



The Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International), a multinational partnership of colleges and universities worldwide, was created in 2001. Its goal is to improve and expand postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students around the world by sharing educational technology and conducting faculty development and training, particularly in developing countries.

## Host Institution

### United States of America

#### National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), established in 1967 at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), is the world's largest technological college for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and is an international model for educating and preparing deaf students for technology-related careers. Its unique placement at RIT allows more than 1,100 deaf and hard-of-hearing students to study and live with nearly 14,400 hearing students on a 1,500-acre campus.



The support and access services to help deaf and hard-of-hearing students learn highly technical and advanced subjects are unprecedented. During a typical one-year span, NTID logs 80,000 interpreter hours, 40,000 notetaker hours, and 20,000 tutoring hours. Classroom instructors also use a variety of communication strategies, including sign language, speech, fingerspelling, writing, and visual aids. NTID employs a total of 475 faculty and staff members, including 110 interpreters, who are experts in deaf-related fields. For many of these reasons, NTID was chosen in 2001 as the host institution for PEN-International.

## PEN-International's Mission

PEN-International works with talented faculty members from colleges and universities worldwide who believe in its mission of creating better career opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Using Internet, telecommunications, instructional, and information technologies combined with training highly motivated faculty members, PEN-International is improving teaching and learning for thousands of students in China, Russia, the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, and the Czech Republic.

*PEN-International's program consists of three main components:*

- **Faculty Professional Development and Training**
- **Creation of High-Technology Multimedia Labs at Partner Universities**
- **Cross-Cultural Exchanges**

**Sponsor** The Nippon Foundation of Japan, established in 1962, provides the grants that support PEN-International. The Foundation believes that all people share a common duty of transcending antagonism and overcoming conflict, so that cultures of the world may establish consensus and provide assistance to each other. The Nippon Foundation has dedicated itself to meeting that challenge by sponsoring multilateral networks to improve the circumstances of disadvantaged people around the world.



## Partners

### Japan

**National Tsukuba University of Technology (N-TUT)** The Government of Japan chartered the National Tsukuba University of Technology in October 1987 by amending the Japan Law for Establishing National Schools. Tsukuba's Division for Hearing Impaired has approximately 200 students enrolled and offers state-of-the-art programs in design, mechanical engineering, architectural engineering, electronics, and information sciences.

### China

**Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology (TUT)** is China's first technical college for people who are deaf. Established in 1991, the college enrolls more than 125 students who study technical disciplines that prepare them for productive membership in Chinese society. The college is the lead PEN-International partner in China and coordinates all activities in the country.

**Beijing Union University (BUU)**, founded in 1985, is a multidisciplinary institution offering humanities, science, social science, natural science, technological science, and management science programs to 12,000 students. The University's College of Special Education was created in 1999 and serves more than 125 deaf students who study art design, decorating and advertisement, gardening, and office automation.

**Changchun University's (CU) Technical College for the Disabled** was established in 1987. It is the oldest and largest postsecondary program for disabled students in the People's Republic of China. The college currently enrolls more than 200 deaf and hard-of-hearing students who study in the college's fine arts and graphic design programs.

**Zhongzhou University** was founded in 1980, and has approximately 10,000 students enrolled at the institution. The University consists of nine colleges, including an institute for special education that was formally established in 2002. Zhongzhou University has the only higher special education institute in China's Midwest region. A total of 202 students, including 195 deaf and 7 sign language interpretation students, are currently enrolled in the program.

### Russia

**Center on Deafness at Bauman Moscow State Technical University (BMSTU)** Founded in 1830, Bauman Moscow State Technical University is an engineering and scientific university of excellence whose graduates have contributed significantly to developments in engineering and science disciplines. While BMSTU has been educating deaf students since 1934, the University expanded its programs and services for deaf students in the 1990s by establishing the Center on Deafness. Presently, 250 deaf students study in various programs across the university as well as in compensatory programs.

**Institute of Social Rehabilitation at Novosibirsk State Technical University (ISR/NSTU)** Novosibirsk State Technical University was founded in 1950 and has 18,000 students enrolled at the university in one of its three institutions. The Institute of Social Rehabilitation at Novosibirsk State Technical University was established in 1993 to provide high technology education to disabled students. The institution has 296 deaf and hard-of-hearing students seeking a postsecondary level degree.

