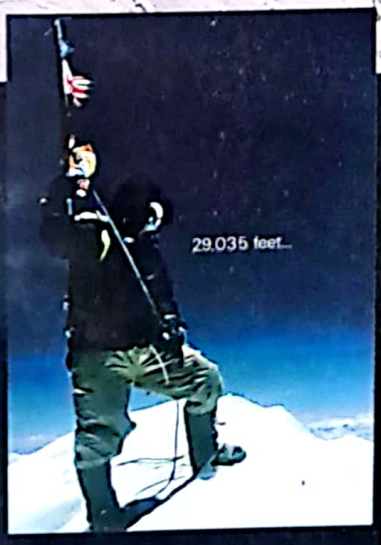
Nepal Parbat

Vol. 4 No. 9 May 29, 2003

What does it take to stand on top of the world ?





NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

MOUNT EVEREST
50
1953 - 2003
NEPAL
THE ULTIMATE NIRVANA



On the occasion of

Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration,

We Heartily Welcome

Mt. Everest Summiteers from around the world,

The delegates of Himalayan Environment Trust,

The delegates of UAAA Council Meet,

The delegates of International Mountaineers Association

and distinguished guests, invitees and participants .

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION



HIS MAJESTY KING GYANENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV





HER MAJESTY QUEEN KOMAL RAJYA LAXMI DEVI SHAH



Telephone No. 228187
228796

Ref No.:-

Royal Palace
Nepal

H. M. The King of Nepal
Private Secretariat

MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY KING GYANENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE *NEPAL PARBAT* TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE ASCENT OF MOUNT EVEREST

We are happy to learn that the Nepal Mountaineering Association is bringing out a special issue of its magazine *Nepal Parbat* to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the first ascent of Mount Everest (Sagarmatha). It is also a matter of satisfaction that this historic event is being celebrated in our country amidst a variety of programmes with the participation of eminent mountaineers from all over the world.

The Nepal Mountaineering Association has over the years played a lead role in promoting sustainable mountain tourism and ensuring that the fragile eco-system in the region is not disrupted. We hope it will continue to support mountaineers and mountaineering-related activities.

We wish the Nepal Mountaineering Association and the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebrations every success.

***



MESSAGE

The Prime Minister

I am pleased to learn that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is bringing out a special supplement of its publication ***Nepal Parbat*** to mark the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration, which is going to take place on May 29, 2003 - the historic day when humans, the first time, stepped atop Sagarmatha (Mount Everest), the highest peak in the world and the glory and pride of Nepal and the Nepalese people. It is a memorable day that will always remain afresh and monumental in the annals of mountaineering history and encourage the mountaineers throughout the world to strive for and shoulder challenges in the high mountains.

Mountain tourism has remained a major source of input to our economy besides the fact that it has enhanced the image of the country in the world arena tourism. In this respect, various policies and reforms measures have been initiated keeping in mind the promotional needs of the tourism sector as a whole. The government is very much effortful towards magnetizing more and more tourists to this beautiful country of ours, incorporating all needful programmes and policy steps. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the activities of NMA in promoting mountain tourism.

I wish NMA every success in its endeavour and hope that it will remain instrumental for the promotion and furtherance of mountain tourism in the country. I would also like to thank office bearers of NMA for coming out with this commemorative issue of ***Nepal Parbat*** on this grand occasion.



Prime Minister, Nepal
Lokendra Bahadur Chand



MESSAGE

Minister, Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation

I am glad to learn that Nepal Mountaineering Association is organising various programmes to mark the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration. It reminds us of the feat of two people who first set foot on Sagarmatha (Everest) on May 29, 1953. It is a matter of great pride that Sagarmatha lies in Nepal and we are celebrating the momentous occasion in a grand manner.

Tourism for Nepal is an important sector. It is not only a major source for foreign earnings but has opened up big employment opportunities for the people. In fact, mountain tourism has all along been promoted because Nepal boasts of numerous magnificent peaks including the highest in the world that is Sagarmatha.

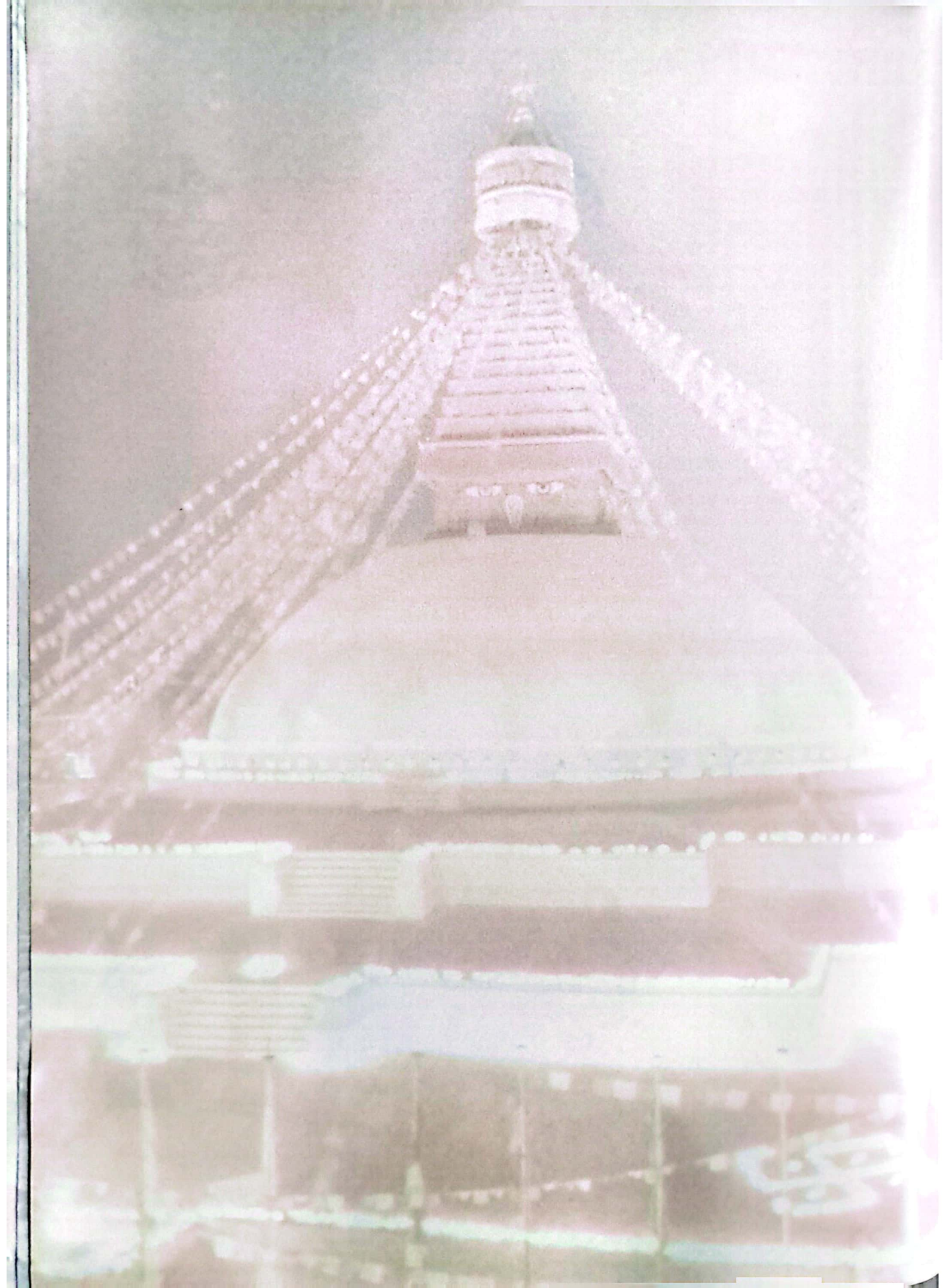
The natural and cultural heritage of the country are unique and have the potential to make tourism a dynamic and prosperous sector. Though there has been some impact on this sector in the past, but the last six months since the cease-fire was declared, the country is seeing improvements. The arrivals of tourists is increasing and optimism has grown once again.

Various steps have been taken to make the tourism sector vibrant. But internal and external events saw a decline in tourist arrivals. But things are changing now. The government too is taking necessary measures to tackle the situation as it is aware that the sector must be propped for economic revival. Despite the setbacks in the past, the number of expedition teams to the various peaks of the country has not decreased, rather it has increased. Therefore mountain tourism still remains our forte.

The government being sensitive to the demands of the tourism sector has been making continual reforms in the concerned policies, rules and regulations. The role of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is considered important by His Majesty's Government. It has been effortful in promoting mountain tourism and various allied activities. I hope that it will make further commendable contributions in the days ahead. I would like to thank NMA and the Publicity and Publication Committee for bringing out its special issue of ***Nepal Parbat*** on the historic occasion of the first successful ascent of Sagarmatha exactly fifty years ago. I would like to wish you a very successful commemoration of the event.



Minister, Nepal
Kuber Prasad Sharma



UNION OF ASIAN ALPINE ASSOCIATIONS

I feel it my honour to express my feelings on the occasion of marking the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration being marked today to commemorate the first successful human ascent of the highest peak in the world. The commemoration of the historic successful ascent of Mt. Everest half a century ago is an important event in the mountaineering calendar.

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), I feel, has been taking up its activities remarkably well despite the various constraints it faces. The establishment of the International Mountain Museum in the scenic Pokhara valley is a fine example. Working together with NMA has been a pleasure.

I wish a bright future to the Nepal Mountaineering Association and would also like to thank ***Nepal Parbat*** for bringing out its special issue to coincide with the very important day.



President of UAAA
Kim, Sang-Hyun



MESSAGE

International Mountaineers Association

I feel my pleasure, on behalf of the International Mountaineers Association (IMA), to greet Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) on the occasion of the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration. The day May 29 reminds us of the efforts, courage and endurance of the human spirit to accept challenges. It is a day when man first stepped on the top of Everest.

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) cannot but be praised for the various activities it has been undertaking to promote mountain tourism as well as work for the conservation of the mountains.

NMA must be thanked for bringing out the special issue of ***Nepal Parbat*** on this historic and grand occasion. I wish NMA the best wishes in carrying out its activities in the future.



President
Gia Tortladze

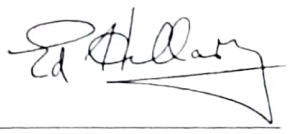


SIR EDMUND HILLARY

It is hard to believe that fifty years have passed since Tenzing and I first stood on the top of Mt. Everest. In a sense climbing Everest was a beginning rather than an end. I can clearly remember standing on top of the mountain with a warm glow of satisfaction and looking across the deep Barun Valley to the great-unclimbed summit of Mt. Makalu. Even while on top of Everest I mentally picked out a possible route to the top of that formidable peak. I had no sense of Everest being the end of things - it was just a stage to be overcome and there was still plenty left to do. I started to follow a regular routine - a mixture of adventurous activities and aid programmes. With my New Zealand team we drove three farm tractors all the way from the ocean across the crevassed Polar Plateau to the South Pole, then the expedition "Ocean to Sky", driving three jet boats for 1500 miles up the great Ganges River in India from the Bay of Bengal to its wild source in the high Himalayas. Later we landed with a ski-equipped Twin Otter aircraft at the North Pole with the famous astronaut Neil Armstrong. But perhaps most important was the four and a half years I spent with my wife June, as New Zealand High Commissioner to India and Bangladesh and Ambassador to Nepal. That was a remarkable experience. Nearly every year we were back in the Himalayas climbing and building schools.

Many other mountaineers have now reached the summit of Mt. Everest - many of them inexperienced but led by a couple of experienced guides, there are many aluminum ladders across the crevasses and thousands of metres of fixed rope, it is no longer real mountaineering but often just a conducted tour. But Everest is still a great mountain and the Nepal Mountaineering Association does its best to keep it that way. I would like to thank ***Nepal Parbat*** for celebrating this 50th Anniversary.





Edmund Hillary
New Zealand



NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Today Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) together with everyone else including mountaineers and mountain lovers are marking the historic golden jubilee of the day Sagarmatha (Everest) was successfully scaled. It was exactly 50 years ago, on May 29,1953, that Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary made the first successful ascent of the highest peak in the world and opened the way for other mountaineers to make it to the top of the world.

The year 2003 is very important considering the significance attached to mountains and their conservation.

It is my belief that mountains must receive due respect and concerted efforts on a global scale must be made for the conservation of the mountains, the mountain people and their culture, lifestyle and tradition. It is for this very fact that the United Nations had declared 2002 as the International Year of the Mountains. This drew the attention of all to the mountains and their preservation.

Nepal is marking the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration 2002-2003 a befitting programmes with great enthusiasm. In this celebration Nepal Mountaineering Association has taken a lead role which makes us proud. The programmes to mark this grand occasion were initiated in June 2002. Herein, it may be worthwhile remembering that Sir Edmund Hillary, one of the first two men to step on top of Everest, is the Honorary President of the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee.

