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01 New Students Begin Their ISUS Journey ✨



In August 2025, the International School of Urban Sciences (ISUS) welcomed a new cohort of students to the University of Seoul through the MUAP, MUD, and MUDSIP programs. Their arrival marks the beginning of a new period of study and engagement, preparing them to address pressing issues in urban development and policy at regional and global levels.

Many students arrived just in time for the Global Friends Nights, where they had the opportunity to interact with peers across various programs. Soon after, the semester opened with introductory lectures designed to familiarize them with academic expectations and ISUS's interdisciplinary framework. These sessions provided both orientation and a foundation for the intellectual challenges ahead.

Complementing this academic start, faculty-led field trips and student-organized activities have fostered opportunities for students to connect with one another. Such interactions are central to the collaborative ethos of ISUS, fostering dialogue and cross-cultural understanding that enrich scholarship and practice.

As they embark on their academic journey, ISUS looks forward to supporting these students and to the contributions they will bring to the field of urban sciences.

(J.T)



02 98th Urban Infra Forum

The 98th ISUS Urban Infra Forum was held on September 17, 2025, at the Law School Building, University of Seoul. The event featured Dr. Joon-kyung Kim, Dean of the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, who delivered a lecture on *“The Saemaul Movement and Korea’s Social and Economic Transformation.”*

Dr. Kim explained how the Saemaul Movement, launched in the 1970s, became a driving force behind Korea’s modernization. Rooted in the values of diligence, self-help, and cooperation, the initiative empowered rural communities through merit-based support and strong local leadership. By rewarding performance and encouraging participation, it strengthened social capital, closed the rural–urban income gap, and fostered inclusive growth and civic solidarity.

The lecture also emphasized the international relevance of the Saemaul Movement, which has been recognized by UNESCO as part of the Memory of the World Register.

Its lessons on leadership, community participation, and equitable growth continue to inspire development strategies across the globe. For ISUS students and alumni, the forum was an opportunity to reflect on how Korea’s historical experience can inform present-day challenges in sustainable urban and rural development. (K.S)



03 MGLEP 11 Joins World Climate Industry Expo in Busan

From August 28 to 30, 2025, the MGLEP 11 cohort participated in the World Climate Industry Expo (WCE) at BEXCO, Busan. Hosted by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with private-sector partners, the event emphasized global strategies for advancing carbon neutrality and climate innovation.



A central focus of the expo was water and wastewater management, alongside energy and climate solutions. Exhibitors presented technological developments in clean water supply, smart monitoring, wastewater treatment, and recycling, highlighting the importance of sustainable practices and effective pollution management.



In addition to attending sessions, many students also held business meetings with Korean companies, gaining direct exposure to industry perspectives and opportunities for collaboration. The expo thus served as both an academic and professional platform, enabling MGLEP 11 to observe current trends and understand how technology, policy, and partnership converge in addressing environmental challenges. (J.T)



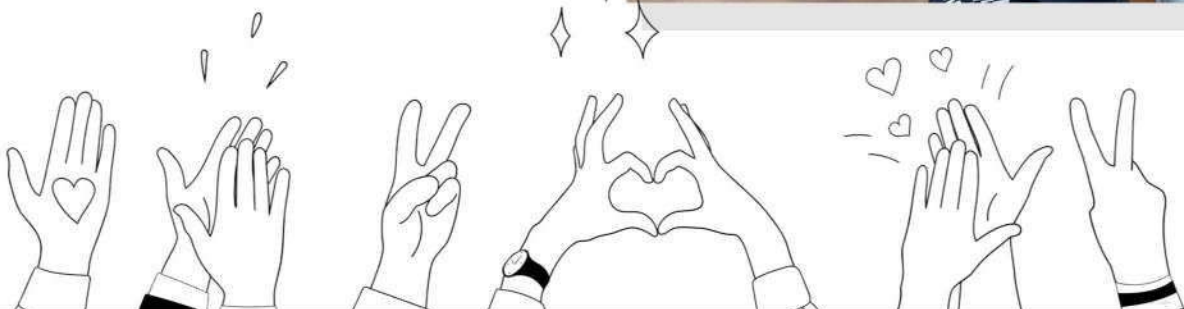
04 MUAP 17th Cohort Concludes Their Journey at ISUS ✨



