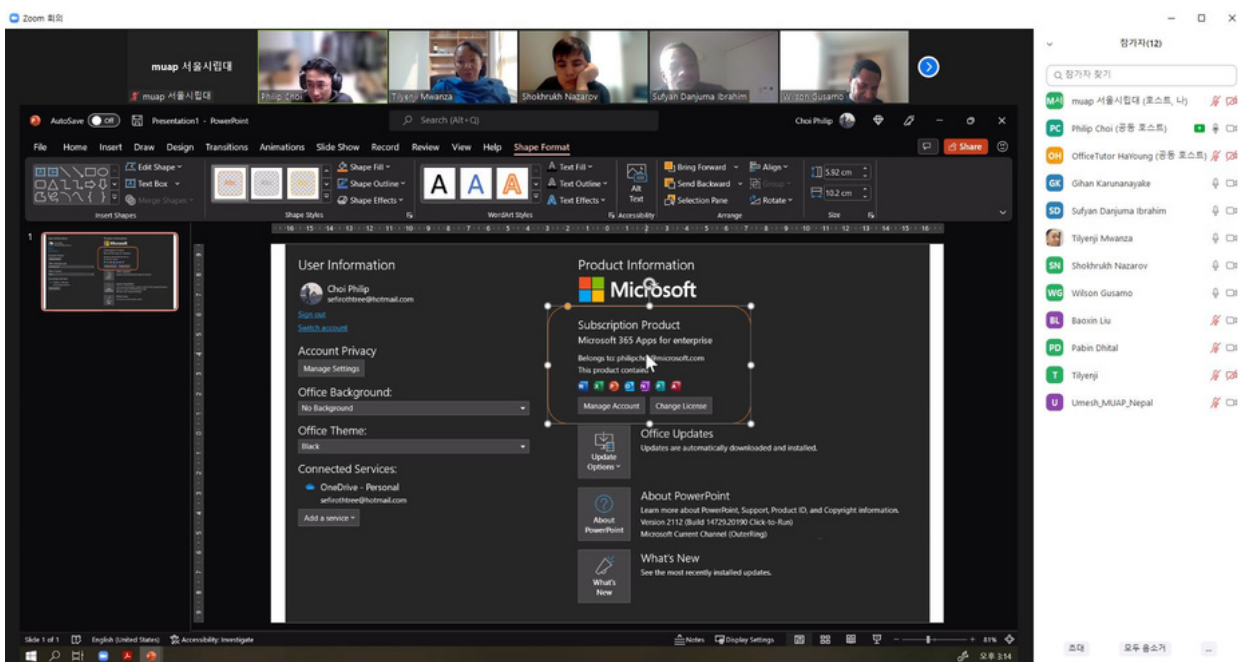
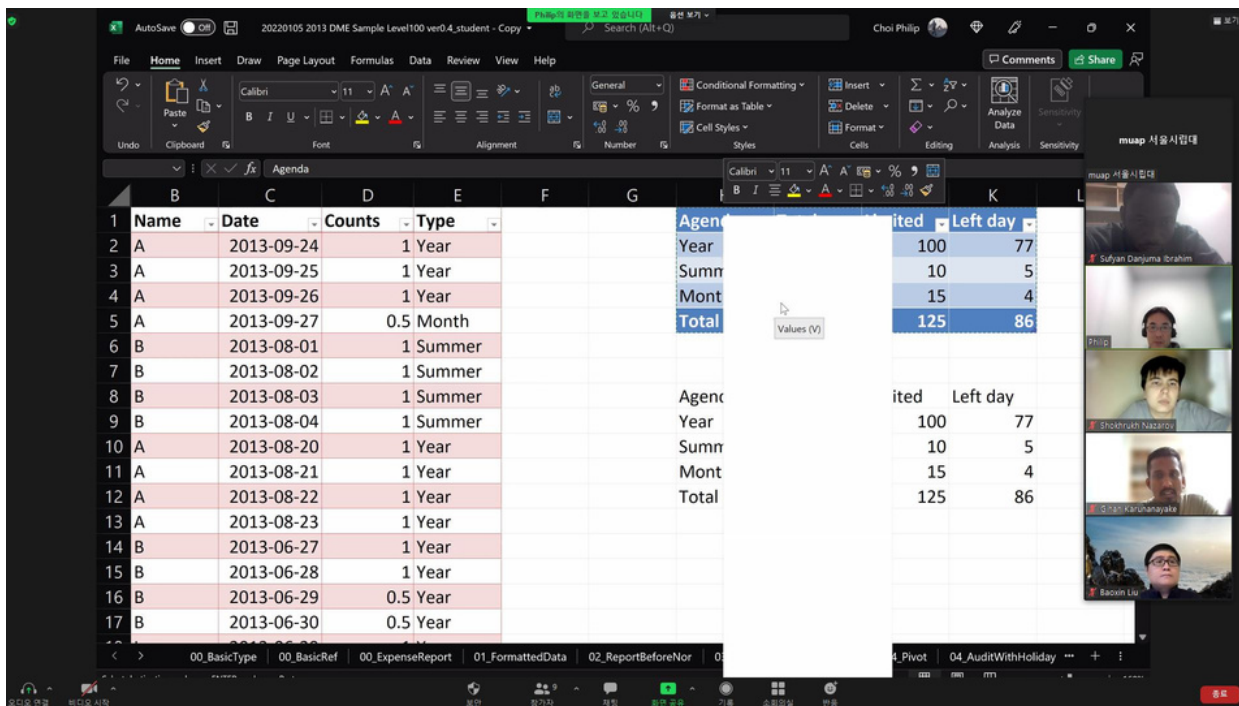
Written By Tilyenji J. Mwanza (MUAP 14)

