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ISUS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF URBAN SCIENCES - UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL

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105th ISUS Urban Infra Forum: Contemporary Macro-Financial Issues of the Global Economy

On 17 June 2026, the ISUS Urban Infra Forum hosted a guest lecture titled "Contemporary Macro-Financial Issues of the Global Economy," bringing together 112 participants, including graduate students, faculty members, researchers, and professors interested in global economic and financial affairs.

The session began with an introduction by Professor Hyeon Park, who welcomed the guest speaker, Professor Jun Il Kim. Professor Kim is an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University, and the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, as well as a Visiting Scholar at the Korea Development Institute (KDI). With more than 30 years of experience in economics and public policy, he has served as a Senior Advisor at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Deputy Governor of the Bank of Korea.

Professor Kim delivered an insightful lecture on four key macro-financial issues shaping today's global economy: global imbalances, sovereign debt sustainability, geopolitical risks and economic fragmentation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. He explained how these challenges influence global economic growth, financial stability, labour markets, and policy

responses across countries. The lecture also highlighted the importance of international cooperation, sound economic policies, and preparing societies for future technological change.

The session concluded with an engaging discussion between the speaker and participants. It encouraged participants to better understand macro-financial trends and emerging global challenges, equipping future leaders with the knowledge needed to navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

ISUS expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Professor Jun Il Kim for sharing his extensive knowledge and practical experience. The session offered students valuable insights into the realities of today's economic landscape while complementing their academic learning. Through interactions with experienced professionals, students gained a broader perspective on how theoretical knowledge is applied in practice, reinforcing the importance of bridging classroom learning with real-world challenges. (N.J.Nash)

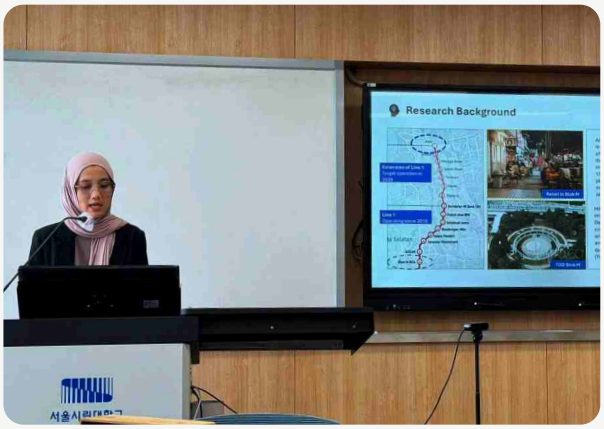
Thesis Presentation Seminar: Strengthens Research Through Academic Exchange

Presenting research is an important milestone in every graduate student's academic journey. The Thesis Presentation Seminar provided ISUS students with an important opportunity to present their research, receive constructive feedback, and prepare for their mid-term and final thesis examinations. Held from 6 to 10 July 2026, the seminar brought together 94 participants, including 76 students from the MUAP, MUD, MUDSIP, and MGLEP programmes, as well as 18 faculty members from ISUS and other departments and external institutions.

The seminar provided students with an opportunity to present their thesis research before their thesis examinations. Each student delivered a 7-minute presentation, followed by an 8-minute feedback session from thesis advisors and faculty members. The constructive comments and suggestions helped students improve their research, strengthen their methodology, and prepare for the next stage of their thesis.

Beyond presenting their own research, students were encouraged to attend presentations from other programmes. This allowed them to learn from different research topics, listen to faculty insights, and exchange ideas with their peers. The seminar promoted academic discussion, broadened research perspectives, and encouraged critical thinking across various fields of urban studies. Common research themes included urban regeneration, sustainable urban design and construction, public-private partnerships, land use planning, green infrastructure, housing policy, transport planning, and environmental management.