The MUAP 17th cohort has successfully completed their studies at the International School of Urban Sciences, and returned to their home countries. Over the past year, students engaged in rigorous academic work, meaningful field experiences, and vibrant cultural exchanges that enriched their understanding of urban and policy issues.

Their departure marks both an ending and a new beginning. While they bid farewell to Korea with gratitude and fond memories, they also embark on the next stage of their professional journeys.

Equipped with the knowledge and experiences gained at ISUS, the graduates are now poised to tackle urban and policy challenges in their home countries, continuing the ISUS tradition of making a global impact through leadership, collaboration, and innovation. (K.S)



05 Life at ISUS ✨

A Blend of Learning and Living



At ISUS, student life extends well beyond the classroom. Cooking together in the dorms, sharing music, and enjoying creative moments allow students to connect across cultures and build lasting friendships. These everyday experiences bring diversity to life on campus, making ISUS not only a place of study but also a vibrant international community.

Health and well-being are also central to the ISUS experience. Students spend time at the gym, join sports such as badminton and running, and take part in activities that foster both fitness and teamwork. They also benefited from the SeoulMate program, where local Korean students are paired with new international students, helping them adjust to life in Korea, explore the city, and form meaningful cross-cultural bonds. Together, these experiences show that ISUS is not just about learning—it is about growing, sharing, and living fully. (K.S)

06 MUD Students Explore History and Urban Culture in Jeonju

From August 24 to 26, 2025, Master of Urban Development students (MUD-8 and MUD-9) participated in a three-day field trip to Jeonju, a city renowned for its rich history, cultural heritage, and innovative approaches to urban development. The visit blended academic learning with immersive cultural experiences, giving students the opportunity to explore how tradition and modernity coexist in Korean cities.



Highlights included visits to the Jeonju Hanok Village and other historic landmarks, where students observed how heritage preservation and tourism shape community identity. They also learned about urban regeneration projects that balance economic revitalization with cultural sustainability. Beyond academic insights, the trip strengthened bonds between the MUD cohorts, offering time to share experiences, enjoy local cuisine, and reflect on lessons in urban planning. (K.S)



07 MGLEP Field Trip to Gyeongju and Ulsan



From August 24–26, 2025, MGLEP cohorts 10 and 11 explored Gyeongju and Ulsan. Highlights included tours of Seokguram Grotto, Bulguksa Temple, the Ulsan Urban Regeneration Support Center, a traditional tea ceremony, Jujeon Pebble Beach, Taehwagang National Garden, and the Hyundai Motor Plant. The trip offered a dynamic blend of cultural and educational experiences, providing an energizing start to the Fall semester. (J.T)

08 MUDSIP Field Trip to Gangchon



In late August 2025, MUDSIP cohorts 7 and 8 undertook a three-day field trip to Gangchon. The group immersed themselves in the beauty of Nami Island, embarked on a rail biking adventure, and toured vibrant local gardens. Through the mix of outdoor activities and exploration, the trip set a positive tone for the semester ahead. (J.T)

09 ISUS Students Join Run Run Seoul 2025

Several ISUS students participated in the 19th edition of the Run Seoul Run marathon on September 7, 2025, beginning at Seoul Plaza in the heart of the city. All of them joined the 10K race, which brought together thousands of participants from diverse backgrounds, creating an atmosphere of energy, determination, and celebration.

For ISUS students, the event was more than a physical challenge—it was a chance to experience Seoul in a unique way, running through its streets alongside locals and visitors alike. The marathon reflected both athletic spirit and cultural exchange, offering opportunities to connect with the wider community while celebrating health, resilience, and diversity.

