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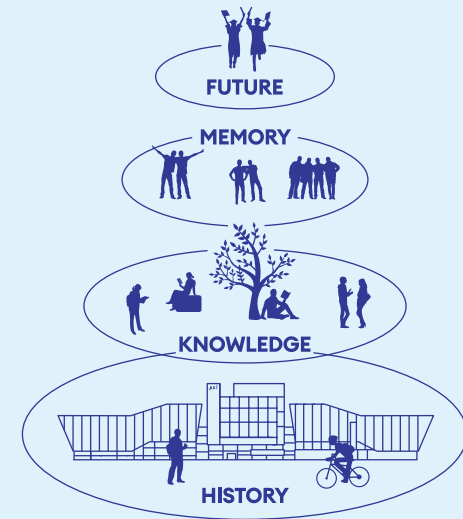
Vol. 27



**KDI SCHOOL
YEARZINE 2024**

Making KDI School Together

Making History
Making Knowledge
Making Memories



KDI SCHOOL YEARZINE 2024



**KDI
School**



**KDIS
Students**



**KDIS
Alumni**



**KDIS
Research
& Education**



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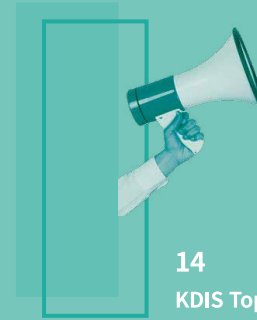
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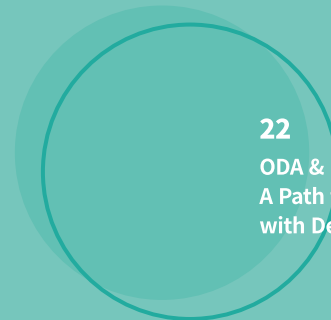
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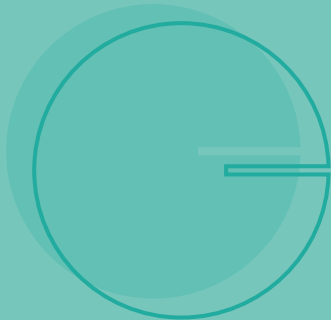
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KDIS Message

Greetings, KDI School Family



I am honored to serve as your Dean and for the opportunity to deepen my commitment to our school, which I have cherished since joining as a professor here in 2008. As we look forward to 2025 and continue to advance our mission, I reflect back on my 34 years with KDI and KDI School with immense gratitude and a heightened sense of responsibility.

Since its founding 27 years ago, KDI School has been at the forefront of Korea's vision to lead in public policy challenges. We have evolved to produce leaders with the capacity and vision to address complex issues worldwide. I am grateful for all the members of our community—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—whose dedication drives our progress.

Looking ahead, we aim to consolidate KDI School's position as a global leader in public policy and international development education. Our recognition gained from initiatives such as international development exchange programs and our partnerships with esteemed organizations, like the World Bank and OECD, have bolstered our global presence. These collaborations create opportunities for our community to engage in impactful research and global policy discussions.

In a rapidly evolving world, innovating our curriculum is essential. We plan to integrate project-based learning (PBL) to foster critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, equipping students to address complex policy challenges in today's dynamic global environment. Adding real-world impact evaluations will further prepare our students to solve problems with analytical precision and practical insights. Our curriculum must reflect interdisciplinary themes critical to global issues like climate change, AI, public health, and localizing development.

What distinguishes KDI School is our ability to leverage Korea's extraordinary development story. Korea's journey from a low-income nation to a high-income, developed country provides a unique foundation for our curriculum; it is a development story rich with insights, instructive lessons, and inspiration. As we continue to look forward, we will continue to enrich our educational offerings by incorporating case studies from initiatives like the modularization of economic development and the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP). Additionally, we will enhance our research on impact evaluations of ODA projects, equipping students with essential theoretical knowledge, analytical skills, and practical insights necessary for effective policymaking.

As I end this message, I invite all students, faculty members, and staff to join me in pursuing growth and excellence. Together, we will uphold the proud legacy of KDI School, adapt to the demands of a changing world, and lead with innovative and research-driven solutions.

Thank you for your commitment to our shared mission and for your continued dedication to KDI School. A new year offers new opportunities for growth and innovation. I wish you all the best for 2025—Happy New Year!

Joon-Kyung Kim
Dean, KDI School of Public Policy and Management

KDIS TOP 10 NEWS

www.kdischool.ac.kr

1 Appointment of the 10th Dean

On November 8, 2024, Professor Joon-Kyung Kim was appointed as the 10th Dean of the KDI School of Public Policy and Management. Having been a professor at KDI School since 2008 and currently serving as a professor emeritus, Dean Kim brings a deep commitment to our school's mission and values. His distinguished career includes roles such as the 14th and 15th President of KDI, Deputy Secretary for

Economic Affairs at the Presidential Office, and a visiting professor at Columbia University. As Dean, he looks forward to further strengthening KDI School's leadership in public policy education and fostering collaboration with global partners. During his three-year term (November 2024 – November 2027), Dean Kim will guide KDIS through an exciting new phase of growth and innovation.



2 Newly Launched Master of Data Science for Public Policy and Management (MDS)

In response to the rapid digital transformation across industries and sectors, KDI School has introduced a forward-looking Master of Data Science (MDS) for Public Policy and Management program. This program uniquely merges cutting-edge data science techniques with public policy

applications, equipping students with the skills to address complex societal issues. Through courses on machine learning, artificial intelligence, and computational social science, students are trained to apply quantitative methods to policy analysis. The program draws in students from diverse academic backgrounds, who are eager to leverage data in shaping public policies. Students also benefit from the school's global perspective and networking opportunities, fostering an international outlook essential for future policy leaders.

3 Establishment of the Executive Master's Program for Saudi Arabian Officials

In an ambitious step toward fostering international cooperation, KDI School has launched the Executive Master of Public Policy and Management (EMPPM) program, specifically tailored for Saudi Arabian government officials. The program is designed to support Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, a national strategic framework aimed at diversifying the economy and enhancing government efficiency. The EMPPM program offers both online and offline learning, allowing students to balance their studies with work responsibilities. Featuring specialized tracks in areas such as economic diversification and sustainable development, the curriculum also includes practical components such as field trips to Korea and a capstone project that requires students to apply their learning to real-world policy challenges.

4 Reaccreditation of NASPAA Programs



KDI School has successfully secured reaccreditation for its Master's programs under the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), solidifying its commitment to providing world-class public policy education. This prestigious reaccreditation ensures that KDI School's curricula meet international standards for preparing leaders in public administration and policy. The reaccreditation not only highlights the quality of KDI School's academic offerings but also reaffirms its dedication to equipping future policymakers with the skills necessary to navigate global challenges. With this achievement, KDI School remains at the forefront of graduate education in public policy, drawing students from around the world who seek rigorous and accredited training.

5 Named “Excellent University” for Fourth Consecutive Year

For the fourth year in a row, KDI School has been certified as an “Excellent University” by Ministry of Education’s International Education Quality Assurance System (IEQAS). The school’s commitment to academic excellence, innovative research, and impactful public policy contributions has consistently earned it this accolade. The recognition reflects the institution’s role in shaping policy discourse, advancing scholarly research, and providing a robust educational environment for students. As KDI School continues to push the boundaries of public policy and management education, it strengthens its position as a top-tier academic institution in Korea and abroad.

7 Opening of Sejong Common Campus (Second Campus)

In September 2024, KDI School officially opened the doors to its Sejong Common Campus, a cutting-edge facility aimed at boosting the school’s research and education capabilities. The second campus, located in Jiphyeon-dong, allows for greater interdisciplinary collaboration and strengthens partnerships with governmental and international institutions. By expanding its physical presence, KDI School is better positioned to lead innovative research and support its growing student body, while also enhancing its contributions to policy development.



6 Completion of Sejong Global Leaders Training Center

The completion of the Sejong Global Leaders Training Center marks a new chapter in KDI School’s efforts to provide world-class accommodation for its growing international student body. The new dormitory is designed to enhance students’ living experiences, offering a modern and comfortable environment that promotes academic focus and cross-cultural exchange. With spacious facilities and leadership development opportunities, the center not only addresses the practical needs of students but also fosters a community of global leaders. The completion of this facility is part of KDI School’s broader vision to provide a holistic, student-centered educational experience that equips individuals for leadership in the global arena.



8 MOU Signed with Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST)



KDI School has signed an MOU with the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST), formalizing a strategic partnership that will advance research and education in data science, AI, and public policy. This collaboration brings together the strengths of both institutions, encouraging joint research projects, student exchanges, and academic collaboration. By aligning expertise in technology and policy, KDI School and GIST aim to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing society, from technological innovation to sustainable development. This partnership represents a significant step forward in creating synergies between public policy and scientific research.

9 Reaching an International Alumni Association Across 62 Countries

This year, with the establishment of new alumni associations in Iran, Iraq, the Dominican Republic, Mali, and Saint Lucia, KDI School’s global alumni network has expanded to a total of 62 countries. These new associations join the 57 existing ones, including the Korean alumni association, further solidifying the school’s international presence. Through unwavering efforts of alumni and the school, KDI School’s PR Division encourages alumni to establish associations in their respective countries, continuously strengthening the network. Additionally, KDI School facilitates alumni gatherings during faculty and staff business trips abroad, fostering even deeper global connections.

10 Publication of First ESG Management Report

KDI School has taken a leadership role in sustainable development by publishing its first Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Management Report. The report outlines the institution’s commitment to integrating ESG principles into its operations, academic programs, and community outreach. By adopting sustainable practices across all areas, KDI School is setting a new standard for higher education institutions. The ESG report not only highlights the school’s achievements in promoting sustainability but also serves as a roadmap for future initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impact and fostering social responsibility. Through this report, KDI School underscores its mission to lead by example in the realm of responsible governance and policy leadership.

Leading ESG Management at KDIS

Sustainability Achievements

KDI School is setting a new standard for sustainability with its “Green Challenge.” Focused on environmental care, social responsibility, and transparent governance, the initiative showcases the school’s commitment to a greener and more inclusive future.



Environmental



Efforts to Reduce Waste and Save Energy

- Implementing a campaign to reduce leftovers in the cafeteria to cut down on food waste, strengthening recycling education for international students, discontinuing use of disposable products (paper towels, mouthwash, etc.)
- Running an electricity-saving campaign (turning off lights, air purifiers and personal PCs when not in use, shutting off lights in libraries and signs during late hours)

Establishing Eco-Friendly Infrastructure and Creating a Green Environment on Campus

- Operating solar power facilities, using tablet PCs for paperless meetings, purchasing rainwater removers to stop the use of umbrella plastic covers, installing electric vehicle charging stations
- Eliminating business vehicles and promoting public transportation use to reduce carbon dioxide emissions
- Using paper-pack water, transitioning to plastic-free campus cafes, creating business cards with eco-friendly paper

Social



Laying the Foundation for Human Rights Management and Fostering a Culture of Human Rights Respect

- Proclaiming a human rights management declaration to improve the quality of life of members, establishing a Human Rights Center, setting up a Faculty Welfare Committee, supporting work-family balance through Family-friendly Management Certification

Social Contribution and Knowledge Sharing Projects for Mutual Growth with the Community

- Expanding employment of people with disabilities in campus cafes and student cafeteria, conducting donation activities for social contributions like the Ussuri Fund
- Signing a business agreement with Sejong City Library, conducting lectures open to public demand for knowledge sharing and mutual growth with the local community

Governance



Strengthening Transparent Democratic Management and Ethical Management Systems

- Completing the transition of contract employees without discrimination, enhancing fairness in recruitment and personnel affairs, promoting democratic labor-management relations, and launching a Youth Board of Directors



ODA & KDIS

A Path to Global Cooperation with Developing Countries

International Student Scholarship Program



To cultivate development experts who will work in the public and private sectors of developing countries by offering degree programs and scholarships to international students.

