

# **A Letter of commitment to join WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities(GNAFCC)**

## **GANGWON STATE is Well-Prepared for GNAFCC (Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities)**

Dear representatives of the World Health Organization, I would like to extend my warm greetings to all of you committed to the creation of age-friendly cities.

I am Kim Jin-Tae, Governor of Gangwon State, which aspires to become the first and foremost age-friendly city among metropolitan autonomous provinces in South Korea.

Gangwon State recognizes the rapidly advancing aging problem and believes that creating an age-friendly environment is crucial for effectively addressing this issue.

In this regard, Gangwon aims to join the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities(GNAFCC), striving to foster community development and transformation based on the eight key domains of age-friendly cities outlined by the WHO.

Gangwon State has made every effort to transform itself into the age-friendly city.

- Since 2020, we have been actively implementing the “Gangwon Senior Citizen Initiative”, a program that enables senior citizens in Gangwon to participate in policy-making and proposal processes.
- “The Gangwon State Age-Friendly City Support Ordinance”, enacted in December 2023, has provided a solid institutional framework for implementing age-friendly city initiatives.
- Furthermore, the “Gangwon Age-friendly Survey” was conducted with older adults to actively support their participation in policy decision-making by creating opportunities for them to share their opinions.

- Discussions were held with Gangwon State officials regarding the feasibility of the initiative, and based on these discussions, a three-year plan for Making Gangwon more age-friendly was established.

Going forward, Gangwon will adhere to the following commitments.

- First, over the next five years(by 2029), we will actively support all 18 cities and counties within Gangwon in joining the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities(GNAFCC), enabling them to share achievements and collaborate with one another.
- Second, we will expand and support the Gangwon Senior Citizen Policy Monitoring Group to all 18 cities and counties in the region to strengthen the participation of older adults in the policymaking process.
- Third, we will develop and implement a policy framework to deliver customized policy information tailored to the specific needs of each senior individual.
- Fourth, we will conduct Korea's first-ever Gangwon Age-friendly Impact Assessment on a regular basis to ensure that age-friendliness is effectively integrated into all regional policies.

Gangwon will do its utmost to achieve the goals of an age-friendly city. In addition, we will constantly evaluate and improve our work based on the guidelines set by the WHO.

We kindly request your approval to support Gangwon in joining the international network and advancing as an age-friendly city.

Thank you.

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김진태

Kim Jin Tae, Governor of Gangwon State  
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