



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

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

Sincerely,

大野真伸

Masanobu Ohno
Director, Nursing Care Division
Yugawara Town

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

Dear Dr. Beard,

Japan is ageing at an unprecedented rate in the world and now is the most advanced ageing country. In Yugawara Town, the proportion of people aged 65 and over is estimated to be 47.9% in 2025.

Yugawara Town is implementing various measures so that people in the town can continue to live safely in their familiar place as long as possible. For example, we are promoting projects of nursing care prevention for the active elderly. We are also developing a system that enable the elderly in need of care to live an independent daily life according to their capacity.


It is expected that the number of the elderly living alone, the elderly-only households and the elderly with dementia will increase. Thus we have promoted to establish a community-based integrated care system that provides the elderly in need of support with nursing care, medical care, prevention, life support and housing in a comprehensive manner, collaborating with citizens as well as healthcare, medical and welfare professionals in the community.

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

I also commit myself to making Yugawara Town more age-friendly, based on a basic philosophy of "Creating a town where the elderly can feel safe and fulfilment."

Sincerely,

August 23, 2017


Yugawara Town Mayor