- The program provides education based on South Korea's economic development experience and policy expertise, targeting government officials and professionals from developing countries.
- It offers master's and doctoral programs in various fields such as public policy, development policy, and public management.
- Students develop a deep understanding of Korea's economic development process and are trained to formulate and implement development strategies for their own countries.
- **Support:** Scholarships cover tuition fees and living expenses.

International Development Cooperation Capacity Building Program



To strengthen the public policy capacity of developing countries, especially in Latin America, by building an educational cooperation framework based on Korea's development experience.

- The program supports the operation of a master's degree program at the Guatemala Regional School of Public Policy (ERPPD) – established in September, 2017.
- It shares Korea's socio-economic development policy experiences through short-term training courses and online seminars for policymakers in Latin America.
- Tailored education programs are provided to help solve public policy challenges in the Latin American region.

At KDI School of Public Policy and Management, fostering global development isn't just a single goal among many – it is central to our mission. Through our Official Development Assistance (ODA) initiatives, we actively share South Korea's development journey with countries now following similar paths. In our view, ODA is more than just financial aid; it's a way to promote cooperation and empower communities worldwide with the tools and knowledge needed for sustainable growth. Here are the four key ODA initiatives KDI School is implementing:

Joint Project with the World Bank



To strengthen the public sector capacity of developing countries by collaborating with the World Bank and sharing the development experiences of advanced economies.

- KDI School and the World Bank jointly conduct research to disseminate the development experiences and policy lessons of Korea and other advanced countries to developing nations.
- KDI School-World Bank Knowledge Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund is managed, and a Trust Fund Dissemination Conference is held to share research outcomes with member countries.
- Twice a year, KDIS students are dispatched to the World Bank HQ as a young professional to support trust fund-related projects and research.

Cambodia National Policy Research Capacity Building Project



To enhance the policy research capacity of Cambodia's public sector personnel.

- The program provides both degree and non-degree education through collaboration with the Royal Academy of Cambodia (RAC).
- Joint research and policy advisory services are offered to strengthen the policy development and research capabilities of the Cambodian government.
- This project enhances the policy capabilities of Cambodia's public sector, supporting the economic and social development of the country. It also strengthens the policy cooperation network between Korea and Cambodia.

In this part, professors on the Development Committee at KDI School share their insights on the current strengths and areas for improvement. Join us as we explore how KDI School's ODA initiatives are helping build a better future by bringing people, knowledge, and ideas together across borders.

Current Strengths of KDI School's ODA Programs



Professor
Jinseong Park

KDI School's curriculum provides quality teaching and learning opportunities to enable students, especially from developing countries, to become ODA experts in their respective regions. These skills are taught in economic and development analysis, policy design evaluation, quantitative and qualitative research methods, project management, cross-cultural communication and diplomacy, ethics and governance in development, monitoring and evaluation, and language skills, among other critical courses. These courses are practical in training students as ODA specialists.

The diversity of our student body stands out as a great way to produce quality ODA specialists. We have a diverse environment with students from different countries and parts of the world. During classes, lively discussions bring out unique perspectives. Professors use that diversity in projects and the curriculum so the students get fully involved with the projects. KDI School offers something very different from other leading universities, particularly those in North America and Europe; our school is unique because our diverse students can share different voices, perspectives, and experiences. This is essential in broadening their knowledge base and critical thinking. Because many students at KDI School are from developing countries, their voices are heard in classroom discussion and reflected in the curriculum.

Professor
Joshua D. Merfeld



Professor
Dongil Lee

KDIS collaborates with organizations such as KOICA to provide short-term training by experts for skills critical for future ODA specialists. For example, training is provided by Ms. Haeryung Choi (Manager at KOICA), an expert on development aid projects. She provides tutoring on writing project inception papers and the whole project life cycle. Students are expected to undertake this training and make presentations at the end to practice what they have learnt. Such opportunities are crucial in building skills and experience as practitioners.

Also, Professor Changkeun Lee developed a new course, 'International Development in Practice', where students focus on writing specifically and developing skills to present this writing in a readable, accessible way to policymakers. He did that mainly because many of these organizations want to hire people who are good at writing policy documents, including persuasive skills for policy recommendations. That skill is lacking in many experts, so the course is meant to cover this gap for our students as they spend the semester writing and tapping into resources through access to data.

Successful International Examples of ODA Education Programs

Professor
Sungho Park



KDI School and Columbia SIPA are excellent examples of successful ODA programs. Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) is renowned for its influential role in shaping leaders and policy experts worldwide. SIPA strongly focuses on understanding the intricacies of governance, economics, and international relations, especially within developed countries. Many of their students make an impact in developed nations, working with international organizations, top consultancies, and policy institutes in places with a high level of institutional capacity and resources. What makes KDI School unique, however, is our emphasis on bridging that gap between developed and developing nations. Our ODA programs are explicitly structured to support countries that are still in the process of building robust economic and policy frameworks. Having transformed from an aid recipient to a successful development model, South Korea has a unique perspective and wealth of knowledge to offer countries trying to replicate that growth. At KDI School, we are not only training students from around the world in public policy and management, but we're also sending them back to their home countries equipped with tools and strategies tailored to their local contexts. Our programs emphasize sustainable development, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building in regions where that knowledge can make a real, immediate impact.

**Future Vision for ODA
Education / Areas for Potential
Enhancements**

KDI School is committed to a range of collaborations with external expertise. In particular, opportunities to work with KOICA and other ODA experts should be explored to include more specialized training in the curriculum - 'pieces' or 'chunks' of training, particularly on project implementation and management, can be developed. These programs can be outsourced to experts outside the school and should include some practical experience.

**Professor
Sungho Park**



Introducing an ODA CRAFT ('Collaborative Research and Advanced Fellowship Team' - a learning community program operated by KDI School) and a Model UN debate would bring much value to our program. A Model UN debate would give students a chance to tackle real-world development issues, practicing the negotiation and policy-making skills essential in ODA. Both initiatives would not only celebrate the cultural diversity of our student body but also add a practical, hands-on component to our ODA curriculum.

**Professor
Chungeun Yoon**



I completely agree with both Professor Yoon and Professor Park. I would like to add that, in my view, a key element of an effective ODA education program is the integration of practical, hands-on experience. While available courses like Monitoring and Evaluation, or Impact Evaluations are essential, providing students with real-world exposure to the challenges of ODA project implementation and management is equally important. Field visits and internships with organizations involved in development work would allow students to gain firsthand experience of the complexities of implementing aid projects on the ground. Additionally, the curriculum should not focus solely on successful ODA projects; incorporating case studies of challenges and failures—along with the lessons learned—would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the field.

**Professor
Trinh Pham**



KDIS Korean Alumni Highlights: ODA Specialists



BAEK, Seung Jin

2008 MBA

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
East and Southern Africa

Head of Middle-Income
Country Hub (MIC-Hub)



KIM, Jin Ha

2011 MPP

Asian Development Bank
(ADB)

Gender Specialist
(Climate Change)



LEE, Narae

2013 MDP

Development Impact
Evaluation (DIME)
at World Bank Group

Impact Evaluation Specialist



DONG, Yoonjei Michell

2012 MDP
2017 Ph.D. in DP

Green Climate Fund (GCF)
Impact Evaluation Specialist

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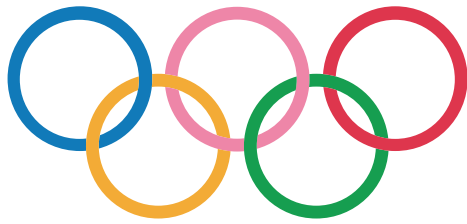


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2024 Students'
Choice Awards



KDIS Olympics

A Look into Our Sports Clubs



KDI School's sports clubs bring students together through fun, fitness, and friendship.

Each club fosters community spirit and creates lasting memories. Here's a glimpse into the sports clubs making waves at KDIS!

KDIS UNITED FC



Salim Isiaka (2023 MPP) Club Representative & Captain



KDIS United FC, all we know how to do best as a club is to play good football. Though we have challenges, we have come a long way as a team, chalking an unbeaten streak for some time.

Excitement is always in this club mainly because of one thing we as members share - the love we all have for the beautiful game of football. When it comes to the best player of the team, we can pick our vice-captain, Abdou Touray from Gambia. His goal scoring process has rescued us a lot from near defeats and also has caused us to win some games.

KDIS ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB



Rida Naveed (2023 MDP) Club Representative



KDIS Ultimate Frisbee Club is a sports club that gives the chance to the KDIS community to not just play frisbee but also make unforgettable memories during their stay at KDIS. This is why our club is not just a sports team, but a family, where we share moments of happiness together and bring joy for everyone through the game. Considering all this, I found Bilguuntur Purevjav from Mongolia to be one of the most active participants in the club, on and off field. He not only displays incredible athleticism during the game but also assists in the logistics of the club.

KDIS CRICKET CLUB (KCC)



Subrata Kumer Pal (2024 MPM) Club Representative



KDIS Cricket Club (KCC) is a new club in KDI School. Cricket is officially played between two teams of eleven players and requires a bat, ball, wickets (stumps and bails), protective equipment (helmets, gloves, and pads), and a pitch. We began practicing cricket here for the first time in June, during the ICC T20 World Cup 2024. As a novel experience, learning to play cricket piques the curiosity of many students. KCC improves coordination and focus while encouraging physical fitness, collaboration, and strategic thinking.

KDIS BASKETBALL CLUB



Guillaume Priso Ndong (2023 MDP) Club Representative



The KDI School Basketball Club is proud to have dynamic and dedicated players who represent the colors and name of KDI School. This recognition is achieved through victories in friendly matches against teams like the Korea Expressway Corporation in Gimcheon, the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, and so on. Additionally, the club emphasizes the promotion of gender equality, which is why women are at the forefront of responsibilities. Among the best female players, we can mention some like Mominah, Mina, and Hanan, to name a few.

KDIS STRETCHING & DANCE CLUB



Valentina Blanoschi (2024 MPP) Club Representative



KDIS Stretching & Dance Club is the hottest new spot - where stretching meets dancing in the most fun way possible! It gives the students a space to relax their bodies and minds while having fun. It includes two types of separate activities: first - stretching class, where the participants learn stretching techniques to release muscle pain or relax from their studies. The second activity - is dance classes, where the participants learn a new choreography every week! I want to highlight our vice president, Nargiza Matrusaeva, for such an active approach to supporting our activities and making sure that each session runs smoothly!

KDIS BADMINTON CLUB



Dimas Indra Purwanto (2024 MPP) Club Representative



Where Diversity Meets the Shuttlecock!

Badminton Club is where newcomers from all over the world take their first swing at badminton, guided by the friendly racquets of our seasoned players. One of our cherished traditions is traveling together to courts, whether by bike, on foot, or public transport, echoing the spirit of camaraderie that defines our club. Highlighting the spirit of the club is Waqar, known as our most dedicated player. Rain or shine, hot or cold, Waqar never misses a game. His powerful smashes are a sight to behold and a challenge to return.

