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ISUS UOS NEWSLETTER

International School of Urban Sciences
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01

EXCLUSIVE CULTURAL TOUR for IUDP Students

Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) arranged an exclusive cultural and historical experience for the International Urban Development Program (IUDP) students. The guided tour conducted in the famous Jeong Dong area and followed the route from the City Hall to the surrounding historic sites, palaces and buildings.

During the tour, the students visited various symbolic sites of historical significance including the Hwangudan Altar (the site where the Emperors performed sacrifices to heaven) and Royal Deoksugung Palace (known for its magnificent & peculiar architecture). The students also walked past the Chungdong First Methodist Church (Jeongdong Jeil Church), Jungmyeongjeon Hall and Ewha School, learning about their history from the learned guides.

The group later enjoyed the mesmerizing panoramic view of the city and Deoksugung Palace atop the Jeongdong Observatory besides visiting certain other historic buildings and churches in the area. The tour concluded at the former Russian Legation. This guided tour gave students a deeper understanding of Seoul's history, culture, and architecture, offering an enriching educational experience.



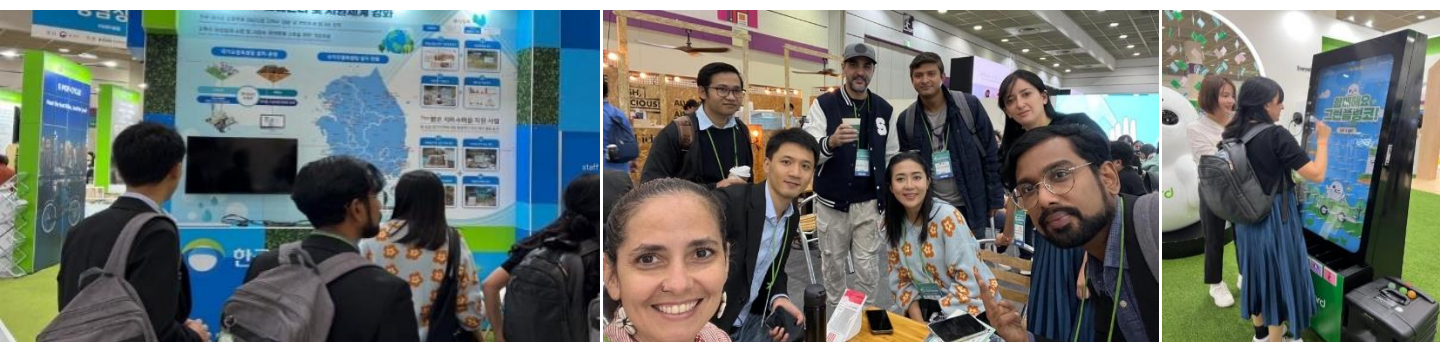


02 MGLEP STUDENTS at ESG-Eco Expo Korea

MGLEP students had the opportunity to take part in the ESG-Eco Expo Korea event on October 13 at COEX. Themed " Practicing carbon neutrality through green growth implementation roadmap ", the exhibition was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment and organized by the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) and Messe Sangsan Co., Ltd.

ESG-Eco Expo Korea serves as a business platform for companies to enhance their capabilities in the transition to carbon neutrality and a green economic society. The main objective of this exhibition is to promote the transition to a green economy, establishing itself as a key player in improving the competitiveness of green industry companies.

This ESG-ECO exhibition includes eco-friendly industries in the fields of energy, construction and architecture, circular economy, environmental industry, green consumption and production, etc. The students had the opportunity to explore the green economy initiatives, discover the latest trends in environmental practices, and gain an insight into the importance of ESG concepts in today's industry.





03 ISUS ALUMNI Participate in the KRIHS World Campus Program

From October 15 to 21, seven distinguished alumni of the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) were invited to participate in the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) World Campus Program (KWC) dedicated to capacity building. The KWC stands as a dynamic platform, offering participants a comprehensive experience encompassing academic insights, valuable networking opportunities, and a diverse array of learning modules designed for real-world problem-solving, all guided by Korean experts.

