2584 Nambusunhwan-ro, Seocho-gu, Seoul (Zip. 06750), Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-22155-6114

## December 2019

WHO Headquarters in Geneva

ATTN: WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

Avenue Appia 20 1202 Geneva

Telephone: +41-22-7912111

RE: Agreement for Accreditation of WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is my pleasure to express our respect and support to the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC), the group striving to solve problems associated with the world's rapidly aging population.

Seocho-gu has a population of about 450,000, of which 55,000 are aged 65 or older, accounting for 13% of the total. Accordingly, Seocho-gu is enacting ordinances for an increasing number of senior citizens to provide a variety of welfare services and to make a city where seniors can live.

T.S. Eliot tells the story of an old lady in the titular word of the Wasteland. A long-lived woman who is allowed to live long but does not receive the youth of her, was asked, "What is your wish?" and repliedes, "I want to die." This is a universal groan for seniors who are old without preparation. If you don't have enough health and life, the era of Homo Hundred would be just a disaster, not a blessing.

The empathetic approach for these seniors was a starting point in Seocho-gu to be an elderly-friendly city. Seocho-gu, for example, operates a variety of cultural programs for the healthy and enjoyable lives of seniors, and also helps them to enjoy economic leisure through job programs. Besides, we are conducting a "Smart Senior" education project to prevent the elderly from becoming marginalized digitally in the fourth industrial revolution.

As part of its effort, Seocho-gu has conducted the "Age-Friendliness Survey" this year, establishing the "3-year Action Plan" to be an aged-friendly city. Furthermore, we expect senior citizens to actively participate in planning and provide their opinions that would be a valuable addition the policy. Not only the ward office but also professional groups, related organizations, and private companies would have conference to discuss and create a more meaningful elderly-friendly city action plan.

For the all going reasons, Seocho-gu, would like to have a chance to interact with other wisdom cities around the world who are interested in aging and urbanization. We hope to join the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities to share information and policies of Seocho-gu, as well as actively interact with other cities for the improvement of happier for older people in the community.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and we look forward to joining the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities in Seocho-gu for an excellent opportunity to grow together with Seocho-gu and all other member cities. Thank you for your consideration in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Eun Hee Cho

Mayor of Seocho-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea