

NTID gets 2nd PEN grant, \$1.16 million

The Nippon Foundation of Tokyo, Japan, has awarded NTID \$1.16 million to fund the second year of the Postsecondary Education Network International, a multilateral international effort to network colleges and universities that educate people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The project's goal is to improve educational and career opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing people through innovative technologies as well as faculty training and development at member institutions.

During PEN-International's first year, Tsukuba College of Technology in Japan, and Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology in China, joined the network. In collaboration with PEN-International, each of the universities has constructed multi-media laboratories for deaf students. During the second year, three new partners will join the network—Bauman Moscow State Technical University in Moscow in Russia, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic and the De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde in Manila, Philippines.

As the project progresses, each participating institution will develop the capability to export technological expertise to other postsecondary institutions serving deaf- or hard-of-hearing students.

"NTID's position as an international leader in educating deaf and hard-of-hearing people as well as our technological expertise makes us uniquely qualified to lead a project like PEN-International," says Robert Davila, RIT vice president for NTID.

James DeCaro, research professor and former NTID dean, is the project director and principal investigator. Additional information on PEN-International is available on the project Web site, www.pen.ntid.rit.edu.