

Report of Activities on PEN-International Japan
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The summary of PEN-International Japan

This is the third year of our Pen-International Japan. We had many opportunities to introduce our activities to deaf and hard of hearing people in various professional societies. For example, All Japan Deaf School President Society, All Japan PTA, All Japan Parents of Deaf Child Society, etc. Now many parents who have a deaf child know about PEN- International Japan.

We have four points about the activities on PEN-International Japan and recent developments in deaf and hard of hearing people's education in Japan.

1) Early Language Acquisition and College Education

Since we have new born-babies and are screening their hearing, infants who have a hearing loss are now identified early term. That resulted in medical facilities in Japan re-building systems of early education for infants and their parents. We have about a hundred deaf schools. Most of them have early education departments for infants and programs for their parents. All infants use hearing aids and are monitored. Speaking and reading lips is a training program provided for deaf and hard of hearing people. This was something that used to be popular in Japan, but now they also use sign language for communication. Early language acquisition is very important for the development of post secondary education for deaf and hard of hearing people. Therefore, our activities are not only to educate deaf students, but also to enlighten professionals regarding the knowledge and information needed for the deaf. For instance, we have held educational audiology workshops with participation from China, Thailand, the Republic of Indonesia and others.

2) Integration and Reorganization of National Universities

About one hundred of national universities in Japan will be integrated and reorganized. Each college will be an independent corporation effective in April 2003. Our college will be the only institution for the deaf and blind. Therefore, we

will continue PEN-International Japan with great success.

3) TCT Support Program on Deaf Education for Ordinary Colleges and Universities

The number of deaf students is increasing in post secondary education, but still less than people with full hearing. Many more colleges accept deaf students today. Many deaf students apply to colleges other than TCT even though TCT provides a very good education and support systems for the deaf students and excellent job placement after students graduate. Many of the deaf students who go to general colleges have many problems because there is not enough support for deaf students at these colleges. This is why our educational aid center needs to help these institutions. PEN-International has great potential for working with TCT to help all kinds of programs in Japanese deaf societies.

4) The 9th Asia-Pacific Congress on Deafness in Japan (APCD) October 8th -11th 2006

The 9th Asia-Pacific congress on deafness will be held in October 2006. We also have Japan's 40th study of deaf education competition at the same time. We will sponsor many international and post secondary seminars at the same time.

In the year of 2005, PEN-International will come to an end. But we also have great opportunities to show PEN-International Japan to various countries in Asia during the APCD. And we will share all information we have with participants at the congress.