

# GIST begins development of regionally customized assistive devices for independence of the disabled and the elderly

- GIST Senior-Friendly Industry Support Center-Ministry of Health and Welfare complete a business agreement for 'Practical research and development of assistive devices for independent living of the disabled and the elderly'... Kick-off meeting held on the 12th
- Promoting the development and distribution of assistive devices based on demand in the Honam region... Expected to develop and supply user-customized assistive devices by establishing a one-stop assistive device development process.



▲ GIST Senior-Friendly Industry Support Center signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Welfare for the 'Research and Development Project for Commercialization of Assistive Devices for Independent Living of the Elderly and the Disabled' and is holding a kick-off meeting on the 12th (Wednesday) to promote the project smoothly. (Top left) GIST Chang-Myung Oh, Senior Citizen-Friendly Industry Support Center Director

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) and the Senior-Friendly Industry Support Center (Center Director Chang-Myung Oh) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Welfare on May 29 for the 'Practical Research and Development Project for Assistive Devices for Independent Living of the Elderly and the Disabled' to ensure smooth operation and announced that a kick-off meeting was held to promote the project.

This agreement is expected to establish a one-stop development system for the development of assistive devices by consolidating regional research capabilities.

On June 12 (Wednesday), a kick-off meeting was held with seven people in attendance, including GIST Professors Chang-Myung Oh and Jiyeon Kang, Professors Yongkwon Won and Youngjin Jeong of Chonnam National University, and related practitioners to ▲ plan to form a council based in the Honam region to discover the demand for lifestyle-friendly assistive devices tailored to regional

characteristics and ▲ develop and mass-produce user-customized assistive devices through living labs and maker spaces.

In addition, they plan to open source the development process and share it so that anyone interested in producing assistive devices can obtain information.

With this project selection, the Senior-Friendly Industry Support Center will receive a total of KRW 1.26 billion (KRW 1.13 billion from government funds and KRW 130 million from private funds) by 2027 to ▲ operate a council based on the Honam region ▲ develop assistive devices tailored to demand ▲ perform usability evaluation with the Chonnam National University Industry-Academic Cooperation Foundation as a joint research institute based on rehabilitation engineering ▲ makerspace operation ▲ start designing and mass producing auxiliary devices.

'Gwangju Metropolitan City Assistive Device Center', 'Honam Regional Rehabilitation Hospital', and 'Gwangju Design Promotion Institute' is expected to participate in the Honam region-based consultative body to actively discover demand for assistive devices in the region and focus on verifying effectiveness in the development process.

Center Director Chang-Myung Oh said, "Through this project, assistive devices are designed and manufactured with a 3D printer in consideration of disability type, age, and physical ability, and final distribution is expected to be achieved through usability evaluation, thereby distributing assistive devices tailored to demand. We will actively promote and foster technology transfer of research results derived from the supply and spread of assistive devices."

Meanwhile, the GIST Senior-Friendly Industry Support Center was designated as a 'Regional Senior-Friendly Industry Innovation Center' by the Ministry of Health and Welfare last year and was recognized as a certified usability evaluation center. Recently, it has been playing a pivotal role as a major verification test bed for the 'Gwangju Metropolitan City Startup Enterprise Product Verification Support Project'.

