



## **ICJ and ISS achieve system linkage between their platforms for voting by domestic institutional investors for Japanese shareholder meetings**

TOKYO (Dec. 12, 2019) -- ICJ Inc. (ICJ), the one and only electronic proxy voting platform provider directly connecting investors to issuing companies in Japan, and Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (ISS), the leading provider of responsible investment and governance solutions to the global financial community, have achieved a system linkage between their electronic proxy voting platforms for voting by domestic institutional investors for Japanese meetings.

This system linkage has been established through a series of discussions among ICJ, ISS and related parties in response to a report by the Study Group on Promoting Electronification of Processes for Shareholder Meetings at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry dated April 21, 2016, that referred to, among other roadblocks, the lack of linkage between proxy voting platforms as one of major issues to overcome.

The linkage enables domestic institutional investors using ProxyExchange, ISS' platform, to convey voting instructions for shareholder meetings of issuers contracting with ICJ, to their transfer agents electronically via ICJ's platform. That makes cutoff dates for vote instructions closer to the meeting dates, allowing them a much longer period to review agenda proposals. The system linkage is also expected to streamline the workflow of the proxy voting process significantly.

"We are delighted to establish the system linkage with ISS," said Shigeo Imakiire, President of ICJ. "The number of issuers contracting with the ICJ platform has been increasing steadily in recent years and exceeded 1,000 in June this year. We hope that the enhanced convenience for domestic institutional investors by this system linkage, combined with the increase in the number of issuing participants, will help to further develop the electronification of the proxy voting process in Japan."

"ISS is pleased to establish the system linkage with ICJ," said Lorraine Kelly, Head of Governance Solutions at ISS. "With this linkage, domestic users of

ProxyExchange can streamline and accelerate the operational aspects of the voting process. ISS is always committed to enhancing the usability of ProxyExchange.”

**About ICJ** Founded in 2004, ICJ provides the proxy electronic voting platform service to encourage better communication between the overseas and domestic institutional investors and Japanese issuing companies. Total market value of ICJ participating issuers accounts for about 86% in the Japanese market. ICJ also provides market players with meeting agenda information, proxy voting solution and other vote simulation services. For more information, please visit [www.icj.co.jp](http://www.icj.co.jp).

**About ISS** Founded in 1985, the Institutional Shareholder Services group of companies (“ISS”) empowers investors and companies to build for long-term and sustainable growth by providing high-quality data, analytics, and insight. Comprised of seven discrete business lines and class-action claims management that is provided by Securities Class Action Services, LLC, ISS is today the world’s leading provider of corporate governance and responsible investment solutions, market intelligence and fund services, and events and editorial content for institutional investors and corporations, globally. Clients rely on ISS’ expertise to help them make informed investment decisions. For more information, please visit [www.issgovernance.com](http://www.issgovernance.com).