On the historic occasion to celebrate the 50 years since the first human footsteps on top of the world, Nepal Mountaineering Association is organising the gathering of Everest summiteers in Kathmandu. It will be the first gathering of this kind in the world and NMA takes pride in the fact that it is hosting it.

NMA has always been active in promoting mountain tourism in Nepal, as it is the only alpine club in the country. It has been engaged in conservation of the Himalayan environment, honouring successful mountaineers and assisting families of those who have met with tragedy in the high Himalayas. It has also been conducting mountaineering training for interested people.

NMA has a number of projects lined up. Among these a mega project is the International Mountain Museum (IMM) in the beautiful valley of Pokhara. It will be the first museum of its kind in the world. A lot of effort has gone into making it as per the vision. The soft opening of IMM took place on May 29, 2002 at the initiation of the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration. The full opening of the museum will take place next year on February 5, 2004. The works on Mountaineers Memorial Park, Kakani, in memory of the deceased mountaineers is also moving ahead.

The relation between man and mountains have remained strong all through the ages. It is all the more important now that we realise the strong bonds that exist between the human beings and the mountains. Hence, it is all important to raise awareness as regards conservation of mountain environment together with the mountain people.

It is cooperation and support that is important in every effort. NMA is happy to receive assistance from its friends and well-wishers.

I would like to thank everyone for making it possible for NMA to succeed in its achievements and we look forward to continued support.

I would also like to thank the Publication and Publicity Committee for bringing out ***Nepal Parbat***, a special issue, on the occasion of Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration. I wish them success in their endeavour.



President
Ang Tshering Sherpa

Golden Jubilee Special

A JOURNAL OF NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION
Vol: 4 No: 9 May 29, 2003

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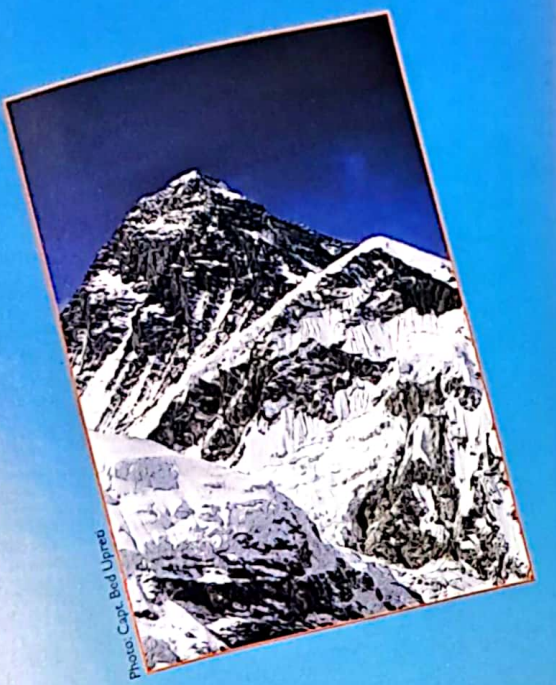


Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti



Photo: Personal Collection, Appa Sherpa

What does it take to stand on top of the world?

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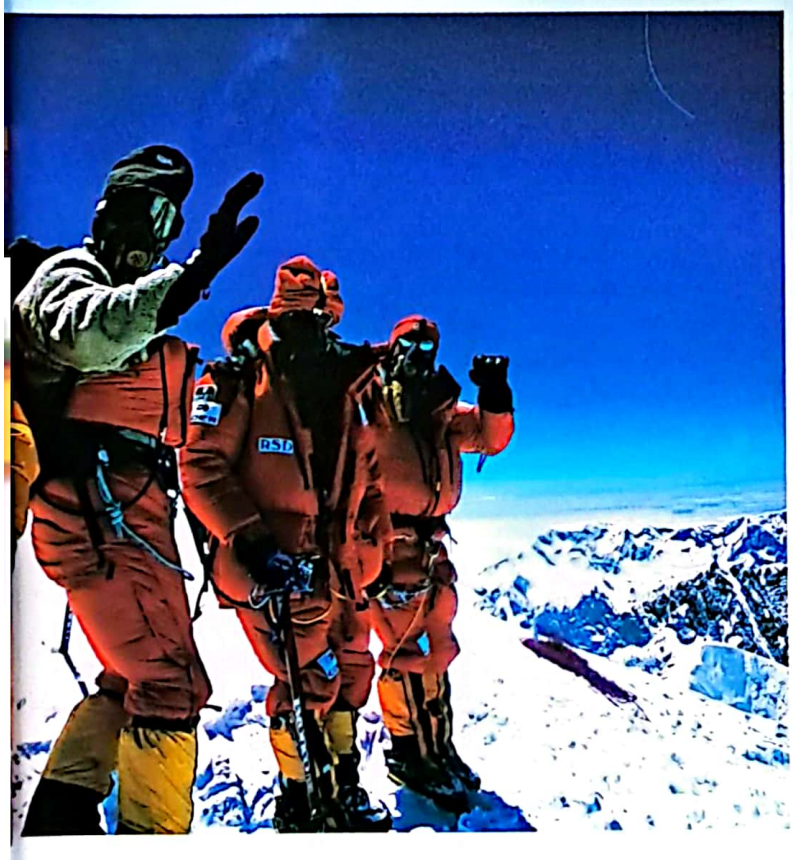
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Cover Photo: Mt. Everest © Jagadish Tiwari
Tenzing Sherpa & Sir Edmund Hillary © National Geographic Society

EDITORIAL

The Milestone: May 29, 1953

It gives us immense pleasure to come up with the Special Issue of ***Nepal Parbat***, a publication of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), on the grand occasion of the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration on May 29, 2003. In fact, we have all along been endeavoring since June, 2002 when the celebrations started to present all the aspects of the highest peak in the world, mountain tourism, glimpses into the Himalayan peaks, activities of Nepal Mountaineering Association including its humanitarian works and the mega project the International Mountain Museum (Pokhara), Mountaineers Memorial Park at Kakani, the training programmes it conducts, and honoring the mountaineers, preservation of the mountain environment through clean-up campaigns among others. The information on mountains and mountaineering, views of the mountaineers and those of the experts in the related field form the bulk of the material that goes into making the ***Nepal Parbat*** popular among the interested.

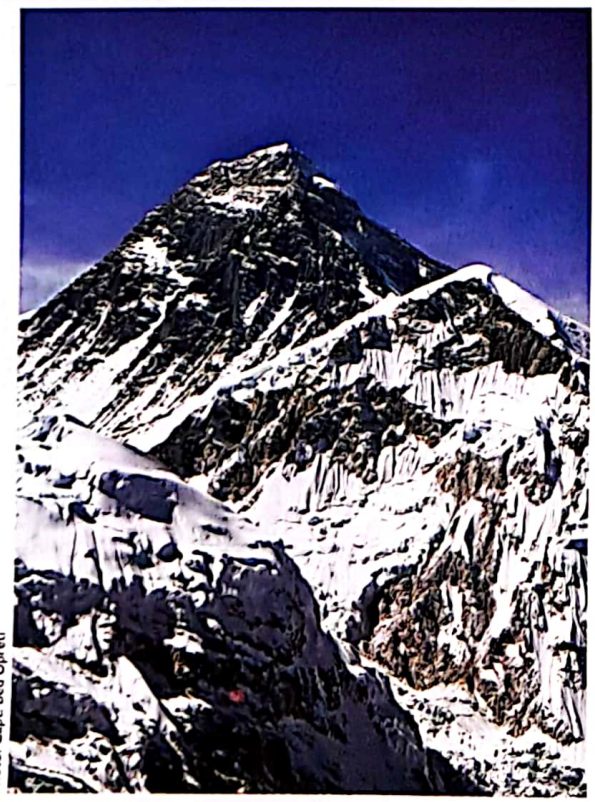


Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti

Today is an important day in mountaineering history as this was the day (May 29,1953) fifty years back that a breakthrough was achieved in mountain climbing when Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary, became the first human beings to step on the summit of Sagarmatha (Everest), the highest peak in the world. Despite all attempts prior to that day, this climb is a testimony of human endeavor, endurance and courage. It also put the name of Nepal in the mountaineering map of the world, which continues today. Nepal as a result, with its natural heritage of the extended Himalayan range, including eight of the fourteen peaks in the world which are over 8,000 m in height, has become a much sought after destination by mountaineers and mountain lovers. These all add up to making Nepal as a meeting point of adventure lovers

especially interested in mountain climbing. The fact that during this spring season there are 123 expedition teams making a bid for various peaks speaks of the lure that still continues for the Himalayas.

While on this topic, it may be worthwhile mentioning that tourism is an import contributor to the national economy and one in which thousands of people are directly or indirectly benefiting mainly through the generation of employment opportunities. This tells of the importance of the tourism industry for the country. The natural and cultural heritage of the country is rich, varied and unique. These may be enough to attract visitors from all over the world. But it must also be remembered that adequate development of infrastructures and tourism products are equally essential.

As is well known, the tourism sector is very sensitive to internal and international events and the past few years have been unfortunately affected by the inflow of tourists to the country. Efforts have been made by the government as well from the private sector to develop tourism but there are still many issues to be tackled. Prior to the declaration of the cease-fire and the initiation of peace talks between the government and the Maoists, there were some reservations about the development of tourism, but now some amount of optimism has dawned. The time ahead will see revival of the tourism sector but till then we must wait with fingers crossed for improvement to materialise. While on this, it is interesting to note that mountain tourism as such has not borne the brunt of the slide. On the contrary, the number of expedition teams has, in fact, been increasing every year. This is one area where the right approach can lead to further growth.

Right approach and strategies will see better results. Nepal Mountaineering Association is aware of the challenges and is devising and implementing its own programmes and drives to enhance mountain tourism in the country. NMA has always been active in promoting and popularising mountaineering. With its affiliation to international mountaineering and climbing unions like the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA), Union of Asian Alpine Associations, International Mountaineering Association, etc., NMA has developed a network of fruitful relations worldwide.

At home, NMA has been engaged in the construction of the International Mountain Museum (IMM), a grand project that will be the only one of its kind in the world. Located in the scenic valley of Pokhara, it will be fully opened to the public on February 5, 2004. Much time, effort and money has gone into making this vision come true. The support and cooperation of friends and well wishers including organisations in the country and abroad have been very encouraging. NMA is also working hard to materialise Mountaineers Memorial Park in Kakani. The memorial will be a place to offer respect and remember the mountaineers who have died in the Himalayas. Besides, NMA has also taken it as a part of its duty to help, morally and financially, the families of deceased mountaineers and also assist other mountaineers who face difficulties. In doing so, there are financial constraints as the only source of NMA's earning are the fees received by issuing permits to the 33 NMA peaks. It is difficult to conduct many programmes within the financial constraints but NMA continues to strive in fulfilling its objectives.

The commemoration of the first successful ascent of Sagarmatha is an occasion for the NMA to pledge itself to work relentlessly for the fulfillment of its objectives.

Nepal Parbat has made it a point to include various thought provoking as well as informative articles on Sagarmatha so that readers can gain insight into the most famous and highest peak in the world. We have tried our best to make this Special Issue worth the grand and momentous occasion especially with the first gathering of the Everest summiteers in Kathmandu.

On behalf of ***Nepal Parbat***, we wish all our friends, well-wishers and readers a happy celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the first successful ascent of Sagarmatha (Everest). ▲

NEPAL FACTSHEET

Continent	:	Asia
Official Name	:	Kingdom of Nepal (Nepal Adhirajya)
Capital	:	Kathmandu
Location	:	Situated between India in the south, east and west and Tibetan Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China in the north. a. Latitude : 26° 22' 30° 27' North b. Longitude : 80° 4' and 88° 12' East
Size		a. Area : 147,181 sq kms b. Length : 885 km. (East to West) c. Width : Non-uniform, mean width of 193 km. north to south
Political System	:	Multi-party Democracy with Constitutional Monarchy
Population	:	According to census of 2001
	a.	Male 11563921 49.96 percent
	b.	Female 11587502 50.04 percent
		Total 23151423 100.00 percent



Population Growth Rate	:	2.2 percent
Life Expectancy at Birth in 2001	:	59.7 years
People	:	Nepal has more than 60 caste/ethnic groups and 70 spoken languages
Religion	:	Hindu 80.62 percent Buddhist 10.74 percent Islam 4.20 percent Kirat 3.60 percent Christian 0.45 percent Sikha 0.03 percent Jain 0.02 percent Other 0.37 percent **Total 100.00 percent**
Literacy Rate	:	a. Male: 65.08 percent b. Female: 42.49 percent **Total: 52.74 percent**
National Flag	:	
National Emblem	:	
National Flower	:	Rhododendron – Arboreum (Lali Gurans)

Nature alone makes it one of the most fascinating countries in Asia; a confusion of mountains and hills, almost as if the Himalayas, in an attempt to reach the heavens, had crumbled back down to earth.

