

Dear all concerned with WHO GNAFC,

As we reach the threshold of an aging world, I would like to express my deep respect for your efforts toward international cooperation and response.

Valued above all else on Jeju is coexistence alongside clean nature. We try to promote both for a sustainable future, harmonizing nature, culture and people. Jeju is a place which has received a lot of global attention. UNESCO designated Jeju as a Biosphere Reserve, World Natural Heritage Site, and a Global Geopark. In addition, Jeju haenyeo which means women divers were listed as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity last year. In response to the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Jeju is trailblazing toward our new future as a carbon-free smart city with the Green Big Bang project as well.

Jeju is an island of healing more than anything else. Many people heal themselves and boost their energy for life in the nature and culture of Jeju. Jeju is also known as the island of longevity thanks to its healthy environment and culture. The oldest haenyeo still diving for a living is 90 years old. The oldest player in the Jeju longevity soccer club for the elderly is 91 years old. Likewise, age is no barrier for the many elderly people who are living active and meaningful lives in Jeju.

However, it is also true that there is growing concern over the low birth rate and the rapidly aging society. Jeju is marked by both the relative speed of its aging society and also its high life expectancy by global standards.

Therefore, one of Jeju's most important tasks is to create a province that fosters happier and healthier lives for the elderly. Over time, Jeju has made every effort to generate an environment for the elderly to enjoy their lives. Such efforts include establishing the Jeju Aging Society Research Center to develop a Jeju-specific elderly welfare policy; launching the Jeju Aging Society Forum; enacting the senior-friendly ordinance for elderly welfare; operating a monitoring team to establish and maintain age-friendly Jeju and more.

Most of all, the vision of Jeju smart-city is to create a future city where all generations can happily coexist as part of the impending Fourth Industrial Revolution. Furthermore, Jeju has been preparing to join WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Community since 2011 to implement a more scientific and systematic model on Jeju.

We hope to progress to the future together with you as an official partner. Given the opportunity, we pledge to contribute to the development of an age-friendly city as one of the WHO family.

Yours sincerely,



Won, Hee-ryong

Governor, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province