

Closing Statement
PEPNET-Japan Seminar
19 November 2006
Nagoya Japan

James J. DeCaro, PhD
PEN-International

It is a pleasure and an honor to be able to offer some closing comments at this PEPNet-Japan seminar.

There are three things that I will do in my presentation:

1. ask a question and provide an answer
2. congratulate you
3. offer a challenge.

Why are you here today? Why did you give up a weekend to come to this seminar?

You came here because you know that deaf men and women will succeed in university education if they have appropriate access and support services... if they have appropriate access and support services.

You came here because you want to make a positive difference in the lives of deaf men and women in this country.

You came here because you know this can happen by working together in PEPNet-Japan.

Today it is clear to me that you are working hard to achieve these ends. Today, therefore, I want to congratulate you on the continued growth of PEPNet-Japan. Your efforts to improve the educational circumstances of men and women who are deaf in Japan deserve the highest of praise. You have made exceptional progress in achieving your goals of becoming an exemplary network of institutions serving deaf students. This is a wonderful accomplishment. However, there is much still to do and this can happen through PEPNet-Japan.

By continuing to work together you can now move to an even higher level of support and cooperation in your country. By continuing to work together, you can demonstrate to Japan that you are a positive agent for change worthy of support.

You are the right people, at the right place at the right time.

Keep up the excellent work my friends.

Deaf people deserve the very best that you can offer. Deaf people deserve the very best that you can offer.