

## AgeTech: A Technological Solution for the Elderly Needs Centered on Independence, Prevention, and Peace of Mind

*Ku, Chang-Yun* | Research Associate, The Second Research Division

In response to Taiwan's impending super-aged society by 2025, the government has been implementing aging policies with a budget of over 120 billion NTD for the next four years. Additionally, a Cabinet-level Strategy Review Board (SRB) meeting focus on AgeTech was convened earlier this year, aiming to transform the demands of our super-aged society into driving forces for industrial development. The goal is not only to provide convenience to our elderly population through technology but also to establish the agetech industry as another “huguo shenshan”.

However, to promote the agetech industry, the first step is to clarify what “agetech” means. Unfortunately, the term itself fails to offer more precise content than simply “technology for the elderly.” Moreover, as Keren Etkin, the author of *The AgeTech Revolution*, points out, people often misunderstand agetech as a mere magnification of words or sounds. Even if we categorized them based on technical forms or use cases, due to a lot of agetech can be used by non-elderly individuals, it’s leading to a lack of understanding of the core value of agetech.

This study attempts to classify existing agetech based on the three demands of the elder: independence, prevention, and peace of mind. By exploring the relationship between elderly demands, technical categories, and use cases, it aims to shed light on the possible future development for agetech. The goal is not only to help define the essence of agetech but also to clarify common misconceptions about it.

Based on the findings of this study, the main purpose of agetech is to assist the elderly in living independently and taking care of themselves, whether they are healthy, sub-healthy, or in need of personal care. To extend the period of independent living for the elderly, the concept of prevention and peace of mind also emerged and expanding the scope of agetech to include caregivers for elderly individuals. The difficulty in defining agetech lies in its natures of multiapplication and adaptability, making it applicable for the users beyond the elderly. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the essence of agetech from the perspectives of independence, prevention, and peace of mind. In this context, the elderly demands for agetech not only represent a market opportunity but also embody the core values of its technology.

Regarding the future development of agetech, two perspectives can be

considered based on the elderly demands. Firstly, from the technical perspective, the trends includes integrating technology into daily use device, simplifying the agetech equipment, and combining additional service, those can not only enhancing the primary applications of agetech but also improving the willingness of the elderly to use it. Secondly, from the application perspective, although most individuals eventually require personal care, maximizing the period of independent living or delaying the onset of personal care will make the utmost benefit to the elderly. For a significant number of healthy and sub-healthy elderly individuals, preventive agetech, particularly for fall and for cognitive decline, is believed to be the primary focus of agetech.

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