

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my respect and gratitude to WHO, which operates an international network of age-friendly cities so that the elderly can actively participate in society to be active and healthy in 'a city where aging is not inconvenient,' 'a city where everyone can live no matter how old you are,' and 'a city where you want to live for the rest of your life.'

Buyeo is located in the midwestern part of South Korea, and is a beautiful small town with beautiful natural scenery where about population of 64,000 people. About 1,400 years ago, as the capital of Baekje, it is also a city of history, culture and tourism where ancient culture blossomed.

As of the end of October 2021, the proportion of the elderly population aged 65 and over in our county reached 36.2%. Rural areas account for nearly 50%, and since 2004, we have already entered a super-aged society.

Accordingly, our city has been promoting various welfare policies for the elderly by preparing elderly welfare statistics. However, at this point, we feel the need to change the countermeasures to the aging society more innovatively and systematically and by joining WHO's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities' is highly expected to make it possible.

As a preliminary effort for this purpose, our city enacted the age-friendly city ordinance in cooperation with the city council in November 2021. For the past 5 months, research has been conducted on the creation of an age-friendly city.

First, based on the eight areas suggested by the WHO Guide to Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, a survey and a discussion were conducted with an expert group for the diagnosis of age-friendliness.

In addition, we formed the Age-Friendly City Creation Committee, a civic group, for institutional support. Also, through continuous discussion, we have established an action plan for the three-year (2022-2024) age-friendly city.

Our city has set the vision of an aging-friendly city as 'a 100-year-old city where people want to live together, Buyeo, the historical and cultural capital,' Creating convenient and comfortable infrastructure, creating a warm and happy community, and being active and healthy in an old age' are our three key tasks, and we want to move forward one step at a time towards the future.

In line with the WHO guide, our city will discover and implement policies that appropriately respond to the aging of citizens, and create a city where all citizens can live a good life. We will spare no effort in reorganizing and redesigning the physical, social and economic environment for this purpose.

I am very pleased to apply WHO's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities. I hope that our city will have a wonderful opportunity to receive continuous consulting from the WHO's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, share information with other member cities, and continue to grow into an age-friendly city.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Park Jung-hyun, Mayor of Buyeo

박정현