

December 2022

ISUS Newsletter

International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul

What's inside?

<End of Fall Semester & Winter Vacation>

ISUS students completed their Fall Semester through off-line classes. The Winter Vacation period will end on February 28th and Spring semester begins on March 1st.

<Interview>

For December's interview, let us read about Mahmoud Youssif (MUAP 8), who is working as a Transport Studies Specialist and received the Gold Award Winner for the "Dubai BUS LANE Project" in the Gulf Sustainability Awards in the category of Environmental Sustainability. He shared his experiences and how the ISUS program has affected his career.

<2022 Global Infrastructure Development Exchange Meeting >

On November 25, 2022, it was held the "2022 Global Infrastructure Development Exchange Meeting". Along with 39 trainees from 14 countries of the MIPD 4 & 5 students, the University of Seoul (UOS), the International Contractors Association of Korea (ICAK), and major Korean construction & engineering companies joined to discuss and develop business plans.

<The end of 2022>

As the end of the year is coming closer, we wish your happiness in the year to come. We wish you and your families a beautiful merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

2022 Global Infrastructure Development Exchange Meeting



Along with 39 trainees from 14 countries of the MIPD 4 & 5 students, the University of Seoul (UOS), the International Contractors Association of Korea (ICAK), and major Korean construction & engineering companies joined to discuss and develop business plans together, as well as to talk about possible internship programs in the future.





At the Exchange meeting, MIPD students and Korean construction companies got to know each other as they had time to introduce themselves individually. By exchanging views on major issues in the field of infrastructure, they will be able to cooperate for future business development forming close networks.

MGLEP 7 Graduation Field trip to Ulsan and Gyeongju



From November 21st to 23rd, MGLEP 7 had their Graduation Field Trip to Ulsan and Gyeongju.

Ulsan is a city with a business and industrial hub, and Gyeongju is a traditional one. At Ulsan, they had a chance to visit Hyundai Heavy Industries where they got to see with their bare eyes how cars and trucks are built and exported. It was a unique experience to see how parts are being assembled and how the staff work efficiently and safely as a whole and as individuals.



Later that day, students had the chance to visit Taehwa National Garden with beautiful bamboo forest lights. It was a moment where they could relax and feel the energy.

The next day, students had the chance to see the old town of Ulsan and how it reformed and became the new icon of urban regeneration. A 2-hour tour around the alleys gave them an idea of how to implement this kind of project in their countries, being a fruitful field trip.



After that, they moved to Gyeongju City for cultural insight. They visited so many places such as Bulguksa, Cheonmachong, National Museum, etc., and experienced the beautiful buildings and temples



MGLEP 7 will be graduating this December. We hope this field trip helped them to further develop their insight, and that it provided them with the opportunity to get additional knowledge and experiences from those they had for the last 2 years.

MGLEP Saemangeum Exhibition hall

Field trip

Before the expected field trip to Saemangeum in Gunsan City, MGLEP had a chance to visit its exhibition hall near Seoul Station on November 15 and 25.



Saemangeum project is a still ongoing governmental project, which deals with land reclamation. Before actually visiting Gunsan, MGLEP students received a lecture on the project, the overview made the students eager to visit Saemangeum and see how it had evolved throughout the years. Next month, MGLEPs will visit Gunsan and see how it has developed so far, especially from an environmental point of view.



MIPD 5 Korean Culture Experience - Gyeongbokgung Palace

On November 4, 2022, MIPD 5 had a Korean cultural experience at Gyeongbokgung Palace located near Seoul City Hall. There, they were able to experience Korean culture by making kimchi, Korea's representative food.



Next, MIPD 5 took time to try on Hanbok, the traditional Korean clothes, and walk through Gyeongbokgung Palace. This palace is the largest of the Five Grand Palaces built by the Joseon dynasty, it served as the home of the Kings of the Joseon dynasty, the Kings' households, as well as the government of Joseon.



We hope that these activities provided MIPD 5 with a meaningful experience to understand Korean culture more deeply.

