



UNESCO i-WSSM Capacity Building on Urban Water Management Program

The UNESCO i-WSSM Urban Water Management Program (UWMP) is a flagship initiative under the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme. It is hosted at the International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management in South Korea and focuses on promoting sustainable, integrated urban water management. The program develops practical tools, guidelines, and frameworks to help cities manage the full urban water cycle more effectively. It also supports global efforts toward Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), with an emphasis on preventing urban “water bankruptcy.”

Over three days, participants engaged in an intensive learning experience on integrated Urban Water Management (UWM). The sessions combined classroom learning with field visits, offering both theoretical understanding and real-world exposure. Participants explored South Korea’s urban water systems and also learned from international best practices in countries such as Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These comparisons helped broaden perspectives on different policy and technology approaches.

Participants came from different backgrounds, including professionals with prior experience in UWM and others with limited exposure. This diversity created an open environment for discussion and knowledge sharing. Through a question and answer session together with dialogue, participants exchanged real-world challenges and practical solutions from their home countries. This interaction strengthened learning and encouraged cross-country understanding.

Invited experts shared insights on current challenges in urban water management and highlighted the need to rethink traditional approaches. They introduced a range of alternative solutions, including Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI). A key highlight was South Korea's advanced integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) in water management systems, showing how digital technologies can improve efficiency and sustainability.



The program also gathered participant feedback to support the development of standardized and scalable training materials for future use. In addition, participants shared water-related challenges from their own countries. These discussions created opportunities for future benchmarking and collaboration, particularly in relation to South Korea's integrated approach.

Overall, feedback from participants in the reflection session was very positive. As a participant, I also found that the combination of theory and hands-on experience, along with the opportunity to engage with international experts and peers, was particularly valuable. The program was especially appreciated by participants from developing countries, who highlighted the importance of practical exposure to advanced urban water management systems. (N.J.Nash)





Cultural Exchange in Motion

Experiencing Korean Traditions Beyond Borders

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to walk like a princess in a royal palace? Or ever imagine yourself stepping into a real-life K-drama scene? Students brought that dream to life by wearing hanbok and exploring Korea's historic palaces. MGLEP Cohort 12 and MUAP Cohort 18 visited Gyeongbokgung Palace, while MUDSIP Cohort 8 explored Changdeokgung Palace, each immersing themselves in the rich history and architectural beauty of Korea's royal heritage. Walking through palace grounds dressed in traditional attire allowed students to connect more deeply with the cultural significance of these landmarks, transforming the visits into more than just sightseeing.



Beyond taking photos, the hanbok experience became a meaningful way to understand Korean identity, tradition, and history. As students explored courtyards, gates, and gardens, they gained a deeper appreciation of how culture is preserved and expressed through architecture, clothing, and daily life in the past. These shared moments not only enriched their cultural knowledge but also created memorable experiences that strengthened their connection to Korea and to one another. (R.R)



"Wearing a hanbok at Gyeongbokgung Palace was a deeply moving experience that made me feel as if I had stepped back in time and truly lived a piece of Korean history. Surrounded by the beauty of the palace and sharing the moment with friends, I felt an overwhelming sense of connection, joy, and cultural appreciation. I sincerely hope future field trips can offer experiences that are meaningful, where learning goes beyond the classroom and becomes something we can truly feel and remember." - Ovi Nurbalqis (MUAP 18)



"I have always enjoyed watching Korean historical dramas, and I have long been interested in trying on a hanbok. After coming to Korea for my master's studies, I finally had the chance to experience it, and I have tried it twice so far, with plans to do it again. It was an incredibly exciting and unforgettable experience. I felt like a queen wearing the hanbok, and every detail fascinated me, from the unique hairstyle to the elegant design; the chima (hanbok skirt) especially gave me a unique sense of excitement. Its beauty and grace truly amazed me, and it has become one of my most memorable experiences in Korea. I even felt a little envious of Koreans." - Shakhzoda Abdurakhmanova (MUDSIP 8).



"The hanbok experience was wonderful and memorable. Actually, I think wearing hanbok is a really good way for international students to have a better understanding of traditional Korean culture, and it made me feel closer to Korean history. Besides, it also was a fun and meaningful campus activity to make us students closer to each other." - Yujie Yuan (MGLEP 12)

