

June 2022

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

What's inside?

<End of Spring Semester & Summer Vacation>

The ISUS students completed Spring Semester through online & offline classes. This Semester, most of the courses were conducted as offline classes with presentations. The summer vacation period is until August 31st.

<Interview>

For June's interview, let us read about Laura Lozada Acosta (MURD 1), who studied the Master's Program in Urban and Regional Development at ISUS in 2014. In this interview, she shared her experiences and the impacts that ISUS had on her career.

<Field Trips >

In May, there were numerous field trips for each of IUDP programs. MIPD, MURD, MGLEP, and MUAP students visited various places such as Seoul Water Recycling Experience Center, Anyang Smart City Integration Center, and World Forest Congress.

<Campus Festival>

From 18th to 20th of May, Campus Festival known as 'Daedongjae' reopened with various programs. Food Trucks were on campus presenting different types of food, there were also mechanic games Disco Pang-Pang and Viking, for the enjoyment of students.

Newsletter Interview Article: MURD Alumna Laura Lozada Acosta

ISUS presents a special series of interviews to share stories of ISUS members. For June's interview, let us read about Laura Lozada Acosta (MURD 1), who shared her experiences, and how the ISUS program affected her career.



<Image 1. Presentation of the Handbook for the protection of public spaces>

Q1. Please, introduce yourself.

Laura Acosta : My name is Laura Lozada from Peru. I studied the Master's Program in Urban and Regional Development in ISUS in 2014, which was the first year of MURD. I was granted a KOICA scholarship that allowed me to study in Seoul.

Q2. We heard that you worked in the National Congress as an advisor. Could you explain it in detail?

Laura Acosta : When I returned from MURD, I worked as a consultant for a few months. Later, I got an offer to join the Office of a Congresswoman as an advisor on urban issues. The office was divided into three fields; I was in charge of the field on urban issues of the city of Lima. I did not expect to work at the Congress after completing my master's program in ISUS because I thought there were not many things you could do for the urban agenda from there. But then, a newly elected Congresswoman I met while working at the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima asked me to join her team at the Congress. I started working there in August 2016 and quickly realized there was a lot to do related to urban issues at the Congress by representing the interest of neighbors from Lima and the Congresswoman's constituents. Soon after we began working, we received many complaints, letters, and people asking for meetings with the Congresswoman. I was responsible for organizing all these complaints and demands, analyzing them, and deciding the best way to approach them. Sometimes the solution had to do with implementing a policy, a legislation gap that could be covered with a new law, or finding ways for authorities and neighbors to understand each other. My role often was as an intermediary between the municipal government and neighbors, or sometimes between the ministries and municipalities.

During the first months of work, many issues regarding public spaces came to our attention. Neighbors were having conflicts with their local mayors due to private initiatives that wanted to develop real estate and commercial projects over their public spaces. The initiatives relied on a legal framework that facilitated and promoted private investment on public land and, at the same time, were welcomed by local governments looking for new sources of income. On the other hand, neighbors wanted to maintain their public spaces as open green spaces. Since these conflicts couldn't be solved locally, neighbors asked for help in Congress.

When we analyzed the legal framework, we realized that public spaces were not well-protected by our regulation. The existent regulation was too vague

regarding public spaces and was not clear how to protect these spaces from being privatized. Therefore, we drafted a bill to protect public spaces. The process of drafting the bill was participatory; we engaged the citizens and civic organizations that had previously contacted our office. Thus, the level of involvement of the neighbour organisations in drafting the bill allowed them to take ownership of it and demand its approval by the new elected Congress in April 2021. It is necessary to wait for the implementation of the Law before calling it a success. However, we can argue it was a big step for citizens' participation and the protection of public spaces.



<Image 2. In the Lomas of Lima with Mrs. Trinidad Perez, a community leader and activist for the defense of Lomas>

I would also like to mention the work I did for the conservation of Lomas, a natural ecosystem in Lima. Lomas are a fragile ecosystem located at the city's outskirts, becoming an extensive greenbelt that can be visited by everybody. These areas host many species of vegetation and animals. It's a beautiful place that provides Lima with many environmental services. Given that Lima suffers from a lack of open public spaces, Lomas could compensate this

problem to some extent. Although laws protect these areas, the severe lack of housing for low-income people has resulted in the construction of settlements over Lomas. In that sense, we started working for the protection of Lomas in coordination with local grassroots organizations, local governments, the ministry of environment, and local environmental organizations. One of the most important results of this work was the creation of a protocol to help the government coordinate and act in a timely manner to prevent the occupation of these areas. This protocol was approved in 2020 by a Supreme Decree from the government.

