

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to express my deep respect and thanks to the WHO which is pursuing a healthy and happy life for the elderly around the world and operates the Age-Friendly City and Communities Network.

Tongyeong-city is a famous marine tourism city located on the southernmost coast of South Korea, and it is a medium-sized city with a population of about 130,000. It includes a beautiful natural environment and various traditional cultures that have been inherited throughout the long history of the city.

As of the end of September 2020, the proportion of the elderly aged 65 or older in our city reached 19.3%, and the proportion of the elderly population is rapidly increasing by more than 1% each year, therefore we expect to enter a super-age society of more than 20% by 2022.

Our city has been implementing various policies for the better welfare of the elderly, however, we still need more countermeasures for the future worldwide Age-Friendly City trends. We expect that WHO's great enrollment of the "Age-Friendly City and Communities Network" would satisfy such our expectations.

In July, 2019, our city worked with the city council to enact an ordinance on Age-Friendly City and Communities and conducted research project on the creation of age-friendly cities during last five months.

First of all, we surveyed about 800 residents based on eight areas presented by the WHO's Age-Friendly City Guidelines and conducted FGI for age-friendly diagnosis with a group of experts.

In addition to survey project and expert group FGI, the committee for the creation of the Age-Friendly City and Communities was organized as a official task force team and a civilian group for the institutional support, and the implementation plan for the Age-Friendly City and Communities(2021-2023).

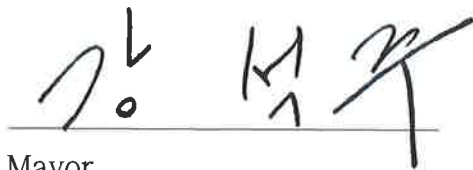
Our city has set the vision of an Age-Friendly City and Communities as “100 years old city, land of the sea-Tongyeong“. With the three major priorities, such as creating a convenient and safe infrastructures, creating a happy community, and a healthy old life, we would like to take a step toward the better future with WHO’s Age-Friendly City and Communities Network.

In line with the WHO’s guidelines, our city will develop and implement urban policies that are appropriate for the aging of citizens, will also create a city that is good for all citizens to live their whole lives, and will also pursue our best effort in reorganizing and redesigning the physical and social environment.

We are very pleased to apply for the designation of the WHO’s Age-Friendly City Communities Network.

Best Regards,

November, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Korean characters, positioned above a horizontal line.

Mayor,

Tongyeong-City, South Korea

Kang Seokju