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ISUS UOS NEWSLETTER

International School of Urban Sciences
University of Seoul

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01.

A Field Trip to New Towns: Exploring Bundang and Pangyo



On May 30th, students from the Korean Urban Development Studies course, led by Professor Junwon Seo, took their learning beyond the classroom with an exciting field trip to the new towns of Bundang and Pangyo. Joined by peers from the MUAP and MUD programs, the group explored firsthand how urban planning principles and development strategies they had studied in lectures came to life in urban environments.

The field trip kicked off in Bundang, where students wandered through walkable neighborhoods, strolled through serene urban parks and discovered the charm of small café streets.





In Pangyo, the students encountered a different yet equally fascinating urban development. Known for its tech-driven infrastructure and vibrant commercial zones, the bustling streets, smart city features, and modern architecture in Pangyo provided students with a powerful contrast to Bundang's more tranquil vibe.

By immersing themselves in these two model new towns, this field trip offered a vivid, real-world perspective on how theory translates into thriving urban environments. (K.B)

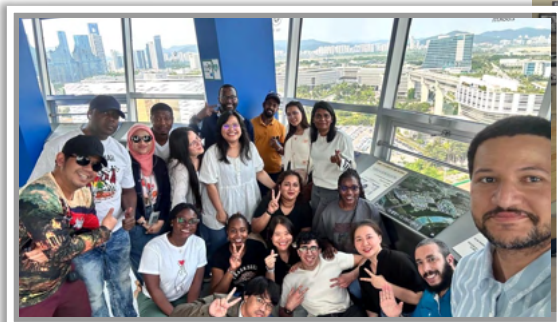


02. MGLEP students Get a Glimpse of South Korea's Future in Sejong City

In late May, participants from MGLEP cohorts 10 and 11 stepped out of the classroom and into Sejong City—South Korea's flagship smart city and a model for sustainable urban development. For many students, especially those who had long anticipated visiting Sejong, the trip was a standout moment of the program.

