

The Present and Future of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Japan

Kentaro ITAMI (Professor, Hosei University)

Self-introduction of Our Institute

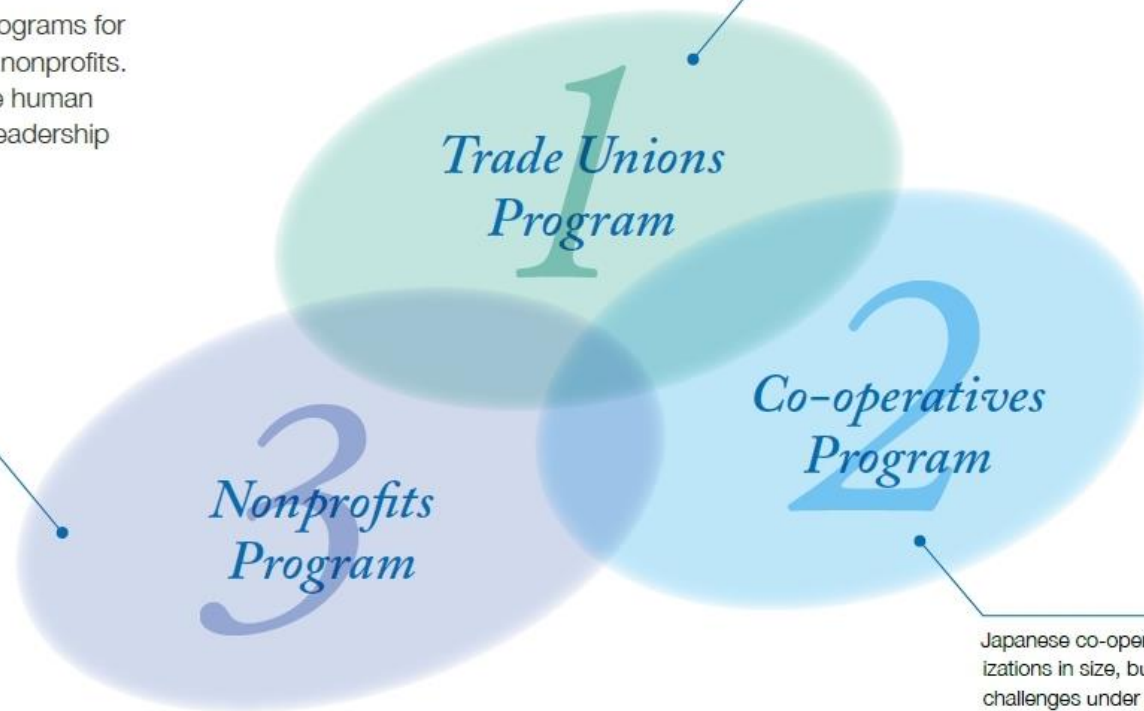
Institute for Solidarity-based Society,
Hosei University, Japan.

► 2-year Master-course Curriculum.

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.

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.



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.

Through the solidarities among civil society sector,
we are now challenging Japan's fragmented society.

Inequality Gap

NEXTER.ORG



82% → **1%**
of the wealth generated in 2017
the Richest (42 people)



18%
3.7 Billion people
poorest half



10th 52%
9th 19%
8th 11%
7th 5%
6th 5%
5th 3%
4th 2%
3rd 2%
2nd 1%
1st <1%

the richest 10%
receive 52%

the middle 40%
receive 40%

the poorest 50%
receive 8%

INEQUALITY.ORG

If the richest 1% paid just 0.5% more in taxes, there would still be enough money to educate all 262 million children without education, provide medical care to 3.3 million and save lives.(Oxfam Report2019)

THE WORLD'S WEALTH INEQUALITY



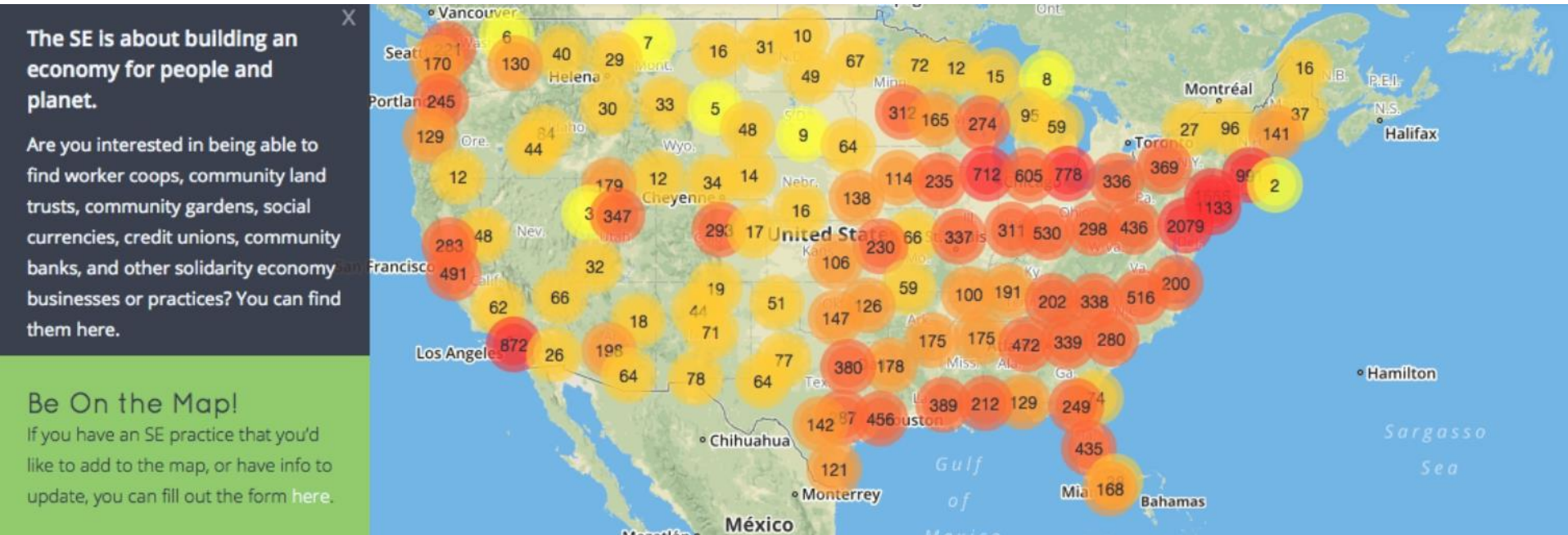
Sources:
<https://www.oxfam.org/>
<https://howmuch.net/articles/the-worlds-wealth-inequality>

howmuch.net

“What is Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) ?”

