

PEN-INTERNATIONAL

For Students Who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing
<http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu>

PEN-International...improving education through faculty development and technology

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 1968 at 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 1,200 deaf and hard-of-hearing students to study and live with nearly 15,000 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***
- ***Faculty and Student
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 Tsukuba College of Technology (TCT) in October 1987 by amending the Japan Law for Establishing National Schools. In December of 2005 the Government upgraded Tsukuba to the national university level, with the new name of National-Tsukuba University of Technology (N-TUT). Tsukuba's Division for Hearing Impaired offers state-of-the-art programs in design, mechanical engineering, architectural engineering, electronics, and information sciences.

PEPNet-Japan, based at National-Tsukuba University of Technology, is a collaborative network of 13 universities/institutions established with the support of PEN-International in order to provide better support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students who are enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions across Japan.

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 (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 for the purpose of providing high technology education to disabled students. The institution has a total of 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 of 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 University 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

Sharing technology without attending to the unique educational needs of students who are deaf does little to enhance the learning process for these young men and women. PEN-International, therefore, provides faculty training using successful strategies developed at NTID over the past four decades. PEN-International offers workshops and training for faculty members from partner institutions. For example:

ASL for Ratchasuda College

Two faculty members from NTID conducted a two-week-long American Sign Language (ASL) Course for 40 graduate students and faculty and staff members at Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University, Thailand on February 21 - March 4, 2005. The course focused on ASL linguistic structure, conversational fluency, and cultural protocols related to communication.

High Technology Multimedia Labs in Partner Universities

PEN-International understands the importance of instructional technology for educating deaf students. For this reason, state-of-the-art high technology multimedia labs have been constructed at partner universities. These labs are used for classroom and lab presentations, as independent learning labs when not used for regularly scheduled classes, as places for faculty to create high technology instructional solutions, and as locations for teleconferences. PEN-International Multimedia Laboratories have been established at TCT, Japan; TUT, BUU, and CU, all in China; CSB, the Philippines; and BMSTU, Russia. Each laboratory was designed to meet local requirements and expectations. The lab at BMSTU was expanded into a multifunctional lecture-room complex in November 2004. In January 2005, an agreement was signed to enhance the PEN-International Multimedia Laboratory at Changchun University. PEN-International purchased a complete Apple Macintosh Laboratory, consisting of 14 Macintosh computers, teacher station and projection system. This state-of-the-art lab will be used by Changchun's deaf students studying graphic arts, design and technology.



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 within each country. For example, the results of a two-year research study on tertiary deaf education in China was presented by PEN-International to the People's Republic of China in October 2004. The People's Republic of China commissioned PEN to assess postsecondary deaf education in China and provide recommendations for use in the development of a five-year education improvement plan.

PEN-International activities and outcomes 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.

Faculty and Student Exchanges

PEN-International supports virtual and real student and faculty exchanges between participating colleges and universities. This program strives to strengthen the knowledge and skills of individual participants as well as those of faculty and students at the host university. The following are a few selected examples of exchanges that have taken place:

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. Professor Jerome Cushman of NTID and Professors Miyoko Hosoya and Midori Matsufuji of TCT were the faculty leaders of the competition.

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.

Ambassador of Goodwill Student Exchanges Between TCT and CSB

A delegation of 18 students, faculty, and staff from Tsukuba College of Technology (TCT) visited the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies at the College of Saint Benilde (CSB) in Manila during November 2004. A reciprocal visit was conducted to TCT in February 2005 by a delegation of 10 students and faculty from CSB. Participants from both institutions expressed their gratitude for being given the opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile program.

