

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

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

This is Jang Chung Nam, Mayor of Namhae-gun in Republic of Korea.

With the accomplishment of fostering the first Age-friendly city in Namhae-gun, it is pleasure to apply for rejoinig WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Namhae-gun is located in the southernmost part of Republic of Korea and is a beautiful city called as "The best Korean Treasure Island". The area of the city is 357 square kilometers, which is more than half of the area of 605 square kilometers in the capital city of Seoul, with 41,769 of population as of September 2022.

The elderly population aged 65 or older was 36% of the total population, when Namhae-gun has first joined the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities, however, the current elderly population is 39.9%, which leads to rapid aging of city.

Namhae-gun is running the 3rd policy monitoring group, which is composed of 50% or more percent of the senior population in group members, to re-desinate the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

In addition, 56 implementation tasks related to the three major goals and eight areas were established and implemented for the three-year (2020-2022) implementation plan for the age-friendly city, and the results were evaluated and supplemented when establishing the tasks in the following year.

A vision of the second age-friendly city of Namhae-gun is 'Happy Companion, Integration of Generation Namhae.' and 5 goals to be promoted are

“A healthy 100-year-old city,

An active 100-year-old city,

A sustainable 100-year-old city,

A safe 100-year-old city,

and An Integration of Generation 100-year-old city.”

Namhae-gun seeks to build a safe and healthy city for everyone by fostering invigorative age-friendly city. Since population aging is no longer a social problem, it is necessary to foster a place to create a pleasant and safe life, a vibrant and healthy old age, and a community of friendly participation and communication.

Slogan of Namhae-gun is “Happy Companion, Extraordinary Namhae”. County Administration plans will be promoted with hopeful economy with change and opportunity, astonished ecotourism city, regional development to prepare for the future, warm living welfare with benefits, and empathetic administration that harmonious administration.

Our slogan is in line with the vision of WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities & Communities, which devotes to creating a livable urban environment for all residents including the seniors.

Namhae-gun has already entered a super-aged society, and the proportion of the elderly is quite high compared to the Korean average of 17.7%. It has significant implications on establishing a plan to maintain an Age-friendly city by preparing policies and services which enhancing the quality of life for citizens under the situation of the aging status of county.

Namhae-gun has joined the first WHO global Network for the 14th in Republic of Korea, and for the first as county and in Gyeongsangnam-do in 2019. And it is time to take a step further by completing the first plan, and by rejoining the second term in October 2022.

Namhae-gun seeks to share these efforts with other member cities & communities at the WHO Global Network and to cooperate together to create age-friendly cities with higher quality.

It is hoped that a closer relationship will be formed between the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly cities & communities and Namhae-gun. Thank you.

2022. 10.

Mayor of Namhae-gun County,

Jang Chung Nam

장충남