

## City of Hwasun-gun, South Korea hope to join the 2nd Age-Friendly City Network

Dear WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities!

This is Gu Bokgyu, Mayor of Hwasun-gun.

First of all, I would like to express my deepest respect and gratitude to you who are dedicated to resolving generational conflicts and inequalities caused by global population aging and urbanization, and to realizing a society where everyone lives well together.

As a member city of the first Age-friendly city network, Hwasun-gun eagerly hopes to join the second Age-friendly city network to continuously pursue the energetic life and the happiness of the local senior population of Hwasun-gun.

Hwasun-gun is an important inland city in the southwestern part of the Republic of Korea and is neighbouring a metropolitan and agricultural complex Gwangju Metropolitan City. The city has an excellent transportation infrastructure connecting to large cities, houses the only designated vaccine industrial zone in South Korea, possesses top-tier medical infrastructure, and is dedicated to improve the quality of life of the city residents.

Hwasun-gun's aging rate has already reached 20.73% in 2011, and as of December 2023, it has increased again to 29.48% entering a super-aged society. The municipal government of Hwasun-gun and Hwasun-gun residents pledge to together make utmost efforts to make a more comfortable and safer Age-friendly city.

As a member city of the 1<sup>st</sup> WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, Hwasun-gun has been gradually transforming itself into a true Age-friendly city by vigorously carrying out the three-year (2021-2023) action plan.

Hwasun-gun has been striving to build a city that supports the active aging of the elderly, faithfully following the WHO's Age-friendly environment creation cycle system. In particular, we continue to carry out various policies such as improving transportation convenience for the elderly, expanding job opportunities for the elderly, and providing leisure activity opportunities for the elderly, setting an example for other cities in South Korea.

Hwasun-gun is making a step forward as an Age-friendly city by successfully implementing the 1<sup>st</sup> three-year acting plan. The city adopted a catchphrase for the second generation Age-friendly city, "A kind, happy, and future city of Hwasun for everyone." Specifically, we adopted five major goals: a participation city full of energy, a communication city serving the elderly, a healing city for everyone, a caring city to stay, and a safe, pleasant, and charming city.

Hwasun-gun has participated the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly cities and communities since 2021 and has faithfully implemented the first action plan. As it is our wish to make a city where all generations live in harmony in the future, we would like to share our experiences and information with other member cities of the Network and actively solve community problems about aging through the second action plan in 2024.

Hwasun-gun Mayor and Hwasun-gun residents hereby submit our application

to rejoin the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly cities and communities,  
We humbly seek a friendly review of our application and continued to  
support.

Thank you.

Dec. 2023

Mayor of Hawsun-gun,

Gu Bokgyu 