- Giuseppe Tucci,
Journey to Mustang

National Animal	:	Cow
National Bird	:	Impean pheasant (Danfe)
Time Zone	:	5 Hours 45 minutes ahead of GMT
Unit of Currency	:	Nepali Rupees (Approximately US $ 1 equals Rs 77.27 in May 2003)

According to World Development Report 2000/2001 of World Bank

Per Capita GDP (NRs)	:	17667 in 2000/01
Per Capita GNP (NRs)	:	18369 in 2000/01
Weather	:	Nepal has four major seasons, namely : **a. Winter** : December – February **b. Spring** : March – May **c. Summer** : June – August **d. Autumn** : September – November Nepal can be visited the whole seasons.
What to wear	:	Light weight clothing is recommended for May through October. Warm garments are required in October – March An umbrella or a Raincoat is necessary for the rainy season.
Entry Procedures	:	A visa is required to enter Nepal except for India nationals. One can get a visa at the Royal Nepalese Embassy or Consulate or at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu.
Tourism in Nepal	:	Despite enormous potential, tourism had a belated beginning in Nepal. In the real sense, tourism began after the advent of democracy in 1951. Due to various tourism products available in the country, there is a great scope for developing tourism in the country. The prime tourism attractions of Nepal are nature, culture and religious resources. Nepal is endowed with unique cultural and natural heritage. Similarly, Nepal is famous for its natural beauty and nature based adventure tourism. Mountaineering, trekking, rafting and wildlife sanctuaries are the special attractions for adventure tourism.





Photo: Sanchit Lamichhane

Tourism plays an important role in the national economy and it is a major source of foreign currency earnings. In the year 2001, total foreign currency earnings from tourism were $ 140.2 mil and the contribution of tourism to the GDP of the nation was 2.9 percent.

A total number of 361,237 tourists visited Nepal during the year 2001 representing decrease of 22.1 percent over the previous year.

The major tourist originating countries are India, U.K., U.S.A., Japan, Germany, France, Netherland and so on. According to the data for 2001, tourists entering Nepal by air constituted 82.9 percent whereas 17.1 percent entered by land. The average length of stay of tourists was recorded as 11.93 days.

The role of mountain tourism is very significant in the overall tourism sector. In fact, tourism in Nepal began with mountain tourism. After the successful ascent by French nationals Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal of Mt. Annapurna I (8,091 m) on June 3, 1950 many mountaineers was focus on Nepal. It was the first successful ascent among the 14 over 8,000 m. peaks of the world. The successful ascent of Annapurna I is significant in this respect. Three years later, in1953, the successful victory over Mt. Everest (8,848 m.) by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, Nepal was introduced all over the world.

There is great scope for developing mountain tourism in Nepal. Along with Mt. Everest among the fourteen snow-topped mountains over 8,000 m. in height is the world peaks like Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,586 m.), Mt. Lhotse (8,516 m.), Mt. Makalu (8,463 m.), Mt. Cho-Oyu (8201 m.), Mt. Dhaulagiri (8,167 m.), Mt. Manaslu (8,163 m.) and Mt. Annapurna (8,091 m.) are located in Nepal. Furthermore, there are 122 peaks above 7,000 m. and 1,400 peaks above 6,000 m. lies in Nepal.

The mountains of Nepal are the main source of attraction for many tourists, trekkers and mountaineers. Apart from the height, Nepal possesses some of the most beautiful peaks in the world viz. Machhapuchhre, Ama Dablam etc., Besides the glaciers, falls, lakes and topography make the natural sceneries exotic, gorgeous and enchanting. Along with the high mountains, the hilly middle region too has unique topography, enchanting views with their landscape, gorges, natural vegetations, valleys and villages. Nepal's topography provides opportunities for sight seeing, trekking and mountaineering. Nepal is a world leader in the latter. Such attractions are generally preferred by top end visitors, hence, Nepal possesses potential for attracting high spending visitors.

Most tourists visiting Nepal have the holiday/pleasure purpose in mind. Ever since the beginning, over 75 percent tourists arriving in Nepal came for holiday/pleasure and it remained so till 1989. But, in recent years, the tourists coming for trekking/ mountaineering have been increasing with the share growing from 0.4 percent in 1965 to 29.9 in 2001. Trekking/mountaineering is also one of the major factors to increase the average length or stay of the tourists in the country.

In the year 2001 a total 112 expedition teams were granted permission to scale different peaks and out of which 66 teams were successful. The total number of mountaineers was 836 in 2001.

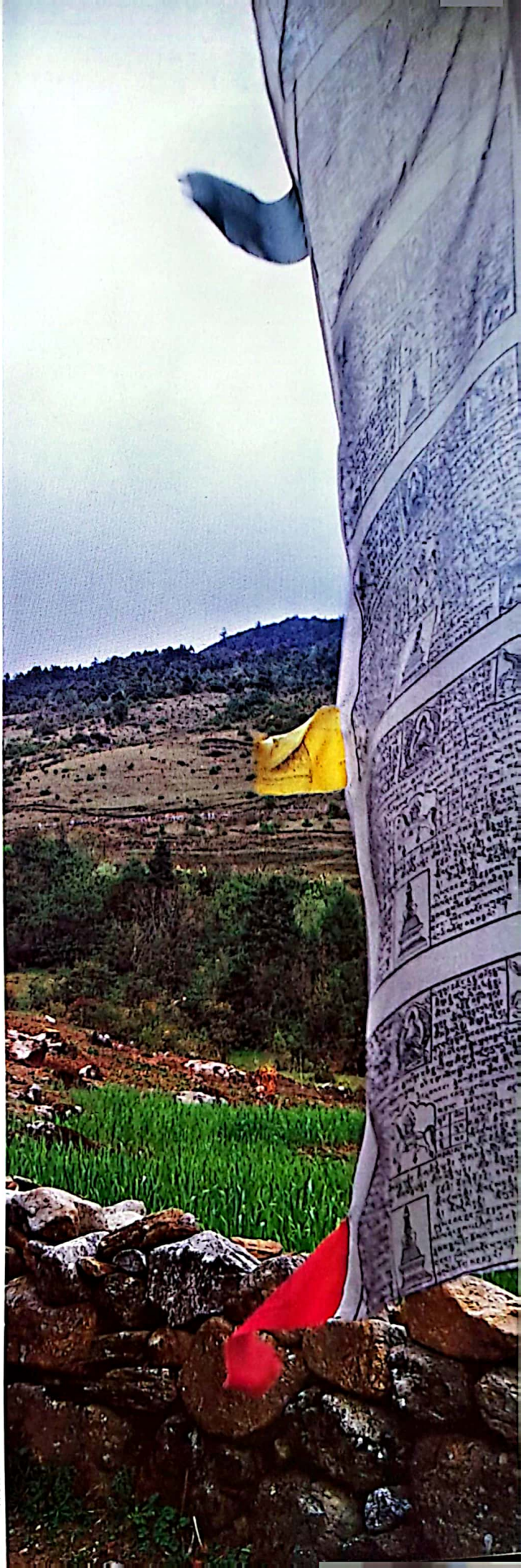
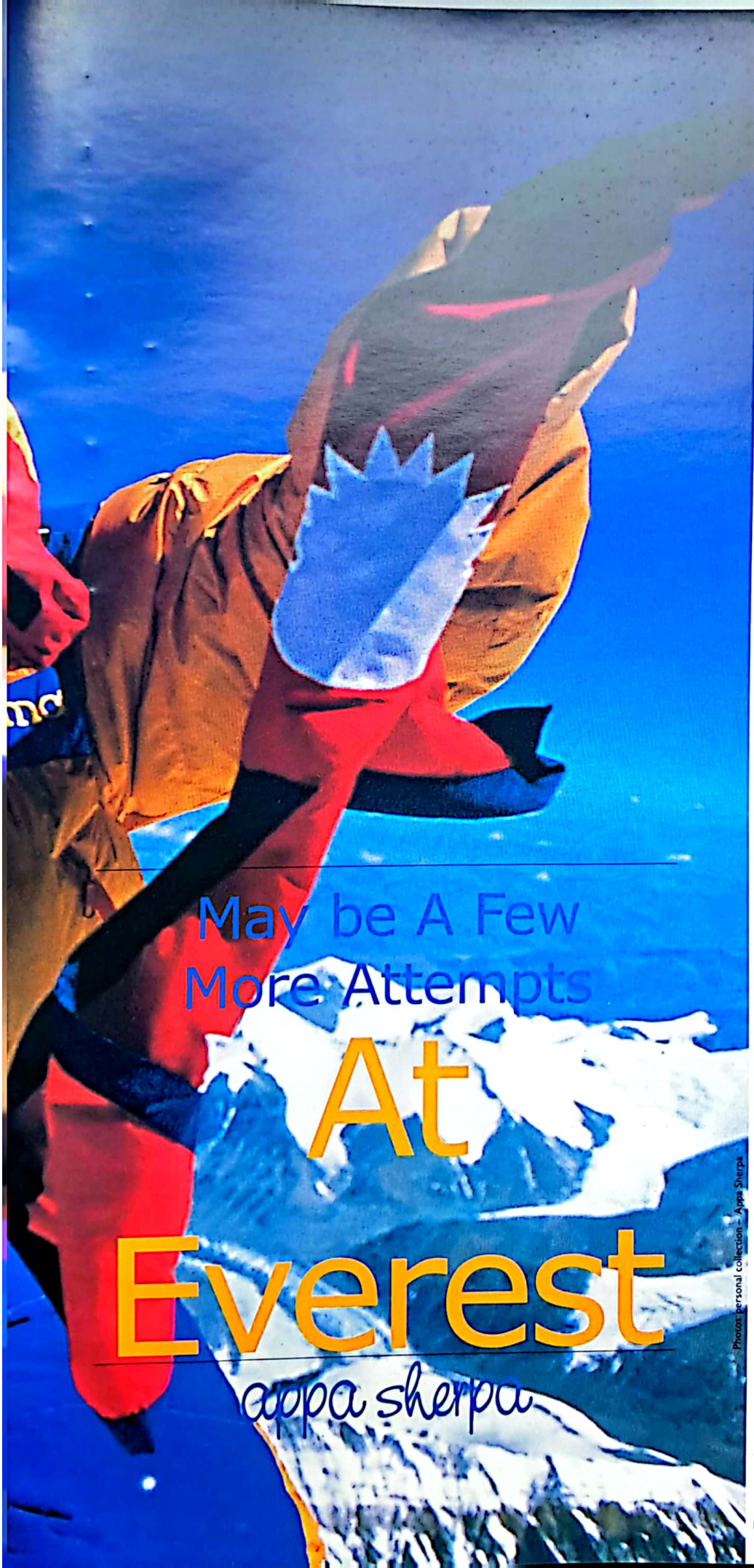


Photo: Sanchit Lamichhane





May be A Few More Attempts At Everest

appa sherpa

Photos: personal collection – Appa Sherpa

Born in 1960 in Thame of Solukhumbhu District in eastern Nepal, Appa Sherpa, the famous Nepali mountaineer has become a household name. In 1990 Appa Sherpa made his first successful ascent of Mt. Everest. Continuity was given to his attempts since then to scale the highest peak in the world. The year 2002 saw an important and unique landmark and mountaineering history being created with him reaching the Everest summit for a record 12th time. He became the first person to perform this feat.

Appa's mountaineering career began in 1987 when joined a Japanese expedition as team member to Annapurna (8091 m). The attempt was unsuccessful and he had to return from an altitude of 7,400 m. Between 1987 to 1989, he made four unsuccessful attempts to scale Everest. Similarly, he attempted to scale Mt. Dhaulagiri (8,167 m) but he could reach an altitude of 6,500 m only. Undaunted by his earlier failures, he strove on. It was his faith in ultimate success that kept him moving forward.

In 1990 Appa first tasted success as a mountaineer by successful summitting Cho-Oyu which stands at 8,201 m. Therafter, between 1990 to 2002, Appa reached the summit of Everest for a record 12 times, 11 times from the Nepal side and once from the northern ridge on the Chinese side. In 2001, he missed another opportunity as the expedition he was with abandoned the attempt after reaching Camp III. This spring season of 2003 he is making his 13th attempt to scale Everest.

Yet with modest simplicity Appa says, "I had never imagined that one day I would become so famous." ***Nepal Parbat*** talked to Appa. Excerpts from the interview:

You are a world renowned mountaineer now. Could you tell us how it all began?

In the beginning I was engaged in the trekking profession. I did not have any formal training to begin with, but I enjoyed my work. The experience I gained gave me the confidence to join the mountaineering career. The financial benefits was also a deciding factor that made me switch from trekking to mountaineering.



Appa Sherpa

When did you first start your mountaineering career?

I first started my mountaineering career by joining the Japanese expedition to Mt. Annapurna (8,091 m) in 1987. It was an unsuccessful attempt. I was able to reach a height of 7,400 m only. It was quite difficult.

