

November, 2019

Dr. John Beard

Director

Department of Aging and life Course, World Health Organization

Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Dr. John Beard

Chilgok-gun is a dynamic city that combines youth with the elderly located in Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea. Korea is now an aging society, and our region is no exception to this aging society. As of 2018, Chilgok-gun has 14.0 percent share of the population aged 65 and over, and the city is projected to enter into a super-aged society with the size of this population surpassing 18.5 percent in 2025, and 22.8 percent in 2030.

As such, I think dealing wisely with the aging population is a very important task for the development of Chilgok. I am the governor who was elected three times by popular vote, I presented a vision of "Chilgok for the comfort of the elderly," and promoted administration for the socially disadvantaged as a countermeasure. In particular, I chose one of the election pledges to elect a county head in Chilgok-gun in 2018 as an aged-friendly city certification. I believe that building an aged-friendly city will have a positive impact on the general public as well as the elderly. Finally, I was elected the governor of Chilgok, and immediately promoted the creation of an elderly-friendly city. First of all, we promoted legislation on the creation of Chilgok-gun aging-friendly city. It was established by ordinance in the Chilgok County council in December 2018.

I think Chilgok has to join the WHO Global Affinity City because I think it's more effective for the world to work together on the problem of aging and to find a solution.

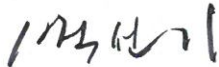
After the enactment of the Act on the Establishment of an Aging Friendly City in Chilgok County, we prepared to join WHO Global Friendly City in earnest. Based on WHO's World Aging City Guide from July to October 2019, we have set guidelines for the establishment of an aged-friendly city. First of all, we assessed the elderly relationship of Chilgok-gun through survey, and conducted FGI for the general citizens' group and the expert group for the senior citizens' group, and we received monitoring for the results. Therefore, we estimated Chilgok's age-friendliness based on the WHO Global Age-Friendly cities and established Chilgok Age-Friendly City guidelines, consisting of 8 categories, three goals, and 35 strategies. In all of these processes, the senior citizens' groups, the main characters of the aged-friendly city, actively participated in the project to ensure a more practical business is carried out.

Chilgok-gun has made all the arrangements to join the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communications. And I sincerely hope to have the authority to become a member of the network. I will create a safe and happy urban environment for the elderly in Chilgok County, and I will do my best to improve the quality of life for the citizens.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Baek, Sun-ki



the governor of Chilgok-gun, Gyeongsangbuk-do

Republic of Korea