KDIS VOLLEYBALL CLUB



Olivia Vakaloloma (2023 MDP) Club Representative & Captain



Where Fun, Fitness, and Friendship Meet!

A club that brings together amazing students from around the globe who all love the game of volleyball. Starting with a small number of students in 2023, this sports club has grown tremendously in capacity and capability. Our practices and games are packed with fun and energy, especially when the music starts pumping. You'll catch people breaking into impromptu dance moves during water breaks - because why not? It's that laid-back, fun atmosphere that makes even the newest members feel at home while learning the game.

KDIS TABLE TENNIS CLUB



Chidiebere Onyeme (2024 MIPD) Club Representative



A Place to Learn, Play, and Thrive

The KDIS Table Tennis Club is the perfect space for students to enjoy the fast-paced and thrilling game of table tennis. As a non-contact sport, it offers a healthy, low-impact way to stay active while improving hand-eye coordination, reflexes, and overall fitness. It's where beginners can learn the game, and experienced players can hone their skills. Here is the ideal place to enjoy the excitement of table tennis while staying fit and building lasting friendships!

KDIS HAPKIDO CLUB



Leeladhar Joshi (2023 MPP) Club Representative



The KDIS Hapkido Club is all about blending physical fitness with fun while embracing Korean culture through martial arts! We train regularly with the Hapkido Training Institute, focusing on practical self-defense techniques like joint locks, throws, strikes, and kicks. Hapkido keeps both our bodies and minds in top shape! Chesda from Cambodia and I, Leeladhar from Nepal, have both earned our black belts after months of hard work. Mamta and Chetna from India are diligently working towards their black belts, aiming to achieve them before leaving Korea.

KDIS FEMMES SOCCER CLUB (FSC)



Gloria Tukamwesiga (2024 MDP) Club Representative



FSC welcomes all KDIS female students, regardless of soccer experience - whether you are a seasoned player, a total beginner, or just someone with a passion for the game and a desire to learn. No pressure, no need for expert skills - just a love for kicking the ball around! We meet in the evenings to unwind at the playground, and take a break from the demanding class work and assignments. It's all about fun, laughter, no serious competition here. It is a light-hearted fun club for exercise, and bonding with fellow students!

Your Local Guide

Students' Pick! Essential Spots Around Campus

Discover the hidden gems around KDI School with our local guide to Sodam-dong. From cafés to essential services, and even public transportation, explore the best spots just steps away from campus.

Grocery Stores

- No Brand**
16, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si
- Daiso**
70, Sodam-ro, Sejong-si
- Emart Everyday**
236, Sicheong-daero, Sejong-si
- GS The Fresh**
302, Namsejong-ro, Sejong-si
- Daebak Butcher's shop**
16, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si

Coffee Shop

- Mega Coffee**
12, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si
- Twosome Place**
Legend Tower, 70, Sodam-ro, Sejong-si
- Starbucks**
8, Sodam 3-ro, Sejong-si
- Ediya Coffee**
GLplex 1, 12, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si

Beauty

- Olive Young**
2022, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si
- ID Hair**
7, Sodam 4-ro, Sejong-si
- Guinot Aesthetic**
8, Sodam 3-ro, Sejong-si
- Nail Bom**
8, Sodam 3-ro, Sejong-si
- Yuumi Beauty Eyelashes**
8, Sodam 3-ro, Sejong-si

Health

- Kim Man-Joo Jeongseong Dental Clinic**
16, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si
- Saesam Pharmacy**
16, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si
- Sejong 365 Clinic**
1958, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si
- Koal Entology Clinic**
2018, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si
- Neulbom Pharmacy**
2012, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si

Restaurants

- 60 Chicken**
12, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si
- Lotteria**
2009, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si
- Baskin-Robbins**
236, Sicheong-daero, Sejong-si
- Bae Bujang Stew**
12, Sodam 1-ro, Sejong-si
- Isaac Toast**
2018, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si
- New Taj Mahal**
219, Sicheong-daero, Sejong-si

Bus Stop(Route)

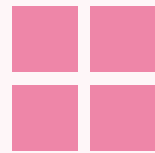
- B1**
Daejeon Station, Osong Station, City Hall
- B5**
Bangok-dong, Costco, Sejong Bus Terminal
- 1001**
Daejeon (Hyundai Outlet, Shinsegae Dept. Store, Dunsan-dong)
- 221**
Sejong Lake Park, HomePlus, Costco, Sejong Bus Terminal
- 273 & 18**
Jiphyeon-dong, Common Campus
- 991**
Naseong-dong, Boram-dong, Sejong Bus Terminal



New Beginnings

Life in the New Dormitory

This year, KDI School opened the doors to its brand-new dormitory, offering students a fresh, modern living space designed to enhance their academic experience. More than just a place to stay, this dormitory is already becoming a vibrant community where students from different backgrounds connect, collaborate, and create lasting memories. We talked to two students - Laone Michelle Kuba (2024 MPP, Botswana) and Joonghoe Kim (2023 MPP, ROK) - living in the new dormitory to hear their thoughts on what makes this space special. From the comfort of the rooms to the sense of belonging it fosters; their stories highlight how this new dorm has quickly become a home away from home at KDI School. Below is our conversation with them.



Q.

What was your first impression of the new dormitory when you moved in and how does it compare to your expectations?

Q.

What is your favorite feature of the new dorm and why?

Laone: Moving into the new dorm felt like stepping into a blend of modern design and comfort. I initially expected something functional but pretty basic—just a place to crash between classes. But as soon as I opened the door, I was struck by how intentional everything felt. The sleek design was paired with personal touches, like the wall of donors and a layout that made it feel more like a home than a temporary space. The thoughtful use of space and materials exceeded my expectations, making it feel like a true haven for me and other students.

Joonghoe: The emblem of KDI School on the lobby floor welcomed me with a cozy vibe. Everything is well equipped. I was surprised and impressed by how much effort this school invests in meeting our needs. Much better than my expectations.



Laone: The gym and the meeting room are definitely my top picks. The gym is big plus because it's so convenient—I don't have to leave the building to get in a workout especially on a rainy day. It's also equipped with everything I need, from free weights to cardio machines. It's become a key part of my routine, and I love that I can go whenever I have a break. The meeting room, on the other hand, is perfect for study sessions or group projects. Both features keep me balanced between staying fit and staying on top of my academic work.

Joonghoe: The huge window is my favorite for my room. Every night after my research, the night view of Sejong gives me a big hug. It makes me comfortable a lot.



Q. What amenities or services in the new dorm do you find most helpful or innovative?



Laone: The new, more oversized compartment in the bathroom with extra lighting is a game changer. As someone who loves makeup, having ample space and bright, flattering lighting makes all the difference during my morning routine. I can quickly spread out my products without feeling cramped, and the enhanced lighting allows me to see every detail while applying makeup. This thoughtful addition has genuinely elevated my self-care routine and made getting ready much more enjoyable!

Joonghoe: The most innovative facility is the balconies on each floor. It helps us to breathe with the fresh breeze and also dry some wet clothes.



Q. If you could use a song to describe how the new dorm makes you feel, what song would you use?

Laone: "Happy" by Pharrell Williams. The dorm exudes a cheerful, laid-back atmosphere that makes everyday life feel upbeat, just like this song. Whether I'm working out in the gym, collaborating in the meeting room, or simply chilling in my room, this contagious sense of joy and comfort makes even the most ordinary moments feel special. It's the kind of place where you can't help but feel, well... happy!

Joonghoe: "New jeans - New jeans" - I feel like I am wearing a new pair of jeans.



Laone: Vibrant, modern, inspiring. Every corner of the dorm radiates energy, whether it's from the modern common areas where students chill, the cozy rooms that invite relaxation, or the inspiring study spaces that encourage focus and creativity.

Joonghoe: "You deserve it" because I deserve it.

Q. How would you describe the vibe or atmosphere of the new dorm in three words?



Q. How does living in the new dormitory enhance your overall school experience?

Laone: The new dorm's modern facilities have made a big difference for me. The comfortable rooms and quiet study spaces help me relax and focus, making it easier to concentrate on my studies. It feels like the perfect balance between comfort and productivity.

Joonghoe: It has improved my sleep quality and networking with neighbors in the lounge.



Q. What is your favorite memory at the new dorm?

Laone: One of my favorite memories in the dorm is when my friends surprised me for my birthday. I had been thinking it would be a low-key, just another typical day, but when I walked into my friend's room, I was greeted with "Surprise" and a room filled with balloons and decorations. They had set up a mini celebration with cake, snacks and gifts. We spent the evening laughing and sharing stories. It was a thoughtful surprise that made me feel genuinely appreciated and loved. That night was all about friendship and a celebration of my life, and it reminded me how lucky I am to have such amazing people around me.



Discovering the Next Step

KDIS Students on Their Journey to a Ph.D.



Give us a brief introduction about yourself.

Hello, my name is Bonglim Choi. I currently work at Daejeon Technopark, where I contribute to the growth processes of small and medium-sized enterprises focusing on international cooperation and ODA projects.

What made you want to pursue Ph.D.? And why at KDI School?

I am preparing for a part-time Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management because I believe more academic knowledge is crucial for implementing policies effectively. Given my focus on ODA, KDI School was the most suitable choice due to its alignment with my interests, and that conviction hasn't changed.

How would you compare the Ph.D. program at KDI School with other schools you might have considered?

My experience in the master's program at KDIS, the course content, professors, and fellow students significantly influenced me. Being able to hear firsthand about various countries' situations from international classmates offered me great insights, making KDIS the best place for my Ph.D., where I can further explore my research interests.

What are the strengths of KDI School's Ph.D. program that made you confident in staying here?

I've taken 57 credits in the part-time program over two years, and I have collaboratively designed business strategies with peers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Maldives through the CRAFT program. The dedication shown in my coursework, presentations, and active participation in forums to stay on top of current trends all contribute to my academic profile.

*CRAFT: 'Collaborative Research and Advanced Fellowship Team' - a learning community program operated by KDI School.

Bonglim Choi
2022 MPM, ROK

Pursuing a Ph.D. is a significant academic and personal journey, one that requires dedication and a clear sense of purpose. At KDI School, many students discover academic passions that inspire them to continue their studies at the doctoral level. In this series of interviews, we explore the motivations behind their decision to pursue a Ph.D., focusing on how their experiences at KDI School played a pivotal role in shaping their academic interests and future aspirations.

Ny Aina Ianjatina Andrianony

2020 MPM / 2024 Ph.D. in DP, Madagascar

Give us a brief introduction about yourself.

My name is Ny Aina Ianjatina Andrianony from Madagascar. I earned a master's degree in Public Management from KDI School and am currently pursuing my Ph.D. here as well.

What made you want to pursue a Ph.D.? And why at KDI School?

I've always aspired to be a lecturer. I believe education is one of the most powerful tools for lifting individuals and nations out of poverty. I chose KDI School because of its strong academic reputation, excellent faculty, international environment, and numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth.

What are the strengths of KDI School's Ph.D. program that made you confident in staying here?

KDI School's strength lies in its rigorous quantitative analysis training. There are many courses

focused on mathematics, statistics, econometrics, and programming that are crucial for researchers. These skills, once intimidating to me, have become essential tools for opening up opportunities and conducting high-quality research.

How does the Ph.D. program build on the foundation you gained in the Master's program at KDI School?

