



December, 2022

ATTN: WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is my great pleasure to express my deep respect and support to your efforts toward the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC), for international cooperation and responses to solve problems associated with the world's rapidly aging population.

Gimhae City has a population of about 530,000, of which approximately 68,000 are aged 65 or older, accounting for 12.7% of the total population. As a central city of the Southeastern region in South Korea, Gimhae has a dynamic of transportation network stretching in all directions and vibrant future-oriented industries. Although Gimhae is reported to have relatively low senior population ratio among 18 local governments in Gyeongsangnam-do, the city is gradually aging, projected to become a super-aged society in the upcoming years. In the current status, we need to put more weight on the policies aimed at healthy lifespan of all citizens, including the seniors.

As such, for the further development of Gimhae, the city has put tremendous efforts to respond to super-aging phenomenon in recent years. Putting particular emphasis on the public support for seniors, the city was highly evaluated in the aging policies including community services for the frail seniors. Gimhae has been selected for the local government leading the "Senior Community Care project" out of the Gyongsangnam-do.

With these movements, the city has announced 2022 vision strategies, promoting "Welfare City where all Gimhae citizens are safe and happy" and "Welfare City where no one is behind." Under the vision statements, creating a harmonious living environment for the seniors is incorporated as a part of the main goals. In December 2022, Gimhae City is currently recruiting participants for the "2023 Elderly Jobs and Social Activities Support Project." Participants in the Senior

Jobs Project are selected in the order of high scores in consideration of the applicant's income level, household composition, and activity competency. The city is eventually providing the support to seniors with opportunities to participate in society through various senior job projects so that they can lead healthy and active old age lives.

As an art of its efforts, Gimhae City has conducted the "Age-Friendliness Survey" this year, based on the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Guideline and established Gimhae-city Age-Friendly City Guidelines, consisting of 8 interconnected domain categories. We are establishing the "3-year Action Plan" to obtain an age-friendly city membership. The project will be evaluated every year by internal and external experts and will aim for progressive changes and development for the next 3 years. Furthermore, we expect the seniors in the city to actively participate in planning and providing their opinions that would be a valuable addition to the project development.

I believe that an aging population is not a problem limited to one single country, but a global issues requiring unity and cooperation across the nations. Therefore, Gimhae City would also like to have a chance to interact with other cities around the world who are devoting their energies to aging issues. We hope to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities project to share information and policies of Gimhae City, as well as to actively interact with other cities for the improvement of happier life of seniors in the community.

I look forward to collaborating and contributing together for the development of an age-friendly city as one of the WHO family.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Taeyong Hong  
Mayor of Gimhae  
Republic of Korea

