



Good Morning, everybody. My name is Mayumi Shirasawa, Tsukuba College of Technology.

Today, I report PEN Japan activities in 2004 to 2005.

We had many activities last year, but because I must speech only ten minute short time, I mention mainly two contents briefly.

First, International Exchange program and Second, PEPNet Japan was Established!!





Now, I would like to talk about the achievements of PEPNet-Japan. As you can see, PEPNet-Japan is named after the American PEPNet, and it stands for Postsecondary Education Program Network of Japan for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

As same as PEPNet in America, the mission of PEPNet-Japan is to establish a strong network between universities and colleges which accept Deaf and Hard of hearing students, and provide better services for those students by collaborating with each other.

To accomplish these missions, TCT has started discussions with 12 pioneering institutions, with long history and strong enthusiasm for supporting Deaf students.

Today, I would like to talk about how we have been progressing in Japan and what we have done so far to accomplish our goals.



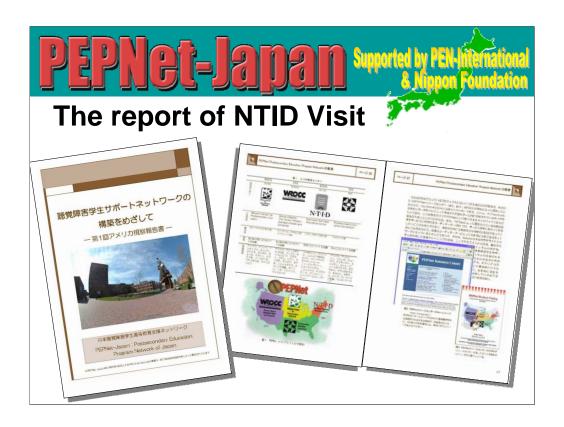
The first trigger in the setting up of this network was the faculty development in April of last year. I'm sure some of you might have attended this FD too. We observed the NTID support system in Rochester and attended PEPNet Conference in Pittsburg as well as PEN-International conference.

In this FD, 6 Japanese people attended. 3 from TCT and the others from 3 different institutions. Since we didn't have an opportunity to have in depth discussions with other institutions in Japan, this FD became a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and talk about how to improve the Japanese situation.

(These are the picture of that FD. You can see Kawano-sensei and me in this picture.)



Since we learned so much from this FD, we decided to hold a conference to share what we learned in America. This is a picture of that conference. All 6 FD participants gave presentations on PEPNet and PEN-International projects.

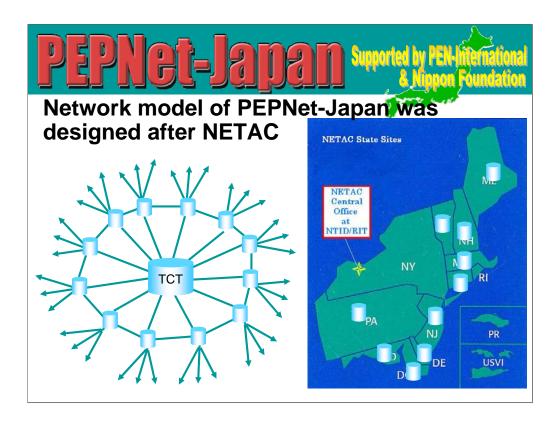


After the conference, we also wrote up a report about the FD.

Through these activities, we learned the importance of collaborative work among institutions that provide Deaf student services, that's why we agreed to found a network among pioneer institutions across Japan.



Finally, on Oct 29th, we held the first meeting of PEPNet-Japan. 18 people from 12 different universities and institutions attended.



During this first meeting, we agreed on two significant issues.

First, that the 13 institutions support each other in finding and developing the best support model for Deaf students.

Second, that these 13 institutions support other institutions by giving advice and technical support.

This model is designed after the NETAC network. As you know, NETAC supports other institutions through site coordinators in each states. So we intend these 13 partner institutions to take part of site coordinator.

各州にサイトコーディネーターをおき、支援を行っているNETACをモデルとし、13大学・機関を中核大学とするネットワークの形成を。



3月にはこれら13大学・機関の代表として、6大学・機関の代表者からなる視察団によりアメリカの高等教育の現状を視察。

Based on this agreement, PEPNet-Japan has just started to face a big challenge in changing Japan.

Here is a example of what we have done: In March 2005, 10 delegates from 6 institutions visited NTID and several universities in NYC to learn more about American support services.



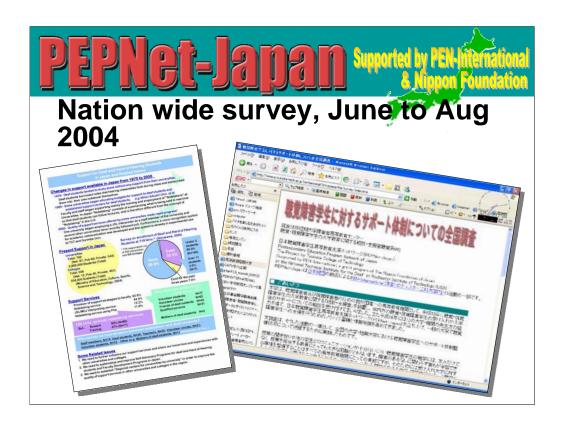
同時にフォーラムを開催して、13大学・機関の取り組みについて報告。

At the same time, we held a forum on higher education and Deaf or hard of hearing individuals to share our activities with other Japanese institutions.



日本に帰って成果を報告した。

On May 14th, we held a report meeting to share the information we gathered in America.



この他に、聴覚障害学生の受け入れに関する調査を実施。

We also conducted a nation wide survey to assess the current situation of Deaf students in postsecondary education. To get to know how many Deaf students are involved in universities and colleges, and what kind of services they got from universities.

You can see the highlights of this survey in the handout you have. Please take a look at them if you are interested.



ろう学生同士の交流を進めるなどの動き。

In addition, we had a Deaf students meeting via Tele-conference to grow Deaf students as leaders in the Deaf community.

In this picture, the three students on the left screen are TCT students. These are students from the northern part of Japan, and they are discussing what their student services are like, and how they can improve their situation.



Project Plan for Year 2005

- Training programs
 - Interpreters
 - Coordinators
 - Faculty members
- Symposium (Oct 8th)
- Faculty Development



Based on these achievements, we would like to undertake 3 major projects as well as some other activities this year.

First, we would like to develop a model program to train interpreters and notetakers.

Second, we would like to develop coordinating manual to let faculty members know what they need to do to set up student services in their institutions.

Third, we would like to develop materials on understanding Deafness like NETAC Tip sheets. We already translated the Tip sheets into Japanese, but we want to adapt them to the Japanese situation.

I am very proud of the achievements of PEPNet-Japan, and I'm looking forward to sharing what we accomplished this year on the next PEN-international conference in year 2006.

Thank you