



August, 2016

Dr. John Beard
Director
Department of Ageing and Life Course
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Dr. John Beard

Busan Metropolitan City is the second largest city in Korea and a beautiful tourist city lying next to the ocean. However, the city has the fastest aging population in Korea. Among the seven major cities in the nation, Busan has the largest share of the population aged 65 and over, and the city is projected to enter into a super-aged society with the size of this population surpassing 20 percent in 2022, and 30 percent in 2030.

As such, under the notion that addressing an aging population wisely is the most important task for the further development of Busan, we have come up with various measures regarding this, including the announcement of Busan Vision 2020 for Aging Population in 2011. I firmly believe that an aging population is not a problem limited to one single country, but a global issue requiring unity and cooperation across the globe, so during my mayoral election campaign in 2014, I pledged that Busan would join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

To that end, we estimated Busan's age-friendliness based on the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide and established Busan Age-Friendly City Guidelines, consisting of 8 categories, 23 goals and 44 strategies.



In 2016, based on the opinions of more than 2,000 senior citizens and experts and with cooperation from 14 related departments in the city, we established Busan's 3-year Action Plan for Senior Citizens consisting of 8 categories and 59 action plans, which can serve as a blueprint for welfare policy for the elderly in Busan.

In addition, in order to monitor the implementation of the Action Plans, we launched the Super-Senior Policy Advisory Group consisting of 100 senior citizens, from which we collect opinions and suggestions regarding senior welfare policy and conduct periodic review and monitoring.

Busan Metropolitan City is fully geared up to join the membership of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities and it is our great hope to have the privilege of becoming a member of the Network. We in Busan Metropolitan City will continue to put our utmost effort into establishing a city livable for not only senior citizens, but all our citizens through active cooperation with the members of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Suh Byung-soo

Mayor of Busan Metropolitan City

Republic of Korea

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suh Byung-soo", is written over the printed name of the Mayor.