Can you tell us something about your early attempts to scale Mt. Everest.

Between 1987 and 1989, I attempted to scale Everest 4 times but I could not go beyond 8000-8500 m. Maybe failures were the pillars of success for me especially if light of the number of successful climbs I made in later years.

Have you ever abandoned the Everest climb because of factors besides bad weather or mishaps?

Yes, very recently. It was in 2001. I was a member of a Japanese expedition team. The team consisted of members in the age group 53 to 63. They couldn't go beyond Camp III. They decided to return and I returned with them. It would not have been possible to summit alone. Had that expedition materialised, it would have been my 13th climb. I missed that one.

Sometime back it was reported that you would quit climbing but you're again going back to Everest this year. What do you have to say about it?

My family had insisted that I quit, especially my wife. I respect her feelings. But, this time it is the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration of the first successful ascent of Everest so I thought the occasion demanded that I make another attempt. However, I have to convince my family. The team I'm going with is an American team and consists of old friends and I couldn't refuse their request to accompany them.

What do you think about the mountaineering profession for your children?

My family consists of my wife, two sons and two daughters. We are a close knit family. The children are still studying. Though I did not have the opportunity for education, I want my children to receive a sound education. That is a must for them. After they complete their education, it all depends on their interests, it will be their decision to pursue their desires.

What do you think about mountaineering as a profession?

For personal satisfaction, it is fine. It is also endangering your life for the sake of the country and its prestige. What I earn from mountaineering has to meet the family needs. The money I receive from one expedition team meets the family needs for one year. It is difficult to make ends meet. So it is quite difficult as I have no other source of income.

Is climbing Everest a difficult task?

There's no doubt about that. It is the most difficult peak to ascend. In fact, the most difficult part is making the route while carrying the load in a rucksack. I have done this task 15 times already. The person in the lead has the tough task of making the way. The people coming behind find it easier.

You have travelled to many countries. How have you been received as a famous Everest summiteer?

Everywhere people look at mountaineers with respect. They honour us. When I was in Mongolia, I found that they respected Tenzing Norgay a lot. Even in Georgia, I received the same respect. Some of the countries I have visited include USA, Switzerland, France, Mongolia, Georgia, Japan and China.

What about in Nepal?

Yes, I am honoured and respected. I greatly appreciate the lead taken by Nepal Mountaineering Association.

Do you have any plan or offers to climb mountains in other countries?

Yes, I have received offers. But I haven't gone. When there are Himalayan peaks in my country itself I'll first try climbing them. Why go out? (With a laugh)

Are higher peaks more difficult to climb?

From my personal experience, a peak 5000-6000m may look small but there are technical difficulties in climbing them. It is not a matter of height. There are peaks which are small but climbing them is more difficult.

When people meet you do they believe that this is the person who has climbed Everest the most number of times?

In the beginning, there were people who did not believe I was a mountaineer. I think a light body frame means less consumption of oxygen so it becomes easier to climb. The more muscles that a person has the more oxygen he needs and this makes climbing more difficult.

Have you had any mishaps on Everest?

None at all. I've been lucky.

What is the most difficult part of climbing Everest?

The first time I climbed Everest I found it very difficult. In fact, Hillary Step, Knife's Ridge and Ice Fall are quite dangerous. One mistake can be the deciding factor between life and death.

How did you feel on the Everest summit on your first successful ascent?

It was fantastic. I was elated. I had carried our national flag and I remember it fluttering in the wind. It was a great moment.

How did you feel on descending?

The descent has to be undertaken more carefully. Many mountaineers have died while descending. The reasons are tiredness and the legs lose balance. I pay a lot of attention to descending very carefully.

How do you feel on top of Everest?

It is an unbelievable feeling. The mind feels different. Tiredness creeps in. Exhaustion is there. Personally, for the first five or six times, everything was fine. But, later on I have started forgetting a little bit. May be it is because of the lack of oxygen at that altitude. Sometimes I forget people whom I have met only some time back.

Which is the best season for making an attempt on Everest?

I find the spring season to be the best to climb Everest. During the spring season, the days are long and it's safer as there are fewer avalanches. But, in 1992 and 1994 I successfully reached the summit during the autumn season.

How much garbage did you see on Everest in 2002?

Now it is a lot cleaner. In 2000, we brought back 632 disposed oxygen cylinders from the South Col and above. From Camp I and II alone we brought back 1600 Kg of other items dumped there by earlier expedition teams. I was a member of the Environment Everest Expedition 2000 of USA. That did a lot to clean work on Everest. Now the rules are stricter so I think there will be less pollution on Everest. It is awareness among all, including mountaineers that is necessary to keep Everest clean.

What do you have to say about the government's attitude?

Not much. I hope the present government will do something for mountaineering. Nepal Mountaineering Association is doing its best for the mountaineers. Last year, the government had announced a Rs 500,000 reward for me but I haven't received it as yet. It's one year already now since that announcement. Yet, I hope to receive it. I receive assurances but hardly anything comes. Maybe things will change now.

What do you think about mountain tourism promotion?

There is a lot of scope. There are beautiful mountains, hills and forests. We have the highest peak in the world. The only thing is that infrastructure must be developed.

How do feel about the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration?

We have to mark the grand occasion of the first successful human ascent of Everest. I am also looking forward to the Everest summiteers gathering in Kathmandu on May 29 this year. It will be time to meet many old friends. I am thankful to NMA for doing its best to make the occasion a success.

Finally, how many times do you still wish to climb Everest?

My condition is normal. I feel I can climb Everest 3 or 4 times more. But my family wishes must be respected too.



Appa Sherpa



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PERSONAL ACCOUNT

By Tenzing Norgay and James Ramsey Ullman

THE DREAM COMES TRUE

Tenzing Norgay Sherpa's life provides inspiration to all. Everyone can learn from his life of adventure but always striving with many risks on the path. This piece has been reproduced for the benefit of the readers so as to make them aware of the historic event of the first successful ascent of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953, in Tenzing Norgay's own words.

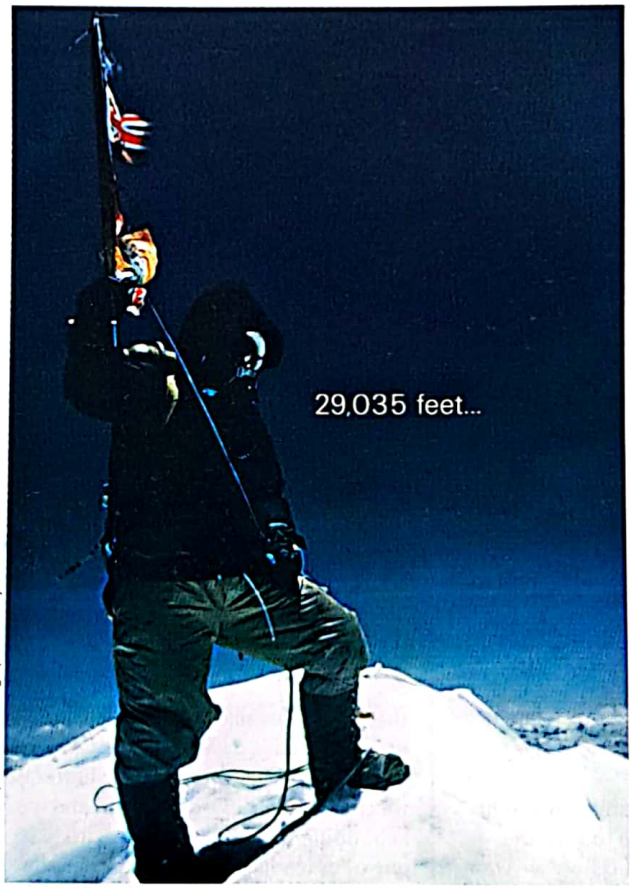


Photo courtesy: National Geographic Society

Tenzing at the top of the world.

At about three-thirty in the morning we began to stir. I got the stove going and boiled snow for lemon-juice and coffee, and we ate a little of the food left over from the night before, there was still no wind, when, a little while later, we opened the tent-flap everything was clear and quiet in the early-morning light. It was then that I pointed down and showed Hillary the tiny dot that was the Thyangboche Monastery, 16,000 feet below. "God of my father and mother", I prayed in my heart, "be good to me now-to day".

But the first thing that happened was a bad thing. Hillary's boots, lying all night outside his sleeping bag, had frozen, and now they were like two lumps of black iron. For a whole hour we had to hold them over the stove, pulling and kneading them, until

the tent was full of the smell of scorched leather and we were both panting as if we were already climbing the peak. Hillary was very much upset, both at the delay and at the danger to his feet. "I'm afraid I may get frostbitten, like Lambert", he said. But at last the boots were soft enough for him to put on, and then we prepared the rest of our gear. For this last day's climbing I was dressed in all sorts of clothes that came from many places, my boots were as I have said, Swiss; my wind-jacket and various other items had been issued by the British. But the socks I was wearing had been knitted by Ang Lahmu. My sweater had been given me by Mrs. Henderson, of the Himalayan Club. My woollen helmet was the old one that had been left to me by Earl Denman. And, most important of all, the red scarf round my neck was Raymond Lambert's. At the end of autumn expedition, he had given it to me and smiled and said, "Here, perhaps you can use it some time". And ever since I had known exactly what that use must be.

At six-thirty, when we crawled from, the tent, it was still clear and windless. We had pulled three pairs of gloves on to our hands-silk, wool, and windproof-and now we fastened our crampons to our boots, and on to our backs slung the forty pounds of oxygen apparatus that would be the whole load for each of us during the climb. Round my axe were still the four flags, tightly wrapped. And in the pocket of my jacket was a small red-and-blue pencil.

"All ready?"

"An chah, Ready."

And off we went.

Hillary's boots were still stiff and his feet cold, so he asked me to take the lead. And for a while that is how we went on the rope-up from the campsite to the south-east ridge, and then on along the ridge towards the south summit. Sometimes we found the footprints of Bourdillon and Evans and were able to use them; but mostly they had been wiped away by the winds of the two days before, and I had to kick or chop our own steps. After a while we came to a place I recognised-the point where Lambert and I had stopped and turned back. I pointed it out to Hillary, and tried to explain through my oxygen-mask, and as we moved on I thought of how different it was these two times-of the wind and the cold then and the bright sunshine now-and how lucky we were on this day of our great effort. By now Hillary's feet were feeling better, so we changed places on the rope; and we kept doing this from then on, with first one of us leading the way and then the other, in order to share the work of kicking and chopping. As we drew near to the south summit, we came upon something we had been looking for-two bottles of oxygen that had been left for us by Bourdillon and Evans. We scraped the ice off the dials and were happy to see that they were still quite full. For this meant that they could be used later for our downward trip to the cool, and meanwhile we could breathe in a bigger amount of what we were carrying with us.

We left the two bottles where they wore and climbed on. Until now the climbing-if not the weather-had been much the same as I remembered from the year before-along the steep, broken ridge with a rock precipice on the left and snow cornices hiding another precipice on the right. But now, just below the south summit, the ridge broadened out into a sort of snow-face, so that the steepness was not so much to the sides as straight behind us, and we were climbing up an almost vertical white wall. The worst part of it was that the snow was not firm, but kept sliding down, sliding down—and we with it—until I thought; 'Next time it will keep sliding, and we will go all the way to the bottom of the mountain. For me this was the one really bad placed on the whole climb, because it was not only a matter of what you yourself did, but what the snow under you did, and this you could not control. It was one of the most

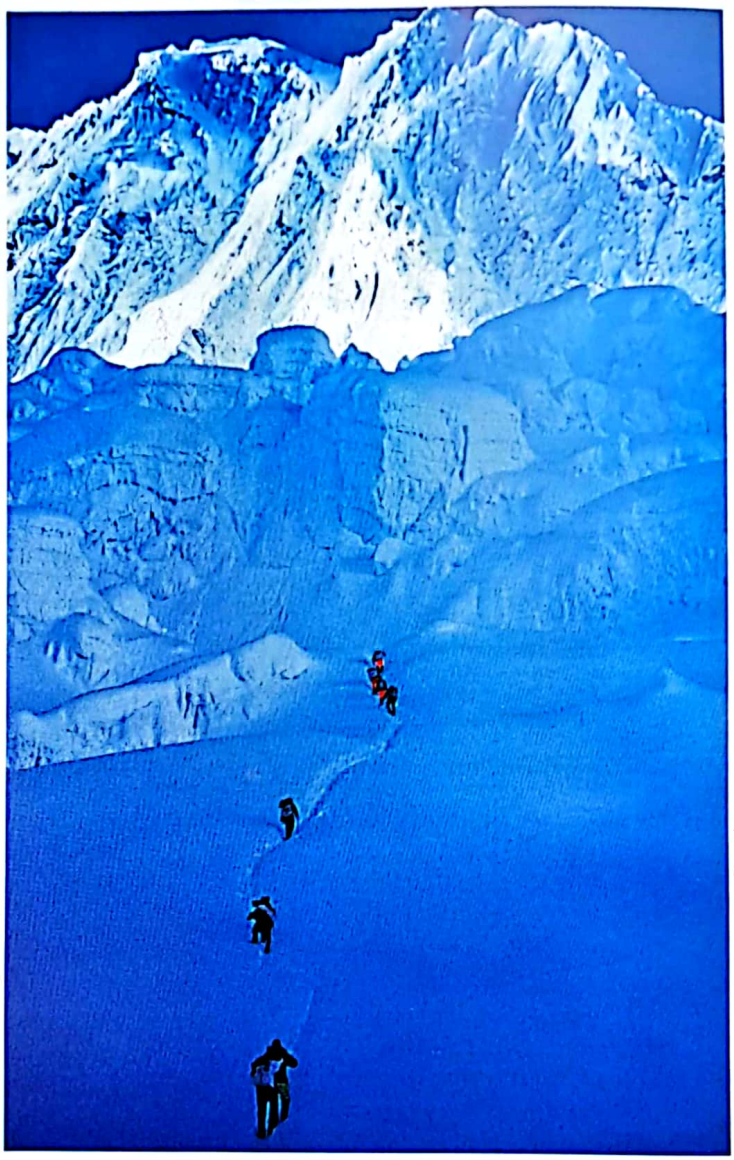


Photo courtesy: Blessed Everest by Brian Blessed

Sherpas carrying supplies to a higher camp.

dangerous places I had ever been on a mountain. Even now, when I think of it, can still feel as I felt then, and the hair almost stands up on the back of my hands.

