

# **PEN-International in China**

---- International higher education cooperation for the deaf

Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology

## **I. Brief introduction to the College**

Technical College for the Deaf (TCD) of Tianjin University of Technology (TUT) is the first engineering higher college which recruits hard-hearing students in China. Technical College for the Deaf was founded in November 1997. Now there are two undergraduate courses: one is computer science and technology, the other is artistic design in garments. And there are 190 students who come from all over China. The foundation of Technical College for the Deaf was paid attention to and supported by ministry of education of China, widely noticed by press media. At the same time is welcome warmly by the deaf students and their family, who are willing to enter themselves for an examination. In 2003, the deaf students who enter for Technical College for the Deaf came from 24 provinces and municipalities. The number of students entering for is three times as many as that of recruiting students

## **II. PEN-International in China**

### **1. Cooperation under PEN-International in Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology**

In June 29, 2001, the agreement on Postsecondary Education Network International: For Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing was signed in NTID of RIT, the United States of America. National Technical Institute for the Deaf of Rochester Institute of Technology, Tsukuba College of Technology, Moscow University of Science and Technology and Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology became the founders of **PEN-International**.

Tianjin University of Technology is one of members of this project. Bao Guodong, the rector of College for the deaf of Tianjin University of Technology is this project manager in China, in charge of the activities in Tianjin University of Technology and others in China under **PEN-International**.

Since the foundation of **PEN-International** in 2001, we have developed the following activities supported by **PEN-International**.

In July 2001, seven teachers were trained in NTID, learning long-distance education and networks management.

In June 2001, the exchanging visit of teachers took place between TUT and TCT. The teachers of TUT learned audiology and hearing redeem.

In August 2001, professors of TCT trained hearing technology for the teachers coming from Tianjin School for the Deaf.

In August 2001, a long-distance networks center in TUT was set up with the help of NTID, and founded the top-ranking hearing examination lab in China.

In September 2001, the students from TCT and NTID paid a visit to TUT and exchanged.

In April 2002, ten faculty and students of TUT visited NTID and TCT, boosted up the understanding one another, realized wide cooperation.

In June 2002, second group of six faculty of TUT went to NTID for training on education

technology for the deaf.

In August 2002, rector of Technical College for the deaf, Bao Guodong, went to Taobei of China for the 8<sup>th</sup> hard-hearing conference in Pacific-Asia area.

In November 2002, International Education Seminar for the Deaf was held in TCD of TUT, in which nearly 30 people from 14 universities and schools took part in. At seminar, professors of NTID trained education technology to them in the face-to-face way and through video conference system.

During March 24-27, 2003, 12 faculty and students of TCT visited TCD of TUT, taking a look at labs of TCD, gamming with students and having an informal discussion, etc.

In June 2003 TCD of TUT took part in the education seminar held in NTID through video conference system and realized communication among four counties.

In October 2003, professor DeCaro, director of **PEN-International** of NTID was rewarded by Tianjin municipality government because of his important contribution to education of the deaf in China.

Since the foundation of **PEN-International**, video conference system in TCD of TUT has been fully used in the activities: video conference, training, interview for task research, student activities, etc. greatly extending exchanging range, fully showing service function of equipments from **PEN-International**.

## **2. Extending of PEN-International in China**

According to the **PEN-International** agreement, from the second half of year 2002, **PEN-International** started to extend in main land of China.

In August 2002, TCD of TUT had a discussion with Special Education College for the Deaf of Beijing Union University (BUU) about cooperation under **PEN-International**, and then Special Education College for the Deaf of BUU became the second member. In March 2003, international video conference system was set up and put into use.

In August 2003, Special Education College for the Deaf of Changchun University (CU) became the third member. In September, it signed the cooperation agreement with **PEN-International**. In January 2004 international video conference system started to be used.

Under the **PEN-International**, international education networks for the deaf proceed to extend to the northwestern area of China.

## **III. Influence to the development of higher education for the deaf in China**

**PEN-International** promotes the development of higher education for the deaf in China, makes it have an essential spring.

Firstly, promoting the higher education for the deaf internationalized. The foundation of **PEN-International** makes the Chinese deaf higher education have a chance to touch with that of advanced countries, and closes to internationalization in education ideal, school-running thought, school-running model, etc. in the exchanging procedure, understanding each other has been increased, more cooperative views in common have been found, international cooperation has been promoted.

Secondly, promoting the progress in higher education technology. **PEN-International** supplied several chances for the education technology, introduced international advanced theory and practical experience in the technology of networks and media, education theory, the theory and technology of hearing and psychology, which made great progress in education

environment.

Thirdly, promoting the education theory research on higher education. Exchanging achievement under **PEN-International** and application of new technology made Chinese educational workers doing more deep research in education theory and practice, in education system, school-running model, major construction and setup teaching model, studying and psychological feature in university stage more discussions were deeply performed. Research topic was listed into national emphasis ones. In this work, we invited PEN members from USA, Japan and at home to do research and practice in common.

Fourthly, promoting exchange and union in higher education for the deaf in China. Based on the need of contact and research, we not only held many video conferences, received many networks training, but also made research, interviews and material collection possible.

Fifthly, promoting the improvement in higher education for the deaf in China. Under PEN, we raised the students with further enhancing. China Central Television Station (CCTV) made several special programs to report the school-running achievement on higher education for the deaf. Ministry of Education of China affirmed several times school-running quality on higher education for the deaf.

#### **IV. Foreground**

In recent years, Chinese deaf basic education is developing rapidly. There are more than one thousand schools for the deaf in all country. Language training for the deaf children has been to advanced standard. 50% of deaf children have had certain language ability. All these make a certain base for higher education for the deaf. The foundation of **PEN-International** (Postsecondary Education Network International: For Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing) greatly impels progress for Chinese higher education for the deaf, leads Chinese education for the deaf to the internationalized road. By cooperation, research and use foreign experience for reference, makes use of many-year practicing experience of education for the deaf, we make sure that we can make a higher special education road with Chinese features, and at the same time, we are willing to contribute our own strength to **PEN-International**.