



ISUS Sports Day 2026: More Than Competition, a Day of Friendship and Laughter

The question everyone was asking throughout the afternoon was simple: “Which team will become the champion of the ISUS 2026 Sports Day?” But as the games continued and the cheers became louder, it quickly became clear that the true highlight of the day was not only about winning, it was about sharing laughter, excitement, and unforgettable memories together. Participated in by ISUS students, professors, staff members, and alumni, the event brought the entire ISUS community together in a lively atmosphere filled with energy from beginning to end. Hosted by ISUS Korean Student Association, and emceed by Choi Chan-hee (SUD) and Regina Pinta Roatur (MGLEP 11), the Sports Day immediately felt less like a formal competition and more like a festival where everyone could simply enjoy being together.



For many international students, the event became even more special because it was their first time experiencing traditional Korean-style games in real life. Some participants excitedly shared that they had only seen games like the Mugunghwa Flower Game in *Squid Game* or Korean dramas before, making the experience feel both familiar and completely new at the same time. Seeing students laugh while trying not to move or passionately cheer during tug-of-war created scenes that felt just like a real Korean university festival. Beyond simply playing games, the Sports Day became a unique cultural experience where international students could directly experience the fun and atmosphere of Korean campus culture together with their friends.



Perhaps the most memorable part of the day was how naturally everyone came together regardless of nationality, language, or department. Teammates encouraged each other during difficult moments, celebrated every small victory together, and even after losing a game, many could still be seen laughing and taking photos with one another. The loud cheers echoing across the field perfectly reflected the warm and vibrant spirit of ISUS. Special recognition was also given to outstanding participants, with Delphine Uwahiriwe (MUAP 18) and Boniface Nthai Kimuyu (MUD 9) receiving the MVP awards for their energy, teamwork, and performance throughout the event, while Jose Francisco Murillo Diaz (MUAP 18) was awarded Best Cheering Person for bringing endless enthusiasm and spirit to the games. As the event concluded with awards, group photos, and happy faces everywhere, many participants shared the same feeling: "We really became closer today." More than just a sports competition, the 2026 ISUS Sports Day became a meaningful day of friendship, cultural exchange, and precious memories that will stay with the ISUS family for a long time. (R.R)

"I felt very happy and grateful to be selected as the Women's MVP during the ISUS Sports Day, and it became one of my most memorable experiences at ISUS. Since ISUS brings together students from different countries, I really loved how the sports day allowed us to connect through new games, teamwork, encouragement, and laughter, while also creating beautiful memories of our life at ISUS and in Korea." – **Delphine Uwahiriwe (MUAP 18)**



"The sports day was wonderful, a really good refreshing experience too. Having the ISUS Professors, faculty members and students participating was a great time to bond outside the curriculum setting." – **Boniface Nthai Kimuyu (MUD 9)**

"The sports day was a super fun day that allowed all the different ISUS programs to interact and build stronger ties through healthy competition. Everyone's PERFORMANCE across the games was simply great." – **Jose Fransisco Murillo Diaz (MUAP 18)**



Reunited in Dhaka: ISUS Alumni Shared a Meaningful Evening in Bangladesh



In late April 2026, a warm and memorable gathering took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, bringing together faculty and alumni of the ISUS. Prof. Seung Beom Seo, Mr. Sang Chul Lee (alumnus GC), and Mr. Sovichet Kreng (current IDC) visited Dhaka for the kick-off meeting of the NSEZ Water Resources and EcoFriendly Wastewater Treatment Project Feasibility Study. They were joined by Mr. Sang Yeong Kim (SUD), a distinguished ISUS alumnus currently working in Dhaka.

Taking advantage of their time together abroad, the group organized a special alumni dinner attended by 13 IUDP graduates based in Dhaka. The evening was filled with lively conversation, fond memories of campus life, and enthusiastic exchanges about ongoing and future projects. It was a powerful reminder that the bonds formed in the classroom continue to flourish well beyond graduation.



Another highlight of the gathering was a warm invitation from Mr. Rokonzaman, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Planning and an IUDP (MGLEP) alumnus, who graciously opened his home for the occasion. He treated the guests to a wonderful spread of traditional Bangladeshi cuisine, offering an authentic taste of local culture and hospitality. Gathering around a home-cooked meal added a deeply personal and heartfelt dimension to an already meaningful reunion.

Events like this underscore the vitality of the ISUS alumni community, which remains united by a shared commitment to international cooperation and a lasting affection for the University of Seoul. We look forward to many more moments of connection as our graduates continue to make their mark on the world stage.



MGLEP 12 Field Trip: Seoul Energy Dream Center



As Korea's first public net-zero energy building, the center is designed to produce as much energy as it consumes. One of its most impressive features is its solar energy system. Solar panels installed on the rooftop, overhangs, and surrounding areas generate approximately 280,000 kWh of electricity annually, enough to support the building's full energy needs. The building also uses advanced LED lighting systems with smart sensors to reduce unnecessary energy consumption.

