

Funding to NTID Tops \$5.8M for International Project

May 18, 2005

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has awarded the Postsecondary Education Network-International program at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology a grant of \$1.25 million to fund its fifth year of programming to improve education and career opportunities for college-age deaf students worldwide. To date, The Nippon Foundation of Japan has awarded PEN-International more than \$5.8 million.

Students in Japan, China, Russia, the Czech Republic, Thailand, and the Philippines will continue to benefit from PEN-International's expertise in the areas of curriculum development, access, technology and teacher training.

"We're especially pleased this year to see so many faculty members at our partner institutions moving from being 'importers' of knowledge and technological skills, to self-sufficient users of this technology, to the final step—becoming true 'exporters,' sharing their expertise at other universities within their respective countries," said James J. DeCaro, Ph.D., director of PEN-International. "This is exactly what the project was designed to do."

The Nippon Foundation is so pleased with PEN-International's progress that it has asked for another five-year plan.

"We are immensely satisfied with the work that members of the worldwide PEN-International team have achieved," said Foundation Executive Director Shuichi Ohno. "This is a very worthwhile project."

PEN-International is a multilateral international effort to network colleges and universities that educate people who are deaf. For more information about PEN-International and its global partners visit www.pen.ntid.rit.edu.

NTID is the first and largest technological college in the world for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. One of eight colleges of RIT, NTID offers educational programs and access and support services to 1,100 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from around the world who study, live and socialize with 14,400 hearing students on RIT's Rochester, N.Y., campus. Web address www.rit.edu/NTID. Visit www.rit.edu/NTID/newsroom for more NTID news.