The Thesis Presentation Seminar continues to play an important role in supporting students throughout their research journey. Through scholarly feedback and collaborative learning, the seminar helps enhance the overall quality of students' thesis work while preparing them for successful thesis examinations and future academic contributions. (N.J.Nash)

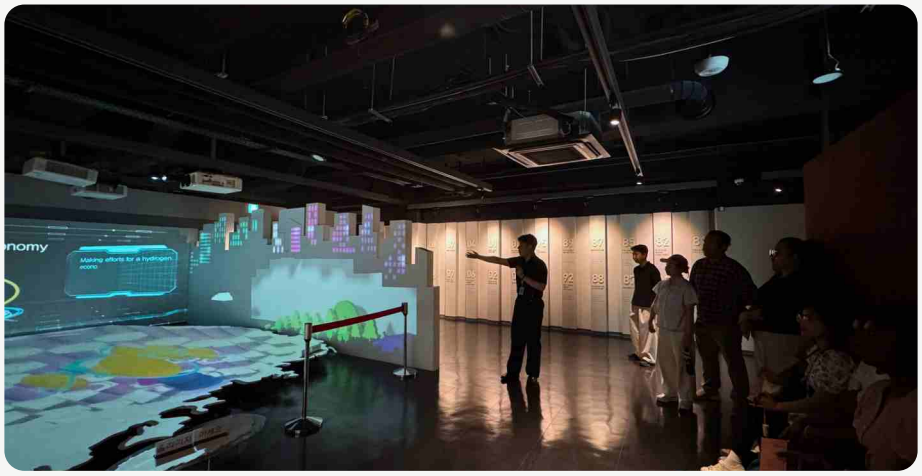


Field Trip to Korea Territorial Development Museum

The Korea Territorial Development Museum field trip gave MGLEP students an opportunity to learn about Korea's urban and land development through an interactive educational experience. The visits were held on 5 June 2026 for MGLEP 11 and 12 June 2026 for MGLEP 12.The field trip provided students with a firsthand learning experience at the Korea Territorial Development Museum, where they explored the history of Korea's urban and territorial development through a guided exhibition.

During the visit, participants joined a guided exhibition that introduced Korea's transformation following the Korean War. The guide explained how the country's cities and land developed alongside rapid urbanization, highlighting major policies, planning strategies, and infrastructure projects that supported Korea's economic growth and urban expansion.

The exhibition also helped students understand the relationship between land development, urban planning, and sustainable city growth. Through historical displays, models, and multimedia exhibits, participants gained a deeper appreciation of how long-term planning has shaped modern Korea and improved the quality of life for its people.



The field trip complemented classroom learning by connecting urban planning theories with real-world examples. It also encouraged students to reflect on the role of government planning and land management in creating resilient and sustainable cities. The visit provided valuable insights that will support students in their academic studies and future careers in urban development and environmental policy. (N.J.Nash)

MUDSIP 8 Site Visit to Housing Redevelopment Project

Participants of the Master's Program in Urban Development Smart Infrastructure Policy (MUDSIP) joined a field study for a housing redevelopment project near Hansung University Station, gaining firsthand insights into Korea's urban regeneration and redevelopment practices. The visit, held on 5 June 2026 and organized by the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS), University of Seoul, complemented classroom learning by connecting urban development theories with real-world practices.

The field study brought together government officials and urban development professionals from 11 countries, reflecting the international nature of the MUDSIP programme. During the visit, participants learned how Korea has transformed aging urban areas into modern residential communities through systematic planning, innovative construction technologies, and sustainable redevelopment strategies.

Field experts explained the redevelopment process, from project planning and implementation to construction management and smart infrastructure applications. Participants also had the opportunity to visit an apartment construction site and exchange ideas with industry professionals, gaining a deeper understanding of the technical and policy aspects of urban renewal.