Taking part in citywide events like this illustrates how ISUS students balance academic rigor with personal well-being. By engaging in sports, cultural activities, and community events, they enrich their student life in Korea and build memories that go beyond the classroom. (K.S)



10 Alum of the Month : Riska MUSLIMAH (MIPD 4)

Riska currently serves as the Head of the Engineering Division at PT MRT Jakarta, where she leads the pre-construction stage of Jakarta's urban rail projects—overseeing planning, design, and technical evaluations to align each project with the city's broader development goals. Drawing on her experience in Korea, she has played a key role in advancing Indonesia–Korea cooperation for MRT Jakarta's Phase 4 project, the city's first PPP rail initiative.



Could you tell us a little about your current role at PT MRT Jakarta and what your work mainly focuses on these days?

I currently serve as Head of the Engineering Division at PT MRT Jakarta (MRTJ), a region-owned enterprise of the Jakarta Provincial Government, where I lead the pre-construction stage of our urban rail projects. My work includes managing planning, design development, and technical evaluations across our project pipeline. I collaborate closely with consultants and contractors to ensure that safety, quality, and sustainability standards are integrated into every phase of our work.

What makes this role especially meaningful is the balance between technical leadership and strategic decision-making. I work to align engineering execution with Jakarta's broader urban development goals—making sure that every decision we take not only serves project performance but also contributes to a more connected, livable city for its people.

We heard you've been involved in Indonesia–Korea cooperation on the MRT project – what was that experience like? Were there any memorable moments or challenges you'd like to share?

Yes, it's been one of the most challenging parts of my journey. I had the privilege of chairing the Task Force for the MRT Phase 4 project—where Indonesia–Korea cooperation plays a central role. Phase 4, in particular, is being developed under a proposed unsolicited PPP scheme involving a Korean consortium (KIND, KNR, and Samsung C&T). This marks the first-ever PPP project in Jakarta's rail sector with the local government acting as the Government Contracting Agency (GCA).

It was a complex process, involving technical, bureaucratic, and cultural challenges to overcome. But I drew on my experiences in Korea and worked to bridge the expectations of the K-Cons with the realities of Jakarta's policy landscape. Even after the Task Force's mandate ended, MRTJ—led by the Network Expansion Department—kept pushing forward and the Pre-FS was eventually approved. Now, the Feasibility Study is underway, and of course the journey is still far from over. Many challenges remain, but with strong collaboration and mutual commitment, I believe we can find the best path forward together.

Looking back, how did your time at ISUS help you grow professionally or prepare you for the work you're doing now?

My time at ISUS was truly transformative. The MIPD program gave me much more than technical knowledge— it gave me valuable insights about city development, public-private partnerships, and integrated transport systems. I learned a great deal from Seoul's success in transforming its public transport, as well as from my internships at Daewoo E&C and KNR, which exposed me to the realities of working across borders and sectors.

Professionally, I now approach challenges with a wider perspective. I think not just in terms of engineering solutions, but also in terms of policy alignment, financial strategy, and long-term urban impact. More than anything, I'm grateful for the community—the ISUS family—that supported me throughout. It's a network I still learn from and lean on, even today.



What message or advice would you like to share with current ISUS students and fellow alumni who are passionate about improving public transportation in their own cities?

To current students and fellow alumni: never underestimate the impact of what you're learning and experiencing right now. The insights you gain—whether in class, during internships, or through daily life in Korea—will become valuable tools in your future work. Public transport is not just about buses, trains and stations—it's about equity, accessibility, sustainability, and improving how people live.

My advice is to stay curious, stay connected, and stay committed. The work may not always be easy, especially when you're navigating bureaucracies or pushing for change in complex systems. But the foundation you're building at ISUS is strong, and you're part of a global community that shares your passion and values.

Carry that spirit forward. And wherever you go, know that you're not alone—your ISUS family is cheering you on.



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