

A letter of commitment to join WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities & Communities

Dong-gu is one of the 10 administrative districts that constitute Incheon, South Korea, with a total population of 59,325 (as of January 31, 2024).

The elderly population, aged 65 or older, in Dong-gu has already reached 25.04% of the total population, marking the transition into a post-aged society. This elderly population is expected to grow rapidly by 2028, when the baby boomers shift from the working-age group to the elderly category.

Dong-gu is actively participating as a member city of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC). We have been dedicated to establishing and executing three implementation strategies, eight key areas, and 37 projects as part of our three-year plan for becoming an elderly-friendly city (2021-2023), and we are currently evaluating the outcomes.

Building upon the success of the first phase, the second phase of Dong-gu's age-friendly city initiative will be guided by the vision of "A Happy World with the Elderly, Dong-gu." This vision encompasses three strategic goals: "Ensuring Warm and Healthy Retirement Security," "Fostering a Community that Accompanies," and "Creating an Urban Environment That Encourages Long-term Residency."

Our aim is to actively shape an elderly-friendly urban environment, reframing population aging as a societal asset rather than a problem. We aspire to create a city where all residents, including the elderly, can live safely and healthily while maintaining their self-esteem and independence.

Dong-gu's vision is encapsulated in the brand, "The City You Want to Live In! A 100-Year-Old Happy Dong-gu." We have set the goals of "Active Participation Cities," "Harmonious Consideration Cities," and "Comfortable Healing Cities" in line with the objectives of the international network of age-friendly cities to foster a high-quality urban environment for residents of all generations, including the elderly.

Dong-gu has already entered the category of post-aged society, surpassing the Korean national average of 18.42%. Given this demographic shift, establishing a comprehensive plan for creating an elderly-friendly city is crucial in enhancing the quality of life for our residents and advancing our local administration.

In 2021, Dong-gu was granted approval to join the network of age-friendly cities, and we aspire to take the next step by successfully completing our first plan and launching our second plan in October 2023.

Dong-gu wishes to share its endeavors with fellow WHO-affiliated age-friendly cities and collaborate toward the development of a higher-quality age-friendly city.

We hope to foster stronger connections between the WHO's international network of age-friendly cities and Dong-gu. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Best regards

2024. 2.

Kim ChanJin

Mayor of Dong-gu, Incheon Metropolitan City