Social and Solidarity Economy = SSE

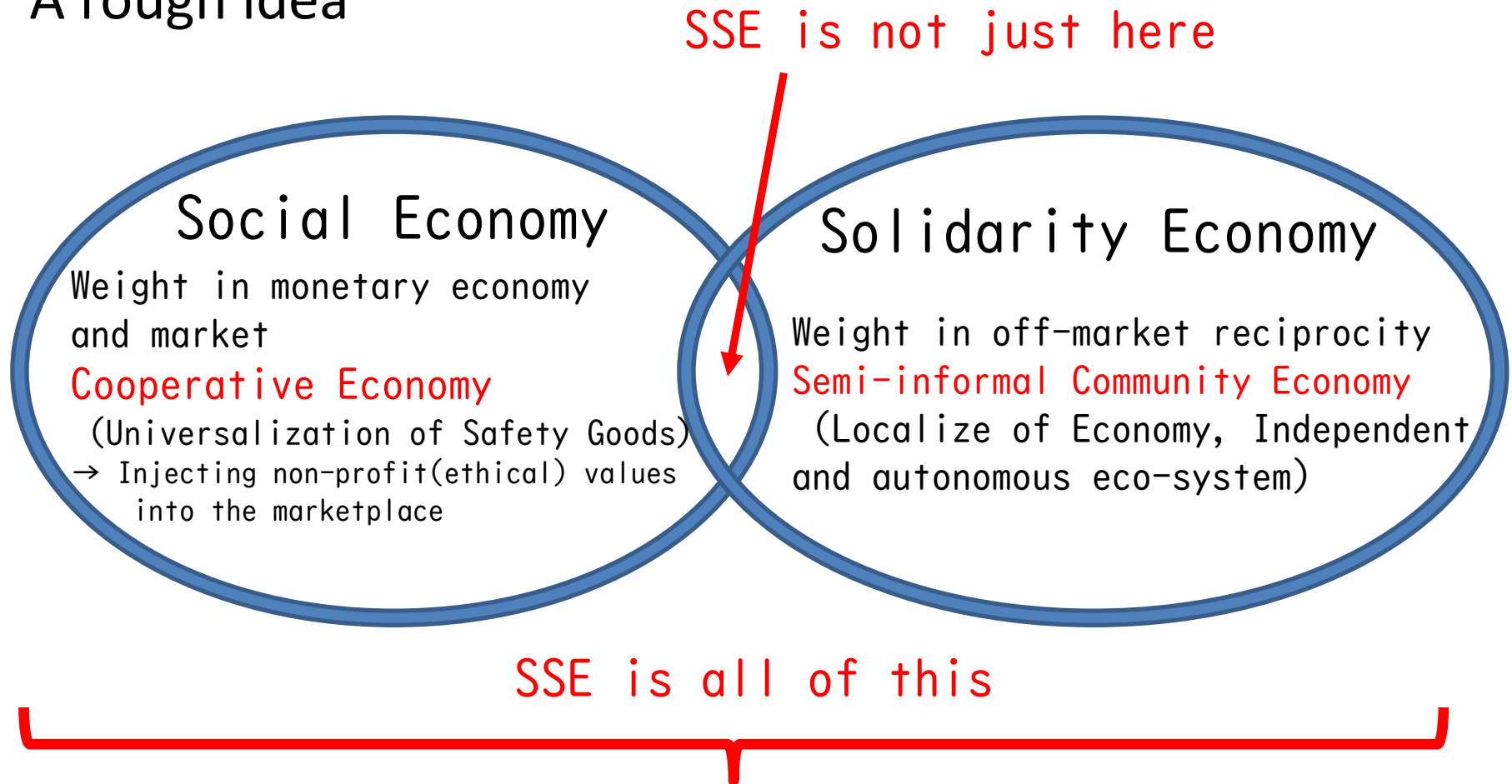
Solidarity Economy Map in US



SSE is thriving especially in Southern Europe and Latin America. But today it is already world-wide. The U.S. organizations working under the slogan "SE/SSE" are spreading nationwide, as shown in the image.

Meaning of Social and Solidarity Economy(SSE)

A rough idea



Solidarity “ between the two parties is the meaning of social solidarity economy. ➡ Working together to build **a fair economy and society**

ICA Cooperative Values and Principles

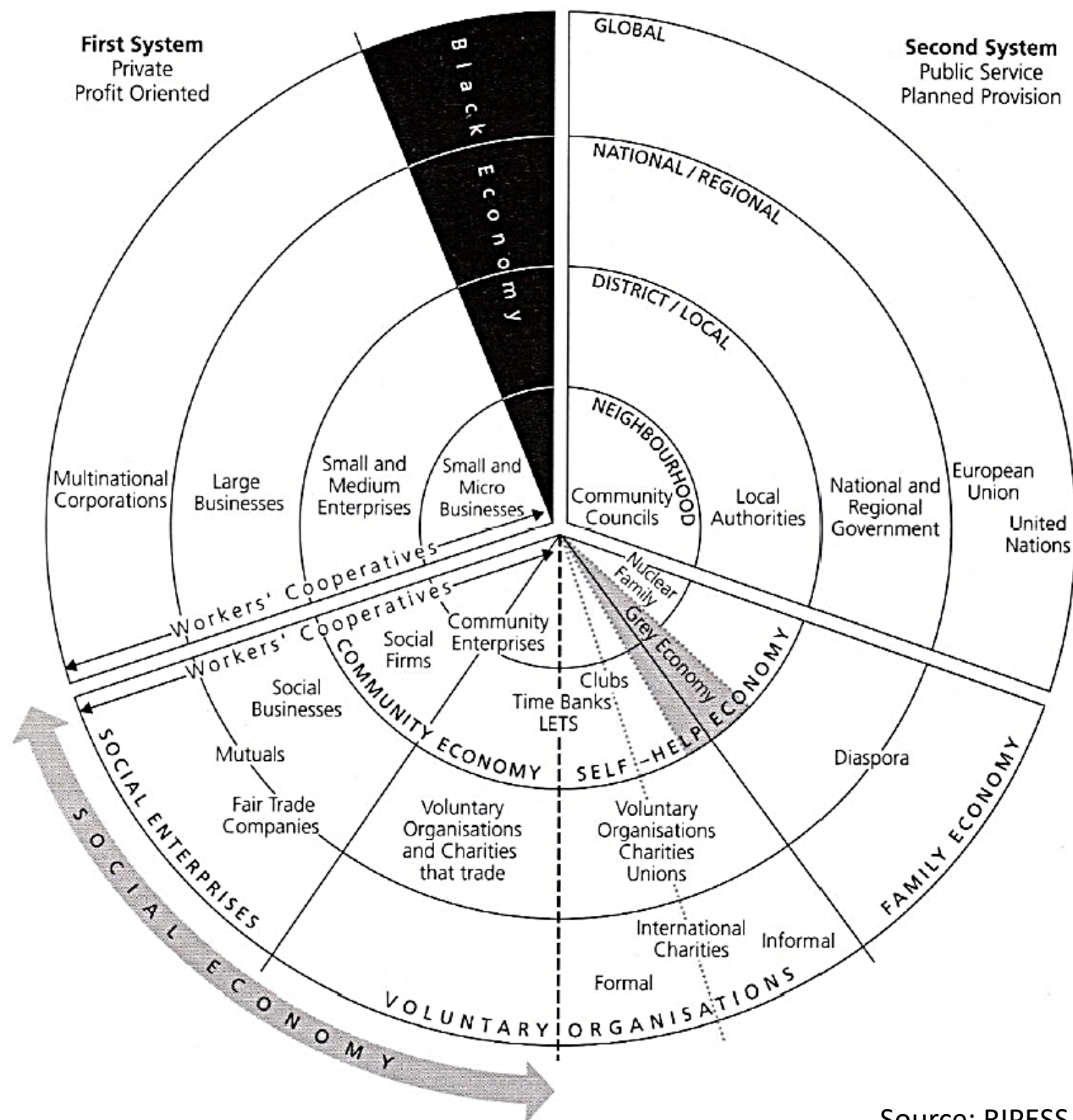
Cooperatives are based on the values of **self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity.**