During my Master's program, I pushed myself to take as many quantitative courses as possible, which helped me enter the Ph.D. program. Those courses have made my transition into the Ph.D. program smoother.



Saqib Hussain

2020 MPP/2023 Ph.D. in PP, Pakistan

Give us a brief introduction about yourself.

I am Saqib Hussain. As a Ph.D. student, I am interested in development economics, which addresses how the livelihoods of vulnerable populations can be improved.

How would you compare the Ph.D. program at KDI School with other schools you might have considered?

What sets KDI School's Ph.D. program apart is its strong emphasis on empirical research. The courses, particularly impact evaluation, econometrics, and development economics, provide a solid foundation that stands out among many institutions. These courses are key to conducting causal, data-driven research that can influence real-world policy decisions.

I heard that you're doing a STATA tutoring program at the school's Data Analysis Center. What inspired you to start it?

I initially offered STATA introductory workshops, which drew over 40 international students. Their positive feedback motivated me to start one.

I recognized the need for practical training in econometrics and data analysis tools among my peers.

How do you think your experience as a tutor has prepared you for the demands of a Ph.D. program?

Tutoring has honed my ability to explain complex concepts clearly and has reinforced my analytical skills. These experiences are invaluable for the demands of a Ph.D. program, where clear communication and strong analytical abilities are crucial for research and teaching.

**How did the KDI School's master's program enable you to pursue a Ph.D.?**

The master's program taught me the process of critical thinking from data science and econometrics courses, which is essential to pursue a Ph.D., to come up with research questions and process data analysis with available datasets.

What specific area of research are you most passionate about?

I have research interests in ethnic diversity, particularly the relationships between ethnic diversity and political behavior and identities of people of color. After writing my master's thesis measuring the effects of affirmative action bans on U.S. undergraduate ethnic diversity, I found relationships between ethnic diversity and state political factors. The findings intrigued me because I had never thought of the relationship between ethnic diversity and political factors. My research areas will attain more attention as the world is getting more diversified with the increasing mobility of migrants and international students.

Give us a brief introduction about yourself.

My name is Jody Youjeong Park. I am a fresh graduate from KDI School studying Master of Development Policy (MDP) with specializations in Sustainable Development and Data Science.

What made you want to pursue a Ph.D.?

I want to pursue a Ph.D. to study how ethnic diversity shapes the political behavior of people of color. My research interests come from working/school experiences with multiple nationalities, which embraces multicultural environments under provincewide diversity and inclusion policies. My research interests continue as I live in an ethnically diverse society with international students at KDI School.

Youjeong Park
2022 MDP, ROK

Building Friendships at KDI School

How International and Korean Students Connect

Erick and Gunwoo | Friendship outside the program

Give us a brief introduction about yourself.

Erick: My name is Erick Diaz, I'm 28 and from Nicaragua, currently in my last semester of the MDP program.

Gunwoo: I'm Gunwoo Park, a Korean MPP student. I am currently on leave from school to participate in an external program.

How did you meet each other?

Erick: We met on the rooftop (a crucial place for making friends), and later we took the Python

Fundamentals class together, where he was the class assistant. After that, we worked together on the KDIS-CRAFT project.

What did you learn about Korean culture that you didn't know before through your friend?

Erick: One of the things I learned through him was Korean dining customs. For example, the youngest usually serves everyone, and eating in Korea is more of a group activity where everyone participates. It's kind of cool!

How do you maintain these friendships, and are there any significant moments that strengthened your bond?

Erick: Even though Gunwoo isn't living in Korea anymore, we have a WhatsApp group where we stay in touch. Plus, the CRAFT project isn't over yet, so he has to keep in contact with us (no escape!). One special moment I remember was when we went on a trip to Seoul for Korea Fintech Week. I learned a lot about his culture, his love for food, and his taste in music during that time.

Gunwoo: I think there is no manmade way to maintain a friendship, just naturally being friends, for now and future. Every moment, when we do something together, it is always fun. If I pick one, recently when it was Erick's birthday, we enjoyed it until late at night!



KDI School is a multicultural campus where students from diverse backgrounds come together and form meaningful friendships. One way the school fosters these connections is through the Buddy Program. But even outside of those programs, students naturally form bonds. We've interviewed 2 groups of students who developed friendships during their time at KDI School.

Asude and Jitae | Buddy Program

Give us a brief introduction about yourself.

Asude: Hi! My name is Asude. I am a lawyer from Turkiye, majoring in MIPD, and it's my last semester at KDI School.

Jitae: Hello, I'm Jitae Kim majoring in MPP. My research interests are regional development and the environment.

Why did you participate in the Buddy Program?

Asude: I wanted to practice and improve my speaking skills in Korean and meet with more people. I always think it is good to meet with new people and learn from each other.

Jitae: I had the opportunity to study in the UK as an exchange student. Despite the differences in language and culture, I had a great time with new friends who are open-minded and willing to show boundless hospitality to foreigners. I owed them a lot so I wanted to spread their love to others when I got a chance. Fortunately, I got that chance at KDI School!

What's your opinion of the program, and do you have any suggestions?

Jitae: The matching result was quite considerate and detailed. My buddies and I were surprised that we had the same MBTI type and hobbies. I would suggest organizing more group meet-ups with participants to help everyone connect.

Asude: I agree with my friend Jitae. I remember our first meeting; we were on a Sejong City Tour Bus, and there were other Buddy Program friends. It was quite nice to travel together. I think having a mutual group meeting opportunity within the Buddy Program would be a good idea.

How has the Buddy Program impacted your overall experience at KDI School?

Asude: It definitely improved my experience here at KDI School. Thanks to my buddy, I got to learn about many good places and get tips about daily life. We have travelled together many times and now I have good memories that I will cherish.

How do you maintain these friendships, and are there any significant moments that strengthened your bond?

Jitae: We bond through simple things like walks or tea. Our friendship has grown gradually through shared experiences.





2024 Students' Choice Awards

The Students' Choice Awards is an annual feature aimed at honoring outstanding members of the school community for their contributions to the campus life and the learning environment. Through an open nomination process, students get to vote for their preferred nominees for each category. This year's award ceremony took place on the campus grounds and the Public Relations Division and Student Ambassadors were able to get some comments from the awardees.

★ Best Professor Award ★



**LEE,
HyunJung**

Professor (Korean Language and Culture)

I am truly honored and deeply grateful, as this was entirely determined by the students' choice. It is, without a doubt, the most meaningful moment in my 12 years of teaching at KDIS. I sincerely thank you.

★ Best Staff Award ★



**KIM,
Taesub**

School Nurse

I am very grateful for receiving such an honorable award. Please let me humbly accept this award on behalf of all staff members at KDIS who put in a lot of effort every day for student success. I truly enjoy seeing your beautiful smiles and getting to know all of you in my office. With your support and encouragement, I will try to equip myself with a more caring heart, kindness and compassion to be a better nurse. Thank you everyone!

★ Planet Saver Award ★



**DEL RIEGO
AYBAR, Maria Jose**

2023 MDP, Dominican Republic

I feel very grateful, and I really didn't expect it. I honestly didn't think students would see me like that, but apparently making the effort in Zumba class so they would always carry their Tumbler pay off. This definitely motivates me to continue with that type of action wherever I go. 😊



2024 Students' Choice Awards

★ Future Leader Award ★



ABOTSI, Emmanuel Kofi Seyram (Left)
2023 MPP, Ghana

I feel deeply honored and grateful to receive the Future Leader Award, and the whole experience has been truly humbling. It is incredibly motivating to have my work and aspirations recognized in such a meaningful way by KDIS, especially when I see my contributions as marginal. This further fills me with a sense of renewed responsibility and reinforces my commitment to pursuing impactful leadership in my career and personal life. Thank you, KDIS!

WALAKADA APPUHAMILAGE DON, Harshanath Kanchana (Right)
2024 MPP, Sri Lanka

Winning the Future Leader Award is a tremendous honor, and I'm deeply grateful to everyone who voted for me. This achievement is dedicated to my KDIS roommate, Subrata Pal, and all my wonderful KDIS friends. Thank you for your belief in me. Together, we're shaping a brighter future! Thank you for this wonderful honor!

★ Social Butterfly Award ★



ANASO, Nouella
2023 MPP, Uganda

When I saw my name among the nominations, I smiled and felt humbled over the kind thoughts from fellow colleagues. The laughter, care, and moments we share here lift burdens and make the journey lighter, transforming strangers into lifelong friends. This award is a celebration of that spirit. Thank you, friends, for this meaningful recognition.

★ Bookworm Award ★



ISLAM, Mainul
2023 MPP, Bangladesh

I am honored to receive the award for Bookworm! Funny enough, I have never been to the KDIS Library to read, and I'm not much of a reader! But with your support, I'm now motivated to read more and become a future economist. I'm devoting this award to everyone who voted for me.

★ Golden Heart Award ★



PRADO AMAO, Sheyla Lucy
2023 MDP, Peru

At first, I was surprised. Then I realized I didn't know what this exactly meant. After searching, I think to myself: I'm glad to know I'm just one of the many golden hearts that I know in KDIS. I can give kindness because I received love and kindness from the beautiful people I met at KDI School. So, thank you so much!

★ Rising Star Award ★



BLANOYSCHI, Valentina
2024 MPP, Moldova

When I was given the award, it was not the cup that I received, but the love and support that everybody nurtured for me, which I am deeply grateful for! It is very meaningful to me, and I am deeply honored to be the little star of the KDI School! I will cherish this memory for the rest of my life.

★ Masterchef Award ★



JOSHI, Leeladhar
2023 MPP, Nepal

Cooking has always been a passion of mine, and during my time here, I've loved sharing that passion with my friends in the dormitory. Long before this event, my friends would affectionately call me "Masterchef" whenever I cooked, and now, that nickname feels even more special. Thank you!

★ Super Style Award ★



ANZAKU, Faith Asheadzi
2024 MPP, Nigeria

Receiving this award is an honor, and I'm genuinely grateful for the recognition. Style, to me, has always been about expressing who I am beyond words, and I am glad it resonated with you all. This award is a reminder of the warmth and friendship that make our school so special.

50
Alumni
Infographics



52
Alumni Selfie Stories:
“Where Are They Now?”



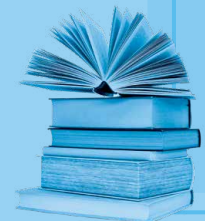
56
Global Academic Journeys:
Alumni in Leading
Universities and Beyond



60
KDIS Global
Leaders



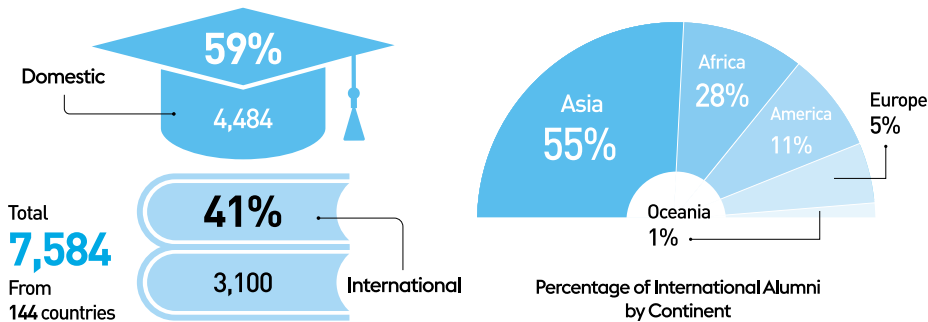
64
KDIS
Bookshelf



Alumni Infographics



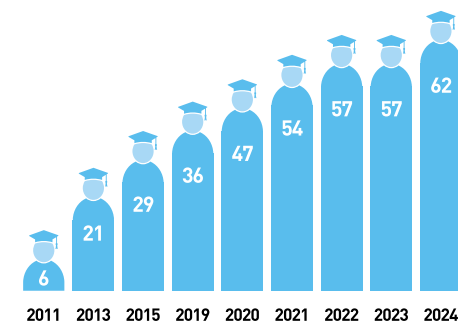
Alumni Body



Countries with Most Alumni

AFRICA	Ethiopia 95	Ghana 86	Tanzania 58
AMERICA	Colombia 29	Mexico 28	Peru 27
ASIA	Indonesia 179	Cambodia 131	Myanmar 112
EUROPE	Russia 25	Czech Republic 21	Romania 11
OCEANIA	Fiji 11	Papua New Guinea 5	Solomon Islands 4
	Australia 3	New Zealand 3	

Number of Alumni Associations



Alumni Selfie Stories

“Where Are They Now?”