The Cold Finger of winter has finally crept through and at the University of Seoul, this is seen from the bristly trees with no leaves towering, squealing, and cracking to the cold gusting winds. For the Master of Urban Administration Planning (MUAP) class, the meaning of winter is defined differently as the class comprises sixteen different nationalities. To some the weather is not different from that of their native countries, to others like colleagues from Mongolia and Tajikistan it is not that cold but to others like the author of this article, the cold wind is an alien experience, and the snowfall a first-time experience that can be described as magical.

However, to the entire MUAP Class, Winter marked the beginning of thesis presentation thoughts as the University offered convenient, painless, short winter lessons that aimed at guaranteeing publishable thesis topics. The thought of having more schoolwork during vacation may be enough to make you cringe (or cry), but they were many hidden benefits to doing so.

The winter courses made it possible to lighten workload throughout the fall and dedicated extra time to subjects that were entirely new to students. The classes also provided students with an opportunity to get to know peers and their lecturers a little more. Also, the mind was kept active and healthy by keeping busy in a productive manner.

The classes which were conducted online amidst the Coronavirus pandemic included courses such as Research Methodology that will help students have top-class data presentation and analysis in their thesis. On the other hand, the students had an option to equally take Microsoft Office classes that taught them some computer tricks to have their document presentation logical and also aid them to write effectively.



The MUAP course also dictates that the program be conducted in English and thus Professor Keith Woogerd was on hand offering one on one academic writing tutorials to perfect the English Language for students.

And for the University of Seoul, it is always more than book smart knowledge, Korean Professors Yong Sook Lee and Young Eun Kim were also prepping students with Basic Korean Language and etiquette as the Winter Break is also a period that students experience the Korean Industry by taking internships from various institutions, an experience the author will gladly write about later.

For now, it is a Happy New Year to you all!

MGLEP Winter Internship

This winter vacation, students from the MGLEP program attended internship. Due to COVID-19, there are restrictions for having internship offline. However, most of them had the valuable opportunity to have an on-site experience at Korean organizations.



The students helped the organizations to establish new projects or to provide insight about the ongoing projects according to their fields of expertise. Moreover, they provided organizations with core insight into their home country.

Three students participated at K-Water Academy, seven at the Korea Forest Service, and CityNet.



<K-Water Academy>



< Korea Forest Service>



<City Net>

MIPD Winter Internship

MIPD 4's internship was held from January 10 to February 18, 2022. Nineteen students were assigned to fourteen institutions, including the Korea District Heating corporation, Korea National Railway, CHEIL Engineering Co., Ltd, and Daewoo E&C.



<Sherzod Inomjonovich SODIKOV(Uzbekistan) at Korea District Heating Corporation>



<Kamonchanok WANGVITTAYA(Thailand), Benjarat SREESAI(Thailand), Dwiky Sarahidha IRELLI(Indonesia), Devayana Tarissa SOEKARTONO(Indonesia) at Korea National Railway>

At Korea National Railway, MIPD students were able to investigate and compare the status of technology/business in the railway sector between countries such as Indonesia and Thailand, and learn how to cope with it. In addition, they exchanged plans related to the railway sector.



<Yishak AMIHASILASSIE(Ethiopia), Uwase SHEILA(Rwanda)
at Hongik Engineering Consultants Co. Ltd.>



<Devayana Tarissa SOEKARTONO(Indonesia)
at GS Engineering & Construction>

Students who visited CHEIL Engineering Co., Ltd. analyzed traffic simulation tools, reviewed traffic-related projects in Ghana, and experienced Korean transportation systems. Students who visited Korea District Heating Corporation exchanged information related to energy work such as district heating and local cooling. Through this internship program, MIPD students not only experienced how the Korean Government and companies work and set their policies but also formed a deep international network.



<Riska MUSLIMAH(Indonesia), Dwiky Sarahidha IRELLI(Indonesia)
at Daewoo E&C>



<Nicholas TUMWINE(Uganda) at DL E&C>



<Kamonchanok WANGVITTAYA(Thailand), Benjarat SREESAI(Thailand),
Dwiky Sarahidha IRELLI(Indonesia), Riska MUSLIMAH(Indonesia) at Daewoo E&C>

UOS Campus in February



Spring semester starts soon!



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