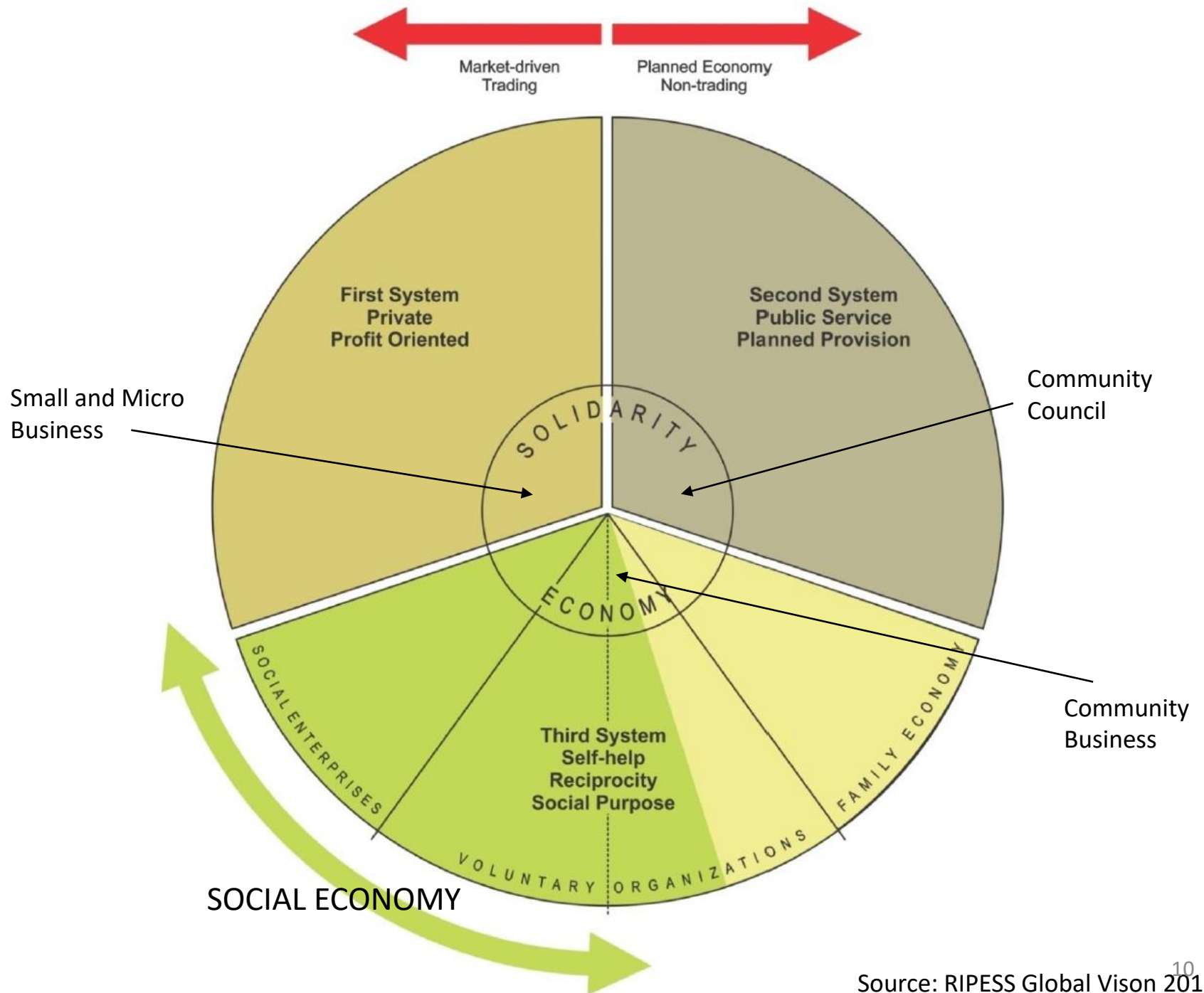
1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

What is Solidarity Economy

Represents a new social movement that has grown rapidly in recent years under post-globalization conditions, which does not fit into the historical and traditional understanding of social(cooperative) economy.

1. Self-management
2. Democratization of economic relations
3. “Cooperate” rather than constrained compete
4. Praise the **diversity of values**
(human beings are more precious than profits)
5. Nurture and pass on **local wisdom**
6. **Social justice and liberation**
7. **Environmental protection**





Definition by RIPESS*

Extract from the RIPESS **Global Vision** 2015 declaration:

*“The Social Solidarity Economy is **an alternative to capitalism** and other authoritarian, state- dominated economic systems. **In SSE ordinary people play an active role** in shaping all of the dimensions of human life: economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental. SSE exists in **all sectors of the economy** production, finance, distribution, exchange, consumption and governance. It also aims to **transform the social and economic system that includes public, private and third sectors**. SSE is not only about the poor, but **strives to overcome inequalities**, which includes all classes of society. SSE has the ability to take the best practices that exist in our present system (such as efficiency, use of technology and knowledge) and transform them to serve the welfare of the community based on different values and goals.*

*(...) **SSE seeks systemic transformation that goes beyond superficial change in which the root oppressive structures and fundamental issues remain intact (...)**”*

*RIPESS is a global network of continental networks committed to the promotion of Social Solidarity Economy.

- an alternative to capitalism and other authoritarian, state-dominated economic systems ➡ not complementary
- ordinary people play an active role
- shaping all of the dimensions of human life: economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental
- transform the social and economic system that includes public, private and third sectors
- not only about the poor, but strives to overcome inequalities
- ability to take the best practices that exist in our present system and transform them to serve the welfare of the community based on different values and goals

SSE seeks **systemic transformation** that goes beyond superficial change in which the root oppressive structures and fundamental issues remain intact.

Relationship to SDGs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The international development community recognizes the need to **rethink development**. Business-as-usual has not prevented the recent financial and food crises, climate change, persistent poverty and rising inequality. In the context of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), we need to consider **Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)** as an important pathway to transforming the world for the better.

Definition by UNTFSSSE

What is the Social and Solidarity Economy?

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) encompasses organizations and enterprises that:

- 1) have explicit economic and social (and often environmental) objectives;*
- 2) involve varying degrees and forms of cooperative, associative and solidarity relations between workers, producers and consumers;*
- 3) practice workplace democracy and self-management.*

SSE includes traditional forms of cooperatives and mutual associations, as well as women's self-help groups, community forestry groups, social provisioning organizations or 'proximity services', fair trade organizations, associations of informal sector workers, social enterprises, and community currency and alternative finance schemes.



Rural cooperative gathering women from Kesavarayampatti village (Madras), © Copyright ILO

UNTFSSSE Position Paper(2014)

SSE refers to the production of goods and services by a broad range of organizations and enterprises that have explicit social and often environmental objectives. SSE organizations are guided by principles of cooperation, solidarity, ethics and democratic self-management.

SSE includes cooperatives and other forms of social enterprise, self-help groups, community-based organizations, associations of informal economy workers, service-provisioning NGOs, solidarity finance schemes.

【Shared Concepts】

Transitioning from Informal Economy to Decent Work/Greening the Economy and Society/Local Economic Development/Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements/Women's Well-Being and Empowerment / Food Security and Smallholder Empowerment /Universal Health Coverage/Transformative Finance

alternative model of growth

24. Another alternative model of growth, aimed at finding a new balance between economic efficiency and social and environmental resilience, is the social and solidarity economy.³¹ The social and solidarity economy refers to enterprises and organizations, in particular cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises, that pursue economic and social solidarity through the production of goods, services and knowledge.³² By empowering individuals through greater control over decision-making processes and resources, the social and solidarity economy fosters economic dynamism, social and environmental protection and sociopolitical empowerment.³³

UN Secretary General's Report on "Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all"(2020.11)



The slogan of the SDGs (Agenda 2030)
“Leave no one behind.”

