

The WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)

Taebaek City 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, a vital challenge that the global community must address together. I am Lee Sang-ho, Mayor of Taebaek, committed to making Taebaek the first age-friendly city among the municipalities(basic local government) of Gangwon Special Self-Governing Province(Gangwon State).

Taebaek City is applying to join the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities for the first time this year.

Taebaek City has devoted every effort to becoming not only the best in Korea, but also the first age-friendly city among the municipalities of Gangwon State.

- Since the latter half of 2022, with the start of the 8th popularly elected administration, the Mayor of Taebaek has been visiting 105 senior community centers twice a year to actively listen to seniors' views on their living environment and dailyinconveniences.
- To lay a strong institutional foundation for becoming an age-friendly city, Taebaek City established a dedicated Senior Policy and Care Team and secured specialized personnel in July 2025, and is preparing to enact the Taebaek City Ordinance on Supporting the Creation of an Age-Friendly City in October.

Furthermore, Taebaek City developed Korea's first Guidelines for Taebaek City's Age-Friendly Impact Assessment (Draft) to analyze and evaluate the impact of policies on senior citizens, for approximately 47 teams and 26 departments across 6 offices.

- Building on these efforts, Gangwon State established its first three-year action plan, embodying the vision of “Gangwon State, a dignified city where senior citizens can thrive” This comprehensive plan is fully aligned with the WHO guidelines and includes 4 policy goals, 5 implementation strategies, 18 policy tasks, and 114 detailed action items.

Building on the experience and expertise gained through this process, Taebaek City is pursuing to join the global age-friendly city network and plans to share this initiative with cities worldwide. Furthermore, we are committed to becoming an age-friendly city that ensures a vibrant and healthy life for older adults.

I sincerely request your approval for Taebaek City’s membership in the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

- Our goal is to elevate our administrative system, which has focused on “Elderly Welfare”, to the next level by becoming an “Age-Friendly City” through membership in the WHO’s global network.
- We are committed to collaborating closely with the international community to develop diverse, tailored policies for older populations and to promote the sustainable development of cities worldwide.

I kindly ask for your support in realizing the bold vision and dedicated efforts of Taebaek City. Thank you.

2025. 9. 10.



Lee Sang Ho
Governor of Taebaek City