Q3. You also conducted other projects in the public range regarding urban planning. Could you tell us what kind of work or project you have participated in?

Laura Acosta :After submitting the public spaces draft bill, we kept working with neighbor and civic organizations. We co-created the Handbook for the protection of public spaces. The Handbook includes some tips and essential information for citizens that want to protect their public spaces. The first part of this Handbook presents some successful cases so citizens can relate to the cases. The second part includes recommendations on how to start organizing the neighborhood, what information is needed, how to read the zoning plan, what is the role of the local government, the national audit office, or Congress, and what kind of information can be asked from them.

After it was published, we organized a series of meetings around Lima in different neighborhoods to present the Handbook to everyday citizens. We wanted to make information available and easy to understand.

Q4. What are your significant interests or motivations in this field?

Laura Acosta :Nowadays I am interested in going deeper into sustainable urban development and that's why I decided to study a second master's in environmental policy and regulation at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK.

My previous working experience made me think a lot about how environmental issues are addressed in the city and how institutions are prepared to deal with these problems. Furthermore, while working and thinking about how we can protect ecosystems in Lima, I reflected on how the lack of interinstitutional collaboration is in part responsible for the destruction of the Lomas. I perceive this separation of responsibilities by sectors as a problem that must be solved. That's my aim now. My dissertation will primarily focus on how public officials and city institutions understand the ecosystem's conservation. I want to analyze the gaps in our regulation to better understand the problem and propose some solutions. Furthermore, I would like to develop a framework to analyze the city's environment management and work towards a more sustainable development in the city.

Q5. How did the ISUS program help you with building your career?

Laura Acosta : I think that the MURD gave me the tools to perform successfully at my job as an advisor in Congress. I remember fondly the courses on transport policies, climate change and sustainable urban development, which gave me a better understanding of how policies can address the issues in Lima. As an advisor to a Congresswoman, I had to advise her on the city's critical issues, and the topics of transport, environment and urban planning were often on the public agenda. In that sense, I believe the preparation I received in the master's equipped me well to address the challenges I faced at work. Moreover, I appreciate the MURD approach to urban public policy as the program was designed for public servants like me.

Q6. Could you share with us the most memorable memories in ISUS?

Laura Acosta : There are so good memories many. I enjoyed the field trips with classmates and professors. It was a way of knowing about Korean experiences differently because I was not a tourist. I was a student. It was very nice to have a guide and professors giving us some explanations like how the development process has been. It was inspiring to go to the places, watch, and learn something outside the classroom. We visited governmental locations like a social housing project, K-water, and other cities like Incheon, a new

administrative city Sejong and others. We also went to historical sites. I remember when we went to Busan. We also visited one of Hyundai's factories and saw how they make the ships. I could learn about all the industrial processes of Korea.

I would also like to say that one of the program's highlights was the internship I did at LH. It was very interesting to visit their housing projects.

I feel very grateful to have had the opportunity to study at ISUS and be far from home for the first time, like many other classmates. ISUS always made us feel very welcome, which was crucial for us to feel comfortable, study, learn, and have great experiences. I'm very grateful for that.

Q7. Lastly, do you have any other words to share with ISUS students?

Laura Acosta : I recommend that other students take advantage of their time in Korea because time flies. Learn all you can from the teachers and your classmates and the city. Seoul has so much to offer. I remember that my friends and I always made plans to visit different parts of the city every weekend. There were so many things to do in the city. And I think that was possible thanks to such an excellent public transportation system. We could go anywhere. It is essential to always keep in your mind as a student: you can also learn from life experiences you can have there, not only from the courses.

Campus Festival

From 18th to 20th of May, Campus Festival known as ‘Daedongjae’ reopened with various programs. Food Trucks were on campus presenting different types of food, there were also mechanic games Disco Pang-Pang and Viking, for the enjoyment of students.



