Evaluation of Buyeo's Age-Friendly Level

(1) Average Level of the Area

- Improvements are needed in transportation, housing facilities, social participation, respect and social embracing and citizen participation and employment.

Table 1. Evaluation result of each area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Elderly</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor spaces and facilities</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing facilities</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social participation</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect and social embracing</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen participation and employment</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and information</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Support and Health Services</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Evaluation result of each area
(2) Implications of the Evaluation Result

☐ The best area is "Community Support and Health Services" which is average 3.2/5.0 points and the lowest areas are "Outdoor spaces and facilities" and "Transportation" which are 2.9/5.0 points.

☐ The total average is 3.0/5.0 points.

☐ "Outdoor spaces and facilities" area's weak points need to be improved.
  ■ Lack of benches or toilets on the streets, parks, and walkways/ lack of wheelchair sidewalks;
  ■ Lack of special traffic lights and emergency bells for the elderly on the crosswalk;
  ■ Poor response system for accidents such as falls and injuries to senior citizens;
  ■ Lack of hospitality services in public buildings, such as a reception desk for senior citizens.

☐ "Transportation" area's weak points to be improved.
  ■ Poor provision of special transportation means for the disabled persons;
  ■ Securing parking areas for senior citizens' vehicles and insufficient information facilities for senior citizens' self-driving.

☐ "Housing facilities" area's weak points need to be improved.
  ■ Difficulties purchasing items that can be used for remodelling old facilities;
  ■ Dwelling facilities without proper structures to prepare for the elderly life or natural disasters;
  ■ Lack of services to support dilapidated house repairs and structural changes;
  ■ Insufficient counseling on housing issues, support services, and supply of housing for senior citizens.
“Social participation” area's weak points need to be improved.
- Lack of events in the community for harmony between the younger and the older generations;
- Lack of awareness of the elderly as valuable beings;
- Lack of meetings, event programs, places and facilities to resolve conflicts between generations.
- Lack of transportation information to easily visit social activities;

"Respect and social embracing" area's weak points need to be improved.
- Lack of education programs for the elderly, and participation events for senior citizens;
- Lack of opportunity for the elderly to pass on knowledge or experience to the younger generation;
- In the mass media, the elderly are often highlighted as social and economic burdens and conflicts;
- Insufficient opinions on the needs and preferences of the elderly.

"Citizen participation and employment" area's weak points need to be improved.
- Lack of vocational training programs, reemployment education and counseling in consideration of the characteristics of senior citizens;
- Discrimination in employment, maintenance of employment and promotion for the senior citizens;
- Difficulty in obtaining information about jobs and start-ups that can help one's career after retirement.

"Communication and information" area's weak points need to be improved.
- Lack of information for elderly life;
- Lack of mass media channels reflecting the needs and preferences of the elderly;
- Lack of support services from the public agencies and facilities to help with information retrieval;
Lack of opportunities and places for the elderly to learn about digital devices such as computers.

"Community Support and Health Services" area’s weak points need to be improved.

Difficult to receive visiting service benefits for first aid;

Poor first aid response measures for the elderly in the event of a natural disaster or fire.

Lack of exercise equipment at the Health Rehabilitation Center and insufficient guidance for the elderly.

Insufficient emergency measures for the elderly living alone in the COVID-19 era.

Lack of nursing professionals (nurse, physical occupational therapist, social worker, nursing care worker)

Focus Group Interview (FGI)’s Results

FGI is executed with questions to identify clear core problems.

The raw data presented in detail by a group of experts on the creation of an aged-friendly city of Buyeo are analyzed into 25 subcategories of the following eight areas.

Outdoor Spaces and facilities

CCTV installation and safety emergency bell installation for the safety of the elderly.

For various events, seats for the disabled and the elderly are provided.

Transportation

Support free taxis to the elderly in mountainous areas where public transportation is difficult.

Free taxis are provided twice a month to the elderly who have difficulty moving around.

Expanding low-floor buses
- Installation of solar streetlights in the outskirts.
- Integrated support for transportation services specialized for the disabled with the elderly.

- Housing facilities
  - Creating an apartment or complex for the elderly.
  - Selling the items for seniors, installing stores for those goods, and operating an auxiliary equipment repair center
  - Providing affordable rental housing to the elderly.

- Social participation
  - Development of social participation programs by age.
  - Providing services linked to social participation facilities, institutions, and events.

- Respect and social embracing
  - Implementation of socialization education for the elderly (providing incentives for social participation to those who have completed certain hours of education)

- Citizen Participation and Employment
  - Activating volunteer work for the elderly.
  - Incentives for participating in jobs according to volunteer time.
  - Finding a job business suitable for the disabled.
  - Support the elderly to lead a healthy old age by forming a volunteer group for the elderly (club activities, YouTuber support, vacation guidance, etc.)

- Communication and Information
  - Improving the visual accessibility of information (large letter documents, placing visual aid devices, etc.)
  - Improving access to information by visualizing information (introduction of graphic text AAC)
Community Support and Health Services

- Activate image communication by using zoom.
- Arrangement of nutrition specialists for the elderly, improvement of diet quality, promotion of nutrition information, and provision of information to local governments.
- Establishing a branch of the Dementia Relief Center in the Myeon area.
- Declaration of provision of universal health care services is required (installation and operation of public medical institutions, guaranteeing appropriate profits for private medical institutions)