A world where no one suffers from hunger, where everyone has access to education, and where there is no discrimination of any kind. That's the kind of world we're aiming for.

furthermore

What kind of society will we create? All of us can participate in the decision-making and practice for the future.

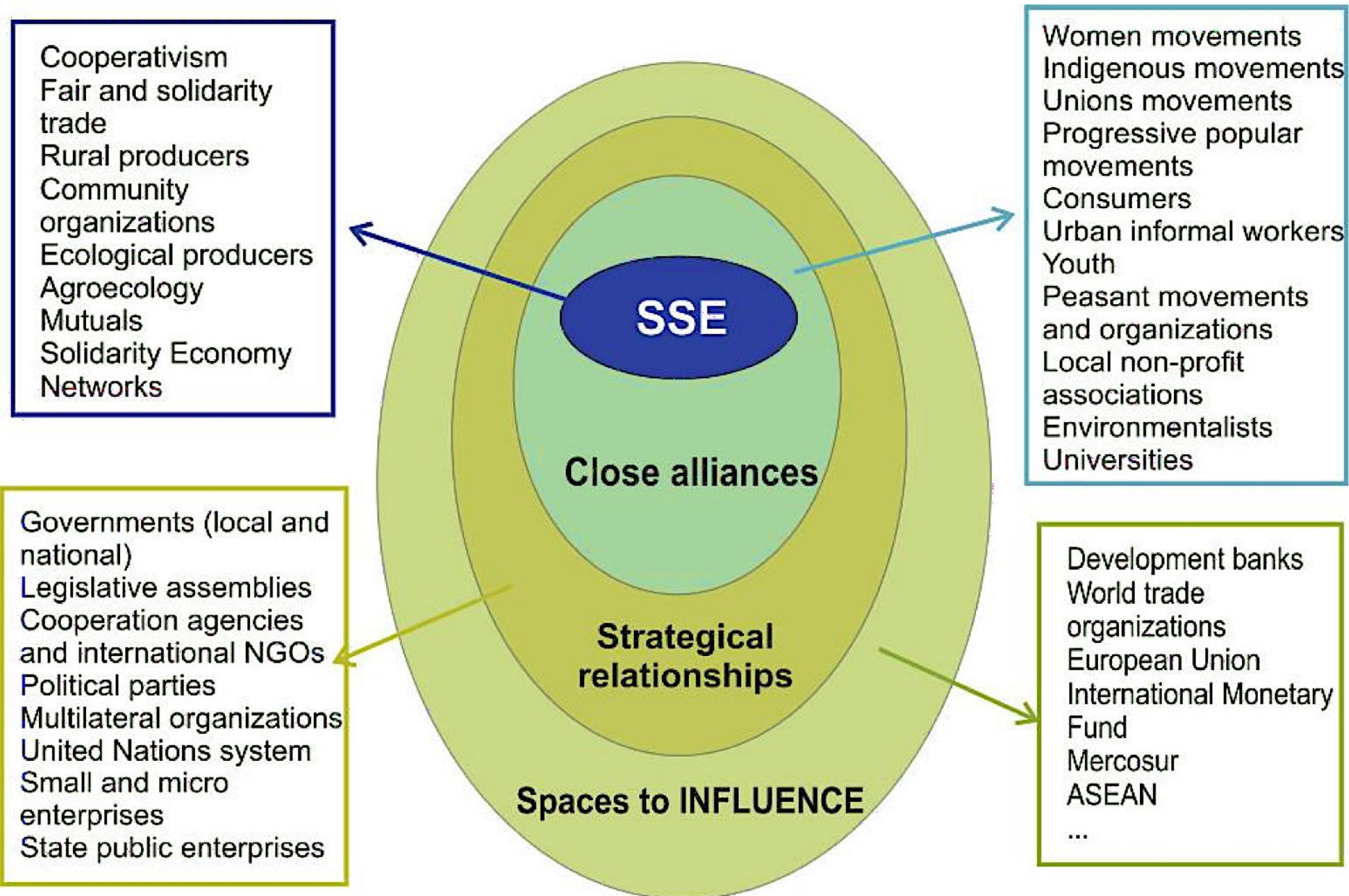
Realizing a sense of being a party of this movement. ▶SSE

Time to change the world



Who would be the actors of SSE

- As indicated by the UNTFSSSE, **the main actors are civil society**, including cooperatives and local NPOs. At the same time, cooperation with government and the market sector is essential for the transformation of the overall economic system.
 - ➡ **We need partnerships with marginal actors**
- The nature of the partnership also changes depending on the relationship, such as "close alliances", "strategical partnerships", "space to influences".



The Values of SSE (10+1)

RIPESS Global Vision 2015

- **Humanism** : Human-centered economy, decent work
- **Democracy** : Democratization of Economy and Society. “We” decide!
- **Solidarity** : Solidarity on a global scale, solidarity among diverse business sectors
- **Inclusiveness** : Inclusiveness across ideologies and sectors
- **Subsidiarity** : Devolving power to local decisions
- **Diversity** : Social systems that respect differences among people/groups
- **Creativity** : Innovations for Social Change
- **Sustainable development** : economy in harmony with environment
- **Equality, equity and justice for all** : Resistance to uneven distribution of wealth and dictatorship
- **Respecting the integration of countries and people** : Alta-globalization through “solidarity”
- **A plural and solidarity-based economy**
 - ▶ Encourage marginal partners to build in these values as well.