Another interesting feature is the use of geothermal technology. Underground geothermal systems help provide heating during winter and cooling during summer, making the building more energy efficient. The wedge-shaped roof design is not only visually attractive but also practical, as it protects visitors from sunlight and rain while supporting solar panels for renewable energy generation. Inside the building, the square-shaped atrium allows natural sunlight to brighten the space, reducing the need for artificial lighting.

Beyond its modern design and technology, the center also plays an important role in sustainability education. Visitors of all ages are introduced to the importance of renewable energy, environmental protection, and net-zero energy practices. At a time when many countries are facing energy challenges, Korea demonstrates how combining different renewable energy sources can support long-term sustainability.



On May 8, 2026, participants from MGLEP12 had the opportunity to visit the Seoul Energy Dream Center and experience these innovations firsthand. One participant, Ariane NYIRINGANGO, shared that the interactive exhibitions helped the group better understand renewable energy, climate change, and how green technology can shape future cities.

Key Takeaways From The Visit:

- The visit showed how countries can better utilize natural resources such as solar and geothermal energy for sustainable development.
- Participants learned the importance of environmentally friendly building designs that maximize renewable energy use.
- The trip highlighted the strong relationship between the construction sector and environmental policies.
- Participants gained greater awareness of sustainable industries, recycling practices, and urban mining as part of climate change solutions.
- Most importantly, the experience inspired participants to think about how sustainable ideas and technologies can be adapted within their own countries.

Overall, the visit to the Seoul Energy Dream Center provided valuable knowledge and inspiration about renewable energy, sustainable construction, and climate-resilient development for a greener future. (N.J.Nash)



Urban GIS Field Trip

Exploring Cities Through Data and Experience

On May 8, 2026, students joined the Urban GIS Field Trip, a learning experience that brought classroom concepts into real urban spaces. The trip began with a visit to the National Geographic Information Institute, where students were introduced to Korea's advanced mapping technologies, spatial data systems, and the important role of GIS in urban planning and policymaking. Listening to experts explain how geographic data is collected and applied in real situations gives students a clearer picture of how cities are planned, managed, and continuously improved through technology and analysis.





Reflecting on the experience, Minh Doanh Ly from MGLEP 12 shared that the field trip was both meaningful and memorable for her. She explained that visiting the National Geographic Information Institute helped her understand how spatial data is used in real life, while the visit to Gwanggyo Lake Park showed her how urban planning and green spaces can harmoniously coexist. For her, the trip made what she learned in class feel more real and easier to connect with. Beyond gaining knowledge, she also enjoyed spending time with classmates outside the classroom, making the experience not only educational but also enjoyable and inspiring. (R.R)





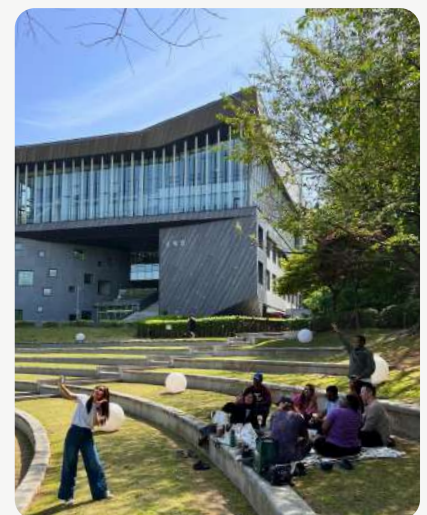
Spring Under the Sun: Picnic Moments and Little Escapes in Seoul

With warmer weather, blooming flowers, and longer afternoons, spring quickly became one of the most anticipated seasons for ISUS students. Across Seoul, students could be seen carrying picnic mats, snacks, coffee, and cameras, making the most of the season before the heat of summer arrived. Many gathered at nearby spots such as Baebongsan Mountain and the Music Hall area at the University of Seoul, proving that even places just a few minutes from campus could turn into cozy picnic destinations during spring. Some spent hours simply sitting under the trees, listening to music, sharing food, playing badminton, or chatting while watching petals fall with the breeze. Others visited Seonyudo Park, where the riverside scenery, blooming flowers, peaceful atmosphere created the perfect setting for photos and quiet moments away from busy city life.





What made these picnic moments meaningful was often not anything extravagant, but the simplicity of being together. Store-bought meals shared on picnic mats somehow felt more special when enjoyed with friends under the spring sky, while home-cooked food brought by classmates carried a warmth that reminded many students of home. As assignments, presentations, and thesis work gradually became more demanding, the picnic moments became small but important pauses in students' routines. Sitting together under the spring sky, laughing over simple conversations, and enjoying Seoul's brief but beautiful season reminded many students that university life is not only about deadlines and academic pressure, but also about the friendships and memories created along the way. (R.R)





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