Asia-Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program
(2006-2012)

Professor Gladys Tang
Professor James Woodward
Coordinating Body

Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies,

Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages,

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Funding Organization

The Nippon Foundation
Tokyo, Japan
Phase I: Practical Dictionaries of Asian-Pacific Sign Languages (2003-2007)

- Research and training activities were conducted individually on the following four sites:

  1. Vietnam
  2. Hong Kong
  3. Philippines
  4. Cambodia
Phase I: Practical Dictionaries of Asian-Pacific Sign Languages (2003-2007)

- Focused on providing sign linguistics and sign language teaching training to deaf researchers in order for them to produce high-quality sign language dictionaries and sign language teaching materials for their own country.
Phase I: Practical Dictionaries of Asian-Pacific Sign Languages (2003-2007)

- The dictionaries and teaching materials are of practical value in preserving sign languages indigenous to the Asia-Pacific Region. They constitute invaluable resources for the future development of sign linguistic research in the region.
A skeletal database system “The Asian SignBank” was also developed.
Phase II: Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program: A Project for Deaf Empowerment (2006-2012)

Goals:

1. To promote and establish university-level sign linguistics research and sign language teaching programs in the Asia-Pacific region by actively collaborating with universities and deaf associations in the region.

2. To publish sign language dictionaries and teaching materials in support of Asian developments in sign linguistics research, sign language teaching and interpretation.

3. To nurture the concept of deaf empowerment by working closely with the World Federation of the Deaf/Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific, national and local deaf associations, universities, and government bodies.
APSL Research Training: Deaf Researchers

Year 1
1. Certificate Programme in Basic Sign Language Lexicography for the Deaf
2. Certificate Programme in English Literacy and IT Applications for the Deaf

Year 2
1. Diploma in Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies
2. Diploma in Adult Deaf Education
3. Diploma in English Literacy Skills

Years 3, 4, & 5
1. Higher Diploma in Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies

The above programs are jointly offered by the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, CUHK and CSLDS. Upon completion of the higher diploma the deaf researchers are qualified for university education.
APSL Research Training: Hearing Researchers

- Postgraduate training through M.A. in Linguistics program offered by the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK

- In-house research internship offered at the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies

- Faculty training internships for professors of Asian universities intending to develop sign linguistics research and to support deaf people in their professional development at the tertiary level.
Research Activities

1. Descriptive and Theoretical Linguistic Research on Asia-Pacific Sign Languages
   - Sign Language Formational Structure
   - Sign Language Morphology and Syntax
   - Sign Language Lexical Structure

2. Corpus Linguistics & Lexicography

3. Applied Linguistic
   - Sign Language Pedagogy
Research Outputs

A. Research expertise
   - Deaf and hearing experts in sign linguistic research and training developments in the Asia-Pacific region, the latter of which include sign language teaching, sign language interpretation, sign language materials production, deaf education, etc.

B. Research resources
   - Asian SignBank (Asian sign languages database system)
   - Asia-Pacific sign language dictionaries
   - Asia-Pacific sign language teaching materials
APSL Research Trainees
Basic Computer Skills

- Presentation Project
  - 10 minutes PowerPoint presentation
  - Topics based on the Country of origin of the students
Desktop Publishing Skills

- Basics of digital photography and video filming
Desktop Publishing Skills

- Topics
  - Image Editing and Manipulation with Adobe Photoshop

Classroom instruction of essential skills for making sign language materials

Workshop practices for mastering basic skills of Adobe Photoshop
Desktop Publishing Skills

- Topics
  - Video Editing with Adobe Premiere