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ISUS UOS NEWSLETTER

International School of Urban Sciences
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01. 2025 ISUS Global Project Development Fair: Bridging Ideas to Action



On February 18, 2025, the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) hosted the 2025 Global Project Development (GPD) Fair, highlighting collaborative projects between Korean graduate students and international government officials. The event showcased innovative solutions to global urban challenges, fostering cross-border collaboration.

Dean Shin Lee opened the fair by emphasizing ISUS's mission to nurture global public sector professionals and transform academic ideas into practical solutions. The event drew a diverse and influential audience, including representatives from key sponsors and partner organizations such as Seoul Urban Solutions Agency (SUSA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Korea Exim Bank, Korea Overseas Infrastructure & Urban Development Corporation (KIND), and Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI). These experts evaluated the presented projects and provided valuable insights to refine them into actionable initiatives.





Projects spanned crucial areas such as Sustainable Infrastructure, Urban Mobility, and Waste Management. Through panel discussions and interactive sessions, participants engaged in in-depth conversations about implementation strategies, exploring ways to translate innovative concepts into tangible outcomes.

Beyond the presentations, the fair offered unique networking opportunities. Attendees, including public officials and private sector representatives, explored potential partnerships to further the impact of these initiatives. The 2025 GPD Fair reaffirmed the importance of international collaboration in addressing global urban challenges, positioning ISUS as a key incubator for transformative development ideas. (J.T.)



02. **MGLEP Batch 11** Embarks on a New Journey in Korea

In February 2025, the 11th cohort of the Master's Program for Future Global Leaders in Environmental Policy (MGLEP) arrived in Korea, embarking on an exciting journey of leadership and learning. This milestone marks the start of an intensive program aimed at preparing future leaders to address critical environmental challenges and advance sustainable development initiatives worldwide.



The first weeks combined learning and cultural immersion, laying a strong foundation for the cohort. Participants took introductory courses, including MS Office training, and began Basic Korean language classes to improve communication and cultural understanding, enriched by experiences exploring Korean traditions and values.

Beyond the classroom, the participants have quickly formed a strong, supportive community through shared experiences and campus life. Their bonds are expected to deepen, enhancing both their personal and professional growth during their time in Korea.



As these future leaders begin their life-changing journey, their participation reflects MGLEP's mission to cultivate innovative, solution-driven leaders in environmental policy. With their enthusiasm, Batch 11 is poised to make a lasting impact on the pressing environmental challenges of our time. Here is to supporting these future changemakers as they embark on this impactful path! (J.T.)



03. MUAP-17: Internship journey at SMG Global City Policy Bureau



The MUAP-17 cohort has officially taken a significant step in their professional journey, launching the internship program this month. On February 4, 2025, the students gathered at Seoul City Hall for the SMG Global Internship Orientation, marking the beginning of their immersive experience with the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) Global City Policy Bureau.

The students also had the opportunity to explore the Seoul City Hall through a guided tour, where they gained insights into the city's administrative center, its urban policies and historical significance.

Throughout the program, 15 students successfully completed the internship in the International Cooperation Division and the Multiculturalism Division, gaining practical experience while collaborating with both Korean and international colleagues.





Beyond professional development, through engaging in cross-cultural collaboration and policy-oriented tasks, the internship provided a unique opportunity to navigate the complexities of an international working environment and offered both challenges and invaluable learning experiences.

As this internship program concludes, it highlighted practical learning, global network and professional growth which equipped the students with skills (K.B.)



04.

MUD-8: Completion of prestigious internships

In January 2025, the MUD-8 cohort started a winter internship program in collaboration with the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and CHEIL Engineering. Throughout the program, students gained invaluable hands-on experience in urban planning and development, working alongside industry experts and contributing to impactful projects.

Upon successful completion of the program, each student was honored with a certificate of completion, recognizing their dedication and achievements. This internship not only provided practical skills but also offered a platform for professional growth, networking and a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in urban development.

The experience has undoubtedly enhanced the competencies of the MUD-8 students and prepared them to make significant contributions to the field of urban planning. (K.B.)



05.

Alum of the Month Sangchul Lee (GC 3)

Sangchul Lee is a 3rd cohort of the ISUS Global Construction (GC) and has served as the president of the 2nd and 3rd ISUS Alumni Association. He currently works at Samwoo CM Architects & Engineers, where he oversees ODA (Official Development Assistance) projects in the Infrastructure Division.



1. Could you share a memorable international cooperation project?

I have participated in various activities, and among them, two projects are particularly memorable. The first project is 'Vietnam Hanoi To Lich River Water Quality Improvement Master Plan (2017, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport ODA)'. This was my first international development cooperation project, which was developed from a GPD (called 'GNS' then) project. I proposed it together with Duc Chi Tran, a fellow ISUS student from Vietnam (MGLEP1), who was then an official from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, with help from other MGLEP students from Vietnam. The project focused on modernizing the sewage system through a master plan.

The second project that I'd like to share is 'Cambodia Trapeang Srae International Border Logistics Facility Comprehensive Planning Project (2022, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport ODA)'. This project was also carried out with Nick Sophia, a fellow alumnus from Cambodia. It involved the modernization of cross-border logistics facilities, and it has now expanded into the 3CEP project, co-financed by AIIB and EDCF.



2. You are currently participating in the GULP Project. Could you briefly introduce the project and your role within it?

GULP is a 5 month non-degree program, aiming to train decision-making or senior-level public officials in the urban sector, foster collaborative relations, and develop feasible and effective ODA projects between Seoul and their cities or countries. All participants are required to submit two Project Concept Papers(PCP) and One Letter of Interest endorsed by their respective cities. Based on my experience in ODA projects, I am involved in providing advisory services for sector-specific ODA projects and planning new initiatives. Using those PCPs as a foundation, I am preparing for the 2026 MOLIT ODA project for Cambodia's smart city in collaboration with Pisith SOK (GULP1), Deputy Secretary General at Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. Additionally, I am also working on a solar power project in Egypt, together with Hala EL-HELALI (GULP1), Undersecretary for Research, International & National Cooperation and Guarantee from Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities. I am committed to planning sustainable ODA projects in collaboration with ISUS alumni.

3. How has your experience at ISUS influenced you?

My master's program at ISUS was an invaluable opportunity that introduced me to the field of international development cooperation. Through ISUS, I gained insights into preparation, opportunity, challenge, participation, vision, experience, networking, friendship, and sharing. This experience also inspired me to pursue a Ph.D., which I later achieved. Now, I am actively involved in the International Development Cooperation Society.

More than just academic training, my time at ISUS was enriched by the friendships and shared experiences with fellow alumni, which remain incredibly precious to me. I hope we all cherish the time given to us and strive to become outstanding alumni who contribute to our respective nations. (D.K.)



06.

MUDSIP: Field Trip to Incheon, Goyang and Songdo



From February 14th to 15th, 2025, the MUDSIP 7 cohort embarked on a two-day field trip to Incheon, Goyang, and Songdo, immersing themselves in urban infrastructure and transportation systems. A key highlight was the visit to the Metropolitan Railway Vehicle Maintenance Depot, where students gained valuable insights into Korea's advanced railway network. The group also explored innovative urban projects focused on sustainable development, including the Incheon Open Port Street, Wolmi Theme Park, and the Incheon Urban History Museum. This enriching experience broadened their understanding of urban planning and set an inspiring tone for the upcoming Spring semester. (J.T.)



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