

PEN-International

PEN-International Signing Ceremony, 29 June 2001, at NTID. From left to right: T. Alan Hurwitz, dean, NTID; Guodong Bao, director of Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf, Tianjin, China; Naoki Ohnuma, dean, Tsukuba College of Technology, Tsukuba Japan; Alexander Stanevsky, director of the Center on Deafness, Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Russian Federation; Reizo Utagawa, executive director, the Nippon Foundation, Japan; Robert R. Davila, RIT vice president and CEO for NTID; Jun Li, president of Tianjin University of Technology, Tianjin, China; Kazushi Nishijo, president, Tsukuba College of Technology, Tsukuba, Japan; James J. DeCaro, director, PEN-International.



On 29 June 2001, dignitaries from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), United States; Tianjin University of Technology, China; Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Russian Federation; Tsukuba College of Technology, Japan; and the Nippon Foundation, Tokyo, Japan, signed a formal agreement establishing a cooperative partnership to create an international network supporting the technical education of postsecondary Deaf students from around the world.

The Postsecondary Education Network International (PEN-International) is a collaboration between NTID and Tsukuba College of Technology. The Nippon Foundation has funded PEN-International to support the sharing of American and Japanese expertise at other universities teaching science and technology to Deaf students.

PEN-International is an international partnership of colleges and universities, the first-of-its-kind, serving the postsecondary education needs of Deaf and

hard of hearing students. Computer technology and faculty training technology are being used to

- improve teaching and learning
- increase the application of innovative instructional technology
- expand career opportunities for Deaf and hard of hearing people

Over a five-year period, PEN-International will include more than ten nations and will enhance local capability and global networking in each participant country. Member institutions will develop the ability to export what has been learned through the project to other programmes serving Deaf and hard of hearing students in their home countries and to other countries around the world.

It is expected that member institutions will

- provide a forum for current state-of-the-art practice and research regarding application of the instructional technologies in support of Deaf learners
- identify issues, challenges, opportunities, and priorities in enhancing the

effective use of technology in the education of Deaf individuals nationwide

- foster skill development in a variety of instructional technology applications

As part of the first efforts in Asia, PEN-International supported the creation of two high-technology multimedia laboratories for Deaf students. They were dedicated during the first week of October in Japan and China when facilities were officially opened at Tsukuba College of Technology and Tianjin University of Technology. Dr Robert R. Davila, RIT vice president for NTID and Dr James J. DeCaro, director of PEN-International, were guests of honour at the opening ceremonies.

For additional information, see www.pen.ntid.rit.edu or contact James J. DeCaro (jjd9074@rit.edu) or E. William Clymer (ewncncp@rit.edu). **WFD**

—reported by E. William Clymer
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