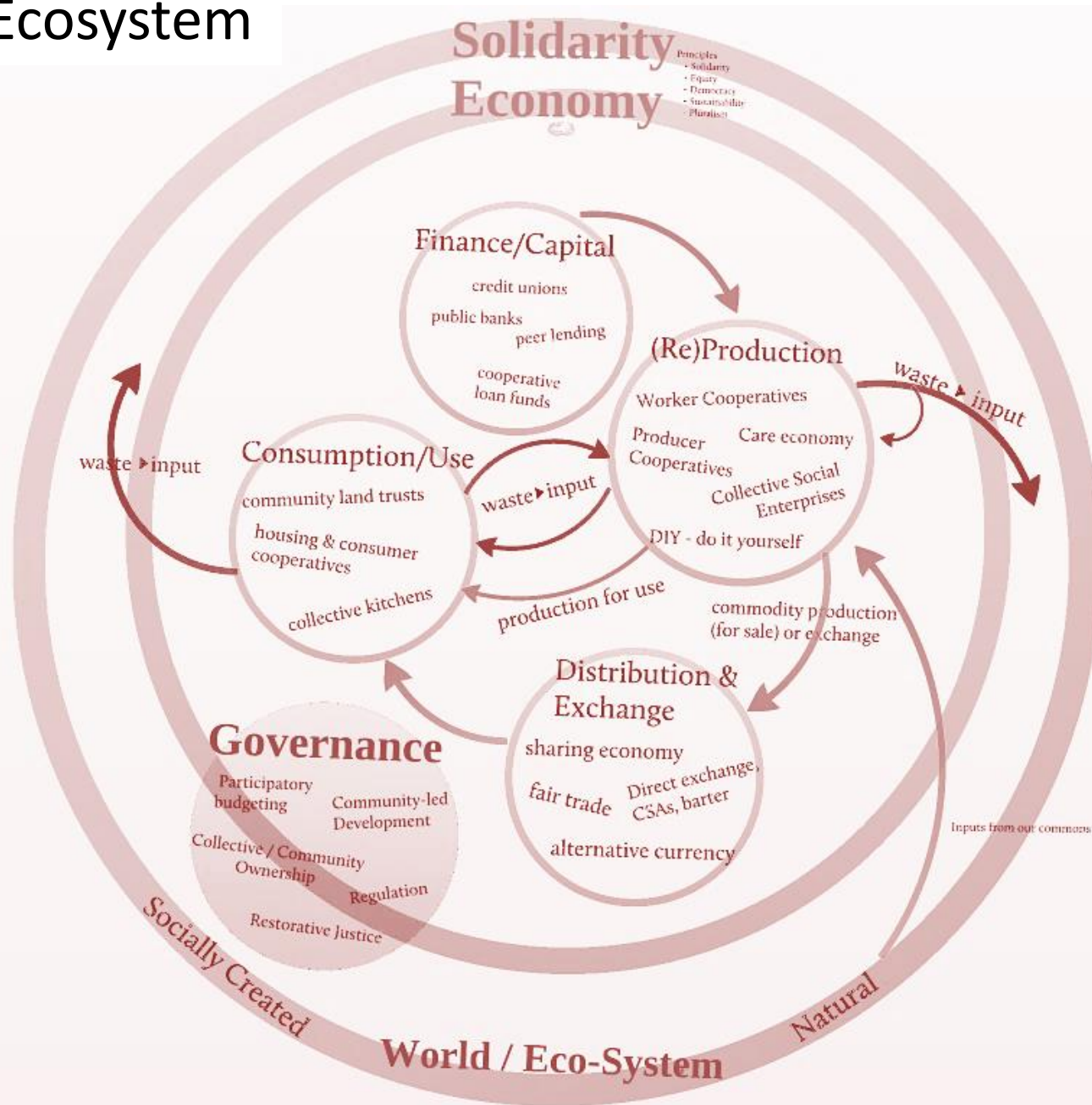
Buen Vivir / Vivir Bien

To plan the development of the nation, to eradicate poverty, and to promote sustainable development and the equitable distribution of resources and wealth, in order to attain **Buen Vivir** (Constitution of Ecuador)

Bolivia stands for the equality of all people, respecting the principles of sovereignty, dignity, subsidiarity, solidarity, harmony, and equity in the distribution and redistribution of social products. At the heart of these principles is the pursuit of **Vivir Bien** (Bolivian Constitution)

- **Alternative Development** "based on indigenous wisdom (harmony with nature + sharing among people)
- Well-Being as a Philosophy of Life (**Diversity**)
- Reject simple anthropocentrism as “inhuman”.
- The idea of **Conviviality** (Ivan Illich)
(Freedom of the individual realized in human interdependence)

The SSE Ecosystem



Social Solidarity Economy as a Movement

-A project of Alta-Globalization-

Social solidarity economy is a general term for **alternative movements** for a just and humane economy, with a focus on social economy and solidarity economy.

The movement calls for a total transformation of the local/national/global economic and social system, **with SSE actors playing a central role in the economic processes** of production, consumption and reproduction, exchange, redistribution, and investment.

➡ **Social transformation through the linkage of diverse economic actors**

“TSUNAGARU(つながる)” means linking, bridging, connecting...in Japanese

現代の理論

2019冬号

時代と切り結ぶ言論空間

特集1

つながる経済の現実と可能性

特集2

ポストアメリカーナ…逆流する国際社会



第1回 **つながる経済フォーラムちば**

つながる経済とは、法人種別や事業分野を超えて、企業と企業、企業と地域社会、企業で働く人たちが「つながり」、だれもが幸せになることをめざす経済活動をいいます。市場万能主義がもたらす格差・貧困の拡大をくいとめるためには、「企業活動は人間の幸福の実現のためにある」という原点に立ち返る必要があるのではないのでしょうか。今こそ、世界に広がりつつある、つながる経済（社会的連帯経済）を拡大する必要があります。

定員 **200名**
参加費 **無料**

日時 **2019年7月3日(水) 13:30 ▶ 16:30**
場所 **千葉大学法政経済学部棟 2F 206 教室**



“TSUNAGARU Economy”

The discussion of SSE in Japan began in earnest around 2018. During this time, the concept of “TSUNAGARU (Economy)” has been commonly used to refer to SSE by various commentators.

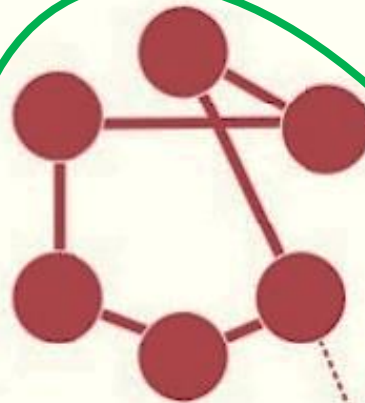
→Keywords for SSE in Japan

「TSUNAGARU (つながる)」

TSUNAGARU Economy

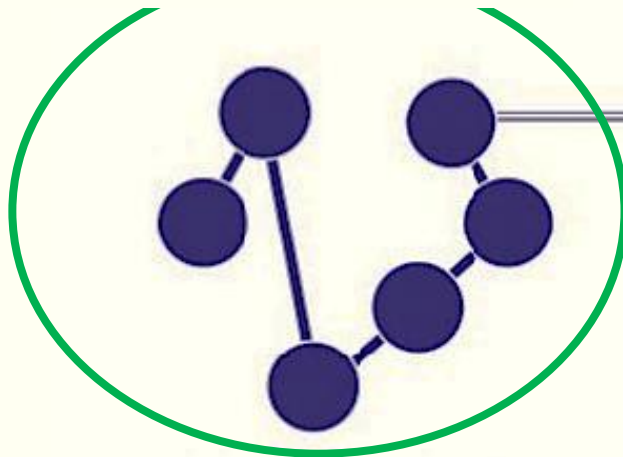
Linking Social Capital
across vertical gradients

People or entities with power or resources, such as government representatives, nongovernmental organizations or authority figures



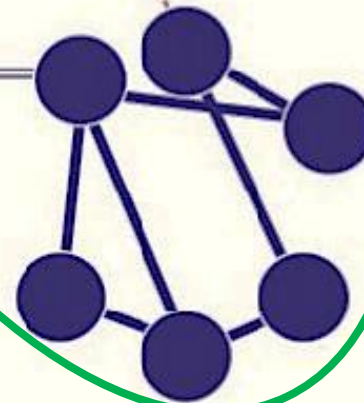
Necessary elements
for the future of the
SSE movement

The Cooperative Movement to Date



Bonding Social Capital
within networks

Connections to people like you,
such as family, relatives or kinship



Bridging Social Capital
between networks

Connections to people who are
not like you in some demographic
sense

The Effect of "Bridging" in RENGO Vision*

A Secure Society Based on Work – Protecting, Connecting, and Creating (Oct, 2019)

Bridge I Connect Education and Work

- Guarantee the opportunity for education to all children
- Free education
- Promote an inclusive education system to all children
- Promote incorporation of Labour Education into curriculum
- Enhance the education developed by solidarity and mutualism
- Improve an environment for smooth transition from education to employment
- Develop an environment where people can keep studying throughout life time