At last we got up it, though, and at nine o'clock we were on the south summit. This was the highest point that Bourdillon and Evans had reached, and for ten minutes we rested there, looking up at what was still ahead. There was not much farther to go—only about 300 feet of ridge—but it was narrower and steeper than it had been below, and, though not impossible looking, would certainly not be easy. On the left, as before, was the precipice falling away to the Western Cwm, 8000 feet below, where we could now see the tiny dots that were the tents of Camp Four. And on the right were still the snow corniees, hanging out over a 10,000 foot drop to the Kangshung Glacier. If we were to get to the top, it would have to be along a narrow, twisting line between precipice and cornices-never too far to the left, never too far to the right, or it would be the end of us.

One thing we had eagerly been waiting for happened on the south summit. Almost at the same moment we each came to the end of the first of our two bottles of oxygen, and now we were able to dump them here, which reduced the weight we were carrying from forty to only twenty pounds. Also, as we left the south summit, another good thing happened. We found that the snow make all the difference on the stretch that we still had to go.

"Everything all right?"
"Ah cha. All right."

From the south summit we first had to go down a little. Then up, up, up. All the time the danger was that the snow would slip, of that we would get too far out on a cornice that would then break away; so we moved just one at a time, taking turns at going ahead, while the second one wrapped the rope round his axe and fixed the axe in the snow as an anchor. The weather was still fine. We were not too tired. But every so often, as had happened all the way, we would have trouble breathing, and have to stop and clear away the ice that kept forming in the tubes of our oxygen-sets. In regard to this, I must say in all honesty that I do not think Hillary is quite fair in the story he later told, indicating that I had more trouble that he with breathing, and that without his help I might have suffocated. In my opinion our difficulties were about the same-and luckily never too great—and we each helped and were helped by the other in equal measure.

Anyhow, after each short stop we kept going, twisting always higher along the ridge between the cornices and the precipices. And at last we came to what might be the last big obstacle below the top. This was a cliff of rock rising straight up out of the ridge and blocking it off, and we had already known about it from aerial photographs and from seeing it through binoculars from Thyangboche. Now it was a question of how to get over or round it, and we could find only one possible way. This was along a steep, narrow gap between one side of the rock and the inner side of an adjoining cornice, and Hillary, now going first, worked his way up it, slowly and carefully, to a sort of platform above. While climbing he had to press backward with his feet against the cornice, and I belayed him from below as strongly as I could, for there was great danger of the ice giving way. Luckily, however, it did not. Hillary got up safely to the top of the rock, and then held the rope while I came after.

Here, again, I must be honest and say



Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

Hillary and Tenzing push on towards the summit.

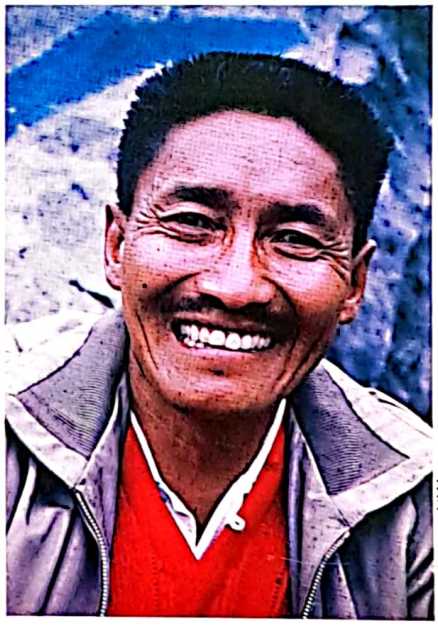


Photo courtesy: NMA

Tenzing Norgay

that I do not feel his account, as told in 'The Ascent of Everest', is wholly accurate. For one thing, he has written that this gap up the rock-wall was about forty feet high, but in my judgment it was little more than fifteen. Also, he gives the impression that it was only he who really climbed it on his own, and that he then practically pulled me, so that I "finally collapsed exhausted at the top, like a gaint fish when it has just been hauled from the sea after a terrible struggle". Since then I have heard plenty about that "fish", and I admit I do not like it. For it is the plain truth that no one pulled or hauled me up the gap. I climbed it myself, just as Hillary had done; and if he was protecting me with the rope while I was doing it, this was no more than that I had done for him. In speaking of this I must make one thing very clear. Hillary is my friend. He is a fine climber and a fine man, and I am proud to have gone with him to the top of Everest. But I do feel that in his story of our final climb he is not quite fair to me: that all the way through he indicates that when things went badly it was mine. For this is simply not true. Nowhere do I make the suggestion that I could have climbed Everest by myself; and I do not think Hillary should suggest that he could have, or that I could not have done it without his help. All the way up and down we helped, and were helped by, each other—and that was the way it should be. But we were not leader and led. We were partners.

On top of the rock-cliff we rest again. Certainly, after the climb up the gap, we are both a bit breathless. After so me slow pulls at the oxygen I am feeling fine. I look up; the top is very close now; and my heart thumps with excitement and joy. Then we are on our way again. Climbing again. There are still the cornices, on our right and precipice on our left, but the ridge is now less steep. It is only a row of snowy humps, one beyond the other, and one higher than the other. But we are still afraid of the cornices, and, instead of following the ridge all the way, cut over to the left, where there in now a long snow-slope above the precipice. About a hundred feet below the top we come to the highest bare rocks. There is enough almost level space here for two tents, and I wonder if men will ever camp in this place, so near the summit of the earth. I pick up two small stones and put them in my pocket to bring back to the world below.



Photo courtesy: Blessed Everest by Brian Blessed

On 3 July, members of the team flew to London to be feted and honored. Hunt and Hillary were to be knighted, while Tenzing received the George Medal.

I was born in the womb of Nepal, raised in the laps of India but my heart is in Nepal.

- Tenzing Norgay Sherpa

Then the tocks too are beneath us. We are back among the snowy humps. They are curving off to the right, and each time we pass one I wonder, is the next the last one? Is the next the last? Finally we reach a place where we can see past the humps, and beyond them is the great open sky and brown plains. We are looking down the far side of the mountain upon Tibet. Ahead of us now is only one more hump-the last hump. It is not a pinnacle. The way to it is an easy snow-slope, wide enough for two men to go side by side. About thirty feet away we stop for a minute and look up. Then we go on... ...

A little below the summit, Hillary and I stopped. We looked up. Then we went on. The rope that joined us was thirty feet long, but I held most of it in loops in my hand, so that there was only about six feet between us. I was not thinking of "first" and "second". I did not say to myself, "There is a golden apple up there. I will push Hillary aside and run for it". We went on slowly, steadily. And then we were there. Hillary stepped on top first. And I stepped up after him.

So there it is—the answer to the "great mystery". And if, after all the talk argument, The answer seems quiet and simple, I can only say that that is as it should be. Many of my own people, I know, will be disappointed at it. They have given a great and false importance to the idea that it must be I who was "first". These people have been good and wonderful to me, and I owe them much. But I owe more to Everest—and to the truth. If it is a discredit to me that I was a step behind Hillary, then I must live with that discredit. But I do not think it was that. Nor do I think that, in the end, it will bring discredit on me that I tell the story. Over and over again I have asked myself, "What will future generations think of us if we allow the facts of our achievement of stay shrouded in mystery? Will they not feel ashamed of us-two comrades in life and death-who have something to hide from the world?" And each time I asked it the answer was the same: "Only the truth is good enough for the future. Only the truth is good enough for Everest."

Now the truth is told. And I am ready to be judged by it.

We stepped up. We were there. The dream had come true… …

What we did first war what all climbers do when they reach the top of their mountain. We shook hands. But this was not enough for Everest. I waved my arms in the air, and then threw them round Hillary, and we thumped each other on the back until, even with the oxygen, we were almost breathless. Then we looked round. It was eleven-thirty in the morning, the sun was shining, and the sky was the deepest blue I have ever seen. Only a gentle breeze was blowing, coming from the direction of Tibet, and the plume of snow that always blows from Everest's summit was very small. Looking down the far side of the mountain, I could see all the familiar landmarks from the earlier expeditions-the Rongbuk Monastery, the town of Shekaf Dzong, the Kharta Valley, the Rongbuk and East Rongbuk Glaciers, the North Col, the plaice near the north-east ridge where we had made Camp Six in 1938. Then, turning, I looked down the long way we our selves had come-past the south summit, the long ridge, the South Col; on to the Western Cwm, the icefall, the Khumbu Glacier; all the way down to Thyangboche, and on to the valleys and hills of my homeland.

Beyond them, and around us on every side, were the great Himalayas, stretching away through Nepal and Tibet. For the closer peaks-giants like Lhotse, Nuptse, and Makalu -you now had to look sharply downward to see their summits. And, farther away, the whole sweep of the greatest range on earth-even Kangchenjunga itself—seemed only like little bumps under the spreading sky. It was such a sight as I had never seen before and would never see again—wild, wonderful, and terrible. But terror was not what I felt. I loved mountains too well for that. I loved Everest too well. At that great moment for which I had waited all my live my mountain did not seem to me a lifeless thing of rock and ice, but warm and friendly and living. She was a mother hen, and the other mountains were chicks under her wings. I too, I felt, had only to spread my own wings to cover and shelter the brood that I loved.

We turned off our oxygen. Even there on top of the world it was possible to live without it, so long as we were not exerting ourselves. We cleared away the ice that had formed on our masks, and I popped a bit of sweet into my mouth. Then we replaced the masks. But we did not turn of the oxygen again until we were ready to leave the top. Hillary took out his camera, which he had been carrying under his clothing to keep it from freezing, and I unwound the four flags from around my axe. They were tied together on a string, which was fastened to the blade of the axe, and now I held the axe up, and Hillary took picture. Actually he took three, and I think it was lucky, in those difficult conditions that one came out so well. The order of the flags from top to bottom was United Nations, British, Nepalis, Indian; and the same sort of people who have made trouble in other ways have tried to find political meaning in this too. All I can say is that on Everest. I was not thinking about politics. If I had been, I suppose I would have put the Indian or Nepali flag highest, though that in itself would have been a bad problem for me. As it is, I am glad that U.N. flag was on top. For I like to think that our victory was not only for ourselves-not only for our own nations-but for all men everywhere.

I motioned to Hillary that I would now take his picture. But for some reason he shook his head; he did not want it. Instead he began taking more pictures himself, around and down on all sides of the peak, and meanwhile I did another thing that had to be done on the top of our mountain. From my pocket I took the package of sweets I had been carrying. I took the little red-and-blue pencil that my daughter, Nima, had given me. And, scraping a hollow in the snow, I laid them there. Seeing what I was doing, Hillary handed me a small cloth cat, black and with white eyes, that Hunt had given him as a mascot, and I put this beside them. In his story of our climb Hillary says it was a crucifix that Hunt gave him, and that he left on top; but if this was so, I did not see it. He gave me only the cloth cat. All I laid in the snow was the cat, the pencil, and the sweets. "At home," I thought, "We offer sweets to those who are near and dear to us. Everest has always been dear to me, and now it is near too." As I covered up the offering, I said a silent prayer. And I gave my thanks, seven times on this, the seventh, with God's help, the dream had come true.



