



**PRESS RELEASE (2011/9/30)**

## Establishment of the first research center on social business in the world

「Yunus & Shiiki Social Business Research Center」 Opening Symposium Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### **Outline**

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, Kyushu University will establish the new “Yunus & Shiiki Social Business Research Center” (SBRC). This center, inspired by the ideas of Prof. Muhammad YUNUS (founder of the Grameen Bank, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize (2006), and Fukuoka Asia Culture Grand Prize (2001), Distinguished Professor of Kyushu University) will be established thanks to the generous donation for the first time in the world of M. Masakazu Shiiki, with the objective of work on Social Business.

This first worldwide SBRC's aim is research on all types of social business around the world focusing on the promotion and incubation of the Social Business ideas of Prof. Yunus.

This SBRC will also offer Comprehensive study/ Effective education method/ Incubation of social business through active cooperation / Enforcement of community exchange and information dispatch to the society / Regional (domestic and foreign) alliances activity in line to spread the idea of Social Business as solution to solve social problem such as poverty, natural disasters, welfare access, environment, food...

### **■Background: Kyushu University Social Business activities**

Kyushu University established the Grameen Creative Lab @ Kyushu University (GCL@ KU) in line to promote and incubate social business on March, 2010. In addition, Grameen Technology Lab Foundation (GTL) was established at Hakozaki Campus, Kyushu University on December 2010 with Prof. Muhammad Yunus as Trustee.

The same year, in July, GCL@KU invited Prof. Yunus in Japan and coordinated several symposiums and visits.

On July 2011, Prof. Yunus has been invited to the first Social Business Forum Asia 2011 (SBFA) to examine, with more than 150 global Social Business actors, any mid/long-term measures for the Survivors of East Japan Earthquake and support them to return to a normal and independent life with their dignity through the creation of self-reliable projects to recover, rebuild and reconnect their life on their feet.

The establishment of the SBRC, following 4 years of several activities and active agreements between various worldwide social business entities and Kyushu University, will spread the idea of Social Business, where Prof. Yunus is one of the main actor in this domain, while reinforcing the cooperation between domestic and international organizations, educational/research institutions, corporations, governments, NPO/NGO and individuals.

This July 2011 was also an important moment for Fukuoka City who has become the 2<sup>nd</sup> worldwide “Social Business City”, by signing the MOU between Prof. Yunus and the Mayor of Fukuoka City.

### **■Contents :**

#### **(1) Social Business Research and Core Education**

The SBRC, focusing on Prof. Yunus's Social Business ideas, aims to study all types of social business around the world as well to develop advanced curriculum in cooperation with international universities.

#### **(2) Community and local alliances on Social Business activities**

Fukuoka City as “Social Business City” will act as central player to strengthen cooperation with the community through SBRC local workshops in line to promote, incubate and create new businesses in

the region.

### **(3) Social Business Information dispatch, cooperation and exchange with domestic and international social business actors**

Thanks to a strong cooperation with domestic and foreign universities, the SBRC aims to act as an open social business hub and to organize global social business events. Through various social business-related event such as forum, workshop or symposium, strong partnership and network between domestic and foreign universities, companies, governments, NPO/NGO organizations will be created. Also, with the use of social media or the setting of on-line information exchange site, community information dispatch and interchange will be reinforced.

### **(4) Social Business Training Support**

Duties such as social business upbringing support will be offered at the Grameen Creative House, office building of the SBRC on Hakozaki Campus, Kyushu University.

#### **■Other:**

「Yunus & Shiiki Social Business Research Center」 Opening Symposium Announcement.

「Building a society without poverty」 —From a Social Business point of view—

●Date : Oct.14<sup>th</sup> 2011, 13:30~17:00

●Place : Kyushu University Hospital Campus 100<sup>th</sup> Memorial Auditorium

◎Keynote Speech :A.T. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka Buddhist movement founder)

◎Panelist Discussion ...

※Information

[http://gcl.kyushu-u.ac.jp/2011\\_10\\_14SBRCSymposium.html](http://gcl.kyushu-u.ac.jp/2011_10_14SBRCSymposium.html)

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