The primary objectives of this program are manifold. Firstly, it aims to share Korea's rich experience in land development with participants who have successfully completed the KRIHS World Campus online program with distinction. Additionally, the program strives to foster the creation of potential Official Development Assistance (ODA) project proposals. Participants are also provided with the unique opportunity to engage with and learn from peers hailing from various countries.

The KWC witnessed the active involvement of public officials from ten different nations, including Cambodia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nigeria, Kenya, Serbia, Poland, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. During the program, they were exposed to enlightening conferences delivered by diverse Korean experts and had the privilege of visiting prominent Korean institutions such as the G Valley Industrial Museum, Seoul Transport Operation and Information Service (Seoul TOPIS), and the SAEMANGEUM National Industrial Complex, among others.

The ultimate outcome sought is the development of a Project Concept Paper (PCP) related to the participants' respective countries' development projects, fostering collaboration with Korea through diverse and innovative approaches.



04 STUDENTS AT APUF-8 Insights into a sustainable urban future

ISUS students had the chance to attend two inspiring parallel sessions at the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-8), held at the Suwon Convention Center on October 23 and 24, to gain a deeper understanding of sustainable urban development.

The first session, organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, explored the subject of "New Styles of Long-Term Strategies for Local Governments". On October 24, the second session, hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in collaboration with CityNet, ICLEI East Asia and the Institute for Global Decarbonization Progress (iGDP), explored the theme of "City-Led Climate Innovations: Driving change to safeguard our future".

The main objective of APUF-8 is to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia-Pacific region. The forum seeks to address the pressing challenges facing the region's cities, with a view to synthesizing diverse approaches and initiatives that build urban resilience, in line with the New Urban Agenda and the Decade of Action for the SDGs.

APUF-8's high-level plenaries bring together urban thinkers, government officials, and key players to learn from experiences of building resilience following the pandemic. It inspires commitment to sustainable urban development, serving as a platform that not only explores the future of cities, but also promotes positive directions, strengthening partnerships for better urban development.

The parallel sessions attended by ISUS students offered a valuable opportunity to explore the thematic areas of APUF-8 in more detail, providing an understanding of global urban challenges and a look at sustainable urban development based on specific city or sub-regional experiences.



05 REMARKABLE PARTICIPATION by ISUS students at the Seoul Climate Forum

On October 31, more than 40 students from various ISUS programs were invited to attend the Seoul International Climate and Environment Forum 2023, hosted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) at Seoul City Hall. Partnering with organizations such as C40, ICLEI's East Asia headquarters, and the Climate Change Center, Inc, the forum addressed the theme "A Journey for All: Acting together for Climate", with a particular focus on achieving climate justice and equality.

The forum aimed to recognize the disparities in the impacts of the climate crisis across regions, socio-economic classes, and generations. The event looked at policy preparations to address climate challenges and emphasized the concept of equality within society.

The program included lectures on climate change and moderated sessions. The first session offered a platform for young people to contribute to climate policies and share their climate-impacting actions.

The C40 session, to which MGLEP 9 STUDENTS, Mthobisi Nzimande from South Africa and Mohamed Ataur Rahman from Bangladesh, were invited as speakers, was yet another highlight of the day. Focusing on climate disaster and justice, they gave an overview of the challenges and impacts of climate change in their respective countries, particularly on disadvantaged groups. The students also presented policies and actions implemented to address these impacts, enriching the discussion with concrete perspectives.

The ICLEI session featured presentations on member cities' achievements in climate and environmental policies, as well as a presentation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on air quality in Seoul.

The event concluded with inspiring shows such as "Upcycling Musical Performance", which added a creative touch to the forum's insightful discussions.





06 32nd SCSP & IDUP Joint Seminar

This year's SCSP was held 21st – 28th October and featured the active participation of three prestigious universities: Portland State University, University of Central Florida, and University of Washington. ISUS students actively participated in the Joint Seminar; a collaborative initiative between the Seoul Case Study Program (SCSP) and the International Urban Development Program at the University of Seoul. The seminar took place on October 26 at the UoS.