Bridge II Connect Life and Work

- Develop fair and just work rules, so that people can work for a long term
- Establish society in which people can select the ways of diversified workstyles and lifestyles
- Provide society-wide support system for children, child-care and nursing care
- Reform taxation, welfare and social security system neutral to genders and lifestyles, and ensure housing and health-care security

Bridge IV Connect Unemployment to Job Opportunities

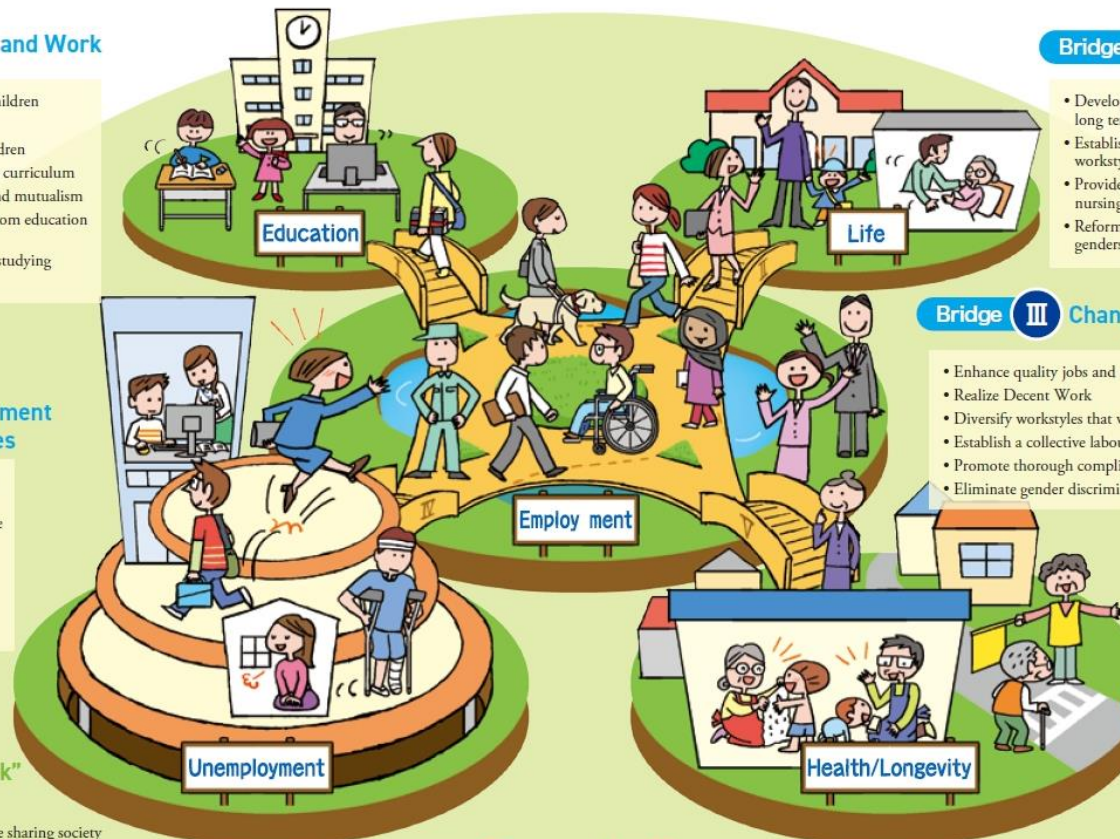
- Develop integrates strategies for job training, fair evaluation, and job matching
- Make employment insurance and social insurance available to all workers
- Enhance support for unemployed and less experienced workers
- Establish "Life Security Entitlements" system
- Secure housing and health care

Bridge III Change Workstyles

- Enhance quality jobs and realize full employment
- Realize Decent Work
- Diversify workstyles that workers can choose
- Establish a collective labour-management relations system corresponding to diversity
- Promote thorough compliance and develop work rules
- Eliminate gender discrimination, correct wage gap and realize gender equality

Bridge V Create Healthy and Longevous Society

- Develop a society that everyone can work throughout life time as they wish
- Ensure choices and access to wide-range of "work" such as social contributions
- Develop and spread secure and reliable income security system
- Promote medical and nursing care security for good health and longevity



Foundation

Support for "A Secure Society Based on Work"

- Establish a fair and reliable government
- Strengthen income redistribution system and realize sharing society
- Promote CSR to be carried out and deepen the "Productivity Movement"
- Create green and decent industries and jobs, and realize sustainable growth
- Prepare for natural disasters and develop local community for declined, super aging population with low birth rate

Foundation

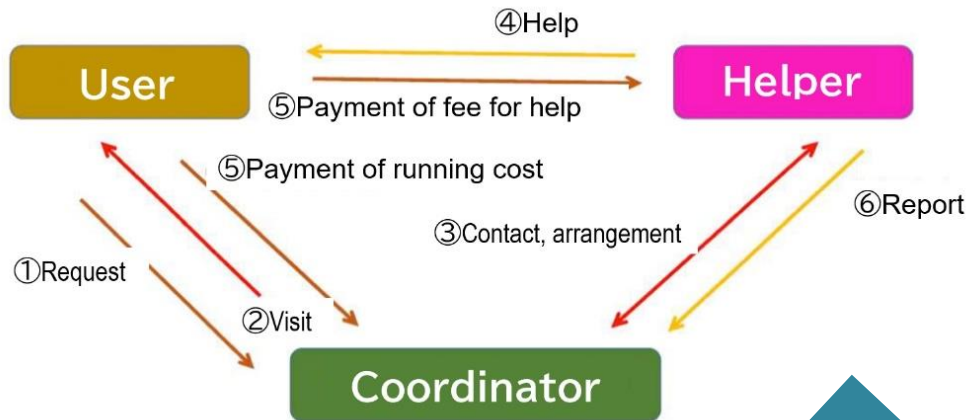
An attempt to reposition "Work" in whole society

*RENGO(The Japanese Trade Union Confederation) is the largest national trade union center in Japan, with almost 7million members.

Examples of Social Solidarity Economy in Japan (from the REPORT)

cooperative	Otagaisama (Shimane)	Returning to the roots of mutual aid - Social Economy transforms into Solidarity Economy.
	Workers' Co-ops	"Minna no Ouchi" (Everybody's house) - New guidelines to reverse the triple cooperation.
	Yana Marche and Yana Regional Chamber	Community building mainly by neighbours, starting with leveraging vacant shops in a depopulated region.
Alliance/ partnership	Japan Co-operative Alliance(JCA)	From Cooperative among Cooperatives to Cross-sectoral Partnerships. Support for the establishment of prefectural collaboration organizations in all 47 prefectures.
	Tokushima Prefectural Council of Workers' Welfare	Based on a labor union, its spirit "One Welfare" supports the life in the community.
	Bridging Economy Forum Chiba	Bridging local practices under the slogan of "Social and Solidarity Economy"
inclusiveness	Welfare Orchestra + Silver Wood	Creating added value by multiplication, restoring the original way of life by subtraction.
	Tokyo Schule, Tekisen University and Creative Group 440Hz	A pedagogical movement precisely by those who suffered the pain by themselves to redesign the society.
	Elder Consumers' Co-operative Aichi and Care Centre Homi	Possibility of New Coexistence at an aging multinational residential complex. 40% of residents are from overseas.
innovation	Ohsato General Management, Co., Ltd.	Spend 40% of your working time for community purpose : the key to success is eliminating any "barrier".
	Ama Town Multisector Co-operative	A new type of co-operative, an initiative tackled by a challenging island.
	Borderless Japan, Co., Ltd.	A new-age social business based on the traditional mutual help spirit.