The visit also introduced participants to Korea's successful redevelopment approach through examples of large-scale projects delivered by leading companies such as Lotte Engineering & Construction (Lotte E&C). Participants learned how integrated redevelopment combines quality housing with commercial facilities, smart infrastructure, and environmentally sustainable design to create vibrant urban communities. Discussions also highlighted how Korea's redevelopment experience, supported by strong public-private partnerships and long-term planning, can provide valuable lessons for developing countries facing rapid urbanization, aging infrastructure, and housing challenges. The programme encouraged participants to consider how these strategies could be adapted to meet the social, economic, and environmental needs of their own countries.

For MUDSIP participants, the field study strengthened the connection between classroom learning and real-world urban development practices. It encouraged participants to exchange ideas on adapting Korea's redevelopment experience to local contexts while considering community needs, sustainability, and resilience. By promoting international collaboration and knowledge sharing, the programme equipped future urban leaders with practical insights into creating more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities. (N.J.Nash)

Songsan Global Cooperation Forum: International Collaboration for Water and Climate Resilience

Students from the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS), University of Seoul, participated in the 4th Songsan Global Cooperation Forum to gain insights into global cooperation on water management and climate resilience. Held on 23 June 2026 at Seoul Square, the forum brought together around 50 representatives from public institutions, universities, and international organizations to discuss collaborative approaches to addressing water management and climate change challenges. The event provided ISUS students with an opportunity to learn from experts and gain practical insights into international development and sustainability.

The forum explored strategies to strengthen water management and climate change responses in developing countries. Participants discussed the growing impacts of climate change and the rapid digital transformation of the water sector. The sessions highlighted how innovation, technology, and international cooperation can contribute to building more resilient and sustainable communities.

Experts from leading organizations, including the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, shared their experiences in international cooperation and Official Development Assistance (ODA). Through case studies and practical examples, participants learned how partnerships between governments, international organizations, and local communities can support sustainable water management and climate resilience.

For ISUS students, the forum complemented their academic studies by connecting classroom learning with real-world policy discussions. It also provided valuable exposure to current global challenges and demonstrated how collaboration across sectors and countries can contribute to sustainable development. The forum reinforced the importance of international partnerships in addressing water and climate related issues while preparing future leaders to develop innovative and inclusive solutions for a changing world. (N.J.Nash)

MUAP 18 Field Trip to Seoul Sewarage Science Museum

What happens after water disappears down a drain? For many people, it is something rarely considered. However, on June 24, 2026, students from the Master's Program in Urban Administration and Planning (MUAP) visited the Seoul Sewerage Science Museum for a field trip that offered a behind-the-scenes look at one of the city's most essential yet often overlooked infrastructure systems. Through interactive exhibitions and guided explanations, students explored how Seoul's sewerage network protects public health, reduces flood risks, and supports a sustainable urban environment.

The museum introduced students to the complete urban water cycle—from rainfall collection and underground sewer networks to wastewater treatment and water quality management. Exhibits demonstrated how Seoul's sewerage system has evolved alongside the city's rapid urbanization, while also highlighting the engineering behind stormwater management and flood prevention. The museum guide explained each stage of the process in an engaging and humorous way, making even complex engineering concepts accessible and enjoyable for students from diverse academic backgrounds.

Reflecting on the experience, Magdalena Oporska (MUAP 18) shared, *"During our trip to the Seoul Sewerage Science Museum, we discovered many interesting facts about how the city's sewage system operates. The guide explained the entire process in an engaging and humorous way, which made even the more complex topics easy to understand. It was a valuable and inspiring lesson."* Her experience echoed the thoughts of many participants, who appreciated the opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world urban infrastructure.

