



Hakone Town

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Ashigarashimo County

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

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

Sincerely,

Shuichi Iwata

Shuichi Iwata
Director, Welfare Division
Hakone Town

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

Dear Dr. Beard,

Japan is the most ageing country in the world, and Hakone Town is not an exception to this trend. As of May 31, 2017, the town's population ratio of people aged 65 and over is 35.7% (and 43.21% of over 60). In 2020 the ratio of over 65 is estimated to exceed 37%.

To cope with this trend, Hakone Town has implemented various projects collaborating with local communities so that older people can age in place, can live a long and healthy life in their town.


We are also establishing a community-based integrated care system which provides the elderly with medical and nursing care, prevention, housing and living support in an integrated manner when they become in need of support.

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

I also commit myself to making Hakone Town more age-friendly, by realizing a society where the older people can enjoy healthy, safe and active lives and receive appropriate support in an environment fit for their individual status and needs.

Sincerely,

August 22, 2017

 , Mayor

Hakone Town