



MID Hosts South Korean Students in Conjunction with UC Solar Institute

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MERCED, CA – As part of its ongoing efforts to promote and educate the public about renewable energy, Merced Irrigation District hosted approximately 20 South Korean engineering students today.

A tour of MID's hydroelectric project and related facilities was provided in conjunction with the University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute headquartered at UC Merced.

Last year, MID became the first public utility to sponsor the multi-campus effort commonly called the UC Solar Institute. The Institute is working to develop efficient and affordable solar technologies – as well as well-trained solar energy leaders and entrepreneurs. (For more information, please click [here](#).)

“This was an exceptional opportunity to showcase one of our community's most efficient, clean renewable-energy resources,” said General Manager John Sweigard. “We were pleased to provide this opportunity to the students, UC Merced and the UC Solar Institute.”

During their tour with MID, the students visited the McSwain hydroelectric project, the top of the New Exchequer Dam and ate lunch catered by the McSwain Marina Cafe at the nearby McSwain picnic area. They also watched a brief video to learn about the history of MID and its facilities.

The students are part of a university exchange program and are visiting the UC Solar Institute from Dankook University in Yongin, Gyeonggi, South Korea.

“We are extremely pleased with this opportunity,” said Ron Durbin, Executive Director of the UC Solar Institute. “MID is a strong and valued partner in what we’re doing. Today’s tour directly benefited the students and helps further the mission of the UC Solar Institute.”

The students' instructor, Dr. Jae-won Lee, said the tour presented a good opportunity for the students to learn more about hydroelectricity as a clean, renewable source of energy.

"I think they can expand their insights," he said of the benefits of today's tour.

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