By the end of the visit, students gained a greater appreciation for the hidden systems that keep a modern city functioning every day. More than simply learning about wastewater treatment, the field trip demonstrated how careful infrastructure planning contributes to urban resilience, environmental sustainability, and the quality of life of millions of residents. (R.R)

MGLEP MVIP Awards 2026: Showcasing Innovative Environmental Solutions

On June 26, 2026, the Korea Environmental Conservation Institute (KECI) once again hosted the annual MVIP MGLEP Awards Ceremony, recognizing outstanding projects developed by MGLEP students through the Global Network II course during the spring semester. Throughout the course, students worked in interdisciplinary teams to identify real-world environmental challenges and design practical, sustainable solutions that could be implemented in different countries. The projects reflected a wide range of topics, including renewable energy, water security, and the circular economy, demonstrating how environmental sustainability can be integrated into international development planning.

The MVIP Awards marked the culmination of months of research, teamwork, and project development. During the event, each team presented its proposal before a panel of experts from academia and the environmental sector, who evaluated the projects based on innovation, technical feasibility, implementation strategy, and potential environmental and social impact. Beyond selecting the winning teams, the event also provided valuable professional feedback, encouraging students to further strengthen their ideas for future implementation.

This year's award recipients were:
Gold Award: LUMINAR – Renewable Energy and Safe Water Access for Rural Communities in the Gran Chaco Region
Silver Award: SPAK Solar – Proposal for a New Solar Project in Oman
Bronze Award: Oceanova – Integrated Marine Plastic Recovery and Circular Resource Facility in Malaysia

Reflecting on the achievement, Jude Nartey Amanor (MGLEP 11) shared that winning the MVIP was a rewarding experience because it demonstrated the importance of combining technical knowledge with practical implementation planning. Developing the LUMINAR project taught the team that a successful solution is not only about good engineering, but also about understanding community needs, selecting appropriate technologies, and identifying realistic funding pathways. He explained that the competition challenged the team to think critically, collaborate effectively, and communicate their ideas clearly. Looking ahead, Jude expressed hope that the project could one day contribute to improving access to safe, sustainable water for underserved communities in Paraguay's Gran Chaco region. (R.R)

Learning Beyond Classroom: Exploring Sustainable Development in Jeju Island

Every field trip offers something different, but one destination continues to leave a lasting impression on IUDP's students, Jeju Island. Throughout the summer, students from the MUD, MUDSIP, and MUAP programs traveled to Korea's largest island for academic field trips that combined environmental learning, urban development, and cultural experiences. While each program followed a different itinerary, they all shared the same goal: connecting classroom knowledge with real-world practices through firsthand observation.

Students visited a wide range of sites that reflected Jeju's commitment to sustainability. Depending on the program, these included the Jeju Resource and Environment Recycling Center, Jeju Energy Nurimadang, the Urban Regeneration Support Center, as well as natural landmarks such as Sangumburi Volcanic Cone, Hallasan, Olle Trail, Jeongbang Waterfall, and coastal areas around Aewol and Seogwipo. The field trips highlighted how environmental protection, renewable energy, waste management, tourism, and urban regeneration can work together to support sustainable regional development.

Reflecting on the MUDSIP 8 field trip, Charinrat Thongyoo shared that the experience was both educational and memorable. She found the visit to the Jeju Resource and Environment Recycling Center particularly insightful, as it deepened her understanding of waste management and resource recycling. Learning about community-oriented urban regeneration at the Jeju Urban Regeneration Center also broadened her perspective on sustainable city development. Despite rainy weather throughout much of the trip, the beautiful scenery of Sangumburi, Jeju's beaches, and fun activities such as kart racing made the experience enjoyable and unforgettable.

For Aminatul Maula (MUAP 18), the trip carried special meaning as one of the last opportunities for the cohort to travel together before returning to their home countries. Although she had previously visited Jeju, this journey felt different because of the friendships and shared experiences created along the way. From visiting environmental and cultural sites to hiking Hallasan and enjoying Jeju's beaches, every moment strengthened the bonds within the class and left memories she hopes to revisit someday.