**Vladimir State University Center for the Deaf (VSU)** The Center of Professional Rehabilitation of the Deaf was established in 1994 at Vladimir State University. In 2002, the center became an experimental platform

for developing education and social support to deaf students. As a result of these efforts, the university became a leader in deaf education. The university currently has more than 60 deaf and hard-of-hearing students enrolled in its computer systems, management in industry, and business programs.

**Academy of Management "TISBI" at Kazan** has provided secondary and higher professional training for handicapped students via the Internet since 2001. Students are being trained in professions that are in high demand through a "virtual environment of social communication, partnership and cooperation." A total of 82 students are currently enrolled in this program, 24 of whom are deaf or hard of hearing.

### Philippines

**De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (CSB)** The College of Saint Benilde was founded in 1980. Fourteen years later, in a move to expand its mission, CSB became an autonomous College in the De La Salle System. CSB's School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies is a leader in education for the deaf in the Philippines through its academic programs, international linkages, and unique commitment to empower its citizens by preserving deaf heritage and nurturing Filipino deaf culture. CSB serves approximately 150 deaf students.

### Czech Republic

**Charles University** in Prague is the oldest university in the Czech Republic and the oldest university in central Europe. Founded in 1348 by King Charles IV, the University enrolls 41,000 students. Among the University's population are 120 students with special needs, including 24 students who are deaf. The University's world renowned Language Resource Centre, which teaches English to deaf and hard-of-hearing students, is a collaborative effort with several international experts, including NTID.

### Thailand

**Ratchasuda College of Mahidol University** is the first and only education institution in Southeast Asia dedicated to providing tertiary education for deaf students. The College, created in 1991, consulted with worldwide leaders in education of deaf students in formulating its curriculum. Ratchasuda College enrolls 89 students who are deaf.





## Faculty Professional Development and Training

PEN-International works with educators of the deaf and hard of hearing from colleges and universities worldwide in an effort to provide the latest in instructional technology. The program moves participant institutions from being importers of "know how" to self-sufficient entities. As institutions' individualized programs progress, through faculty development and curriculum improvement, they develop the capability to export what they have learned to other postsecondary institutions that serve deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The PEN-International program is intended to move partner institutions from importers to self-sufficiency to exporters, fostering an educational ripple effect through their home countries. The following are examples of recent training initiatives.

### *PEN-International Training at 2006 PEPNet Conference*

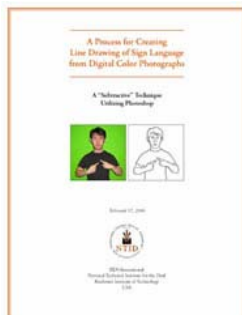
A delegation of eight university faculty members and administrators from Japan attended the 2006 PEPNet Conference in Louisville, KY. This delegation, representing PEPNet-Japan, was joined by the leadership team from PEN-International. In addition to their participation in many workshops and presentations, the PEPNet-Japan delegation and the PEN-International leadership team presented five training sessions and one panel discussion on topics relating to various programs and resources that are available to facilitate postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing men and women around the world.

### *PEN-Russia Conference Held in Kazan*

A conference entitled "Systems of Continuous Education of Disabled People: Experience, Problems, Trends and Solutions" was hosted at TISBI in Kazan in May 2006. This was the first conference held since the establishment of PEN-Russia. There were approximately 270 participants from 18 cities across the Russian Federation as well as guests from the USA. The conference consisted of 14 paper sessions and several round table discussions.

### *PEN Conducts Training in the Production of Sign Language Materials*

In March 2006, a PEN-International delegation visited the deafness program at Dong Nai Provincial Teacher's College, Vietnam, and the Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The purpose of these visitations was to conduct training for the deaf team of students and staff engaged in the production of Vietnamese and Hong Kong sign language print resources to form curriculum and dictionary materials.



