

# **GIST Senior Friendly Industry Support Center, selected as the only regional support project in the Honam region**

- Designated as a 'regional senior-friendly industry innovation center' by the Korea Health Industry Development Institute, Ministry of Health and Welfare
- Second designation after Seongnam, Daegu, and Busan... Expected to expand support for senior-friendly companies in the Honam area



▲ Front view of the Senior Friendly Industry Support Center

GIST (Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Acting President Raekil Park) announced on the 8th that the Senior Friendly Industry Support Center (Director Chang-Myung Oh) was selected for the Regional Aging-Friendly Industry Innovation Center support project promoted by the Korea Health Industry Development Institute under the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

It is the second senior-friendly industry innovation center designated by region following Seongnam, Daegu, and Busan, which were designated in the first round, and the GIST Senior Friendly Industry Support is the only one in the Honam region.

This project is a project to designate base institutions that support technology for senior-friendly products by region in order to enhance the safety and quality of products and services used by the elderly and strengthen the support system between the central and local governments.

It is expected to be of great help to companies developing senior-friendly products in the region as the base organization issues a usability evaluation result report that is reflected in the designation of senior-friendly products (S mark)\*.

\* Senior-Friendly Excellent Product: As an elderly-friendly item announced by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, it is an excellent product selected for its convenience in operation and use in consideration of the mental and physical characteristics of the elderly.

With this project selection, the GIST Senior Friendly Industry Support Center will be allocated a total of KRW 340 million (200 million government funds, 140 million private investments) by 2024 for △ senior-friendly product usability evaluation △ living lab-based technical support △ target for senior-friendly companies Holding education and seminars △ operation of an experience promotion center for senior-friendly products.

In addition, it plans to intensively support senior-friendly companies that develop innovative products to develop new technologies or advance into the global market to help acquire certification, strengthen quality, and secure global capabilities.

With this project as an opportunity, if the GIST Senior Friendly Industry Support Center is recognized as a specialized institution specializing in certified usability evaluation, local companies will not have to go to other local institutions to obtain certification of excellent senior-friendly products.

In particular, the GIST Elderly-Friendly Industry Support Center is expected to play a role in the future as it has developed products in collaboration with companies and built an evaluation infrastructure while carrying out projects to build a foundation for life care robots and cosmedicare industries.

Director Chang-Myung Oh said, "The designation of the senior-friendly industry innovation center will lay the foundation for revitalizing the relatively underdeveloped senior-friendly industry in the Honam region. In line with the nurturing of the Medi-Healthcare industry, the 8th privately elected strategic industry of Gwangju Metropolitan City, and the creation of a high-tech demonstration city, we will strive to ensure that the local senior-friendly industry has global competitiveness."

Meanwhile, the GIST Senior Friendly Industry Support Center was established in 2013 to nurture local senior-friendly industries and improve the quality of life for the elderly.