



Matsuda Town
2037 Matsudasouryou
Matsuda Town, Ashigarakami County
Kanagawa Prefecture 258-0003 Japan
Phone +81-456-83-1221

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 Matsuda Town to join the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Here we send the mayor's letter which assures Matsuda Town's commitment to the process.

We look forward to Matsuda Town joining the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and working together with WHO.

Sincerely,

Atsushi Takeuchi
Director, Welfare Division
Matsuda Town

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

Dear Dr. Beard,

Japan is the most rapidly ageing country in the world and Matsuda Town's share of the population aged 65 and over has reached 31.3% in October 2015 and is estimated to exceed 40% in 2030.

Under the circumstances, we are endeavoring to build a community-based integrated care system that enables total services for seniors including medical and nursing care, preventive nursing care, housing and life support, so that they can continue to live in their hometown independently as long as they can.

In order to accelerate our efforts and raise international awareness of Matsuda Town's advanced programs, I agree with WHO values and approach to creating age-friendly cities and communities, and also I assure that Matsuda Town, 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 to participating in the global network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

I also commit myself to making Matsuda Town more age-friendly, based on a basic principle of "a town full of cheer, tenderness and respect to seniors."

Sincerely,

August 28 , 2017

Hiroyuki Motoyama, Mayor
Matsuda Town