Photo courtesy: NMA

Tenzing Norgay

I motioned to Hillary that I would now take his picture. But for some reason he shook his head; he did not want it. Instead he began taking more pictures himself, around and down on all sides of the peak, and meanwhile I did another thing that had to be done on the top of our mountain. From my pocket I took the package of sweets I had been carrying. I took the little red-and-blue pencil that my daughter, Nima, had given me. And, scraping a hollow in the snow, I laid them there.

"Thuji Chey, Chomolungma. I am grateful… … …" ▲

1971 AT KHUMBU ICEFALL

Dr. Harka Gurung is an eminent geographer and writer. He is devoted to nature conservation, eco-tourism development and other issues.



Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

American Climber John Evans crosses a crevasse on the Khumbu Ice-fall, by way of a delicate log bridge.

The highest mountain in the world has a pyramidal pedestal with three faces. Its east and north faces lie in Tibet while the south-west face is in Nepal. It also has three names – Chomolungma, Mt. Everest, and Sagarmatha. Recently, there has been some fuss over the authenticity of these names. Chomolungma has historical precedence as it was mentioned in explorations of Jesuit missionaries in early 18th century. However, its height had not been scientifically measured. Its pre-eminent elevation was established only in 1852. The Survey of India wrote to Nepal government inquiring whether this summit, designated as Peak XV, had any native name. Since the response was negative, it was named after George Everest, 13 years later in 1865. The Nepali version Sagarmatha (forehead in the sky) is a jingoistic invention with spurious foundation of as late as 1956.

I was associated with two expeditions to Mt. Everest. The first one was in 1971 with a 14 - nation team to attempt the South-West Face. I spent two months with this international expedition and returned after the sad task of cremating Harsh Bahuguna at Gorakshep. The incident described at length below occurred during April 1971.

My second opportunity to associate with Mt. Everest came in 1988 as a Deputy General Leader of China-Japan-Nepal Friendship Expedition that made a complete traverse of the peak on May 5, 1988. In the course of supervising the overall logistic support, I visited the south Base Camp (BC) on foot and the north BC by vehicle. When I reached the South BC (5309 m) on April 4, my Japanese counterpart, Ryutaro Hashimoto, was already there, having flown in by helicopter. The next morning, the chopper could not take-off due to some technical problem. I had to arrange the evacuation of Hashimoto and two pilots to the HRA post at Pheriche. After Lobuje, we tied up Hashimoto astride a Yak while the pilots had to be carried by Sherpas. The descent to Duglha was difficult and it was only after 9 pm that we could reach Pheriche.

The visit to the north BC in Rongphu Valley was uneventful. After spending the night of May 14, at Khasa (1737 m), I drove to the BC (5,154 m) in 12 hours. I experienced no altitude problem despite having climbed over 3,400 m in a single day. The BC was a large colourful tented village with Chinese in red, Japanese in yellow and Nepalis in green outfits. The thirsty Sherpas, unused to *maotai* and *sake*, were indeed happy when I brought them a jerry-can of *Khukuri* rum!

But the most memorable experience was the struggle up and down the Icefall which I describe below from my travelogue **Vignettes of Nepal (1980, pp. 322-328):**

My own opportunity to go up the Ice Fall came in due course. The expedition was going well and there was nothing unusual in the weather. With most climbers busy working on higher camps, one could move to Camp I without straining the facilities there. This camp site was the Camp III of the 1953 British expedition. When Jimmy Roberts



Photo: John Cleare/ Mountain Camera

Ian Howell of the BBC, reassures the director of the television team, Anthony Thomas, during the crossing of crevasses in the Ice Fall at an altitude of 8,500 meters.

informed me and Murray Sayle that we could go up the Ice Fall the following day, I retired to my tent with excitement and apprehension on the night of April 17th. Jimmy deputed Sonam Girme, one of the Sherpa sirdars to accompany us and we started early at 8 am next day. It was a bright morning and we headed eastwards to the left-hand base of the Ice Fall. We came to a snow-filled depression after traversing two moraine ridges and began the climb. We strapped our crampons and three of us were on one rope, Sonam Girme leading, myself, in the middle and Murray Sayle at the tail. We were still struggling up the lower section of ice slopes when it began to snow lightly. It was only 9 am and hoping that the weather would improve, we continued following the red flag-markers along the route. Small crevasses had been bridged with logs and steeper sections had aluminum ladders with fixed nylon ropes as handrails.

The route became steeper after an hour and we had to climb more rope ladders. By the time we arrived the Dump Camp, a small snow plateau amidst huge towering seracs about 11:30 am, the snowfall had become heavy and visibility was poor. The route ahead seemed even more difficult and Murray Sayle, who now seamed tired, wanted to be left at the Dump Camp to which we refused. Sonam Girme warned us against the risk of taking rest or delaying as the track could be obliterated by the snowfall. We climbed on through a maze of ice walls and blocks separated by dark crevasses and sections of deep snow. My role as the middleman in the rope became really trying on steeper slopes and short vertical wall ladders. The rope round my waist tightened progressively between the upward pull of Sonam Girme who wanted to hurry to the security of the next camp in the worsening weather and the downward pull of Murrary Sayle who became more tired and heavy. I was strung between two emotions, cajoling and inspiring Sayle and restraining and reassuring Sonam. We would not slow down because of the continuous snow and neither could we hurry because a few steps would soon exhaust us. Inspite of the every place, I wished I were alone or the snow would stop so that I could climb at my own easy pace.

Beyond a snow ridge, we came to a depression where an aluminum bridge spanned a deep chasm of blue green ice. We crossed the bridge and climbed two step sections by rope ladders and then faced an even more dangerous section. The route lay up a narrow snow ridge to the ledge of a huge ice-wall above a dark abyss and one had to tipe-toe across a wire caving ladder. This led to a narrow gallery on the upper face of the ice cliff and the exit on top of the steep wall was by a vertical ladder. We were almost on top of the Ice Fall after climbing the



Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

The notorius Khumbu Ice-fall – the only route into Everest's Western CWM

vertical ladder but the route to Camp I was still a winding path across natural bridges to avoid crevasses that lay between us and our destination. It was nearly 2:30 pm when we finally reached Camp I (6,100 m). Indeed, we had been through the dangerous Ice Fall when a snow storm had just started that would continue for a whole week. David Isles and David Paterson and some Sherpas were at Camp I and Murray and I retired into a tent utterly exhausted. It snowed heavy and the wind howled and whined through the night.

The next morning, April 19, the weather was calm but the sky was overcast. Since bad weather had dislocated our communication link with the Base Camp below and the Advances Base above we had no inkling of the previous day's tragedy higher up on the mountain in which one of the climbers had been killed. On the following day while Murray and I rested in our tent, the two Davids and Sherpa headed for the Advance Base with loads. They made slow progress in deep snow and later returned after dumping the loads on the way as they could not reach the higher camp.

The following day, the Davids and some Sherpas again headed east to break the way to the Advance Base, while I and six Sherpas led by Sonam Girme tried to open the lower route to the Base Camp. The two-day snow had buried the flag-markers and we had to make our own way in knee-deep snow. Apart from the sheer physical effort of pounding our feet in deep snow, kicking it out, we had to be cautious of hidden crevasses under fresh snow. We were all roped together and progressed slowly, guessing the place of flag-markers and probing the snow with ice axe. We were hardly 100 m from the camp when Ila Tashi, a young Sherpa of hefty physique who was leading the rope, suddenly disappeared in the snows ahead and we all tightened our rope. He had fallen through a crevasse whose lips had been covered by snow but the rope held. We shouted out to him but it was only a whimper that echoed up the crevasse. We tried to pull the rope carefully but it tightened. The friction of the nylon rope had cut the upper crevasse edge and Ila Tashi was stuck against the wall overhand. Further loosening and pulling maneuvers could possibly break the rope itself. While other Sherpas muttered prayers, Sonam Girme took the initiative befitting a sirdar. As we held fast to the line holding Ila, Sonam gave himself a long rope and jumped across the crevase where it was narow and came opposite us. He then threw a rope down to Ila to secure himself. Sonam pulled the rope by himself as we gave a little line making Ila free of the crevasse lip. Once the rope was freed from the ice groove, we carefully pulled Ila over with coordinated maneuvre on either end of the crevasse and he lay utterly exhausted on the snow. We then helped Sonam Girme jump across the abyss by holding the rope fast. We raised Ila who was snow shaking all over his body with shock and cried on Sonam's shoulder. We were all shaken by the mishap and turned back to the camp in gloom. Later, the party heading for the Advance Base also returned having failed to open the way through the deep snow.I could not sleep well that night since the afternoon incident came flashing as a warning of the dangers lurking around. This was also the time when I came to

appreciate the full meaning of the word CLAUSTROPHOBHIA. The feeling of impasse came in many layers. We were stranded on the precarious tip of the glacier cut off from the camps below and above and lack of wireless contact accentuated our predicament. Heavy fresh snow pressed the sides of our tent as if in a pincer movement; shoveling them became our morning ritual but by night fall they would be again upon us. Our body heat created a depression where we lay, particularly below the rump, and the hummock profile was an uncomfortable stance for resting or sleeping. I could not read in the suffocation of the tent pinned down by snow and outside was also another layer of engulfment. Most of the time we would be enveloped in grey wilderness without a sense of direction or perspective and when sometime visibility descended briefly, we would only confront the precipitous walls of Nuptse and the west shoulder of Everest while the deep chasm down the Ice Fall further heightened our precarious situation. On rare occasions we felt we had contact with the world below when yellow-billed choughs flew up the Base Camp but they would soon be gone riding the strong air drafts.

It was only on the third attempt on April 21 that contact could be finally established with the Advanced Base (Camp II) and later in the evening Anthony Thomas, the BBC film producer, came down with frostbite to join us. It was through him that we came to know of the tragic death of Harsha Bahuguna on the West Rigde on April 18, the same day we were struggling up the Ice Fall. I now had no intention of intruding into the gloomy atmosphere of the higher camp but there was no passage for retreat down either.

On April 22, while the West Ridge climbers at Camp II discussed the possibility of the South Col route as an alternative, the weather got worse. It snowed heavily and the wind outside moaned and howled while we were stuck up in our tent. Everest seemed to be in one of its bad moods and we tried to read and talk and thought all the while of getting out of the hell hole. The Sherpas who fed us had a tougher time as there was no fire-wood and water. Water had to be melted from snow and they struggled hard with temperamental paraffin stoves. The route to Camp II had again been blocked by heavy snow and it was imperative to breach a passage to the Base Camp for fresh supplies for both our camp and higher up.

The venture to breach a way down began in earnest on April 23 and would take up the next three days. The first day led by Peterson and Isle, we forced our way in deep snow as far as the vertical ladder on the steep ice wall and this took us more than three hours. The path down the gallery seemed treacherous and we had to turn back. I had all my gear in my rucksack hoping to escape from Camp I and it felt indeed heavy when we climbed back to the Camp. The next day we went down past the gallery and two vertical ladders above a large crevasse where there used to be an aluminum bridge. The geography of the site had been much transformed by the heavy snow of the last six days and there was no sign of the bridge. I still had my heavy rucksack hoping to make the Base Camp and it was with utter depression that I had to turn back. The four-hour labour to the bridge had been a futile exercise and we had another two hours' climb back to our dreary Camp.

On the third day, we started down again about 10:30 am and reached near the bridge in two hours following the path we had made the previous day. I was roped with Pasang Sherpa and we were descending down a snow slope when we sighted some climbers from the Base Camp who had struggled up to the other side of the bridge site. I was immensely relieved that the two parties working on either end had re-opened the Ice Fall route, and in my excitement to wave to the colleagues lower down, I stepped on a soft snow, lost my balance and fell head-long in a side gully of hard ice. Pasang pulled the rope but a sharp ice edge had cut into my skull through three layers of the balaclava and my thick hair. I felt dizzy with blood streaming down my face. But there were many helpers around and in any case as the Base Camp route had been opened, there was no more up hill climb for me. Pasang took my rucksack and I was roped with Jon Teigland who led me to the Base Camp. I felt weak and giddy but the track was all the way down. We reached the Base Camp in about four hours. I went straight to the Base Camp hospital, had three stitches to my head injury and slept there. ▲



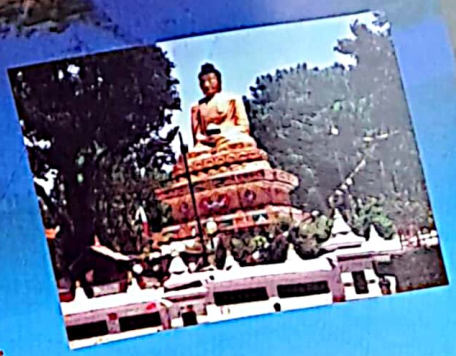
Photo: (Mt. Everest) Capt. Bed Upreti



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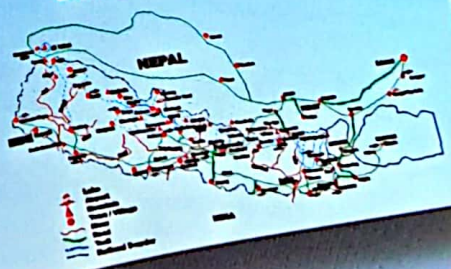
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Sir Edmund Hillary

TRIUMPH ON EVEREST

The Conquest of the Summit

This is an account of Sir Edmund Hillary's first successful human ascent of Mt. Everest, with Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, in his own words. This provides a glimpse of his experience related to that ascent 50 years back.

