

A letter of commitment to join WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities

Dear Representatives of the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities,

On behalf of the citizens of Ansan, I am honored to extend my greetings as Mayor of Ansan, Republic of Korea. It is with great appreciation that I submit this letter to apply for membership in the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, the world's largest international collaborative platform dedicated to fostering age-friendly environments.

As Korea's representative multicultural city, Ansan has long embraced inclusion and respect as its guiding principles, making senior welfare and age-friendly policies a central pillar of municipal governance. As of July this year, Ansan's population aged 65 and above stands at 99,000, representing 16.1% of the total population of 614,000, officially classifying Ansan as an aged society. By 2029, the city is expected to transition into a super-aged society.

In preparation, Ansan has implemented diverse policies to ensure that older residents may enjoy a healthy, dignified, and fulfilling life. These include:

- Daily nutrition and active participation: Weekday meal services provided at senior centers and quality job opportunities for older citizens.
- Accessible mobility and digital inclusion: Operation of “Ttock Bus,” a demand-responsive transport service; installation of kiosks at senior centers with user training; and digital literacy programs through the Ansan Digital Innovation School.
- Integrated housing and care: Development of the nation's first “Senior Care Safe Housing” model, delivering integrated medical and care services to eliminate welfare blind spots.

Guided by the principle that “an age-friendly city is one where all generations thrive together”, Ansan conducted a comprehensive assessment of its age-friendly environment this past May. Based on the findings, the city established four strategic goals supported by a three-year implementation plan:

1. A citizen-centered city with active participation
2. A healthy and vibrant city of welfare and culture
3. A convenient and pleasant age-friendly city
4. An inclusive city where we live together in the era of 100-year lifespans

Looking forward, Ansan is committed to further strengthening its policies so that older residents may enjoy dignified and vibrant later years, while all citizens may look ahead to aging in Ansan with confidence and fulfillment.

Through membership in the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, Ansan aspires to share its experiences, learn from international best practices, and advance a sustainable and inclusive model of an age-friendly city. We pledge to actively contribute, both domestically and globally, as a city dedicated to generating exemplary practices in age-friendly policy.

In this spirit, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of Ansan City's application for membership in the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

Sep. 2025



Mayor of Ansan, Min Geun Lee

Republic of Korea