Crowds of students enjoyed the campus festival after two years of suspension of such activities amid the pandemic.



ISUS 72nd Urban Infra Forum



The ISUS 72nd Urban Infra Forum (UIF), marked the third UIF for the 2022 Spring Semester, it was held on Wednesday, May 11th, from 07:00 to 8:30 PM as a type of webinar via Zoom. This edition's topic was “Water and Gender – The Key Role of Water”, Dr. Dahae Park currently the Senior Programme Specialist at the UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management, i-WSSM.

Through the 72nd UIF, participants were granted a valuable opportunity to get “broader awareness on water and gender issues with importance of water in sustainable development”.

1. Integrated & Problem-solving Research



UIF is a discussion forum on Infrastructure, Sustainable Urban Development, Construction, Environment, or related issues with invited speakers. Participants of this forum are mainly ISUS members, who are Foreign Public Officials as well as Domestic Practitioners. Thanks to the combination of participants' experiences, the forum has served as a platform for international networking and mutual learning.

You can find the lecture materials of UIF on the website below.

http://isus.uos.ac.kr/freeTC/list.do?list_id=50018C7

ISUS homepage > Community > Urban Infra Forum

MGLEP 8 Scholarship Certificate Distribution

To congratulate the newcomers of MGLEP 8, sponsor organization KEITI arranged a scholarship certificate distribution, which took place on May 13th at Incheon Environmental Research Complex.

With a warm welcome remark from KEITI, this was the official announcement of the start of the journey.



After the ceremony, MGLEP 8 students visited the Sudokwon Landfill site.

MIPD Class Field Trip

On May 13th, MIPD students from Urban Infrastructure Students class visited Seoul Water Recycling Experience Center located in Gangseo-gu. By visiting the Seoul Water Recycling Experience Center Exhibition and Explanation Program, students could understand the water regeneration process and the renewable energy generated in the process.

In addition, through the modernization project, students were able to learn about the rebirth of the facility's environment as a citizen-friendly one by creating a water regeneration facility underground as well as an eco-friendly park and experience exhibition hall on the ground.



MIPD and MURD Field Trip

On May 27th, MIPD and MURD students, from Infrastructure Development and Planning course, visited Anyang Smart City Integration Center. Students checked the Anyang city CCTV, smart streetlights, and bus arrival information system. In addition, they were able to understand the projects promoted by the Smart City Integration Center, such as women's safe home service and smart intersections.



MUAP and MURD Joint Class Field Trip

On May 13, 2022, MUAP14 and MURD5 had a class field trip for Urban Transportation Policy (MUAP) and Transportation and Infrastructure (MURD) classes under the instruction of Professor Chunho Yeom.



The students visited Giheung Rest Area and Siheung Haneul Rest Area (Bridge Square) which were specifically developed by combining a business model. With this visit, they were able to see and learn how the expressway rest area improved safety and efficiency.



MURD Field Trip

Past May, MURD5 had four field trips: Urban Planning and Development Class Field trips to Korea Territorial Development Exhibition Hall and Cheonggyecheon Museum; Basic Korean Class Field trip to Korean Folk Village; and GIS and Data Analysis Class Field Trip to the National Geographic Information Institute & Map Museum.



Korea Territorial Development Exhibition Hall

On May 4, they visited Korea Territorial Development Exhibition Hall.

This museum introduced the experience of National land development, policies, technologies, and cooperation programs. Students could think about the knowledge of future urban development for the phase of Industry 4.0.

Korean Folk Village

On May 14, Professor Jungwoo Park's Basic Korean class visited the Korean Folk Village. It was a good place to understand how Koreans used to live. Students could practice the Korean language they have learned in class and understood the Korean culture. They also had an opportunity to see how to develop the infrastructure of the folk village to preserve the culture of the country.





National Geographic Information Institute & Map Museum

On May 18, Professor Jaeteuk Chin's GIS and Data Analysis Class visited the National Geographic Information Institute. The main tasks of the institute are the establishment of the National Geodetic Datum, the construction of the National Imagery Geospatial Information, the construction of the National Fundamental GI DB, and the management of Geographical Names.

