

## Big Issues in Gerontechnology

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*J. KO. Digital ageing policies of Korea in the fourth Industrial Revolution age. Gerontechnology 2018;17(Suppl):65s; <https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2018.17.s.065.00>* **Purpose** Korea is one of the fastest ageing country and the most informatized country in the world. So, Korean government has carried out various digital ageing policies to handle the aging crisis by means of digital technology in the perspective of digital welfare from early 21st century by the cooperation of the public and private parts. In this article I am going to give an overview of those policies and share Korea's experiences. **Method** Government annual white paper and public reports and statistics. **Results & Discussion** Firstly, we've made great efforts for seniors excluded from the Internet to freely access and use it. Thus, we have supported refurbished PCs to low-income seniors and IT education to the elderly for free. Secondly, we've run Senior IT Volunteer Groups composed of skilled elderly internet users to help provide them with the opportunity to participate in the society using IT. They're volunteering as IT tutors for seniors who don't use internet, or as Silvernet News producers, PC repairs, etc. And we hold senior's IT contest annually throughout the country. Finally, we have been adopting various 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution technologies such as IoT, wearable devices, to secure the health and security of elders especially the disadvantaged including seniors who live alone or are poor. Therefore, Internet usage rate of elderly people 60 + rose from 17.6%(2007) to 51.4%(2016)<sup>1</sup>. And a lot of seniors make good use of Internet in their lives including running online shopping malls, teaching IT, making videos. Still, there are some problems which have to be solved. Many elderly people, especially elderly women 70+, yet do not come into the digital world. Besides we have to develop and suggest various models and ways to make full use of Internet to senior Internet users. And we have to secure seniors from the IT adverse effect such as cybercrime, internet addiction. Finally, we have to provide the productive and active ageing ways to more internet-savvy elders.

### References

1. 2016 Korea Internet White Paper

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