



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

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

Sincerely,

植田 竜一郎

Ryuichiro Hida
Director, Policy General Section, Policy Department
Yamato City

Yamato City Hall

24 August 2017

WHO Ageing and Life-Course Department,
Zurich, Switzerland

Dear sirs and madams,

With great honor, I hereby submit this letter to support the process required for our application to your global network.

In 2009, at its 50th year memorial, we made “Healthy City Yamato” Declaration. Then we started our 10 year strategy, “The 8th Total City Plan.” The declaration and the plan expressed our aim of developing a healthy city in accordance with the WHO Healthy City concept. Since then, we have been promoting three health in all of our policies, Healthy People, Healthy City and Healthy Community, through all of our 1,000 projects.

Last November, we have participated your “Healthy Ageing and Future Cities” Parallel Session in the Healthy City Mayor International Forum in the WHO 9th Global Conference of Health Promotion in Shanghai. In the session, I found that Healthy City Yamato shared a wide range of agendas, policies and experiences with cities of the WHO Age Friendly Cities Global Network. With this experience in mind, we decided to apply to join your network. I can assure that we are committed to implement the age-friendly approach in our city in consistent manner with the values and principles of the WHO.

As a healthy city, we have already established several programs related to the core age-friendly features. Concerning the transportation, for example, we have expanded our community mini-bus service to the congested residential areas, in where community bus service had not been available. The new networks have greatly helped elders to go out.

On the respect and social inclusion, we have made the “Yamato does not call 60s as elders declaration” (2014) and the “Yamato prepares for the future with 10,000 dementia patients declaration.” The former expressed our determination to fight the ageism; the latter, our determination to foster better understanding of dementia and better cooperation to support the patients and their families

On the community support and health service, we have established home visit and guidance programs by public health nurses and registered dietitians for elders with high frail risks.

Our programs and projects related to the age-friendly city are based on the 3 year plan, "The Yamato Plan for the Health and Welfare of Elders and Long-Term Care." The plan assesses and manages the PDCA cycle for the programs and projects. This plan would be the basis of our Age-Friendly City Plan we are to submit your network in 2018. Our four steps to create age-friendly environments would also be based on the plan, with necessary amendments be made.

In our years as a healthy city, we have developed a system for the healthy city project, including the Healthy City Promotion Unit in the Policy Department. With three staffs and annual budget of about 2 million yen, the unit has successfully promoted healthy city projects in coordination with several departments within the city hall internally and communal, prefectural, national, international, academic and private sectors externally. We also have intra-city hall and citizen healthy city conferences. I believe that this system would also work well in our development of the age-friendly city.

As a member of your network, we wish to collaborate actively with other members of the network with the vision of developing age-friendly city programs and projects to make our city friendly and inclusive of citizens of all age.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor Satoru Oki
Yamato, Japan