Night on the South Col. The wind screeches across the ridge and sets the canvas cracking like a rifle range; an awful noise. I'm braced between Tenzing and the tent wall, no room to stretch out. Whenever my head falls back against the roof it's as if I'd run my brain into a pneumatic drill.

The other side of Tenzing are Alf Gregory and George Lowe, hunched up in their sleeping bags, twisting, heaving around, trying to find some position less cold and miserable. We're using the oxygen sleeping sets, one litre per minute. Makes it easier to doze. But up here you dribble a good bit in your sleep, and when your bottle gives out you wake up suddenly, as if somebody had turned on the light, and your rubber face mask is all clammy and frigid.

I keep looking at my watch, wondering if it's stopped. The hour hand finally creeps around to 4, and I strike a match. The thermometer on the tent wall reads: —13° F. It is still pitch dark.

I nudge Tenzing, mutter something about breakfast, and retreat callously to my bag. Pretty soon the primus has warmed the tent a few degrees—just enough to make it seem safe to sit up and eat. Scruffy, cramped, somewhat depressed, we gulp down cups of sugary hot water flavoured with lemon crystals, munch some biscuits, and argue about which one of us has spent the worst night.

Snow Blown Inside Tent

Greg claims the honour, contending that sleeping between Lowe and Tenzing is like being caught in the jaws of a vise. But Lowe scores heavily when he points to a small heap of snow on his sleeping bag, blown through a pinhole in his side of the tent. Scraping it off, he grins at us and says:

"Well, at least you're having a good holiday. I hope you're feeling better for it."

Nobody bothers to answer. We sprawl about for five hours, waiting for the wind to die down. It doesn't.

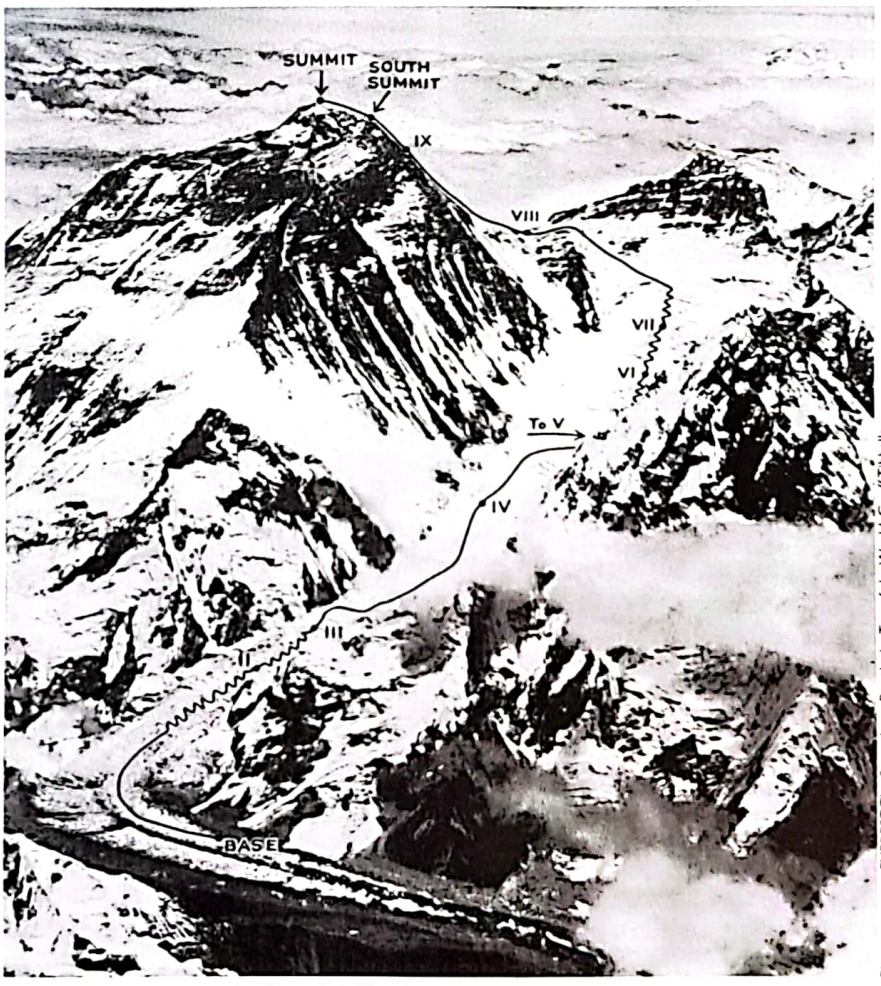


Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

The successful 1953 route up Everest

At 9 I bundle up and stumble over to John Hunt's tent, which he's sharing with Bourdillon and Evans. John agrees we must postpone the attempt. He decides, too, that everyone but Greg, Lowe, Tenzing, Ang Nyima, Pemba, and I should go down; no point in depleting the slim reserves of food we've hauled up here.

An hour or so later they are packed and ready. Hunt, grey and drawn but with his blue eyes frostier than ever, grips my arm. Above the howling wind he says:

"Most important thing—is for you chaps—to come back safely. Remember that. But get up if you can."

We watch them slog across the col, up the ridge, and down the slopes toward the traverse: four tired figures dwindling against the monstrous icy face of Lhotse. Then we turn back to our own chores.

I spend the afternoon sorting oxygen bottles, strapping them to their frames, and preparing our sleeping sets. All day we have used no masks. We can breathe well enough, but we work very slowly.

Altitude Sickness Fells One Sherpa

Night comes on, with the wind still intent on blowing us off the col. We cat-nap through the long hours, not as uncomfortably as before, since there's now more room. Tenzing and I have appropriated the Meade tent for ourselves; Greg and Lowe share the pyramid.

By 8 am the wind has eased off; but when I go to fetch Pemba I find him at the door of his tent, retching his heart out. Obviously he won't be going anywhere today. Which leaves us only Ang Nyima to help on the carry. Blast old Pemba, I think to myself, and with no remorse; the South Col is too high for pity.

We repack our loads and shove off. Lowe, Gregory, and Ang Nyima leave first, at 8:30, with about 45 pounds apiece; they will cut steps for us, so that we can save energy and oxygen. We follow at 10, carrying our sleeping bags, air mattresses, food, and extra clothing on top of our breathing sets.

At the foot of the big couloir we climb up the staircase Lowe has chipped, only to duck as a rolling barrage of ice chunks splatters down at us from 300 feet above. We have to pull aside until the fellows up top have moved out along the Southeast Ridge. Then we scramble after them and catch up about noon at the site of the wind-ripped tent left there by Lambert and Tenzing in 1952.

A nice view from here. We photograph everything in sight and move up to the dump John Hunt had placed at 27,350 feet two days ago. The idea of adding another ounce to our loads brings no cheers from anyone. But the stuff has to go up. Greg packs the oxygen, Lowe ties on some food and fuel, and we all look at the tent.

Campsite Slants Like a Barn Roof

Finally I say to George: "Look, I'll take the tent if you'll make the route."

He grins and moves off in the lead. He's going extremely well. In fact, this is George's big day on Everest. He was good on the Lhotse Face, but up here he's really showing what he can do.

With 50 to 63 pounds on our backs we plug on up the steepening ridge. By 2 pm we start casting around for a tent site, but the whole slope pitches away like a barn roof. For half an hour we search, climbing and traversing, until finally we come on a ledge about 6 feet by 4, angled downward at about 30°.

"Now, there's a lovely spot for a camp," says George enthusiastically, and dumps his load on it at once.

The others are pretty keen to get on down the mountain, too, and we can't blame them. Ang Nyima, though he's dead beat, asks politely if he can stay up here to help us down the next day, but we send him along. One more night this high on Everest would weaken him so much he'd be of no use to himself, much less to us.



Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

Hillary and Tenzing prepare for the assault

A lonely moment, watching old George and Greg and Ang Nyima turn back. Now we are really alone.

The tent is our first job. For two hours we scrape at the rocks and the snow and the frozen gravel, trying to make a platform for it. We settle for two terraces about a yard wide, six feet long, and about a foot spend another two hours getting the tent itself up and securing it to some flimsy rock belays and to oxygen bottles which I bury in the snow.

About 6:30 we crawl into our sleeping bags, light the primus, and get some supper: tinned apricots, dates, sardines, biscuits, jam, honey. The wind comes in gusts. When I hear it whistle up on the ridge, I brace myself against the canvas and try to hold the tent down as it gets ready to take off. In between squalls I doze, slumping on the upper shelf with my legs dangling over onto Tenzing's bench.



Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

The triumphant duo : Hillary and Tenzing

We use only four hours of oxygen, in two-hour shifts. In between, Tenzing heats up a few drinks. We don't talk much. I wonder to myself how George and the boys fared going down, what John Hunt must be thinking, even how those bees of mine back in New Zealand are getting along. And over and over again I do my mental arithmetic on the amount of climbing oxygen we have left, the amount we're likely to use...

4 am We poke our heads out of the tent door. The wind is mercifully still. Far off, the valleys of Nepal still sleep in darkness, but the summits of Makalu and Ama Dablam have caught the sun; and Tenzing, pointing past me, picks out the monastery at Thyangboche, 14,400 feet below us, where even now the lamas are offering special prayers for our safe return.

Boots Frozen Stiff as Armour

While Tenzing melts water for our tea, I haul the oxygen sets inside, knock the ice off the valves, and test them. My feet had been a bit damp the night before and, in order to let them dry out and warm up, with less risk of frostbite, I had pulled my boots off and used them to prop the toe of my sleeping bag off the cold ground. Now the boots are frozen as stiff as medieval armour.

I cook them over the primus. It takes me a good hour to thaw them, and the smell of leather and rubberised fabric toasting in the little tent is gruesome; but finally the boots are soft enough to wiggle into, and we can set out. Tenzing breaks trail through the powdery snow until my feet have warmed up; then I take over the lead.

Climbing strongly, with a good sense of reserve power, we make for the hollow where Evans and Bourdillon left their oxygen bottles. The cylinders are easy to spot. Pawing the ice from the gauges, I read the pleasant news: about 1,000 pounds pressure—enough to take us down to the South Col if we're lucky. In short, all the oxygen on our backs we can plow into our attack on the peak itself and our return to this niche.

Tackling the South Peak's Face

We push on. About 400 feet from the South Peak we are brought to a stop: which route? Bourdillon and Evans took the ridge to the left; then, on their way back, came down the broad face. But I think the ridge looks jolly dangerous, with all that loose snow masking the rocks. We decide on the face.

You can't zigzag up a steep slope like this or you'll undercut it and find yourself aboard an avalanche with a one-way ticket to the bottom. So we go straight up. At least, we go up five steps, walking on eggs, and then the whole crust for 10 feet around breaks up and we slide down again three steps. We don't so much climb the face as swim up it.

Halfway, I turn to Tenzing and say: "What do you think of it?"

"I don't like it at all."

"Shall we go on?"

He shrugs. "Just as you wish."

I make a quick decision. In ordinary mountaineering terms, the risk isn't justifiable. I know that. But this is Everest, and on Everest you sometimes have to take the long odds, because the goal is worth it. Or so I try to convince myself.

We go on, and we get a break. A few yards higher up we run into some snow that's packed harder. Chipping steps, we make our way quite rapidly up to the crest. At 9 am we are standing on the South Peak.

We have these advantages over Evans and Bourdillon: Thanks to a higher camp, we're here four hours earlier, and we have more oxygen and more strength left to finish the job. But just how big a job is it? That's something no one can tell us for sure.

To size it up, we scoop out a seat for ourselves just below the South Peak, remove our masks, and study the summit above. The true crown is out of sight, somewhere up above the ridge that turns its blade right in our faces now. It looks a fair cow, all right, as we'd say in New Zealand. Cornices on the right, overhanging a little drop of 10,000 feet to the Kangshung Glacier on Everest's eastern flank; on the left, steep snow sloping to the lip of the big rock wall that looms over the Western Cwm.

We don't need to talk much. It's obvious that our only route lies between the cornices and the cliffs on the left; the joker is the state of the snow. If it's firm, we have a chance. If it's loose and dry, we've come a long way for very little.

I check the oxygen once more. One full bottle left for each of us. That's 800 litres at three litres per minute—about 4y hours of climbing. Enough? Well, it will have to be.

We put our sets on again, lighter for the discarded bottles. I feel very fit, and keen to get at the problem. We crampon down to the start of the ridge, and I sink my axe blade into the snow of the upward slope. It is everything we could have asked—crystalline and solid and well packed. Two or three whacks chip a step big enough even for our elephantine high-altitude boots, and a good shove buries the axe shaft half its length, making a very decent belay.

