

New technology with ageing

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Y-S. Lee. *New technology with ageing*. *Gerontechnology* 2013;11(3):427; doi:10.4017/gt.2013.11.3.006.00 IAGG 2013 World Conference has chosen as its theme 'Digital ageing: A new horizon for healthcare and active ageing'. Debates will be held on the results of modern scientific research and future possibilities that will enrich the four aspects of life, anti-ageing, healthy ageing, active ageing and happy ageing, under the vision of 'well ageing'.

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The world is confronting a serious crisis regarding the quality of life index, 3E (Ecology, Economy & Social Equity). This crisis will seriously affect older people and countries with a large ageing population. Particularly, holistic imbalance in health due to ageing and financial constraints are shaking dreams of older people who need living conditions which are healthy, affordable and secure. The converged development of IT (Information Technology), NT (Nano Technology), BT (Biological Technology), CT (Computer Technology), ET (Environmental Technology) and ST (Symbiotic Technology) may bring innovations in health and medical systems, social structures and living environments and reduce age-related disabilities. Digital living, which once was an idealistic dream, has been realized and consumers are adopting these changes. Digital living can be a tool to promote communication and equity, to manage health, to enhance economic conditions, to alleviate the shortage of human resources, to improve safety and convenience and to facilitate care systems.

People need to realize that digital information spreads all over the world like oxygen in the air. We have to admit that digital is a new 'resource' that we have to utilize wisely to solve social problems and to improve the quality of life beyond just adapting ourselves to digitalization.

IAGG 2013 World Conference¹, Seoul (Korea), June 23-27, 2013, has chosen as its theme 'Digital ageing: A new horizon for healthcare and active ageing', in order to show the integrated digital policies and the rapid development in IT-convergence technologies.

'Digital Ageing' will develop the leadership of IAGG. Firstly, it will lead the horizon of Gerontology and Geriatrics to the future and will show

the possibility of spreading affordable and high quality services globally. Additionally, it will happen in Asia where older people comprise the highest proportion of the total world population. Secondly, if a human ultimately pursues a symbiotic life in the future, digital ageing will bring forth a momentum that will stress the importance of symbiotic life with technology in addition to symbiotic life with natural ecology and one with humane social-ecology. Thirdly, by approaching IT technology wisely with robust directions without any trials and errors, the conference will provide an opportunity to debate how to decrease the confusion and dilemmas while preventing the sacrifice of human beings and the overuse of both natural and artificial resources.

This international congress will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas about innovations in older people's lifestyles. Participants will feel the changes in viewpoints and conditions about how people can deal with disease during the long aged years that take half of their life span, what they should intake for their nourishment and health, how they can manage their physical appearance, with what activities they can manage their time, what they should use in their daily life, where they should live and how they can consolidate their economic security.

The host country, Korea, is facing the most rapid transition from an ageing society to an aged and ultra-aged society. Korea has also developed as an advanced IT country through digital innovations in daily lives. This means that Korea is the natural venue for comprehensive and in-depth debates on digital ageing.

I sincerely hope all of you will be able to join us at the 20th IAGG World Congress in Seoul.

References

1. <http://www.iagg2013.org>; retrieved October 2012