Ready for a little armchair adventure? In this part, we're taking you around the world, one selfie at a time! Peek into the everyday lives of our alumni as they share snapshots from offices and campuses across the globe. Each photo tells a story of passion, purpose, and that unmistakable KDI School spirit. Jump in and see where they are now!



KANTCHOWA, Zacheus

2021 MPM, Malawi
National Commission for Science and Technology
ICT Officer

My typical day involves managing and enhancing digital systems that facilitate access to scientific information and technology resources. I collaborate with teams and stakeholders to implement ICT solutions that enhance data management, transparency, and communication across the organization and scientific community.



MBOPI, Daisy

2019 MPP, Botswana
UNHCR/South Africa Multi Country Office (Botswana)
Protection Associate

Dealing with refugees and asylum seekers on different protection issues ranging from registration, refugee status determination, GBV, child protection, livelihoods etc. I also engage with government, implementing and operational partners and well as other UN organizations on sustainable solutions for them.



AMALOW, Isse Farah

2020 MPP, Somalia
Somali Customs/Ministry of Finance
Head of Customs Reform and Modernization

In my daily role, I lead the modernization of customs procedures, overseeing the implementation of digital systems such as the Somali Customs Automated System (SOMCAS), and coordinating with various international and regional trade partners to enhance trade facilitation and efficiency in Somalia.



JEON, Hayoung

2016 MDP, ROK
UNFPA Chad
Humanitarian Resilience Analyst

I manage and coordinate the humanitarian and resilience programs and activities to respond to integrated reproductive health and gender-based violence in humanitarian settings for girls, women, including the Sudanese refugees and IDPs in Chad.



JELIC, Milena

2016 MPM, Serbia
Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education (MRC-NECC)
Professional Development Specialist

Responsible for developing and leading training sessions for teachers, staff, and supervisors, while also collaborating with the research department to evaluate the effectiveness of this training.



EJANG, Judith

2014 MDP, Uganda
National Planning Authority
Planner, in charge of Public Sector Management

Well, it's been a hectic four months. We are developing the Uganda Fourth National Development Plan. This plan is to guide the nation in delivering the aspirations articulated in the Uganda Vision 2040. All ministries, departments, agencies, & local governments are expected to use this bible.



MODESTO, Edema Francis Vuga

2017 MDP, South Sudan
Organization for Peoples' Empowerment and Needs (OPEN) South Sudan
Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Manager

We implement integrated community-based surveillance activities for priority diseases, provide financial support and on the ground technical guidance, and support to strengthen host country efforts to eradicate polio.



MARFO, Doreen Nana Ama

2012 MDP, Ghana

Darfin Finance
Head, HR & Admin

I develop and implement performance management policies and oversee professional training and development programs.



FLORES WEISSER, Alejandro Sebastian

2017 MPM, Chile

Hanyang University - GETPPP Program
Ph.D. Student

I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. while working on Chile's renewable energy potential and green hydrogen projects. I'm also exploring research on emission trading systems in Europe.



ABUNAW ENOWEGBE, Robert

2023 MDP, Cameroon

Ministry of External Relations, Cameroon
Foreign Affairs Attache

I contribute towards the implementation of Cameroon's foreign policy and the fostering of ties with international partners, through the drafting of policy briefs, concept notes and diplomatic correspondences.



PEREZ CAMPOS, Erica Yaneth

2012 MDP, Honduras

Central Bank of Honduras
Fixed Income Portfolio Manager

Monitoring primary and secondary markets for the purchase/sale of securities. Handle the Money Market Portfolio.



Herlisah

2017 MPM, Indonesia

Indonesia Financial Services Authority
Staff Candidate

Dealing with regulating, supervising, protecting, and developing the financial services sector in Indonesia.



THEINGI, Ei Phyo

2023 MDP, Myanmar

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar
Assistant Director

I am an Assistant Director in the International Organizations and Economics Department. My role involves working with UN agencies, organizing high-level meetings, and handling disarmament, non-proliferation, and security issues. I also prepare reports and speeches for these activities.



KANG, Sung-il

2017 MPP, ROK

Korea Credit Guarantee Fund
Director

As the Growth Improvement Director in the Business Improvement Department at Korea Credit Guarantee Fund (KODIT), I am responsible for planning and implementing strategies for corporate restructuring and business revival.



VASQUEZ SOSA, Alejandra Carolina

2018 MDP, El Salvador

International Organization for Migration (IOM-UN Migration) in El Salvador
Senior Labour Migration Specialist

I work closely with the government and private sector to foster sustainable partnerships that promote safe and regular migration pathways in the region. Also, I lead capacity-building activities for government officials on developing, negotiating, and implementing bilateral labor agreements.

Global Academic Journeys

Alumni in Leading Universities and Beyond



Ayantola Ayodimeji Alayande
2019 MPP, Nigeria



From
KDI School
to Oxford
University

emphasizes the importance of finding a supervisor whose interests align with theirs, suggesting they contact professors from various universities. He also stresses the need to continuously refine a research proposal with feedback from professionals and references. Starting the application process early, preparing thoroughly, and seeking guidance from experts in their field are key steps for a strong application.

"I liken this school to a mini-United Nations; the strength of the school itself is the diversity. At KDI School, I studied with colleagues from over a hundred countries, and the variety of ideas was mind-blowing. The uniqueness of this experience is that I learned about people's cultures and ways of doing things."

Ayantola Alayande (2019 MPP) was awarded the prestigious Clarendon scholarship at Oxford University. His interest in social and international development, politics and economics, began during his time at KDI School. This has been his greatest motivation to further pursue studies in these fields. Ayantola advises students to maintain clarity about their goals and the type of research they want to pursue. He

As KDI School continues to nurture the next generation of leaders in the public and private sectors and equip them for the rapidly changing information and globalization era, its alumni are soaring to greater heights in their different chosen fields. We are incredibly proud to share the journeys of our alumni, who navigated rigorous challenges and celebrated milestones—whether pursuing prestigious Ph.D. programs or making impactful contributions as researchers and professionals in international organizations.



Dabin Song, a recent graduate from KDI School, is excited to embark on her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of California, Irvine. During her time at KDI School, she developed her ability to analyze social issues from both academic and policy viewpoints, benefiting from the intellectually enriching environment. Under the mentorship of Professor Chung Eun Yoon, Dabin concentrated on empirical research and took advanced courses such as Impact Evaluation Methods and Econometrics I. Highlights of her experience included serving as a teaching assistant for Impact Evaluation Methods and leading data analysis workshops, which allowed her to collaborate with motivated peers and deepen her expertise in the field.

"My time at KDI School was a real eye-opener. I discovered not only a talent but also a deep passion for research. Finding logical answers to complex questions was challenging but truly enjoyable. So, the question for me wasn't whether to pursue a Ph.D., but when to start. Given the momentum I had built up, jumping straight into a Ph.D. seemed like the natural next step. I wanted to keep up the academic pace, so I didn't hesitate to apply right after my master's degree."



From
KDI School
to UC Irvine

Dabin Song
2021 MDP, ROK

Yoonjei Michell Dong
2012 MDP
2017 Ph.D. in DP, ROK



From KDI School to Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Michell Dong and Prof. Sungho Park outside the Vice President's Office in Tanzania

Michell Dong (KDI School Ph.D. in Development Policy) joined the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as an Impact Evaluation Specialist after completing her doctorate. Since then, Michell has applied the skills and experiences she gained at KDI School to make a meaningful impact in the climate finance sector.

At KDI School, Michell developed rigorous econometric skills and a strong commitment to empirical research. Her research included hands-on experience evaluating rural development projects in Myanmar and Cambodia, where she trained enumerators and conducted household surveys. Through her coursework and dissertation, Michell learned about the robust methodologies needed to derive meaningful findings from data.

Today, Michell loves her role as an impact evaluation specialist where she applies these skills to assess GCF-funded projects. By conducting impact evaluation of GCF-funded projects, she provides evidence on why a program worked or did not work. She hopes this evidence can inform policy decisions and help programs realize their full potential.



Dr. Min Young Seo serves as a Research Fellow at the Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI), Korea's only national research institution dedicated to energy policy. At KEEI, she leads collaborative research on international energy cooperation, partnering with multilateral organizations such as the G20, APEC, and ASEAN, and conducting studies related to energy-related Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Dr. Seo earned her Ph.D. in Development Policy from KDI School in 2018, launching her career as a policy researcher. KDI School was also where she began her professional journey, joining after completing her master's degree. Since 2008, she has had the privilege of managing and implementing a variety of projects that leverage Korea's development experience to support economic growth worldwide. Her current work at KEEI builds on the expertise developed at KDI School, and she continues to collaborate frequently with former colleagues and professors.

During her time at KDI School, Dr. Seo was drawn to the curriculum's foundation in economics and its focus on evidence-based development policy. This deepened

her curiosity about the real-world impact of her work and its grounding in data. Five years of intensive study and learning at KDI School flew by, and now, as she sees her former classmates excelling as professors, researchers, and professionals in international organizations around the world, she feels an enduring sense of pride and gratitude.

In a time when international action on climate change is more urgent than ever, Dr. Seo sees increasing opportunities to engage with fellow alumni through energy cooperation initiatives. With pride in KDI School's distinguished reputation, she is dedicated to advancing her research and embracing new possibilities in her field. She understands that KDI School's value and reputation come from its dedication to policy research where "what and how to do" also matters. She hopes the KDIS heritage continues.