At this event, two ISUS students showcased their noteworthy research projects. Avazbek Mir-Zafar-Ugli SULTONOV (MIPD 5) presented a forward-looking perspective on the "Development of the BRT in Tashkent City: Future Forecast of Pilot BRT Line in Shota Rustaveli Street," while Teeka Ram DHAKAL (MURD 6) delved into "The Determinants of Users' Satisfaction of E-government: A Case Study in Nepal."

This occasion not only provided a platform for ISUS students to present their research but also offered a valuable opportunity for engagement with international scholars from distinguished institutions. The Joint Seminar was an integral part of the SCSP, hosted collaboratively by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the University of Seoul, as part of the 'Case Study: Policy Management in Seoul' initiative. Supported by the City of Seoul, this program is designed to familiarize the next generation of scholars with the complexities of public administration within the city. The program achieves this objective through a comprehensive blend of lectures, seminars, field visits, and cultural experiences. This collaboration underscored the program's commitment to fostering a global exchange of ideas and perspectives in the field of urban development and public administration.



07 84Th ISUS URBAN INFRA FORUM

During the 84th ISUS Urban Infra Forum held on November 8, the distinguished Prof. Wonhyuk LIM from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management captivated the audience with a comprehensive presentation on “Korea's Development Experience: An Overview”.

Professor LIM shed light on Korea's unique approach to development, emphasizing the pivotal role of a collaborative partnership between the government and the private sector. He described it as “a big-push partnership” in which the government shared the investment risks of the private sector and provided support largely based on performance in competitive global markets.

During the conference, Professor LIM delved into Korea's remarkable journey, highlighting a coordinated and broad-based program encompassing trade, industrial development, and human resource initiatives. The success of this multifaceted strategy was underlined by the reinforcement of successful experiments through performance-based rewards, ultimately driving dramatic transformations over time.





08 STUDENTS AT 4Th LH GBC: Global Cooperation on Reconstruction after Conflict & Disaster

In a significant development, students from MIPD 5 and MGLEP 8 actively engaged in the 4th Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH) Global Business Conference (GBC), an annual event focusing on urban development and housing collaboration. This year's conference gained heightened importance as it spotlighted the urgent need for global cooperation in post-conflict and disaster reconstruction.

The event addressed the profound impact of recent events, such as the Ukraine-Russia conflict and natural disasters in Morocco and Libya, necessitating swift responses to restore stability. The 4th LH GBC hosted a special conference, "Global Cooperation on Reconstruction after Conflict and Disaster in the Digital Age," held within the 2023 Smart Geospatial Expo as part of the Korean-Ukraine Reconstruction Cooperation Program.

Bringing together global experts, the conference aimed to move beyond immediate responses and delve into sustainable reconstruction planning. The overarching goal was to ensure that societies affected by conflict or disaster are not only restored but undergo a transformative process, being "built back better" for long-term resilience and improvement.

"It was an inspiring event. I hope that Ukraine can start a full-fledged reconstruction process as soon as possible without the threat of new destruction. Thanks a lot, to LH for organizing this event and to UoS for giving me the opportunity to participate in it".

A.B | MGLEP 8



09 ALUM OF THE MONTH

Sunbae LEE | SUD 2



Q1. Please introduce yourself and your organization or department?

My name is Sunbae LEE and am currently working at the Seoul Metropolitan Government Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC) as a capacity building & HRD specialist since 2013. I attended the 2nd batch of the Sustainable Urban Development program at the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS). For more information, please check this link: <https://youtu.be/OIPb0BjVbyQ>

Q2. Please introduce a recent international cooperation project you have participated?

As the capacity building specialist, I design and deliver international training for foreign public officials, sharing Seoul's best practices and urban policies. We have trained almost 3,000 officials from 300 cities/ 75 countries, through 185 online and offline SHRDC international training programs since 2008.

Q3. Why did you apply to ISUS and how has your career benefited from your experiences at ISUS?

