

# SIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH TRAINING AT CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

CENTRE FOR SIGN LINGUISTICS AND DEAF STUDIES  
CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



# PHASE I: TRAINING OF HEARING RESEARCHERS

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1997



CUHK started training hearing postgraduate students in Sign Linguistics research since 1997

1998



One native HKSL deaf adult was recruited in 1998 to support research

- × No research experience
- × No training
- × Little deaf awareness especially importance of sign language

# PHASE II: SIGN LINGUISTICS TRAINING OF DEAF ADULTS

The Nippon Foundation's grant



Practical Dictionaries of Asian Sign Languages



2003

Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program



2006

## Characteristics of Training

Merge Sign Linguistics training with open university education, leading to pre-university qualifications.

Impart professional & academic knowledge to support Deaf adults' future career development in the home county's university. Deaf adults can be sign language teachers, materials developers, and researchers at academic units of Asian universities.

# PHASE II: SIGN LINGUISTICS TRAINING OF DEAF ADULTS

The Nippon Foundation's grant



Practical Dictionaries of Asian Sign Languages



2003

- 1<sup>st</sup> experiment

- **Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Hong Kong**

Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program



2006

- 2<sup>nd</sup> experiment

- **Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong**

# SIGNIFICANCE

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## **Innovative**

First of its kind in Asia,  
and the world

## **Long-term Impact**

Deaf Empowerment  
through Deaf Education

# SETTING UP INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT DEAF TRAINING

2003



Setting up Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies at CUHK in 2003



手語及聾人研究中心  
Centre for SIGN LINGUISTICS & DEAF STUDIES

2005



Joining PEN-INTERNATIONAL in 2005 as affiliate

- Receiving technological support from PEN in:
  - Teaching and training of Deaf people
  - Sign language materials production
  - International Communication



# CLASSROOM TEACHING TECHNOLOGY

## ✕ Classroom Management Software + Synchroneyes 7.0



Before implementing the software, students need to crowd in front of the projector screen to raise questions.

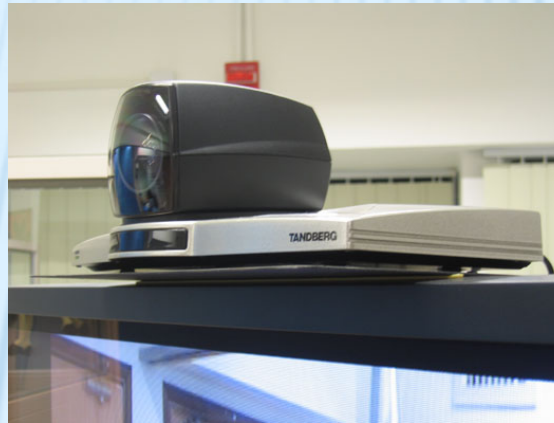


With the software, the computer screens of instructor and students are synchronized. Students may view the instruction on their computer screen or projector screen.



# CLASSROOM TEACHING TECHNOLOGY

- ✕ Video Conferencing System
  - + TANDBERG MXP 990



With the VC system implemented, it is possible to conduct courses through the system without any geographical concern.





