

The City of Nonsan  
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Chungcheongnamdo,  
South Korea  
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Dr. John Beard  
Director of the Dep. 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 the City of Nonsan to join WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Here we send the mayor's letter which assures Nonsan City's commitment to the process.

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

Yours Sincerely,

박용규

Youngkyu Park  
Director, Division of Health and Welfare  
Nonsan City

Dear Dr. Beard,

The declining of the birth rate and the aging of the population are rapidly advancing in South Korea. Nonsan city has become an aged municipality in 2007, when the ratio of elderly population, 65 years and over, reached 14.2%. As of the end of March 2018, the ratio of elderly population reached 22.9%, which equaled to 28,764 persons. This is the highest ratio among the municipalities in South Chungcheong Province. In addition to the rapid growth of the proportion of elderly population, Nonsan city has a relatively high ratio of the low-income class elderly. Nonsan city is especially in need of an age-friendly environment.

For the elderly in deed of support, Nonsan city is preparing to be a proud member of WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and has been building networks to allow the elderly to contribute to the growth of local community, to create the urban infrastructure for that will make the life of elderly more comfortable and to become a local community where everyone lives in harmony.

In order to accelerate our efforts and raise international awareness of Nonsan city's initiatives, I agree with WHO values and approach to creating age-friendly cities, and assure that Nonsan city, which has sectors implementing welfare programs and service 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.

The 'WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities' is a great opportunity for Nonsan city to achieve my goals. I would like to learn the best practices of other cities, so that I can apply them to Nonsan city with appropriate modifications and improvements to create a 'Happy City whose citizens enjoy healthy and active lives of up to 100 years.'

I also would like to commit myself to make Nonsan city more age-friendly, based on the principle, "Nonsan, a city where the elderly feel proud of themselves, take part in the social activities and share their experiences; the young respect the elderly; and the young and the old live in harmony."

Yours Sincerely,



Hwang, Myeong-seon

Mayor of Nonsan City

Nonsan City, Chungnam Province, Republic of Korea