Due to the nature of my role and responsibilities at SHRDC, I was required to become a subject-matter expert on Seoul's urban policies and urban development history. I thus decided to pursue an academic journey at ISUS. It may sound cliché, but it was a life-changing learning experience for me in various ways.



Q4. The collaboration between the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and METROPOLIS International Training Institute (MITI) sounds fascinating. Can you share examples of some successful recent collaborations with other countries/cities?

It is a grim fact that COVID-19 aggravated polarisation and inequality across the globe. At the SMG, Mayor OH implemented the "Going Together with the Socially Neglected" policy while the President of the Metropolis (World Association of Major Metropolises) Mayor Claudia Lopez of Bogota, Colombia also launched a similar campaign titled "Caring Cities"; both aimed at tackling socioeconomic challenges arising due to the pandemic. In July 2023, based on these two sister cities' efforts for 'Leaving No One Behind' and towards achieving SDG 10 goal 'Reduced Inequality', we designed and delivered an online training program in cooperation with the Metropolis secretariat which turned out to be a truly rewarding and fascinating experience.



Q5. What steps can the governments take and what channels can they pursue to promote meaningful partnerships with your institution and stay informed on upcoming opportunities?

SHRDC has successfully operated a pilot online training program regarding the above-mentioned policies. It shared both Seoul and Bogota's policies and best practices through self-directed e-learning content. SHRDC aims to expand further by sharing similar success stories of other cities, through this initiative. Any city or locality representative can reach out to us for collaboration or participation in the training through our webpage at <http://hrd.seoul.go.kr/shrhc> or can contact us directly at shrhcinfo@gmail.com

Q6. What is your vision for future collaborations between the SMG, MITI, and other cities/governments?

SMG is hosting the Metropolis World Congress to commemorate its 40th Anniversary in 2025. Alongside, SHRDC will also host a "Sharing Forum" to share the outcome of Seoul's effort to achieve sustainable global urban development. Through this opportunity, we expect to bring a new horizon to the collaborative relationship between MITI, SMG and other cities of the world.



Q7. How do you encourage members of the ISUS family to actively participate in national or international capacity-building programs with your institution?

For the current ISUS students, we offer internship positions through Seoul internship program which is a wonderful learning experience and a great networking opportunity. For the Alumni, I strongly recommend the SHRDC international training program. The program provides up-to-date global urban solutions and will also allow you to come back to Seoul to visit the most recent Seoul best practices and policy sites.



Q8. As you participated in GFN as MC, you seemed interested in interacting with ISUS Members. Is there any idea of activating interactions, especially between Korean and international members?

We always look forward to cooperating actively with our ISUS family. For the upcoming 2025 SHRDC 'Sharing Forum' in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary Metropolis World Congress; we are planning to organize a Seoul Alumni session during the Metropolis BoD meeting in Sao Paulo in June 2024. We also intend to invite Seoul alumni to the 2025 SHRDC Sharing Forum to share their learning experiences. Planning is also underway to organize a training session during the 12th World Urban Forum, Cairo in November 2024 in collaboration with MITI Cairo regional centre and other ISUS Egypt Alumni. An 'SHRDC International Training Program 2024' info session is also planned on 7th December to share more details about said events through a special Virtual Platform at <https://shrdc.virtualeoul.or.kr>. Please visit the link for more information about the event or contact us (shrdc2024preview@gmail.com)





01

ISUS Celebrates Thesis Exams by **MIPD 5, MURD 6 & MGLEP 8**

Students from MIPD 5, MURD 6, and MGLEP 8 have completed their final thesis exams. ISUS congratulates all students for their exceptional effort. Their contributions to research enrich the body of existing knowledge to address the current challenges in the fields of environment, infrastructure, urban development, among others.

02

ISUS students embrace Korean language and culture through ISF-sponsored course

ISUS and UoS students enrolled in a free Korean language course sponsored by the International Student Fellowship (ISF). This course is not only a language course but also offers experiences and insight into Korean culture and daily life.



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