

# ReCSS

Research Center for Solidarity-based Society

Seeking a node of research, education and practice

## ReCSS

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# Developing the Human Resources of Future Generations to Build a Better World

The Research Center for Solidarity-based Society or ReCSS, a part of the Japan Labor Culture Foundation (JLCF), will work in close cooperation with the Institute for Solidarity-based Society of Hosei University (ISS-HU) and support the latter's educational activities.

ReCSS aims to play a part in developing the future leaders of trade unions, co-operatives, nonprofits and social enterprises through supporting the research activities of students enrolled in ISS-HU and organizing conferences on social issues.

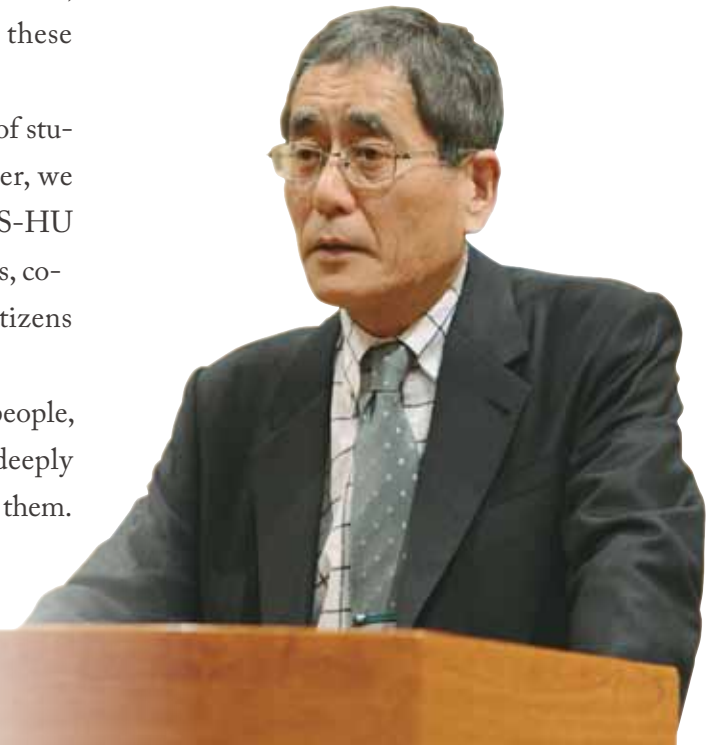
## Supporting the Development of Human Resources who will Lead Civil Society

ReCSS was established in April 2014 prior to the opening of ISS-HU, a unique two-year graduate school that aims to nurture the future leaders of trade unions, co-operatives and nonprofits, who will not only have wider perspectives transcending these organizations but will also serve general interests.

ReCSS has the mission of supporting the development of students in collaboration with ISS-HU. As an open center, we intend to organize forums and conferences not only for ISS-HU students but also for those who are involved in trade unions, co-operatives, nonprofits, social enterprises, as well as for citizens who are active in the public sphere.

We wish to provide opportunities for a wide range of people, and to deliberate issues relating to civil society, looking deeply into the background of issues while discussing how to solve them.

Prof. Keisuke Nakamura  
Director of ReCSS



## ■ WHAT ReCSS DOES

Supports ISS-HU's educational activities

Researches into the theory and practice of social solidarity

Connects research and educational programs

Collects reference materials and documents, disseminates information

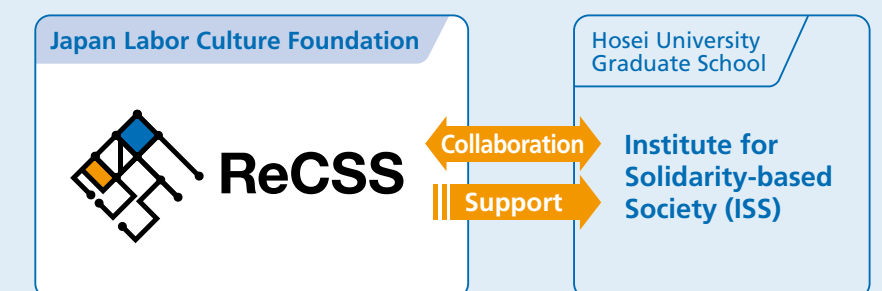
Holds open forums and conferences

Publishes academic literature and reports

Conducts exchanges for building a solidarity-based society

Implements activities aimed at accomplishing ReCSS's objectives

## ■ ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE of ReCSS



# All About ISS-HU

ISS-HU is a master course program established within Hosei University in April 2015 in collaboration with RENGO (Japanese Trade Union Confederation) and the Japan Labor Culture Foundation.

ISS-HU is composed of three programs for trade unions, co-operatives and nonprofits. These collaborate to develop the human resources who will assume the leadership of the new public commons.

NPOs play the role of changing the social system, thereby contributing to the resolution of community/social problems. Social relations for developing NPOs, ranging from their history and theory to networks and collaborations, are studied.



**Prof. Hideo Yamagishi**  
Specialist in nonprofits,  
NPO platforms and social system

How should trade unions respond to changing circumstances as a member of civil society? Trade unions are studied historically as well as internationally in order to understand the theories and stances required to tackle issues that prioritize fairness and equality as key concepts.



**Prof. Keisuke Nakamura**  
Specialist in labor relations,  
trade unions and  
personnel management

**Co-operatives  
Program**

Japanese co-operatives are world-class organizations in size, but now face multi-faceted challenges under globalization. Their history and theory, governance and social responsibility, relations with politics and public policies and roles in civil society are studied.



