

Attention to: Secretariat

WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities

Dear Sir / Madam:

**Application for the membership of
WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities**

As the Chairman of the Central and Western District Council in Hong Kong, I am honored to submit this letter of support for our District to be considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) to become part of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

We care about our citizens and we value especially our senior citizens, who have valuable experience, potential and wisdom. With our full commitment, we are dedicated to provide for our senior citizens quality services that should respond sensitively and continuously to their needs in all possible facet of their lives.

With the Working Group on Elderly Service under the Central and Western District Council as a platform to connect governmental departments, non-governmental organizations that provide services to older people, the business and the academia, our partnership is strong within the community. Senior citizens in the district are often invited to participate in various activities, talks, conferences, and training courses, so that they are empowered through capacity-building and raising awareness, and ultimately encouraged to voice out their opinions, create community impact and increase the community's age-friendliness.

As a District Council, we have a long history of working hand in hand with stakeholders to plan for and serve the senior citizens. We are encouraged that our collective efforts in terms of infrastructure, services and people power have been recognized by the baseline assessment report conducted by the University of Hong Kong and funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC"). We note the high level of age-friendliness and are proud of the high level of social participation and sense of belonging of our elderly community. The report shows nearly half of the respondents volunteered in services in elderly centres and a majority of the elderly respondents have used services or participated in activities provided by elderly centres. We are very grateful to the HKJC and government departments, by working together, we have planned for taking on challenges by focusing in the future planning and further capacity building to respond to the areas suggested in the report.

It is by increasing the community awareness of the useful framework laid down by the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities that we can collectively get better prepared for future service needs with workable targets as set out in the action plan for the coming years. We look forward to becoming a member of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities and continuing to the collective efforts in making the world a better place for people of all ages.

Yours faithfully,

YIP Wing-shing, BBS, MH, JP
Chairman
Central and Western District Council