Meanwhile, Wilhemina Gyamfi (MUD 9) described the field trip as a welcome break after a demanding semester. Although the rain accompanied the group for most of the journey, she appreciated the opportunity to learn about Jeju's environmental resources, sustainable tourism, and urban development outside the classroom. More importantly, spending time with classmates in a new environment made the trip both refreshing and memorable, reminding everyone that some of the best lessons come from experiencing places firsthand rather than simply reading about them. (R.R)

K-MateS Project: Learning Sustainability Across Culture

How can environmental sustainability become a bridge between countries? From June 30 to July 2, 2026, MGLEP students participated in the Korea's Mates of Sustainable Solutions (K-MateS) Project, held at the Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco) Human Resources Development Institute in Jecheon, Chungcheongbuk-do. Organized by the Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco) in partnership with the Korea Environmental Conservation Institute (KECI), the three-day program aimed to strengthen international cooperation while introducing Korea's advanced environmental policies, resource circulation systems, and sustainable waste management practices.

Throughout the program, students visited Hanam Union Park, Korea's first integrated underground environmental facility that combines waste treatment and wastewater treatment beneath a public park, demonstrating how environmental infrastructure can coexist with urban green spaces. They also attended lectures on Korea's resource circulation policies, biogas production, digital waste tracking through the Allbaro System, and Korea Environment Corporation's ODA projects. The program encouraged participants to exchange ideas through group discussions comparing waste management practices in their respective countries before concluding with a cultural visit to the Cheongpung Cultural Heritage Complex.

Reflecting on the experience, Alberta Twumadu Kwakye (MGLEP 11) described K-MateS as “educationally entertaining.” She shared that the program content was easy to understand and highly relatable, while working in international groups to discuss environmental challenges created valuable opportunities to connect with fellow participants. Beyond the classroom sessions, the peaceful surroundings offered a chance to relax after each day’s activities, making the experience both intellectually enriching and personally enjoyable.

By combining environmental education with intercultural collaboration, the K-MateS Project demonstrated that sustainable solutions are developed not only through technology and policy, but also through meaningful dialogue and shared learning among future environmental leaders from around the world. (R.R)

Alum of The Month:
Dalia Ghareeb Elsaied Mansour (MGLEP 10)

As an Environmental Researcher at Egypt's Ministry of Environment, Dalia Ghareeb Elsaied MANSOUR (MGLEP 10) is contributing to climate policy and international environmental cooperation. She shares how a project that began at ISUS has grown into a real-world initiative, reflects on the lasting impact of the MGLEP program, and highlights the value of global collaboration in tackling climate change

Could you briefly introduce your current role at the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the main areas you are focusing on in your work today?

I currently serve as an Environmental Researcher at the Climate Change Central Department of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), which operates under the Ministry of Environment. My daily work is deeply rooted in the technical and policy-driven aspects of climate action. My primary focus areas include climate change mitigation, the development and reporting of national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, and strengthening Egypt's national Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system.

A significant part of my role involves supporting the implementation of Egypt's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the preparation of our Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) under the Paris Agreement. It is a crucial time for global climate transparency, and I am proud to be contributing to Egypt's commitment to these international frameworks.

We understand that you have been involved in several international environmental initiatives, including cooperation with Korea through KEITI. Could you tell us about one project that has been particularly meaningful to you?

One project that stands out as deeply meaningful to me actually began during my time in the MGLEP program itself. During the GPD (Group Project Development) course, my colleagues from Sri Lanka and I worked together on a project concept paper for a (smart water system). We poured our energy into designing a solution that addressed real water management challenges, and I am incredibly proud to say that our work won the second prize in the competition.

What makes this even more special is that the project did not end in the classroom. I am thrilled to share that this very concept is now in the implementation phase in Sri Lanka. Seeing an idea that started as a student project evolve into a real-world initiative is beyond rewarding. It is a powerful reminder that the work we do at ISUS has tangible impact. I remain in close contact with my Sri Lankan friends and colleagues, and I am so proud of what we accomplished together and of them for carrying it forward.