**Prof. Akira Kurimoto**  
Specialist in co-operatives,  
institutional frameworks and  
international comparison

**Nonprofits  
Program**

**Trade Unions  
Program**



*Development of human resources who will  
assume leadership roles in the new public commons*

## message

**Toward a society that  
understands what work is**

**Prof. Yuko Tanaka**  
President,  
Hosei University



The Institute for Solidarity-based Society of Hosei University (ISS-HU) was inaugurated in April 2015. ISS-HU has the very important task of embracing a variety of social movements, i.e. trade unions, co-operatives and nonprofits, and leading them on to future activities from this wider perspective.

The ISS-HU Master's Program is designed for adult students to learn about social movements in a variety of ways by taking evening lecture courses. Through ISS, I expect the common consciousness of "working" rather than "career education" will be generated among both students and teachers, and disseminated to a wider society. I also hope the notion of a "Solidarity-based Society" will be widely understood and further developed.



# The Solidarity-based Society that ReCSS Aims to Build

## Reconstructing Living Security through Citizen Solidarity

Solidarity stands for co-operation among different individuals and groups based on independence. It includes the two dimensions of solidarity of citizens as consumers and solidarity of citizens as producers. While the interests of these citizens may be matched or opposed, solidarity means co-operating to seek common elements while recognizing differences.

Solidarity is also deeply concerned with social security. Mutual societies were set up by workers to secure against the risks of unemployment, old age, illness or accidents in the wake of the industrial revolution. In the 20th century, their functions were largely taken over by welfare states, which sought to establish universal pension and health care, but workers accepted this change as a shift from small solidarity among mutual society members to large solidarity that covered the whole population.

However, now that welfare states throughout the world have been set back due to financial deficits, public welfare programs are being curtailed and privatization is underway. Reconstructing living security through the voluntary solidarity of citizens is therefore once again being seen as a viable alternative.

## The Solidarity-based Society that Present-day Japan Needs

Japanese society currently faces increasing isolation, exclusion and poverty, while social ties in families and communities are weakening and traditional job security based on companies is threatened. ReCSS aims to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society based on people's solidarity.

## A Society of Independent Citizens

Solidarity-based society means a civil society based on people's solidarity. We are often obliged to make a choice in the debate regarding the dichotomy between government and market. We are also facing choices regarding global or local, liberty or equity, and efficiency or democracy. However, such dichotomies cannot be resolved by making trade-offs; what is needed is to balance competing goals and establish a solidarity-based society with distinctive values and criteria. It is also imperative for a variety of organizations to work together in a friendly manner and create networks to solve social problems.

## message

## Strengthen the capacity of social movements to advocate social justice and decent work for all

First of all, let me convey to you the greetings and best wishes of the International Labour Organisation for the success of the Institute for Solidarity-based Society, ISS, also known as the RENGO Graduate School. I am very glad to learn that after its long-standing efforts, RENGO is successfully launching this important institution within the graduate school system of Hosei University.

This is not an easy time for trade unions around the world. They are facing the challenges of rapid economic and social changes in an era of increasing globalization and very difficult labour market conditions. So, trade unions need to strengthen their analytical capacity, their organisational efficiency, and their political ability to represent working people effectively and to promote job-centred and pro-poor social and employment policies.

And I am sure that the ISS will strengthen trade unions' capacity to advocate social justice and decent work for all. So, I look forward to ISS students con-

tributing to the further development of the labour and social movement at the national level and the international level as well.

I also hope that the ISS will consider working with the Global Labour University (GLU) that is operated by the Workers' Activities Bureau of the ILO.

The ILO stands ready to assist the ISS in the successful development of its courses, and our Tokyo office will be at your disposal to arrange that support.

Once again, I would like to congratulate RENGO for its achievement and wish the Institute for Solidarity-based Society every success.

Guy Ryder  
ILO Director-General  
2 February 2015



## WHAT ReCSS HAS DONE

### Symposia for Solidarity-based Society

#### 1st Symposium on Dec. 11, 2013

Lecture 1 "The future that ISS seeks"

by Prof. Akira Hamamura

Lecture 2 "How to draw out the potential of social movements"

by Prof. Marshall Ganz

#### 2nd Symposium on Apr. 21, 2014

Lecture "The HRD that ISS is expected to offer"

by Prof. Toru Shinoda

Report "The background and concept of ISS"

by Mr. Koji Yamamoto

Panel discussion

Coordinated by Prof. Ikuro Takagi  
with Prof. Keisuke Nakamura, Mr. Akira Kurimoto  
and Prof. Hideo Yamagishi

#### 3rd Symposium on May. 30, 2014 in Fukushima

Lecture "The welfare state and civil democracy"

by Prof. Victor Pestoff

### Serial Lectures on Solidarity-based Society

#### 1st Lecture, Oct. 18, 2014

"The lost three decades: Final proposal for a turnaround"

by Prof. Naohiko Jinno

#### 2nd Lecture, Dec. 6, 2014

"Toward the creation of a mutual help society"

by Prof. Sawako Shirahase

#### 3rd Lecture, Dec. 13, 2014

"What is political thinking?" by Prof. Atsushi Sugita

#### 4th Lecture, Jan. 24, 2015

"Creating democracy" by Prof. Shigenori Uno

#### 5th Lecture, Feb. 7, 2015

"Democracy and solidarity" by Prof. Takenori Inoki

#### 6th Lecture, Mar. 14, 2015

"The governance of life security from gender perspectives"

by Prof. Mari Osawa

### Publication of booklets

#### Symposium for Solidarity-based Society

1st / 2nd / 3rd

