

## **Dear WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

Seongdong-Gu is a representative central city of Seoul, the capital city of the republic of Korea, pursuing the happiness of all 300,000 inhabitants.

The goal and core value of the city is to realize 'Smart Inclusive City', where all the inhabitants live more comfortably without anyone being alienated.

This is relevant to the visions of Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, which aims to create an urban environment where the citizens of all the generations, including the elderly, can live together.

In April 2020, the number of people aged 65 and over in Seongdong-Gu is 44,000, which is about 14.9% of the entire population, meaning that the city has already entered the aged society.

It is the time to spur the creation of a comfortable city environment so that all the citizens, including the elderly, can lead physically, emotionally and socially healthy lives in preparation for the aging of population.

For this reason, Seongdong-Gu is trying its best to build a foundation of an age-friendly city by establishing '3 year plan for an age-friendly city', which reflects the opinions and demands of the elderly, and by enacting 'the ordinance on the creation of an age-friendly city in Seongdong-Gu, Seoul' .

Also, the public-private partnership Task Force Team consisting of hands-on workers and experts from each department is formed to faithfully carry out the above plans while seniors are encouraged to participate in the vision sharing and implementation process through regular monitoring.

Preparing measures to optimize the seniors' policy participation, health, safety and so forth, and establishing a legal and institutional infrastructure means a lot that Seongdong-Gu has passed the important gateway to an age-friendly city.

In addition to this, Seongdong-Gu dreams of **'SMART 100-year-old inclusive city where everyone enjoys happiness'**.

By establishing 5 strategic objectives, which are to create 'SMART 100-year-old inclusive city, standing for **Sustainable, Mobile, Active, Residential and Together**, Seongdong-Gu not only wishes to support seniors' actively aging, but also to create a local community that realizes it.

As the city keeps developing as an age-friendly city now, we are confident that joining the WHO age-friendly Global Network is an indispensable issue and will be a great opportunity for further growth.

Moreover, the 8 domains of age-friendly cities provided by WHO will be a reference point for improving the lives of each inhabitant such as children, adolescents, women and the disabled as well as seniors. Active exchange and communication among the member cities of the age-friendly network will also be a stimulus for the development of excellent policies.

Seongdong-Gu hopes to cooperate and harmonize with age-friendly network, and will do its best for successful settlement and spread of an age-friendly city.

We hope that there will be closer ties between WHO age-friendly Global Network and Seongdong-Gu.

Thank you.

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The Mayor of Seongdong-Gu

Chong, Won-O