## Cross-Cultural Exchanges

PEN-International supports both real and virtual student exchanges between participating universities. This cross-cultural exchange program strengthens each participant's cultural and personal identity and helps students develop an understanding of the diverse cultures that affect our world. The following are a few selected examples:

### *Haiku and Tanka Competition*

During the 2004-2005 academic year, PEN sponsored a haiku and tanka competition at both NTID and TCT. The Robert F. Panara Haiku Contest was named for Dr. Robert F. Panara, a renowned deaf poet, actor and educator. In March 2005, the five student winners from TCT were awarded with a cultural exchange visit to NTID for one week. During the last week of May 2005, there was a reciprocal visit to Japan by a five-student delegation from NTID. They were accompanied by four NTID faculty members and an ASL interpreter during the week-long visit to Japan.



### *2006 Summer Leadership Institute*

The Summer Leadership Institute, at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England, is a one-of-a-kind, multinational week-long program for postsecondary deaf students. In August 2006, four students and faculty sponsors from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, USA, and each of PEN-International's major partner programs in Japan, China, Russia, and the Philippines participated. The goals of the institute are to promote development of leadership skills; to focus on self-advocacy skills in the areas of support services in postsecondary education, community access, and employment; and to engage in learning about deaf culture and awareness.



## High Technology Multimedia Labs in Partner Universities

Instructional technology is critical for educating students who are deaf. For this reason, PEN-International constructed state-of-the-art high technology multimedia laboratories at partner institutions. Faculty members use them as "smart classrooms" for professional development and training, to develop curriculum, and for video-conferences. Students not only attend classes in these laboratories, which dramatically aids the teaching/learning process, but they also use the technology to help with studies and to complete homework assignments. Open lab time allows students to access the World Wide Web and send email correspondence, which are also important and necessary in today's society. PEN-International Multimedia Laboratories have been established at N-TUT, Japan; TUT, BUU, and CU, all in China; CSB, the Philippines; and BMSTU, Russia. These laboratories are used extensively, averaging 50 hours per week. Improvements are constantly being made to these laboratories in order to keep pace with new developments and technology. Changchun University, in particular, recently benefited from significant high technology improvements including increased Web access, videoconference technology, and a newly equipped integrated design lab. In addition, new wireless features and a special high tech mobile unit for mainstreamed deaf students were added to the laboratory at Bauman Moscow State Technical University, all within the last year.



## PEN-International Web Site <http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu>

The PEN-International WWW site is the universal portal to the resources of PEN-International. Partner institutions and anyone wishing to access the site can search and download materials developed by PEN.

## Research and Evaluation

Research efforts are conducted in collaboration with partner sites to meet locally defined needs. PEN's research efforts aim to positively influence postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students within each partner country. For example, in project year five, four in-depth training workshops were designed and implemented to address specific areas of defined needs. These in-depth training sessions, which generally consisted of a series of workshops being conducted over a one to two-week period, related to interpreter training, sign language instruction, automation technology, and counselor skills.

PEN-International activities, outcomes, and training initiatives are evaluated continuously utilizing both formative and summative techniques. The overall evaluation plan addresses the attainment of project goals, level of satisfaction by partner administrators and faculty, and improvement in student performance as a result of PEN interventions. Additionally, the role of each partner organization as a regional and national leader is assessed.

## Technology Symposium

PEN-International co-sponsors, with NTID, an international symposium titled, "Instructional Technology and Education of the Deaf: Supporting Learners, K-College." Educators of deaf and hard-of-hearing learners share information relative to current and future innovations and developments in the use of educational media and technology. All resources from symposiums conducted in 2001, 2003, and 2005 are available online: <http://www.rit.edu/~techsym>.

## PEN-International Team

**James J. DeCaro**  
Director

PEN-International  
NTID at RIT  
52 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623 USA  
585-475-6319 Voice & TTY  
Fax: 585-475-7515  
Email: [jjd8074@rit.edu](mailto:jjd8074@rit.edu)



**E. William Clymer**  
Coordinator

PEN-International  
NTID at RIT  
52 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623 USA  
585-475-6894 Voice & TTY  
Fax: 585-475-6544  
Email: [ewcnpc@rit.edu](mailto:ewcnpc@rit.edu)