# SIGN LANGUAGE MATERIALS PRODUCTION

## ✕ APSL Program



Objective for photo manipulation

Studio for photo taking



A Deaf trainee is outlining from a photo

# SIGN LANGUAGE MATERIALS PRODUCTION

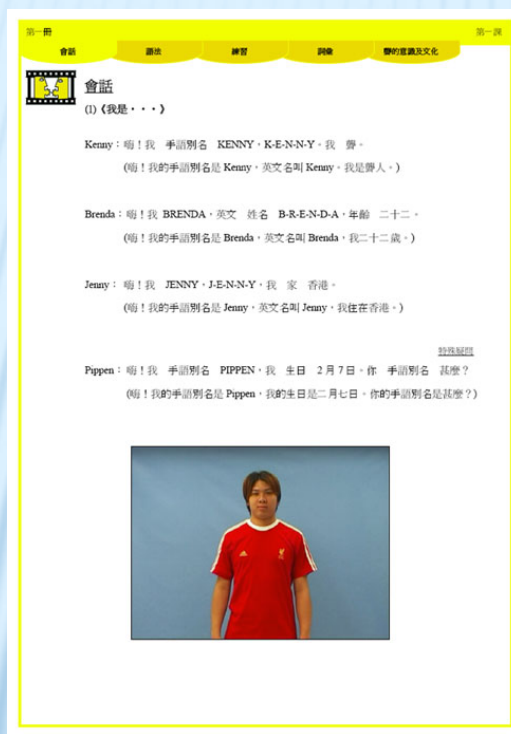
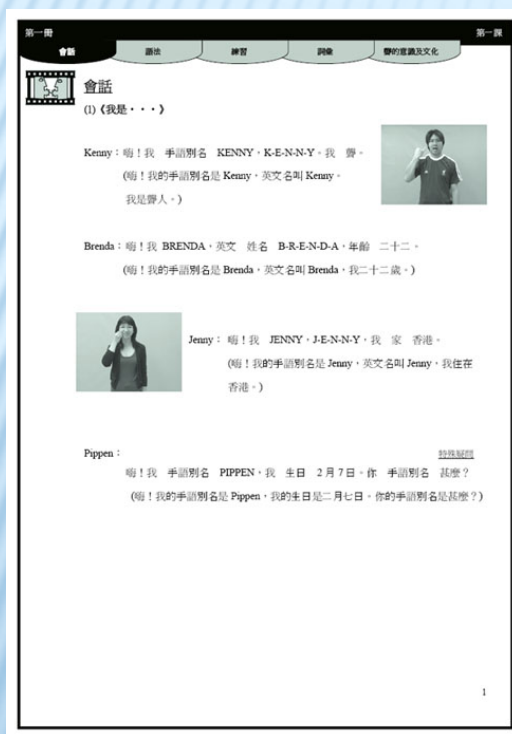
## ✕ HKSL Learning Package



The 'HKSL Beginners' consists of 10 printed booklets and 2 DVDs. 'HKSL for Intermediate and Advanced Learners' are in the pipeline.

# SIGN LANGUAGE MATERIALS PRODUCTION

## ✕ HKSL Learning Package



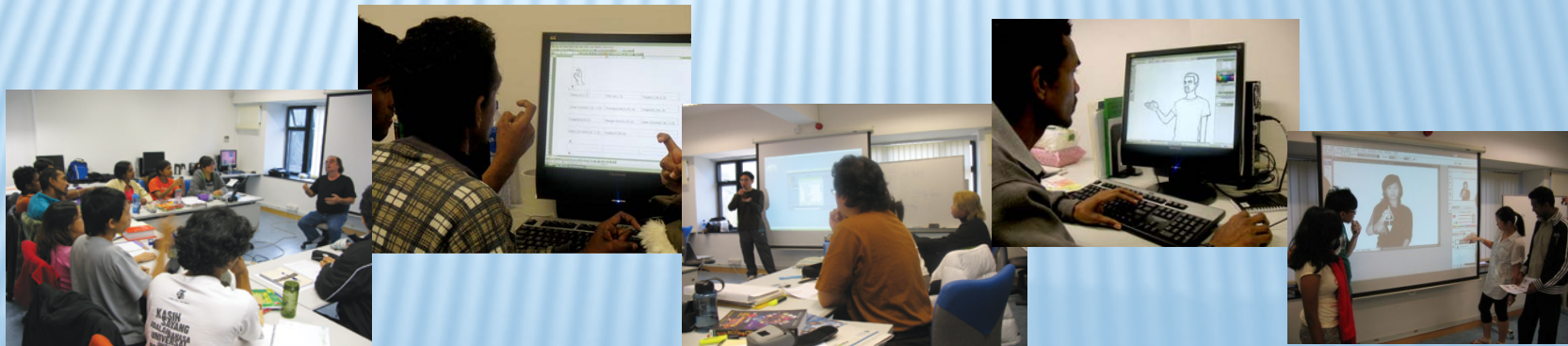
The booklet consists of still photos, while the electronic version is embedded with video clips.



A student is learning signs using the booklet and DVD.

# APSL PROGRAM: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ✘ Deaf adults from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong already completed 5 Diploma programs in the past two years. They are now studying in the Higher Diploma Program in Sign Linguistics and Sign Language Teaching.
- ✘ Deaf adults from **Japan** and **Fiji** **WILL BE** joining CUHK for Sign Linguistics training.



# APSL PROGRAM: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

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- ✘ Assist universities in the region in developing Sign Linguistics in the curriculum:
  - + Recruit hearing students and faculty members to receive Sign Linguistics training at CUHK (MA & PhD programs)
  - + Set up a Sign Language Research and Training Unit in the university
  - + Incorporate Deaf trainees into the unit of the universities

# PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

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## ✕ Present partners:

+ The University of Indonesia



+ The University of Kelaniya



## ✕ Future partners

+ The University of Tokyo

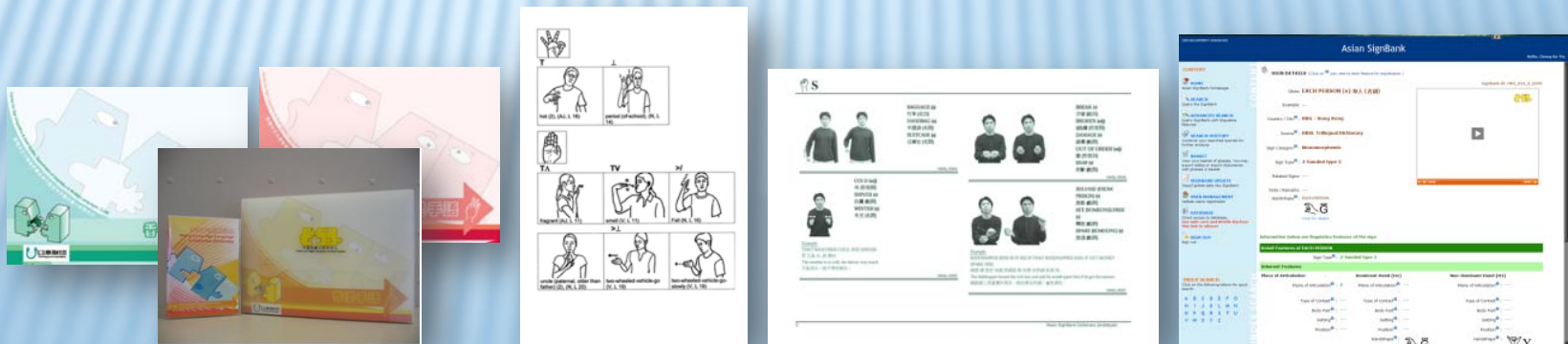


+ The University of the South Pacific



# APSL PROGRAM: KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- ✘ CSLDS offers professional advice and technical support to partner universities in the following areas:
  - + Techniques in producing sign language dictionaries
  - + Techniques in producing multi-media sign language learning and teaching materials
  - + Online sign language database

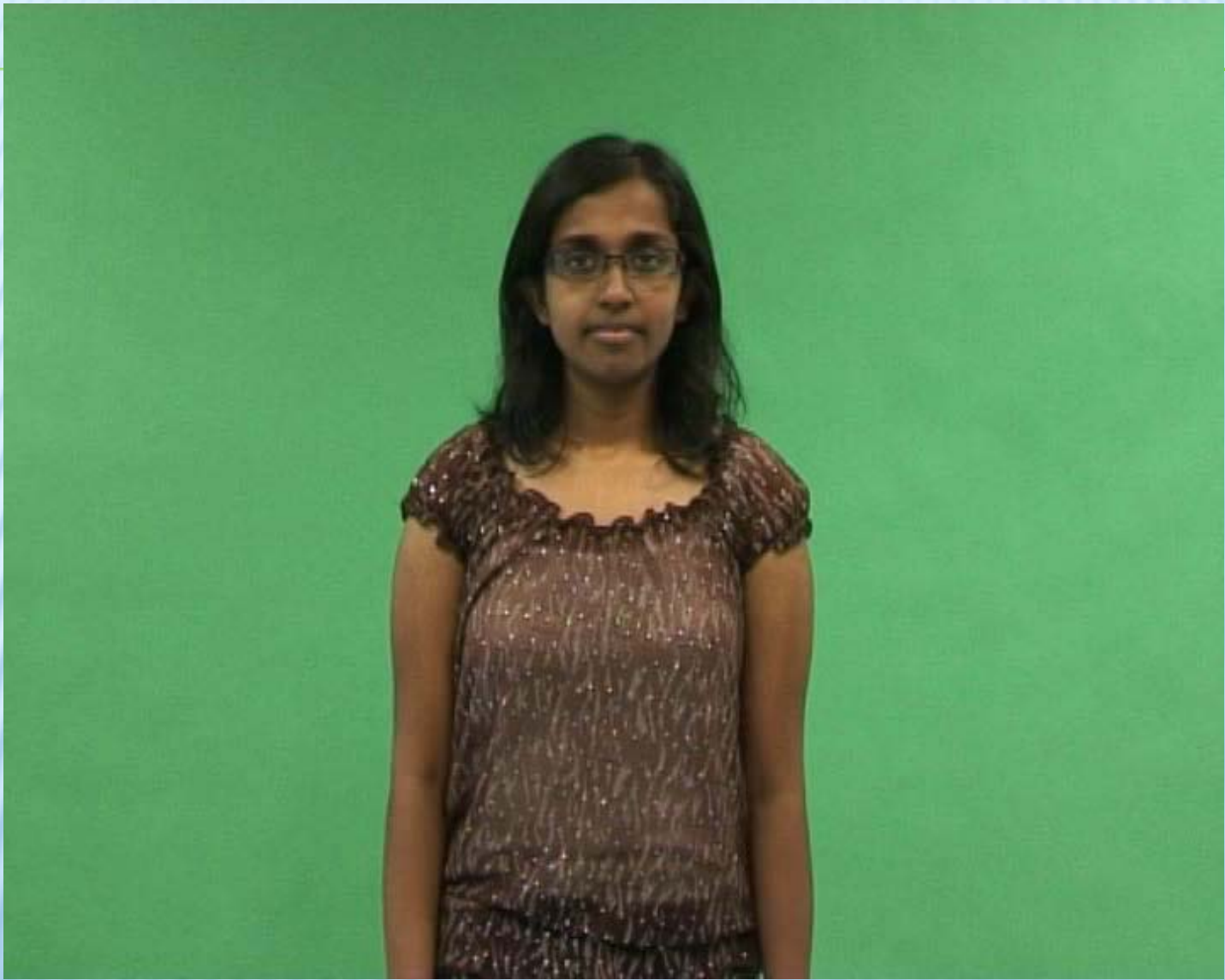


# VOICE FROM THE APSL DEAF TRAINEES

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- ✘ “The training program increases our deaf awareness and help us understand the nature and value of our own sign languages.”
- ✘ “As our English improves, we have a much wider access to written information. This will help us become an independent learner and researcher in the long run.”
- ✘ “The program raises our social status, as we will become sign language teachers and researchers in Sign Linguistics in universities.”







# APSL PROGRAM: FUTURE

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- + **Develop a bachelor degree program on Sign Linguistics and Deaf Education/Deaf Studies**
- + **Potential collaborators?**



NTID??

# APSL PROGRAM: FUTURE

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- ✘ Extending our network to more Asian and Pacific countries, to benefit more Deaf people
  - ✘ **PEN-International partner universities may recommend their students to the APSL Program**
- ✘ Supporting more Asian and Pacific universities in the establishment of Sign Linguistics research
  - + Faculty training
  - + Postgraduate student training