

Letter of commitment

December 19, 2023

WHO GNAFCC

To whom it may concern,

This is Jo Byung-Ok, the district mayor of Eumseong-Gun, a city where the aspirations and imaginations of residents come to life.

We extend our utmost respect and support to the dedicated officials of the WHO international network, who are dedicating themselves to enhancing global public health and the well-being of the elderly.

Eumseong-Gun is a pivotal industrial hub in the central inland region and a prosperous agricultural zone known for its advanced clean agriculture and scientific farming technologies. This makes it an ideal area where agriculture and industry seamlessly coexist. Moreover, its proximity to the metropolitan area, coupled with its status as a transportation hub intersected by two major highways and five national routes, positions Eumseong-Gun as a region with significant development potential.

In terms of population, over 24% of the total population, approximately 90,000 people, are aged 65 and older, marking the transition into a super-aged society. The percentage of middle-aged (over 75) and very elderly (over 85) individuals is steadily rising both domestically and internationally. In light of these demographic shifts, there is a pressing need for a strategic response to address the evolving environmental conditions.

In response, Eumseong-Gun has laid the groundwork for establishing an elderly-friendly city by enacting an ordinance and founding the Hanbit Welfare Center as a consortium organization. This initiative fully incorporates the opinions and aspirations of the elderly, aligning with the eight guidelines for an Age-friendly city outlined by the WHO GNAFCC. In our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for people of all ages, we have formulated the 'Eumseong-Gun Senior-Friendly City Creation Plan'.

Furthermore, to encourage an 'active lifestyle for the elderly', we have not only expanded job opportunities for seniors with additional support, but have also launched an integrated service called "Eumseong-Gun's Integrated Elderly Care Project" that includes housing, healthcare, nursing, and caregiving for seniors. These services are designed to promote a healthy life for the aging population within their local community by providing comprehensive welfare services for aged people.

To effectively advance the establishment of an age-friendly city in the future, we will uphold a public-private collaboration system involving practitioners from various departments and experts in relevant fields. We will proactively manage a committee and monitoring group to solicit feedback from senior citizens and actively engage them in the implementation process.

We will endeavor to build an age-friendly city and ensure happiness for everyone across generations. We will sincerely communicate and share our progress with the global community.

Eumseong-Gun aspires to become a member of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities through collaboration and trust.

Sincerely,

Jo Byung-Ok
District Mayor of Eumseong-Gun

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jo Byung-Ok' in Korean characters (조병옥).