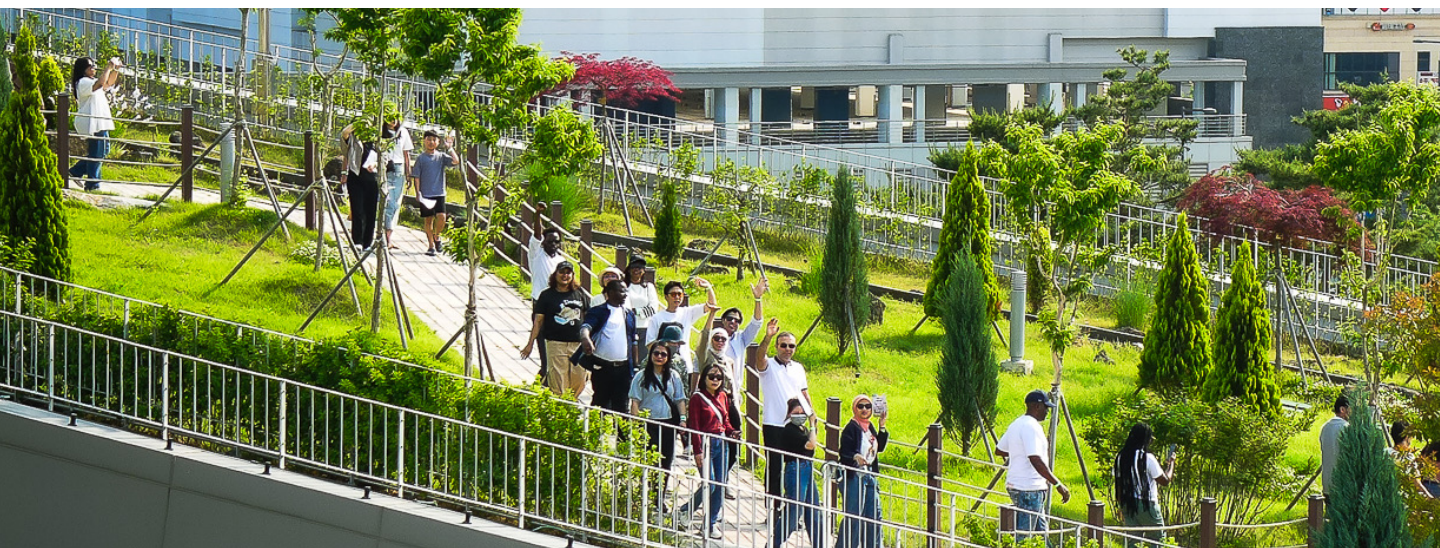


Designed to ease congestion in Seoul and promote balanced regional growth, Sejong offered a real-world look at how innovation, governance, and sustainability come together. Guided tours of high-tech government complexes, integrated transport systems, and eco-friendly neighborhoods showcased a city built with walkability, digital efficiency, and green living in mind.



The experience sparked active discussions among participants, many comparing Sejong's calm, planned atmosphere to Seoul's dense, fast-paced sprawl. For the MGLEP cohorts, this trip was not only educational but also highly inspiring. It highlighted the crucial role of proactive governance and strategic planning in creating livable, future-ready cities.

Sejong left a lasting impression, inspiring fresh ideas and genuine hope for students eager to drive change in their home countries. (J.T)



03.

MUD-8 Field Trip: Exploring Korea's Economic Growth and Green Policies

On May 16, MUD-8 students participated in a field trip focused on Korea's economic and environmental policies. Designed to deepen their understanding of national policy strategies, the trip brought together 15 students and Professor Hyun Park for a full day of learning and discovery.

The morning began with a visit to the KDI Economic Development Exhibition Hall, where students learned about Korea's economic transformation journey. This was followed by a special lecture from Professor Doo Eal Kim, who delivered an engaging session on the key drivers behind Korea's rapid development. Students also reflected on the economic development paths of their own home countries, creating a meaningful space for comparative dialogue.



In the afternoon, the group visited the Hongneung Arboretum at the National Institute of Forest Science. While walking through its green spaces, students gained a clearer understanding of how Korea manages its forests and integrates greenery into urban planning.

This field trip offered students a well-rounded experience that combined economic strategies with an appreciation of sustainable urban practices. (K.B)



04. Pioneering Green Solutions: IUDP at ENVEX 2025

On June 11 and 13, students from the International Urban Development Program (IUDP) actively participated in ENVEX 2025, South Korea's leading exhibition for environmental technology and innovation. As a major hub for showcasing sustainable solutions, the event featured a wide range of breakthroughs—from smart waste systems and water purification tech to circular economy models and green building materials.



The IUDP students explored varied exhibits and attended expert-led talks, discovering new tools and ideas driving the transition to a greener future. Engaging with researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders, they deepened their understanding of how environmental technologies are developed, funded, and scaled for real-world impact.





Beyond the eye-catching exhibits, students discovered how collaboration among startups, policymakers, and communities can turn bold ideas into real progress for sustainable cities. The event sparked renewed energy and creativity among student groups, strengthening their commitment to champion innovative and inclusive solutions in their future work and home countries.

ENVEX 2025 served as a dynamic platform for bridging academic learning with practical innovation—an invaluable step for the next generation of urban sustainability leaders. (J.T)



05.

IUDP Students Share Sustainability Insights at Jeju Environment Forum



On June 5, in celebration of World Environment Day 2025, three students from the IUDP MGLEP program took part in the 13th Local Governments Forum at the Jeju International Environment Forum. Held in partnership with the Jeju Provincial Government, South Korea’s Ministry of Environment, and UNEP, the event convened delegates from over 20 countries to explore local solutions to the global plastic crisis.

The IUDP students contributed to a dynamic exchange of ideas alongside global environmental leaders, including former Ministers and senior specialists from the World Bank. Their participation underscored the importance of youth engagement in advancing sustainable transitions. The event served as a global call to action for a shift from convenience-driven plastic use toward systems grounded in sustainability, circularity, and shared responsibility—amplifying the year’s theme: *Ending Plastic Pollution*.



