Background Regarding the Delegation from CUHK Visit to
PEN-International, NTID/RIT
September 15 - 23, 2007

Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/research03.html

Delegation
Two members from the department, Mr. Cheng Ka Yiu and Mr. Chu Kwan Ngai
"Kenny" will be at RIT for the week. Professor Gladys Tang, Chair of the
Department will be on campus Friday, September 21, 2007.

Reason for Visit
Mr. Cheng and Chu are responsible for the production of sophisticated sign
language recourses as described in the following paragraphs. They also are
going to be training deaf individuals, from Indonesia and Sri Lanka, at their
location in Hong Kong, in the processes they have developed for documenting
and disseminating sign language materials.

Project Description
'Practical Dictionaries for Asian-Pacific Sign Languages', funded by the Nippon
Foundation, is the first of its kind in Asia that coordinates deaf training and
research on a regional scale. The Centre is responsible for coordinating deaf
training with the goal of producing linguistically-based sign language dictionaries
as well as teaching and learning materials. The Foundation is also supporting the
creation of the first Asian sign language corpus based on linguistic analysis. This
corpus will benefit both the general public and sign language researchers, given
its richness in documenting the linguistic information of the Asian sign languages.
The Centre is also working closely with the Department of Systems Engineering
and Engineering Management in setting up an XML-based, flexible and scalable
database server. An HTML interface is also included to provide web access to
researchers worldwide through the Internet. This Nippon Foundation project
involves several phases, to progressively include sign data from various Asian
countries." This project supports the development of dictionaries for sign
languages used in Vietnam, Hong Kong, Cambodia, and the Philippines with the
aim of facilitating communication between deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing
people.

Specific Interests

1. Training and suggestions on computer techniques that can be used to
   facilitate the development of print and non-print sign language material
   development. This includes photographing and video recording sign
   examples, manipulating the images for reproduction, producing online, e-

books and other media to disseminate the sign resources. Adobe products (Photoshop, Acrobat) and Microsoft Office are of particular interest. Specific individual or online training for these products would be very helpful.

2. Observing classes and meeting instructors that can offer suggestions regarding teaching strategies when teaching computer skills to deaf users, with little or no computer experience. Especially teaching OS, Office Applications and Adobe products, at an introductory level.

3. Smart classroom design and use, including networking of student computers in the smart classroom to support newly acquired computer application skills.

4. Videoconference system design and use, both for business meetings and instruction.