Cheonggyecheon Museum

Students visited Cheonggyecheon Museum on May 25. This place commemorates the historic Cheonggyecheon restoration project. Through looking at the project, students could see the industrialization around Cheonggyecheon Stream and how valuable this stream as an environment-friendly place. Because of that, this place gained attention from the urban development field.



MGLEP Field Trip to World Forest Congress

World Forest Congress

On May 4th and 5th, MGLEP 6, 7 and 8 attended the World Forest Congress, which took place at COEX Convention Center. This event provided them the opportunity to learn about forestry and to expand their networking.



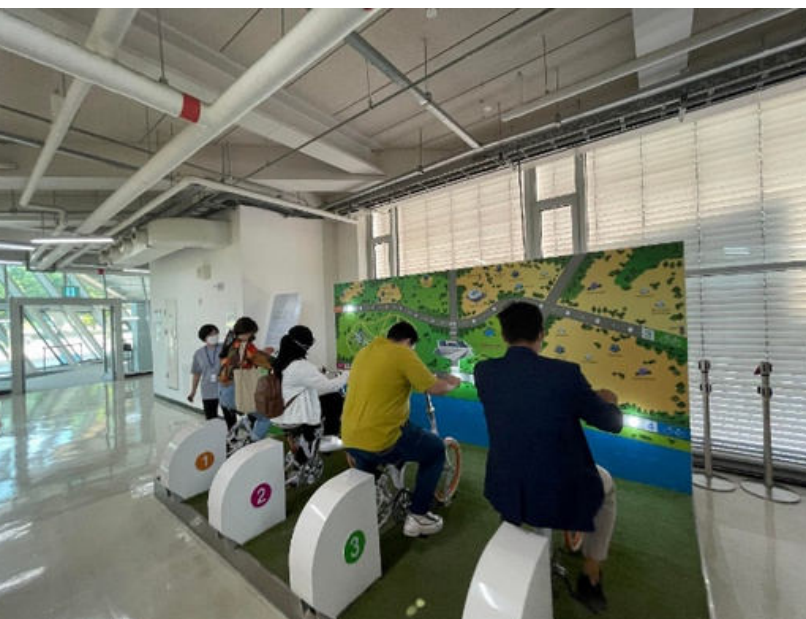
Nowon EZ Center

On May 6th, Professor Taehwa Lee's Energy Policy class visited the Energy Zero Center.



Seoul Energy Dream Center

On May 17th, Professor Taehwa Lee's Energy Policy class visited Seoul Energy Dream Center



Hanam Clean Environment and Recycling Complex

On May 27th, Professor Minho Lee's Environmental Policy class visited the Hanam Clean Environment and Recycling Complex.



MGLEP 6 and 7 Field Trip to Jeju

From 20th to 22nd May, MGLEP 6 and 7 had a field trip to Jeju. On their journey, which began at 4:30 am, the students got to learn about Jeju's efforts to be a carbon-free island, traditional Korean culture, and of course, enjoy the beautiful scenery of the island.



During their field trip, MGLEP students visited the Jeju Energy Corporation, where they learned about Jeju's transition to renewable energy. They received detailed information about renewable energy; Gapado, the first carbon-free island in Korea; the 4th industrial revolution; and the future of Global Energy.



At the Asia Climate Change Center, MGLEP students received a lecture about Climate Change, which reinforced the knowledge they already had about the topic.



Apart from the indoor visits, MLEGP students went to Seungsan Sunrise Peak, which has been cataloged as UNESCO World Natural Heritage. At this site, they did a short hiking to the top of the mountain and enjoyed nature.





They also delighted in theme parks Hallim Park and Eco Land, where they enjoyed vegetal biodiversity.



Besides environment-related activities, MGLEP students visited the Jeju Folk Village, where they learned about traditional Korean culture, and got insights into how ancient Koreans applied the “waste to resource” concept.



This field trip will be highly cherished by them because they got to enjoy the company of classmates, Professors Shin Lee and Chunho Yeom, as well as coordinators Sharon Baek, Yoonki Kim, and Justin Yu.



UOS Campus in June



Summer vacation starts!



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