06.

Alum of the Month:

Raden Danang HADIYANDARU (MUD 7)

Raden Danang HADIYANDARU is a graduate of the 7th cohort of the Master of Urban Development (MUD) program at ISUS. He currently serves as the Superintendent of Buildings at the Presidential Secretariat of Indonesia, where he oversees the management, maintenance, and development of the country's most critical state properties, including the presidential palaces. With a strong commitment to public service and innovation, he plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation and dignity of Indonesia's highest-level government infrastructure.



1. Can you tell us about your current role or professional work?

I am currently work for ministry of state secretariat of the republic of Indonesia as a superintendent of buildings. I am responsible for the comprehensive oversight and strategic management of all physical assets and infrastructure within the Presidential Secretariat, including the presidential palaces. This critical management position ensures the optimal functioning, maintenance, and security of these vital properties, directly supporting the President and Vice President's daily operations, state events, and foreign dignitary visits. My responsibilities span from routine repairs and preventive maintenance to budget allocation, safety compliance, renovation projects, and long-term infrastructure planning, all aimed at upholding the dignity, functionality, and historical integrity of these properties for seamless national and international engagements.

2. What has changed for you since graduating from ISUS?

Directly after graduating, I engaged in my institution's re-entry program, which provided crucial support for adjusting after studying abroad and managing reverse culture shock. A vital part of this program was sharing the knowledge, skills, and global perspectives acquired during my international study, particularly at ISUS, with my colleagues. This experience solidified my learning and helped me articulate the profound influence my time abroad had on my professional outlook and personal growth. As a direct result, my understanding of developing and implementing new ideas has become much clearer and more tangible, empowering me to approach them with greater confidence and strategic foresight.



3. We heard that you recently visited Korea. Could you tell us more about the activities you participated in during your visit?

After graduating, I had the privilege of participating in the 2025 KRIHS World Campus. Hosted by the renowned Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), an institution central to Korea's development, this program is designed for individuals to refine their Project Concept Paper (PCP) ideas. It offers invaluable opportunities for in-depth discussions with experts and direct engagement with real-world development projects during visits to Korea. This experience not only provides crucial insights for shaping my PCP but also facilitates networking with potential partners, paving the way for future collaboration. Learning from an organization with such practical and profound impact has been a true honor.



4. What are your future plans, both personally and professionally?

On a personal level, this master's degree marks a major milestone in my lifelong learning journey, broadening my intellectual horizons and fostering a critical, adaptive mindset. My future plans include actively sharing knowledge and mentoring aspiring civil servants to help build a stronger Indonesian bureaucracy, promoting continuous improvement and international collaboration. I will maintain and expand my professional network for ongoing dialogue and potential future partnerships. Additionally, I plan to engage in community service related to sustainable development or urban planning to deepen my understanding of societal needs. Ultimately, my post-master's growth will be driven by a dedication to public service, innovation, and continuous learning, aiming for a more meaningful impact on Indonesia's progress. I also intend to pursue further postgraduate education if the opportunity arises.

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

Balancing study, sleep, and exploration during intense education is a challenging yet essential trade-off. While neglecting sleep for deep study and immersive exploration is a common outcome, choosing to prioritize sleep and exploration over academics might indicate that formal study is no longer the main goal. For my part, I chose to focus on study and exploration, actively engaging in new experiences outside the classroom. I firmly believe that the most valuable insights emerge not only from theoretical concepts but are profoundly enhanced by real-world encounters. As one professor insightfully shared, cultivating an open mind and embracing every new experience can unveil crucial details for achieving personal goals and contributing to national advancement. Furthermore, expanding one's network beyond professional contacts into lasting friendships and a supportive family is paramount for enriching the entire educational experience. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the University of Seoul and all Professors at ISUS for their invaluable guidance, impactful lectures, and dedicated support during my time there.



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