Min Young Seo
2014 Ph.D. in DP, ROK



From KDI School to Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI)

KDIS
Global Leaders



PIRI, Ali

2000 MPP
Iran

Presidential Office
Director General



MOSTAFA, MD. ALAM

2010 MPP
Bangladesh

Ministry of Commerce
Joint Secretary



**PERERA,
K.D. Susantha Ranjana**

2006 MPP
Sri Lanka

Department of National Planning
Additional Director General



**URUNOV,
Azizbek Allaberganovich**

2010 MPP
Uzbekistan

The Administration of the
President of Uzbekistan
Chief Negotiator



Chhoden

2008 MBA
Bhutan

Royal Audit Authority
Deputy Auditor General



PEOUV, Polinel

2011 MPP
Cambodia

State Secretariat of
Civil Aviation
Secretary of State



International
Alumni



NASIR, Farsat Mamil

2011 MPP
2022 Ph.D. in DP
Iraq

Council of Ministers
Directorate of KRG Offices Abroad



MWASOLA, Hilix John

2015 MPP
Malawi

Office of the President and
Cabinet
Director of Management
Services



SKACKAUSKAS, Julius

2011 MPP
Lithuania

Minister of Transport and
Communications
Deputy Minister



OMAR, Mohamed Abdi

2021 MPM
Somalia

Ministry of Internal Security
Director General



**EMMANUEL,
Althea Carmelita**

2013 MPP
Saint Lucia

Ministry of Education, Sustainable
Development, Innovation, Science,
Technology and Vocational Training
Deputy Permanent Secretary



ZHOLDASBAYEV, Olzhas

2006 MPP
Kazakhstan

Ministry of Regional
Development;
Entrepreneurship
Development Committee
Deputy Chairman



Korean Alumni



LEE, Jae-Sung

1999 MBA

LG Electronics
Eco Solution Company
Vice President



LYU, Jaewon

2005 MFDI

Union Des Foires
Internationales
Co-chairman of
Asia-Pacific Region



YOO, Yun-Baek

2002 MBA

Korea Petroleum
Association (KPA)
Standing Deputy Director



KIM, Jeong Kag

2005 MPP

Korea Securities
Finance Corp.
CEO



CHUNG, Wan-Kyu

2002 MBA

The Credit Finance
Association (CREFIA)
Chairman



JUNG, Yong Sik

2005 MPP

Korea Transportation Safety
Authority
President



KIM, Hee Soo

2006 MPP

Korean Research Institute
for Construction Policy
(RICON)
President



KANG, Dongyun

2009 MPP

Continental Automotive
KOREA
CEO



KIM, Sung Sup

2006 MFDI

Ministry of SMEs and
Startups
Vice Minister



KIM, Tongook

2010 MPP

TV CHOSUN
Director of Newsroom
Operations



AN, Sung Dae

2009 MPP

Ulsan Metropolitan City
Deputy Mayor
(for Administration)



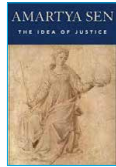
KIM, Hyung Keun

2012 MPP

SK ecoplant
CEO

KDIS Bookshelf

Great books introduce us not only to new ideas but also to the minds and experiences of those who recommend them. In this year's alumni selection, each book opens a window to fresh perspectives and timeless wisdom, thoughtfully curated to expand your horizons. Dive into these selections and discover where they might lead you!



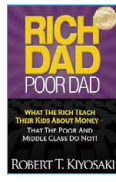
The Idea of Justice

by Amartya Sen



Usman Azhar
2010 MPP/ED

This book provides a new perspective on economic progress, beyond the numerical or statistical facts and figures. It is about 'Justice', particularly arguing that economic justice should be the ultimate outcome of economic growth.



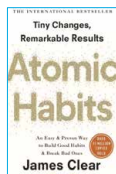
Rich Dad, Poor Dad

by Robert Kiyosaki



Zacheous Kantchowa
2021 MPM

This book is a valuable read for university students as it offers crucial insights into financial literacy, which is often overlooked in formal education. The book also challenges traditional views on employment and education, encouraging readers to think beyond a paycheck and consider entrepreneurship as a viable path.



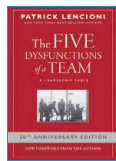
Atomic Habits - Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results

by James Clear



Soltan Hossam
2013 MPP

Before reading this book, I used to focus solely on making large, significant changes, which were often difficult to accomplish and led to frequent setbacks. Now, I've shifted my focus to making small changes to my bad habits, which, over time, have led to significant cumulative improvements.



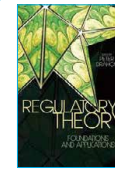
The Five Dysfunctions of a Team

by Patrick Lencioni



Maryam Kaisi
2021 MPM

This book is for individuals in management or administrative roles. It gives valuable insights into fostering communication, accountability, and a robust team culture, all of which are crucial for driving success within your organization.



Regulatory Theory: Foundations and Applications

by Peter Drahos



Luka Musicki
2014 MPP

This book is about smart regulations that do not cause further red tape. It covers various regulatory models and topics in a short length of time.



Failure Management & Success Management

by June-soo Lee, Paul Miesing, Seung-Joo Lee, Kwon Jung



Sugianto Irdawansyah
2022 MPM

Understanding how to manage scenarios of success and failure may assist people to identify opportunities in failure and mitigate the negative consequences of success.



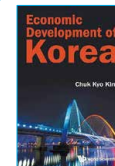
Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity

by Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson



Sung-il Kang
2017 MPP

This book analyzes the impact of technological progress on society in a historical context, highlighting the relationship between power structures and technology.



Economic Development of Korea

by Chuk Kyo Kim



Muhammad Zeeshan
2010 MPP

The major objective of this book is to provide a systematic and policy-focused analysis of Korea's development performance from a historical perspective.



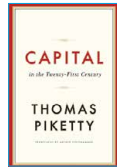
The Effect: An Introduction to Research Design and Causality

by Nick Huntington-Klein



Inayat Ullah
2016 Ph.D. in PP

This book presents complex econometric concepts in a remarkably clear and accessible way. It provides various models, statistics, and econometrics to identify and analyze causal relationships in interventions.



Capital in the Twenty-First Century

by Thomas Piketty



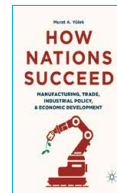
Stephen Nkomo
2015 MDP

The book gives a vivid explanation of inequalities based on empirical data.



Mesfin Abraham Ali
2012 MDP

The book offers critical analysis of the origin of income inequality, gives insight into the working of capitalism, and offers policy alternatives to tackle global income inequality.



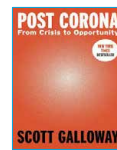
How Nations Succeed: Manufacturing, Trade, Industrial Policy, and Economic Development

by Murat A. Yulek



Emmanuel Roy Aquino
2022 MPP

The book provides a good narrative, recommendation, and empirical evidence for policymakers on how to design and frame industrial policy using manufacturing through incremental capacity-building.



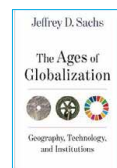
Post Corona: From Crisis to Opportunity

by Scott Galloway



Morris K Saryon
2022 MPP

The book enables KDI School students to acquire real leadership skills to serve tomorrow.



The Ages of Globalization

by Jeffrey Sachs



Lambert Chia Mbeinta
2017 MPP

This book takes the reader through seven ages of globalization to show how today's global challenges can be tackled. As future leaders, this book is a must-read for KDIS students passionate about development.



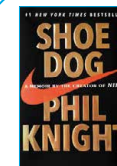
The Samaritan's Dilemma: The Political Economy of Development Aid

by Clark C. Gibson, Krister Andersson, Elinor Ostrom, and Sujai Shivakumar



Dicky Christiano Simorangkir
2022 MPP

The book elaborates the unexpected challenges that can come from well-intentioned aid, and it opened my eyes to how complex donor-recipient relationships can be.



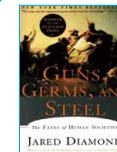
Shoe Dog

by Phil Knight



Tomaz Henrique Araujo Filho
2013 MDP

"Shoe Dog" is the autobiography of Phil Knight, founder of NIKE. He describes his passion for sports, business and entrepreneurship. A must read for someone into leading big changes.



Guns, Germs, and Steel

by Jared Diamond



Ahmed Salawu
2022 MDP

Diamond explores how long-term environmental and geographic influences have molded the paths taken by many civilizations. This book provides a broad overview of the emergence and collapse of communities globally.



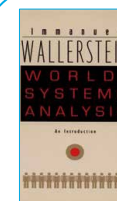
The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It

by Paul Collier



Collen Jonasi
2021 MDP

This book explores the complex challenges faced by the world's poorest countries and offers a compelling analysis of how they can escape poverty. This book not only informs but also inspires action toward creating a more equitable world.



World-Systems Analysis

by Immanuel Wallerstein



Yvonne Andrea Ramos Hendez
2020 MPM

This book is a treasure in geopolitics. Way before Acemoglu and Robinson's 'Why Nations Fail', it developed the World-Systems Theory to explain the historical roots of global inequality and the power dynamics between core (wealthy, industrialized nations) and peripheral (poorer, resource-rich nations) countries.



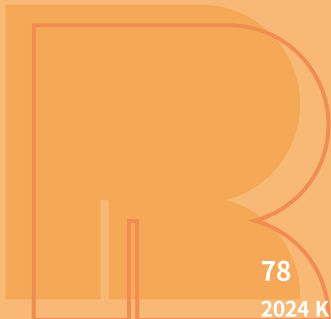
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KDI School Shaping
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(MDS)



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Research Activities

1



Kim, Dongseok

New Indicators of Global Integration Using Input-Output Analysis
 • KDI Journal of Economic Policy 2024, 46(2), 45-74.



Kim, Joeun

Antifeminist Sentiments and Marital Desire among Young Men: Evidence from South Korea
 • Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World. 9, 1-41.



Kim, Yeong Jae

How open are African inventors? Open green technologies and patenting activities in Africa
 • African Journal of Science Technology Innovation&Development. 14(4), 523-536.



Lee, Changkeun

Who is the Middle Class in Korea?
 • KDI Research Report. 2024-01, 152-182.



Lee, Junesoo

Working for the future is more than foreseeing the future: Impact of the balanced organizational capabilities on the proactive policy orientation
 • Public Policy and Administration. 2024-04.



Lee, Seohyun

Measuring Interdependence of Inflation Uncertainty
 • Computational Economics. 2024-06.



Merfeld, Joshua D.

Poverty at Higher Frequency
 • Working Paper. 2024-08.



Park, Angela Y.S.

How Do Local Officials Conceptualize Sustainability as Practiced in Their Communities?
 • Journal of the American Planning Association. 2024-03.



2024 Publications by KDIS Faculty



Park, Jaehyuk

Analyzing the direct role of governmental organizations in artificial intelligence innovation
 • Journal of Technology Transfer. 49, 437-465.



Park, Sungkyu

Platform-invariant Topic Modeling via Contrastive Learning to Mitigate Platform-induced Bias
 • EMNLP 2024 (The 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing). 2024-11.



Park, Sungho

Shortening the path to productive investment: Evidence from input fairs and cash transfers in Malawi
 • Journal of Development of Economics. 170.



Shadikhodjaev, Sherzod

Energy and the Environment: Exploring the Nexus under International Economic Law
 • Cambridge University Press. 1-386.



Sohn, Wook

Loan growth and quality over the credit cycle
 • International Review of Economics and Finance. 95.



Is the Korean green premium in equilibrium?
 • International Review of Economics and Finance. 92.




Yoon, Chungun

Loss of Peers and Individual Worker Performance: Evidence From H-1B Visa Denials
 • Organization Science. 2024-04.



Research Activities

2



02.19-12.17

Advanced Policy Strategy Program



04.23

Seminar on Generative AI for Administrative Processes Automation




06.02-08

Foreign Study Mission on Local Governance and Legislation (DAP)



1st 06.30-07.05
2nd 08.25-30

2024 Cooperative Capacity Building Project for Cambodia's National Policy Research



07.05-11

2023/24 Policy Consultation for the Kurdistan Regional Government (Study visit to KRG)

Each year, KDI School hosts a diverse array of conferences, seminars and capacity-building programs to support its mission of advancing education and research. With a focus on economics, policy, and international cooperation, KDI School is dedicated to sharing knowledge and fostering dialogue on pressing global issues. Let's take a closer look at the impactful events that took place this year, showcasing our continued commitment to making a difference in the world of policy and beyond.