【Lesson1】 Coordinate-only organization



Anytime
Anybody
Anything

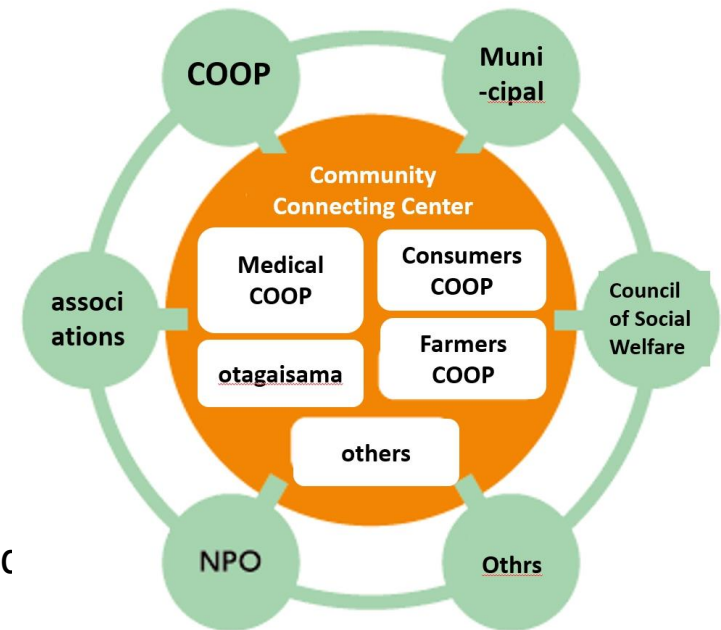
Break through any restrictions that cooperative have.

Start Small,
Grow big.

A lot of collaboration became permanent, and it was reorganized into a center organization.

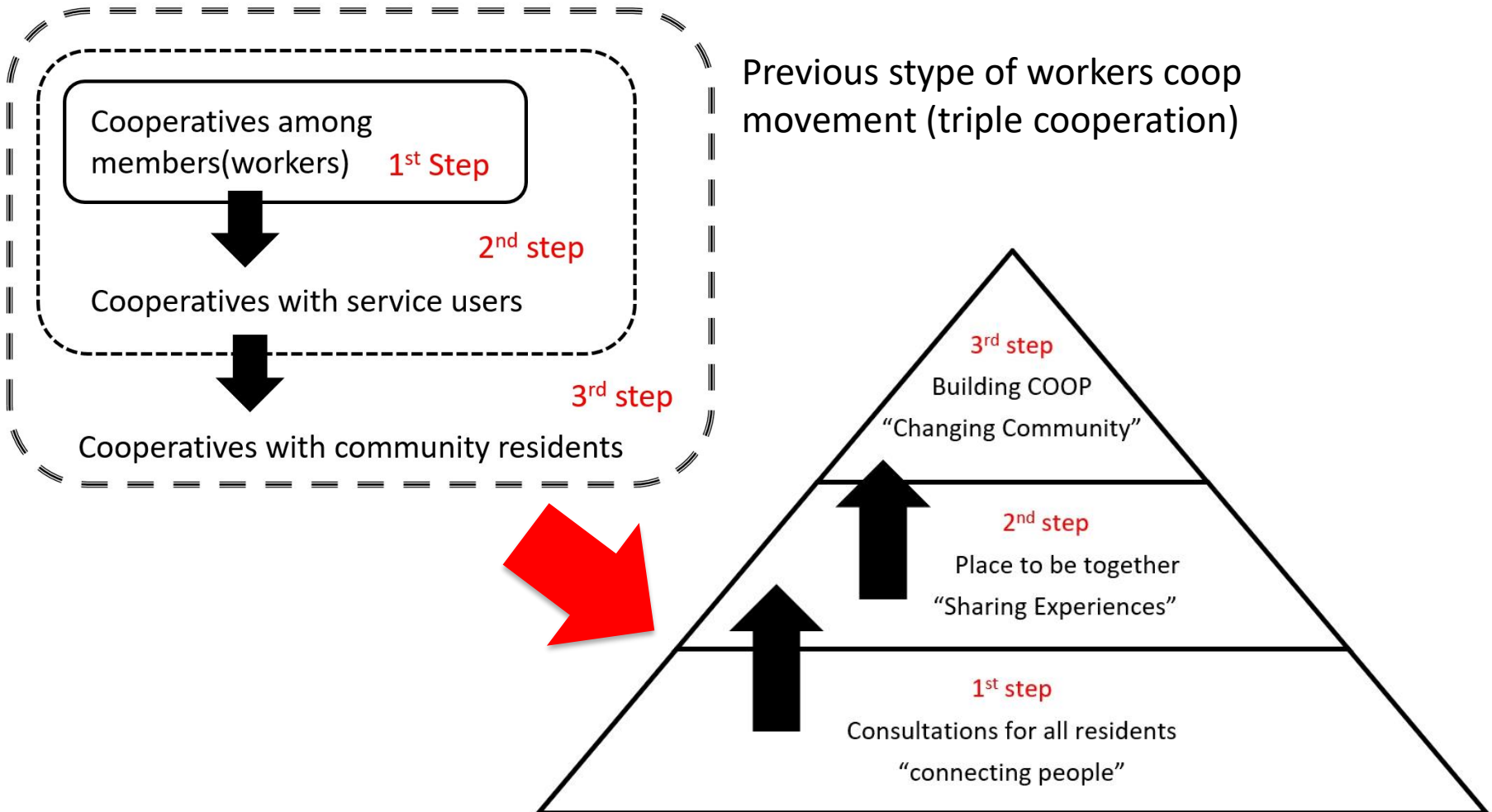
Spin out from the member activities of the Co-op. Launched as a solidarity economy with only a coordinating function.

➡ To be open to all, they chose to leave formal organization.



