



CHANGWON CITY

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May 25, 2020

Department of Ageing and Life-Course (ALC)
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Director of the WHO GNAFCC,

I would like to express my appreciation for your hard work and efforts to make an age-friendly city.

Changwon, located on the southern coast of South Korea, is an eco-friendly metropolitan city with a population of 1.05 million and has an industrial infrastructure. Changwon became the first Korean city to become a member of the WHO Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) in 2004 and has promoted various policies to ensure citizens can fully demonstrate their abilities in the community while improving the health status of the citizens through actions focusing on health promotion.

Today, the rapid trend toward an aging society will officially make Changwon an Aged Society in the second half of 2020 and a Super-Aged Society by 2026. We have promoted many welfare policies to respond to aging-related needs and preferences. Now, we are striving to further meet the needs of our senior citizens and to promote healthy and active aging and a good quality of life for our senior citizens. We will also make an active effort to create a city environment where all generations can live and co-exist happily, regardless of age.

As part of our efforts, we assessed our age-friendliness referencing the WHO Guide for Global Age-friendly Cities, and collected citizens' and experts' opinions, to establish strategy tasks to create an Age-Friendly Changwon in 2019. A total of three age-friendly action plans were developed in cooperation with 17 departments in Changwon City Hall. The selected plan consists of 8 categories, 12 goals, and 38 strategies. This plan is expected to serve as a guide for Changwon to become an age-friendly city within the next three years. We will make a policy monitoring group composed of experts and citizens to regularly monitor the progress of the



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action plan and to reflect the opinions of various citizens. We will do our best to create an age-friendly Changwon through communication with citizens.

To that end, Changwon hopes to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities to work collaboratively with international communities and to find and implement appropriate solutions to solve social challenges that will arise with an aging population.

Through cooperation with global network members, we promise to do our best to make our community a great place to grow old.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success and well-being, and for the prosperity of WHO.

Respectfully submitted,

허성무

Huh Sungmoo

Mayor of Changwon, Republic of Korea