1st 07.21-30
2nd 09.22-10.01

Global Leadership Program: Offline Training



08.18-24

GDLN Blended Learning Program: Face-to-Face Training



09.03-05

Korea Week: Conference on Korea-U.S. Relations



10.06-19

Capacity Building for Government Official Staff on International Cooperation in the Dominican Republic ('24-'26), 1st year



11.14-15

KDI School-World Bank 5th Development Impact Conference

KDI School Shaping the Future with Data

A New Degree Program Master of Data Science for Public Policy and Management

MDS



In an era where data drives decision making, KDI School has launched an innovative Master of Data Science for Public Policy and Management (MDS) program, designed to bridge the gap between advanced data science techniques and public policy. This cutting-edge curriculum prepares students to tackle the challenges of the digital transformation era, focusing on applying data science methods to real world policy issues.

The MDS program stands out for its unique blend of technology and policy knowledge. By integrating machine learning, network analysis, and artificial intelligence into policy analysis, KDI School aims to nurture a new generation of policy experts equipped to drive evidence based policymaking.

The interdisciplinary approach of the program, spanning economics, political science, public administration, sociology, and international development, is a key attraction for students. Muzammil Tariq, an international student from Pakistan, emphasizes this unique point: "This program offered the exact kind of combination I wanted between computers and policy. I did not want to pursue a generic data science program."



Muzammil Tariq
2024 MDS, Pakistan

Jeongmin Lee
2024 MDS, ROK



Another student from South Korea, Jeongmin Lee said: "This program offers a perfect blend of technology and policy knowledge." Ms. Lee was drawn to the program after searching for opportunities to combine her interests in AI applications and related policies. "With KDI nearby and a curriculum tailored for social scientists, it provides a more in-depth and specialized education."



The curriculum balances technical skills with policy insights, featuring courses such as Programming Fundamentals using Python, R Fundamentals for Public Policy, and Introduction to Computational Social Science. Currently enrolled students praise the faculty of MDS program for their innovative teaching methods and the course structure that emphasizes practical application of data science in social contexts.

The global perspective of KDI School is another draw for students. The diverse student body and open academic atmosphere provide valuable networking opportunities and prepare students for international careers. The availability of scholarships, such as the Global Ambassador Scholarship (GAS) and NIIED Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) makes the program accessible to talented students from around the world.

The MDS program at KDI School is not just about acquiring skills; it is about shaping the future of public policy. By strengthening professionals' skills in public data analysis, KDI School is preparing its graduates to contribute effectively to evidence based policymaking in public agencies, research institutes and international organizations.



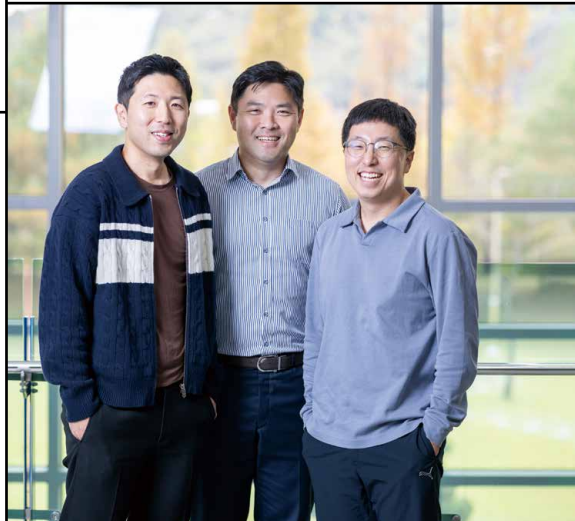
Driving Innovation

A Closer Look at KDI School's New Research Labs

Please tell us about the Behavioral and Experimental Economics Lab (the BEE Lab) and its core members.

The BEE Lab designs experiments based on economic theories that incorporate human behavior and psychology. In addition to conducting academic research, we also engage in studies with significant policy implications. Our core members are myself, Professor Sungho David Park, and Professor Chungyeun Yoon.

Behavioral and Experimental Economics Lab-Interview with Prof. Jeong Yeol Kim



How will the behavioral insights you gather impact public policy, and how does your lab differ from traditional economics?

We aim to contribute academically while supporting government policies. Unlike traditional economics, we base our models on human behavior and psychology. Conventional economics assumes utility is determined solely by the amount of goods consumed. However, in behavioral economics, utility can vary depending on a person's emotional state. By considering psychological states and other behavioral factors that traditional models

overlook, we can better understand how economic agents respond to policies.

Please tell us about the lab's future activities.

Our lab is currently working on an academic project investigating strategies in cooperative games with varying skill levels between players (using a tennis game). Regarding policy research, we plan to study corporate pricing behavior about AI and personalized pricing algorithms using experimental economics methodologies. These studies will be conducted at KDI School, and we invite students to participate!

Please tell us about the Political Economy Lab (the PE Lab) and its core members.

In today's interconnected, globalized world, political events in one country can significantly influence the political and economic development of others. For example, the election of Donald Trump marked a shift in the liberal international order, a key foundation of global peace and prosperity. This highlights the importance of studying how political factors shape global economic outcomes. The PE Lab aims to explore these dynamics. Our core members include Professor Dongil Lee and Professor ByungKoo Kim.

Is there any recent political event or trend your lab is particularly excited to study, as well as other future lab activities?

One of our lab members' current projects explores the political and economic implications of foreign direct investment in autocratic nations. Specifically, we are investigating whether these often-massive capital injections are disproportionately allocated to the birth regions of dictators. Our research examines whether these financial flows strengthen political ties with cronies from the same birth region, increasing regional support and helping leaders stay in power for extended periods.

We aim for our lab to be more active in advancing frontier research in political economy. Much research has been done on the connections between firms and governments, but political science has yet to fully explore the broader implications of these connections. Similarly, while the economic causes of inequality are well-studied, the political factors behind it remain underexplored. We hope our lab can contribute valuable insights into these critical areas.

Political Economy Lab-Interview with Prof. Seungjun Kim

KDI School has introduced two new research labs in 2024: The Behavioral and Experimental Economics Lab and the Political Economy Lab. In the interview here, the heads of these labs share their journeys, the pressing questions they aim to answer, and how their work is shaping the future of research.



2024 KDIS-EU Summer School

From August 26 to August 30, 2024, KDI School of Public Policy and Management hosted its first summer school, welcoming future scholars from around the globe. This event also marked a significant step in the school's ongoing efforts to expand its Erasmus network and strengthen relationships with partner institutions. This five-day event welcomed 20 students from KDIS and participants from partner universities, including the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), the University of Ca'Foscari (Italy), Riga Technical University (Latvia), GRIPS (Japan), and undergraduate students from Korean institutions.

The core academic program focused on economic development, with lectures on labor economics, climate change, and political economy. By exploring these critical areas, the program encouraged participants to contribute to ongoing international discussions. For **Ianja Andrianony** (KDIS 2024 Ph.D. in DP), from Madagascar, who had a strong research interest in how tropical cyclones impact food security in her country, the climate change lecture series was particularly insightful. It helped her better understand the links between natural disasters and food insecurity.



A key element of the summer school was its focus on research development, where participants refined their ideas through peer discussions and faculty mentorship. **Martina Marin** (University of Ca'Foscari, Master's student) found this process invaluable, as it helped her narrow her initial idea of comparing U.S. educational aid to South Korea and modern aid to underdeveloped nations. Her goal is to examine the successes and shortcomings of past aid efforts to help shape more effective policies for future aid initiatives. Through discussions with professors, she was able to narrow her focus and refine her research methodology, making her proposal more targeted and impactful.

The mentorship sessions extended beyond research, offering students insights on navigating graduate school and academic careers—particularly beneficial for those in the early stages of their academic journeys. As **Jisu Jung** (KDIS 2024 MDP) noted, "The professors shared their personal experiences about what it's really like in graduate school and academia, giving me a clearer view of the career paths that lie ahead which was especially valuable as an incoming student."

The academic focus of the summer school was enhanced by rich cultural experiences, providing students from various backgrounds with opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. **Anna Hahn** (University of Duisburg-Essen, Undergraduate student) emphasized the importance of the social aspect of the program, particularly the hands-on experience of making traditional Korean name stamps at Insa-dong. She noted that participants from various countries and cultural backgrounds bonded during this activity through fun and engaging conversations.



The summer school concluded with a session where students presented the research proposals they had developed throughout the week. Despite the demanding schedule, students produced proposals that tackled a broad range of pressing issues. For many participants, the experience of creating a research proposal in such a limited time was both challenging and fulfilling, offering valuable skills that will serve as a foundation for their future academic endeavors.



▲ Visit the Website!

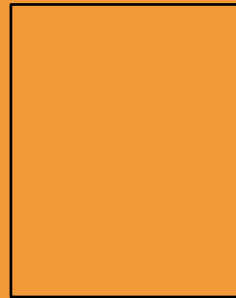
**KDIS-EU Summer School
on Economic Development**

KDIS SCHOOL ERASMUS+ EUROPEAN UNION

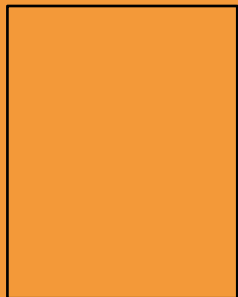
A five-day immersive experience with leading professors in economic development and economic history where you can develop your research ideas through interactive peer discussions and faculty consultations



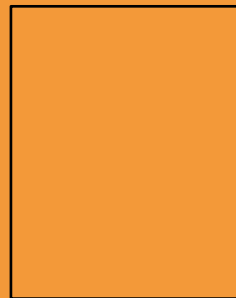
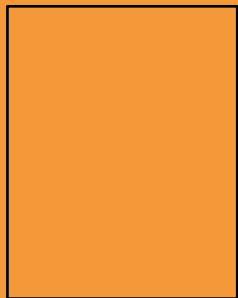
Dreamers Became Professors



Each year, KDI School goes above and beyond to bring in talented new faculty who inspire and elevate our academic community. This year, we're excited to welcome three new professors! Ever wondered what they were like as young dreamers? Get to know them better through their childhood photos and reflections on what shaped them – a fun glimpse into how those early dreams grew into who they are today!



Meet Our New Faculty



DREAMER



Jisung Yoon

How would you describe yourself in one adjective? Nerdy

What made you happiest as a child? Family

If you could bring only one book to a deserted island, what would it be? My thesis

How do you relieve stress? Beer

Is there a quote that makes your heart race?

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

- Winston S. Churchill

Is there a role model you would like to be your friend?

It was Geoffrey West, the great physicist, but we are friends now!

What was your childhood nickname?

Jisung Park, Football Player

What has been the most challenging moment in your life?

My Ph.D. thesis defense.

If you could meet the child in the photo right now, what would you say?

Don't cry and be nice to your sister.

What was your childhood dream, and what is your dream now?

Physicist / Be happy

Is there a message you would like to share with KDIS students?

Nice to meet you everyone!

If you wanna chat with me, visit my office!

PROFESSOR



DREAMER



Sungkyu Park



PROFESSOR

How would you describe yourself in one adjective? Persistent

What made you happiest as a child? Watching movies and movies!

If you could bring only one book to a deserted island, what would it be?
How to Survive on a Deserted Island

How do you relieve stress? Sleep, eat, and watch movies.