MUAP Seoul Energy Dream Center Field trip

MUAP 15 students participated in the 'Eco Tour' by Seoul Energy Dream Center on Friday, November 11th.

This tour is designed to understand the conversion of energy and resource circulation in Seoul. Students learned how to produce and manage energy in the center, which was built as a zero-energy building.



Next, they moved to Haneul Park, by Narrow-Mouth Frog car. This park used to be Nanjido landfill 20 years ago, but now, it is a park that has become one of the best places to enjoy the feeling of autumn. During their visit, MUAP students enjoyed silver grass.



Finally, students visited Mapo Resource Recovery Facility where they could watch and learn about the waste treatment process directly. This facility daily receives waste from 5 nearby districts, and during the incineration process, it generates heat that is used to produce electricity and hot water by running the boiler. The tour ended with returning to the center by taking an electric bus.



We hope they had the opportunity to reflect on resource recycling and energy co-generation.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

An Analysis of the Main Causes of Delays in the Completion of Road Construction Projects: A Case Study of Tanzania

Donati Michael Kullaya¹, Muluken Kassahun Alemu¹ and Chun Ho YEOM^{1,*}

¹International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul, Seoul, South Korea

Abstract:

Introduction

Completing road construction projects in time is a challenge for developing countries, specifically for Tanzania, where great economic costs result from difficulties in identifying and reducing the factors that cause the delay.

Methods

This study addresses factors that cause the delay of a road construction project in Tanzania and proposes some methods that could potentially reduce this delay. A structured questionnaire was drawn up through an interactive online workshop with the help of experts and professionals from the road construction sector in Tanzania, and follow-up interviews were conducted.

Results and Discussion

In addition, the first results were analyzed, and the factors identified were combined into five important groups, namely, client-related, consultant-related, contractor-related, design-related, and external factors. These were the main contributing aspects to delays in road construction projects in Tanzania.

Conclusion

Furthermore, from across these groups, six significant causes of delays emerged, and these were inadequate access to finance and delayed payments for completed work, financial problems or difficulties, unwillingness or inability to sustain operations over long periods of non-payment, an unrealistic program of works (Works Schedule), inadequate site management, and political interference.

Keywords: Delays, Construction industry, Road Construction project, Relative importance index, Projects, Economic growth.

Article History

Received: September 29, 2021

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Recently, alumni Donati Michael Kullaya (MIPD 3), Muluken Kassahun Alemu (MIPD 3), and Professor Chunho Yeom published the article entitled "An Analysis of the Main Causes of Delays in the Completion of Road Construction Projects: A Case Study of Tanzania" in the Open Transportation Journal.

If you are interested in the topic, we invite you to read the abstract below and look for the article online

[Abstract]

Completing road construction projects in time is a challenge for developing countries, specifically for Tanzania, where great economic costs result from difficulties in identifying and reducing the factors that cause the delay. This study addresses factors that cause the delay of a road construction project in Tanzania and proposes some methods that could potentially reduce this delay. A structured questionnaire was drawn up through an interactive online workshop with the help of experts and professionals from the road construction sector in Tanzania, and follow-up interviews were conducted. In addition, the first results were analyzed, and the factors identified were combined into five important groups, namely, client-related, consultant-related, contractor-related, design-related, and external factors. These were the main contributing aspects to delays in road construction projects in Tanzania.

Furthermore, from across these groups, six significant causes of delays emerged, and these were inadequate access to finance and delayed payments for completed work, financial problems or difficulties, unwillingness or inability to sustain operations over long periods of non-payment, an unrealistic program of works (Works Schedule), inadequate site management, and political interference.

Newsletter Interview Article: MUAP Alumni, Mahmoud Youssif

ISUS presents a special series of interviews to share stories of ISUS members. For December's interview, let us read about Mahmoud Youssif (MUAP 8), who is working as a Transport Studies Specialist and received the Gold Award Winner for "Dubai BUS LANE Project" in the Gulf Sustainability Awards in the category of Environmental Sustainability. He shared his experiences, and how the ISUS program has affected his career.



Q1.Please introduce yourself.

Mahmoud Youssif: I am Mahmoud Youssif and I work as a Transport Studies Specialist at the Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai Government. I am originally from Egypt, but I moved to Dubai 3 years ago after 10 years of experience in the field of Public Transportation. I have worked in different locations in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, where I managed many vital projects at city level in the transportation and environment fields. I completed my master's degree in urban planning and administration from the University of Seoul in 2017.

Q2. What is the main purport of the Dubai Bus Lane Project? Which problem did you find and how did you deal with it?

Mahmoud Youssif: Dubai Bus Lane Project helped the city to encourage the use of public transport. Constructing the bus lane in the median was very helpful for the city to improve the bus service and increase the reliability and bus on-time performance. The dedicated bus lane reduced the bus travel time by 24% of the original time, as well as the total cost of bus operation, the CO2 emissions, and the number of accidents on bus lane corridors. Also, it improved the utilization of bus and driver's resources. The project aimed to achieve a benefit of 8 billion USD by 2050 from travel time savings, CO2 reduction, and operation costs. Having bus lanes in Dubai city helped to improve traffic operations by separating buses from the general traffic. So, the operation of buses through dedicated bus lanes reduced energy consumption and produced positive environmental impacts to a substantial degree.

The two major challenges in this project were:

1. Select and prioritize the most important corridors for implementation. For this we did extensive multi-criteria assessments for all roads in Dubai and then ran a microsimulation modeling to ensure the smooth circulation of both buses and passenger cars. Different stakeholders were involved in this work to agree on the methodology and make sure the project would not affect the other agencies.
2. The public facilities along the selected corridors were very old and the infrastructure was not ready for this project. Moreover, the street parking should be removed to keep the bus lane. So, the authority decided to create a parking lot on the back side of the roads and to allocate an additional budget to shift the public facilities and ensure keeping everything safe while the implementation is going.



Q3. How would you say that your experience in ISUS helped you to receive this achievement?

Mahmoud Youssif: Studying at ISUS and being a graduate of one of the great programs at the University of Seoul helped me a lot to improve my understanding of urban planning and transportation as well. The level of proficiency and expertise of ISUS professors provided me with valuable knowledge. The infrastructure readiness in Seoul and the huge transportation projects in the city also strengthen my knowledge and became one of the top benchmarking cities when doing similar projects for other cities.

Q4. Do you have any other words to share with ISUS?

Mahmoud Youssif: Thanks to ISUS for giving us the opportunity to explore an academic program and a practical way to manage mega projects in our cities and communities.

ISUS 76th Urban Infra Forum



The ISUS 76th Urban Infra Forum (UIF), marked the third UIF of the 2022 Fall Semester, it was held on Thursday, November 10th, from 06:00 to 7:00 PM as both an offline lecture and webinar via Zoom. This edition's topic was "Seoul Transportation Policy", delivered by Youngjun HAN, a Research Fellow at the Department of Transportation System Research, from the Seoul Institute.

Through the 76th UIF, participants were granted the valuable opportunity to learn about "The development process of Seoul transportation and its major policies, and the future of Seoul transportation system."



UIF is a discussion forum on Infrastructure, Sustainable Urban Development, Construction, Environment, or related issues with invited speakers. Participants are mainly ISUS members who consist of Foreign Public Officials and Domestic Practitioners with a combination of their expertise, the forum has served as a platform for international networking and mutual learning.

You can find the lecture materials of UIF on the website below.

http://isus.uos.ac.kr/freeTC/list.do?list_id=50018C7

ISUS homepage > community > Urban Infra Forum

UOS Campus in December



Have warm last days of 2022!



서울시립대학교
UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL

ISUS International School of Urban Sciences

서울시 동대문구 서울시립대로 163 (우:02504)

University of Seoul 163 Siripdaero, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 02504 KOREA

Tel 82-2-6490-5137~8 Fax 82-2-6490-5141 E-mail isus@uos.ac.kr Homepage <http://isus.uos.ac.kr>