In addition to this, beyond my regular responsibilities at EEAA, I am also pleased to represent Egypt in the Korea–Africa Cooperation Committee led by KEITI in Ghana. Through this platform, I have been actively involved in expanding environmental cooperation between Egypt and the Republic of Korea. One current effort I am supporting is a proposal to install solar energy systems for housing units under Egypt's Social Housing Fund a project initially developed by another Egyptian ISUS trainee. We are also studying an ambitious proposal for an environmental satellite to monitor climate change in Egypt, which we hope to present to KEITI for potential support with a Korean company.

But if I had to choose one project that has been most meaningful to me, it would be that smart water system project, not just because we won an award, but because it proved that ISUS is a launchpad for real change, and that the friendships and collaborations we build there can last a lifetime and cross continents.

Looking back on your time at ISUS, how has your experience in the MGLEP program influenced your professional journey or your approach to environmental policy?

Looking back, I can say with full confidence that the ISUS Master's Program in Environmental Policy, generously supported by KEITI, was a turning point in my career. The program significantly enhanced my professional capacity, not only in terms of technical knowledge but also in my ability to engage with environmental policy from a global perspective. It gave me the confidence to work on complex issues like GHG inventories, MRV systems, and NDC implementation.

Beyond the classroom, ISUS and KEITI provided us with invaluable opportunities to grow through conferences and events. I was privileged to attend several of these, which broadened my understanding of international environmental governance and allowed me to connect with experts from around the world.

One particularly memorable experience was the opportunity to give a lecture on ODA (Official Development Assistance), where I presented on the topic of "Energy Mix in Egypt." It was a wonderful chance to share Egypt's energy transition story with an international audience and to discuss how development cooperation can support sustainable energy pathways.

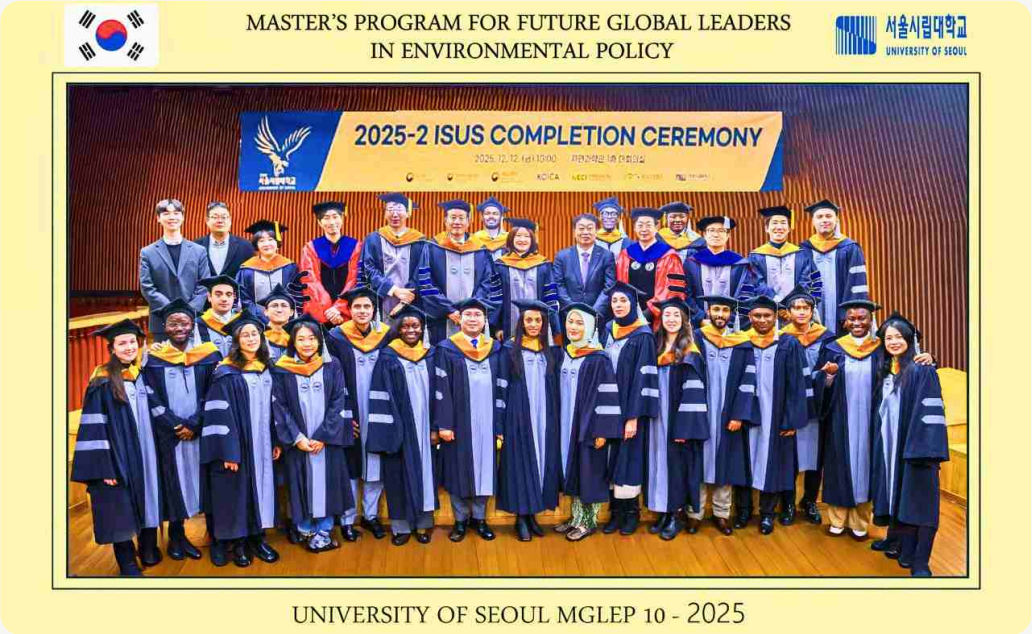
I also had the honor of presenting my thesis topic at the annual water forum in Yeosu in 2025. This was a milestone moment for me, not only because it allowed me to share my research with a wider community but also because it demonstrated how ISUS encourages its students to engage with real-world platforms. I am deeply grateful to my advisor, Professor Seung Boem Seo, for his continuous guidance and for giving me this opportunity. His support has been instrumental in shaping my academic and professional growth.