【Lesson2】

Centralizing connections with the community



Changing style of movement to connecting central

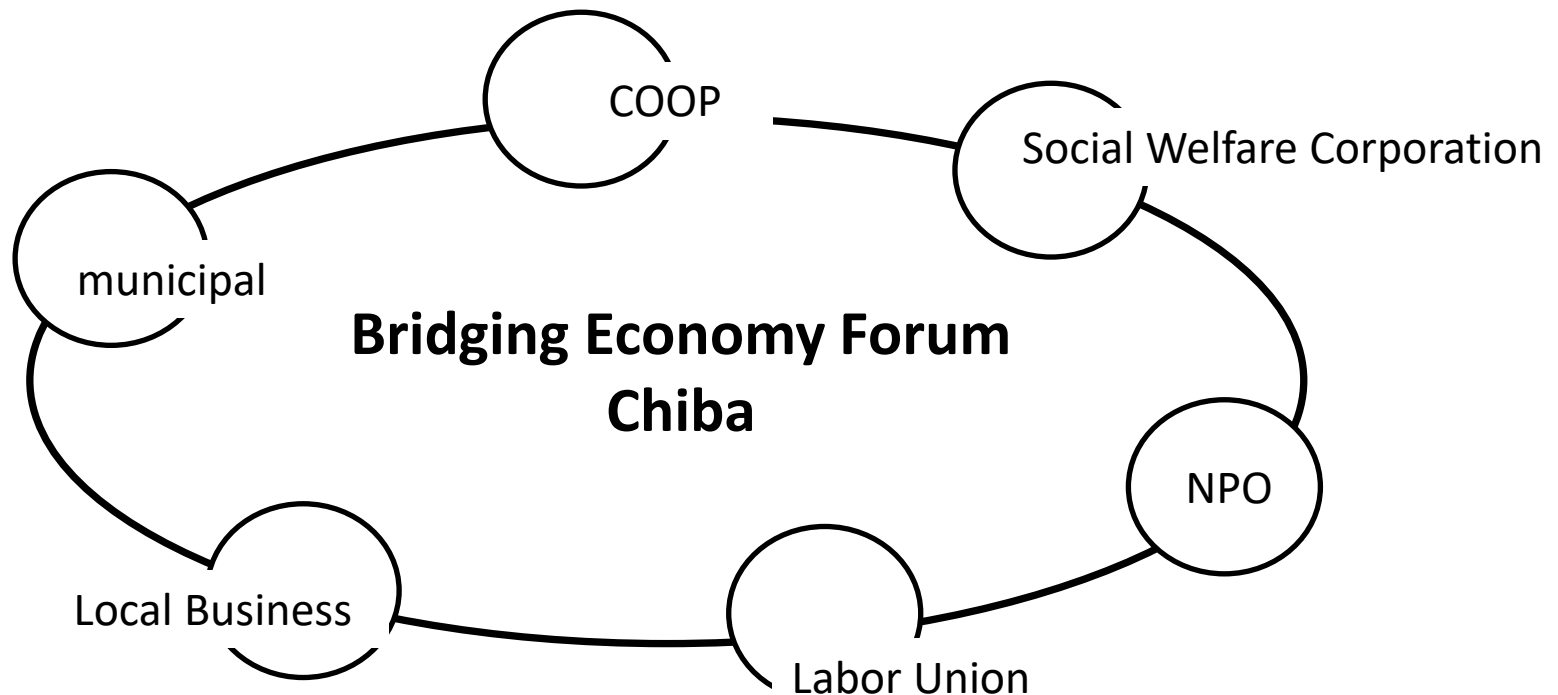
【Lesson3】 Japanese version of squatting



Community building started with the use of vacant stores by residents



【Lesson4】 Multi-agency Collaboration -building Platform-



Under the banner of SSE, various economic entities in the Chiba region will cooperate with each other. Conducting mutual study sessions and tours, and examining common issues.

【Lesson5】Fostering Civil Society

“citizen public-interest activities promotion ordinance”(Toyonaka City, Osaka)

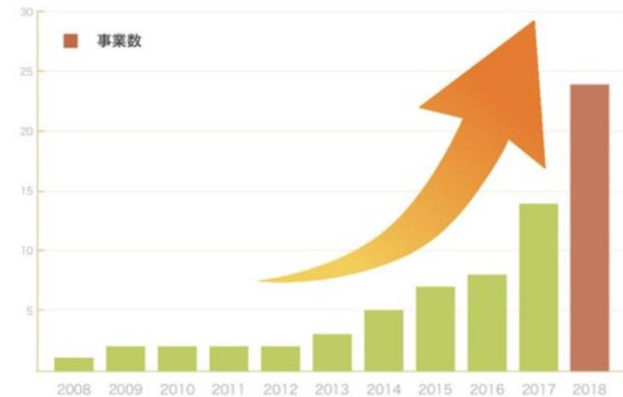
▣➡ Create a realm of citizens' autonomy where citizens themselves think and practice. “New Public” = reorganization of projects into three categories: governmental/citizens/collaboration between the two.

Ohsato General Management, Co., Ltd.

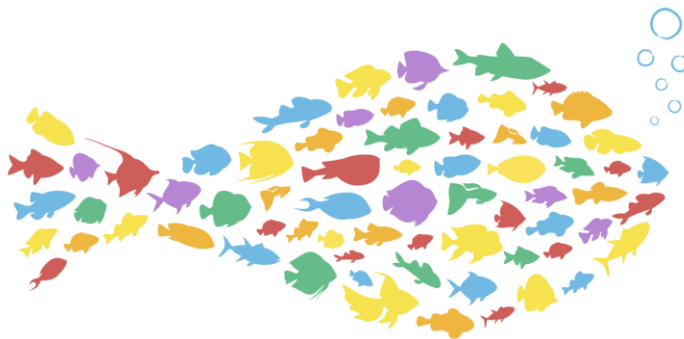
▣➡ Incorporate community activities into working hours (40%) and turn the company building itself into a community space where residents can come and go as they please.

(The company becomes a commons for the community.)

【Lesson6】 Small Business Changes the World (Borderless Japan, Co., Ltd.)



Toward the dream of establishing 100 social enterprises per year.

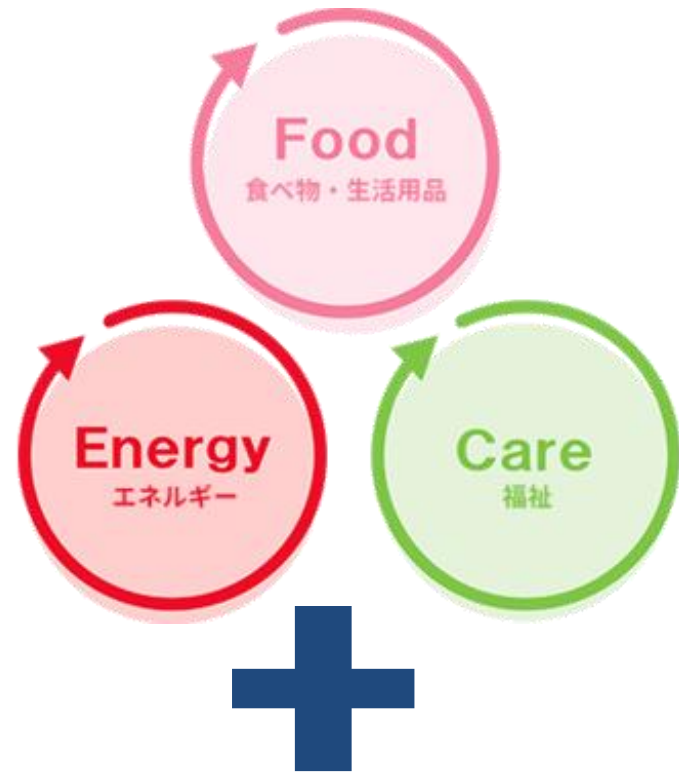


Like a “Swimmy”

Swimmy, a small black fish, confronts a big fish with the friends she meets.
(A Picture Book by Leo Lionni)

【Lesson7】 Decent Work

- Local Communities Supported by Cooperative Labor -



Work / Living / Money

FEC **self-sufficiency zone**

The concept of a circular economy in which the community is self-sufficient in food, energy, and welfare services



From self-sufficient to **symbiotic society**.

How are goods and services produced, supplied, and used?

The process reflects the nature of human life. (Buen Vivir)

In the next program, four of the organizations included in the case studies will each speak on the panel.

Introduction of panelists and organizations

Panel 1 - Linkages in the community

Ms. Mariko TOKORO, Chairperson, Ohsato Sogo Kanri Corporation

Panel 2 - Cooperation among cooperatives and other organizations

Mr. Yutaka AOTAKE, Executive Director, Japan Cooperative Alliance (JCA)

Panel 3 - Difficulties and needs in rural areas

Ms. Fumiko KANEMATSU, Executive Director, Tokushima Council of Workers' Welfare

Panel 4 - Social Enterprise Initiatives

Mr. Takahito TSUNEMI, Backup Studio, BORDERLESS JAPAN CORPORATION