Is there a quote that makes your heart race? "What I cannot create I do not understand," - Richard Feynman

What was your childhood nickname? 'Stallone' (After the Hollywood movie star, haha)

What has been the most challenging moment in your life? Running a startup.

If you could meet the child in the photo right now, what would you say? Don't give up on playing the piano! You will lose a good hobby.

What was your childhood dream, and what is your dream now? Movie director back then, now a good researcher

Is there a message you would like to share with KDIS students? Live each day with integrity and your whole life as it comes.

DREAMER



Trinh Pham



PROFESSOR

How would you describe yourself in one adjective? Minimalist

What made you happiest as a child? I felt happiest when I was able to pursue my interests with my parents' support.

If you could bring only one book to a deserted island, what would it be? 'Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams' by Matthew Walker.

How do you relieve stress? Depending on my mood, it could be chatting with my loved ones, cooking and trying new food, cycling around the city, or spending time in nature.

Is there a quote that makes your heart race? "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right." - Henry Ford

Is there a role model you would like to befriend?

I admire Zen master Thích Nhất Hạnh. Even though he passed away and befriending him would no longer be possible, I always find peace and compassion in reading his books.

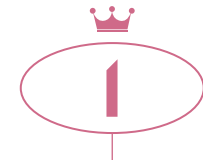
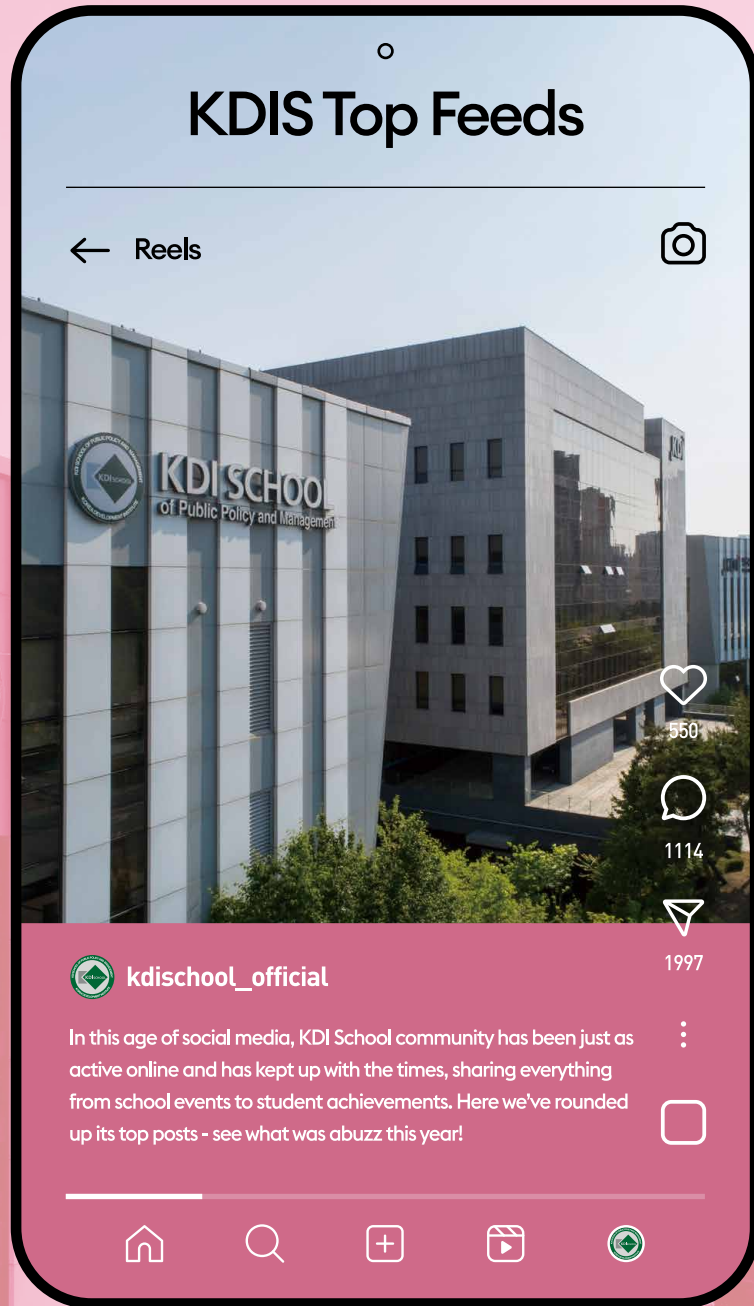
What was your childhood nickname? Until this day, my family and relatives still call me 'Cún,' which literally means 'little puppy' in Vietnamese. It's actually a very common nickname for little Vietnamese kids.

What has been the most challenging moment in your life? When I first started living away from my parents during my early teenage years.

If you could meet the child in the photo right now, what would you say? You did well, and I'm very proud of you. Let's live happily and fully from now on.

What was your childhood dream, and what is your dream now? My childhood dream was to become a doctor because I believed it was a profession that would allow me to help many people. Now, as an educator, my dream is to provide the resources and support necessary for all students, regardless of their backgrounds, to achieve their goals.

Is there a message you would like to share with KDIS students? Enjoy every moment in life.



August 6 ⋮

432 likes

#kdis #kdischool #graduation
#completion #lifejourney #future
#stayconnected #졸업 #대학원

Today, we celebrate not only your academic achievements but also the memories, friendships, and experiences that have shaped your journey. You've worked tirelessly, grown immensely, and now stepped forward as leaders ready to make a difference in the world. As we close this chapter, remember that this is just the beginning. Stay connected, keep learning, and continue to inspire. Your KDI School family is always here for you, cheering you on every step of the way. Wishing you all the success and happiness in your future endeavors. Here's to a bright future and staying connected always!



January 23 ⋮

418 likes

#kdis #kdischool #welcome
#spring2024 #globaljourney
#graduateschool

Welcoming Spring 2024 students from around the globe to KDIS! To our incoming students, get ready for an exciting, life-changing (and challenging) intellectual journey with us as you join one of the world's leading think tanks and become a part of our vast network of changemakers. As you step into our corridors, remember it's winter in South Korea, so layer up and stay warm. We hope you embrace the Korean winter experience! Congratulations to our incoming students—we can't wait to meet each one of you!

3

November 6



406 likes

#kdis #kdischool #fall #autumn #campuslife #autumnvibes

Autumn is in full swing at KDI School! There's something magical about autumn. Walking through fallen leaves on my way to class, I can't help but feel inspired by the season's beauty. Let's make the most of these beautiful days! Share your favorite autumn moments with #AutumnAtKDIS

4

February 2



377 likes

Dear KDI School ASEAN Students and Alumni, We hope this message finds you in good health as we embark on the beginning of the Spring Semester today. To the new and returning students: a heartfelt welcome to KDI School, a place that offers countless opportunities for learning and growth. Embrace every lecture, assignment, presentation, paper, and exam; and Engage in various club activities to keep your mind fresh. There may be challenges ahead, but find your valuable friends and overcome them together. Lastly, let's create memories that will last a lifetime! To our beloved Alumni: we believe you are doing well wherever you are now. While we are not worried, we certainly miss you. Here are some pictures of our school today. Which part is your favorite?

5

September 26



328 likes

#kdis #kdischool #sejongjointcampus #sejongcommoncampus #세종 #세종공동캠퍼스 #개교 #기념식

The Sejong Common Campus Opening Ceremony and Vision Declaration Plan marked an exciting milestone in Sejong City! Seven universities, including KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul National University, Korea University, Kongju National University, Hanbat National University, Chungbuk National University, and Chungnam National University, are coming together in this innovative building complex. Together, we aim to foster collaboration, joint research, and innovative studies. This campus marks a new chapter of shared knowledge and academic excellence. Looking forward to the future of learning and discovery!!

6

February 7



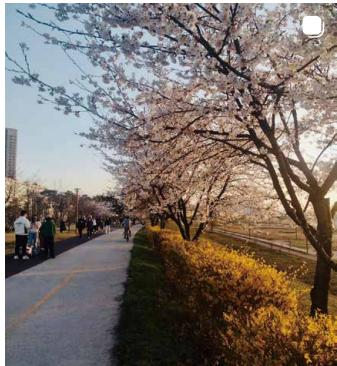
323 likes

#kdis #kdischool #alumni #cambodia #dinner #reunion

On January 30th, the Cambodian Alumni Association experienced a heartwarming reunion at the Dean's Dinner! Dean Jong-il You and Professor Jinsoo Lee, accompanied by the Research Planning Division, joyously reunited with Cambodian alumni during their visit to Phnom Penh. The evening held deep significance, reflecting the recognition of the Cambodian alumni as one of the most prominent alumni groups of KDI School. Together, we revisited our shared hope of fostering friendship and enhancing collaboration between Korea and Cambodia. For us to reach our mutual goal, we hope to stay connected!

7

April 5



♡ 294 likes

#kdis #kdischool #sejong
#cherryblossom #spring #flower
#벚꽃 #벚꽃놀이 #봄 #세종시

Blooming like the cherry blossoms?
With just a few weeks left before the spring semester ends, we know our hardworking students are knee-deep in their studies. So, we're here to remind them not to miss out on the beautiful scenery the cherry blossoms have created all over Korea. Take a minute away from the library chairs and catch a glimpse of these wonderful blooms. Check out these moments captured by your fellow students.

8

May 16



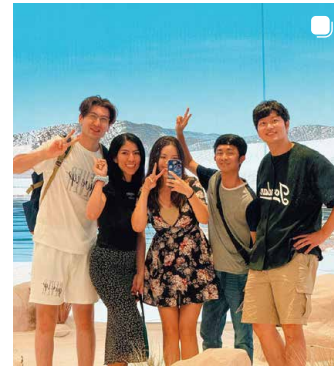
♡ 283 likes

#kdis #kdischool #alumni #ECLAC

We're excited to share that Ranci Danis Veras, MDP 2022 alumnus, has been chosen for the prestigious 25th edition of the Development Policy Studies Program hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile! This elite program brings together 36 recent graduates or graduate students from 16 countries to explore vital development themes such as sustainable growth, economic policies, and development ethics, all at the United Nations regional headquarters. Ranci's journey in development has been enriched by the education and experiences he gained at KDIS, preparing him for this unique opportunity.

9

September 23



♡ 283 likes

#kdis #kdischool #homevisiting
#incheon #koreanculture
#globalstudents #studyinkorea

This summer, Bang Jisung (MDP 2024) took Sara from Brazil, Dania from Nicaragua, Christian from the Philippines, and Farruh from Uzbekistan on an unforgettable tour of his hometown, Incheon! From the past into the future, Jisung guided the group through iconic spots. He showcased the historical significance of Incheon and its transformation into a Green Smart City. They also had a chance to network with KDIS alumni. It was a journey full of learning, fun, and a bit of chaos with such a diverse group! Huge thanks to Bang Jisung for the incredible tour and his warm hospitality!

10

June 12



♡ 281 likes

#kdis #kdischool #dean #korea
#independenceday #philippines
#philippinesindependenceday

Mabuhay! Happy Independence Day!
Today, we celebrate the freedom, heritage, and vibrant culture of the Philippines. Our beloved Dean Jong-Il You proudly wears traditional Filipino attire to honor this special day. To all our Filipino alumni, we send you our love and heartfelt wishes. May this day be filled with pride, joy, and remembrance of our rich history.









Autographs



Fill this page with
autographs from
your colleagues and classmates.

THE **GLOBE**