



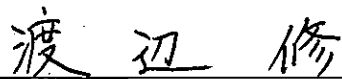
Minamiashigara City
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Dr. John Beard
Director of the department of Ageing and Life Course
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Beard,

It is great pleasure for us to write this letter that supports the process required for Minamiashigara City to join the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Here we send the mayor's letter which assures Minamiashigara City's commitment to the process. We look forward to Minamiashigara City joining the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and working together with WHO.

Sincerely,



Osamu Watanabe
Director, Elderly Care Division
Minamiashigara City

Dr. John Beard
Director of the Department of Ageing and Life Course
World Health Organization

Dear Dr. Beard,

The declining of the birth rate and the aging of the population are rapidly advancing in Japan. And in Minamiashigara City, the percentage of the population aged 65 and over exceeds 30% in 2017.


By collaborating with citizens, Minamiashigara City is endeavoring to create regional ties and a system that encourage people to support each other in their community organizations, so that our citizens can continue to live a healthy and independent life in the city. Also, we are promoting measures, with citizens, communities and administration working together, to establish a system that provides medical, nursing care, prevention, housing and life support in a comprehensive manner.

In order to accelerate our efforts and to raise international awareness of Minamiashigara City's advanced programs, I agree with WHO values and approach to creating age-friendly cities and communities, and assure that Minamiashigara City, which has sectors implementing welfare programs and services for the elderly, will commit to an approach consistent with the WHO four steps to create age-friendly environments and to participating in the global network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

I also commit myself to making Minamiashigara City more age-friendly, based on a basic philosophy of "a city where the elderly can live safe, fulfilling lives in their familiar communities."

Sincerely,

August 17, 2017


_____, Mayor
Minamiashigara City