In short, ISUS did not just teach me environmental policy, it gave me the tools, the network, and the confidence to become an active contributor to global environmental dialogue.

Finally, what are your future goals or aspirations, and what message would you like to share with current ISUS students and fellow alumni?

My immediate goal is to continue contributing to Egypt's climate goals and to see projects like the solar energy initiative and the environmental satellite come to fruition. In the long term, I aspire to be a bridge between Egypt and other nations, facilitating the kind of cross-border environmental cooperation that is so essential for addressing global challenges

My message to current ISUS students and fellow alumni is this: The connections you make at ISUS are not just for your time in Korea they are the foundation of your global professional network. Embrace the knowledge, but also embrace the community. The friendships and partnerships you build here will open doors you never even knew existed. Our collective work is a powerful reminder that environmental solutions know no borders, and the ISUS family is a testament to that spirit of international cooperation.



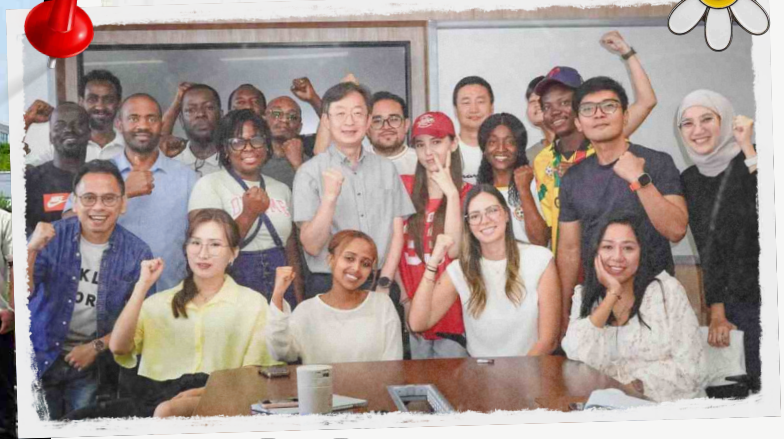
UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL MGLEP 10 - 2025

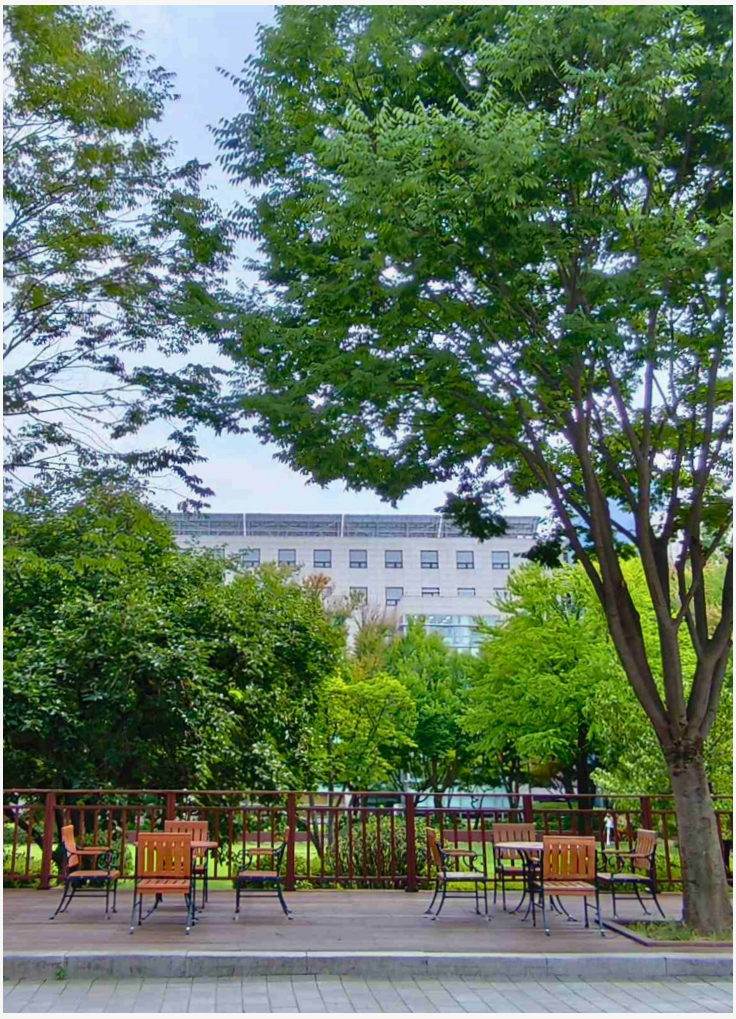
A Note to the ISUS Family:

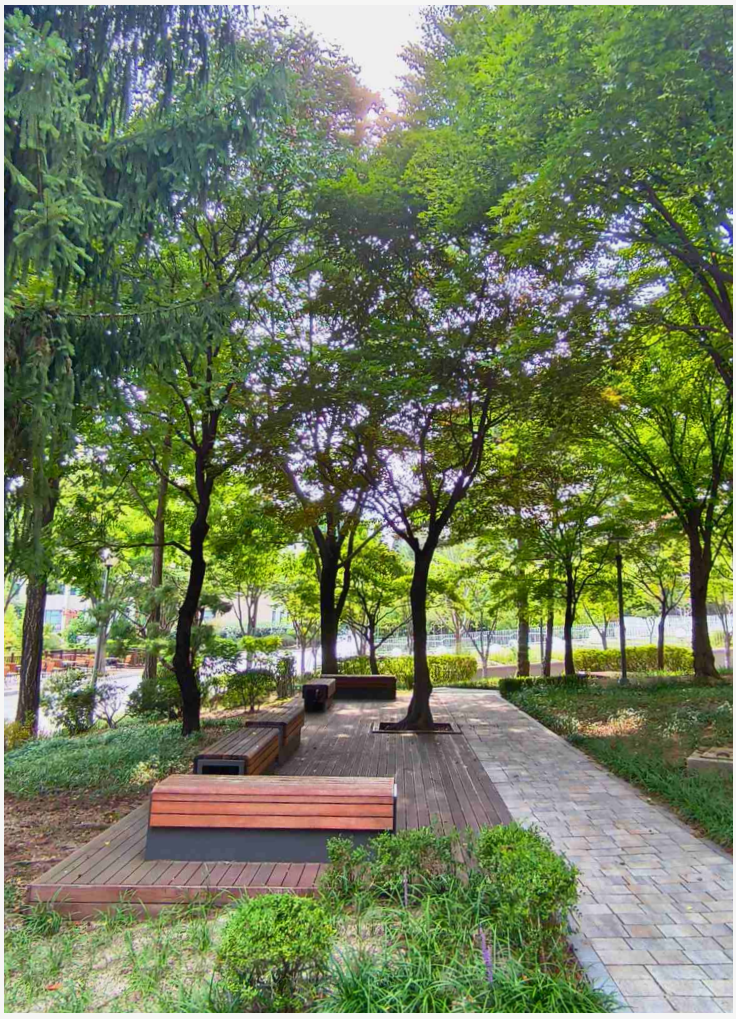
I am deeply grateful for the lasting impact ISUS has had on my career and my life. The experience empowered me to move from a national perspective to a global one, and for that, I will always be thankful. I look forward to seeing where our shared journey takes us next!

End of Spring Semester 2026

"한 걸음 더, 더 넓은 세상으로."
"One step further, to the broad world."'







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