Tenzing's Breathing More Laboured

I lead off, cutting a 40-foot line of steps, resting, and taking a few turns of the rope around my axe as Tenzing comes up to join

me. Then he belays me as I carve another flight. We move along steadily, giving the rickety cornices a fairly wide berth and taking an occasional gander over the rock face on our left. About 7,500 feet below I can just make out the tents of Camp IV, and I flap my arms up and down like an Abominable Scarecrow, with no particular hope that anyone will see me.

Tenzing has begun to drag a little on the rope by now, and his breathing seems more rapid. As we halt on one tiny ledge, I ask:

"How does it go, Tenzing?"
"All right."

I know, however, that like most Sherpas Tenzing has only a vague notion of the way his oxygen set works. He may be getting groggy and not even realise it. So I check his exhaust tube and find the valves almost completely blocked with ice; he's probably been getting no great benefit from his oxygen for some minutes.

I examine my own tube; to my surprise, ice has begun to form here, too, though not enough yet to interrupt my air flow. Obviously, this is something I'll have to keep an eye on for both of us. Fortunately, my habit of doing mental mathematics on our oxygen supply as I plug along, plus the fact that I'm leading the rope, will keep me fairly alert.

We resume the climb, and I cut another line of steps for perhaps half an hour. Then we find ourselves staring at an obstacle we've dreaded ever since we spotted it on the aerial photos and through our binoculars from Thyangboche: a ghastly great rock about 40 feet high, plunked down right across the ridge. No route on it worth talking about. And no way around it except—

Except where the snow cornice on the right, pulling away a little from the rock, has left a thin gap, a kind of chimney.

Forty Feet in Half an Hour

We look at it with rather mixed emotions. I'm not one of those blokes who says to himself, "I'll get up, come hell or high water." Mountains mean a lot to me, but not that much. I just say to Tenzing:

"Well, we'll give it a good go."

He takes a belay, and I jam my way into the crack. With my back to the cornice, I face the rock and grope for handholds along it, kicking my crampons into the snow behind me and jacking myself upwards. I use everything I have—knees, elbows, shoulders, even the oxygen set on my back—trying to get a purchase and exert some critical leverage.

My tactics depend on one little consideration: that the cornice doesn't peel off. Of course, Tenzing has me belayed on a bit of rock, which provides a certain moral support. But if the snow gives way, and I find myself dangling over the Kangshung Glacier, it isn't going to matter enormously whether Tenzing can hold me for five minutes or fifty.

Foot by foot I hump and wriggle and pull myself up the chimney. The crack is only a rope's length long, but it's a good half hour before I can reach over the ledge at the top and drag myself onto it. I lie there, panting like a gaffed fish, surprised somehow that I've scraped together enough energy to make it. Then I give Tenzing a taut rope and signal him to come along. For the first time the conviction seeps through me that we are really going to go all the way. different in height. Then we are really going to go all the way.

Always Another Ridge Ahead

I check the oxygen sets again. The flow rates seem all right. Turning to Tenzing, I say: "How do you feel?"

He just grins and waves his hand upward toward the ridge. I lead off once more, cutting steps. My axe work is still pretty rhythmical and relaxed; I've been chipping away for well over an hour, but, so far, I've avoided the kind of tension that can turn up a sore arm.

One flight of steps, then another, and another. We follow the ridge as it curves around to the right, wondering where the top can possibly be, or if it exists at all. I cut around the back of one crag, only to have a higher one stare me in the face. It seems endless.

Tiring, I try to save time on one stretch by skipping the step cutting and relying on my crampons. After a few yards I go back to my axe; the angle is still too steep, too dangerous. The zest we have known at the top of the rock step is draining away. Dully, grimly, I hack a route around still another knob.

Standing on Top of the World

Suddenly I realise that the ridge ahead doesn't slope up, but down. I look quickly to my right. There, just above me, is a softly rounded, snow-covered little bump about as big as a haystack.

The summit

One last question concerns me: is the top itself just a large, delicately poised cornice? If it is, someone else can have the honour of stepping on it.

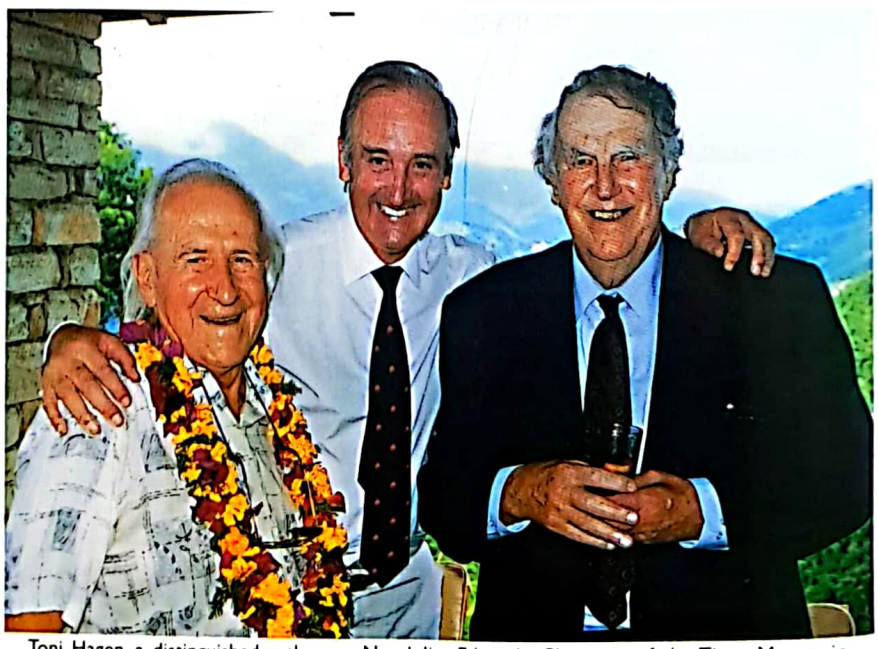


Photo courtesy Victor

Toni Hagen, a distinguished author on Nepal, Jim Edwards, Chairman of the Tiger Mountain Group & Sir Edmund Hillary in Pokhara.

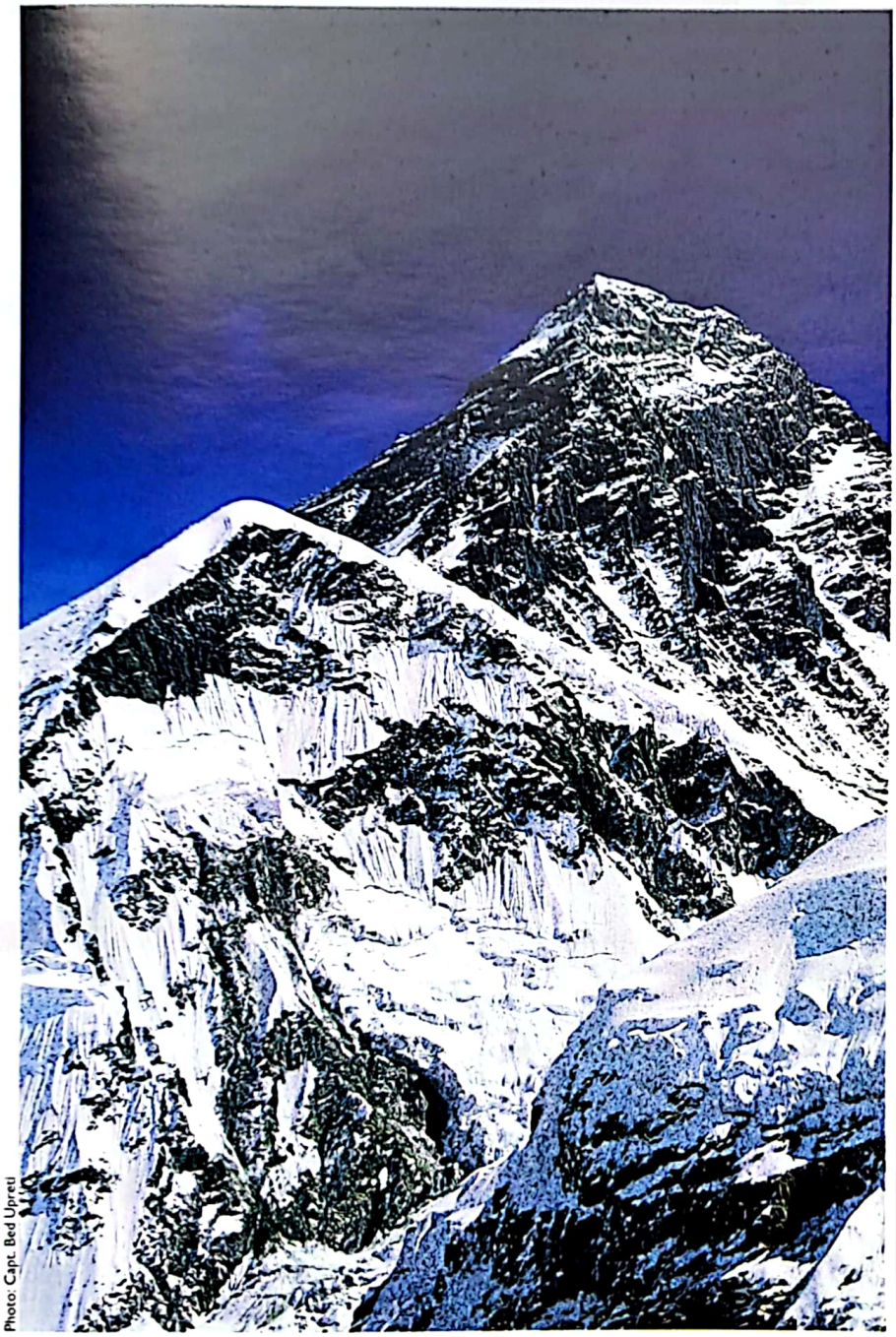


Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti

Top of the World: Mt. Everest – 8,848 m.

I cut my way cautiously up the next few feet, probing ahead with my pick. The snow is solid, firmly packed. We stagger up the final stretch. We are there. Nothing above us, a world below.

I feel no great elation at first, just relief and a sense of wonder. Then I turn to Tenzing and shake his hand. Even through the snow glasses, the ice-encrusted mask, the knitted helmet, I can see that happy, flashing smile. He throws his arms around my shoulders, and we thump each other, and there is very little we can say or need to say.

My watch shows 11:30. Two hours and a half it has taken us from the South Peak; five hours from our tent. It seems a bit longer.

Photographs Prove Summit Was Reached

I turn off my oxygen and remove my mask. In the thin air of 29,000 feet my breathing becomes slightly more rapid, but not too uncomfortable. I fish out the camera I have kept warm inside my shirt; it will be necessary to take shots down every ridge if we're to prove conclusively that we've been up here.

Moving down the cone a few feet, I snap a picture of Tenzing holding up his ice axe with its flags standing out stiffly in the wind—the flags of the United Nations, Great Britain, Nepal, India. It would be nice to have Tenzing take my portrait, too, in some heroic pose, but unfortunately he doesn't number among his many virtues a knowledge of photography, and the top of Everest strikes me as a poor place on which to conduct classes ...

Scooping a small hole in the snow, Tenzing buries a few offerings to the gods that many Buddhists believe inhabit these heights: a small blue pencil given him by his daughter, a bar of chocolate, some biscuits, a cluster of lollypops. I place near these gifts a little crucifix that John Hunt has received from a friend and passed over to me on the South Col.

It's time to go down now. I replace my oxygen mask, suck the air in gratefully, and move off without a backward glance. Reaction has set in; we both are tired.

We crampon along the steps I have cut, moving fast. We know the route; we know what's ahead and what isn't; the certainty gives us confidence and a lift to our stride. Even the rock chimney looks reassuringly familiar; we pop into it and kick our way down as if there's no more danger that the cornice will politely take leave of the ridge.

Back on the South Peak once more, we halt for a swig of lemonade before tackling the section we both dread, the great snow slope on the reverse face. This nasty bit of work skids down the summit at an oblique angle aimed right at the Kangshung Glacier. An ice-axe belay won't hold in the soft snow. If one of us begins to slide, both of us will enjoy a 10,000-foot jump without benefit of parachute.

Inching Down a Glassy Staircase

We begin our descent of this glassy staircase. Facing outward and down, we get the uncomfortable sensation of being too heavy, ready to sway forward and fall. We place our boots down onto each step as if we're walking a high wire. I mutter a few things under my breath when we come to a flight of steps Tenzing has cut with his usual ambitious spacing; I have to stop and chip a new step between each of his.



Photo Courtesy: NMA

Reunited Hillary and Tenzing at HMI

Forty steps more. Twenty. Five...we are down and can slant over to the relative safety of the Southeast Ridge. We look at each other, and with a kind of sigh shrug off the weight of fear that has sat on our shoulders all this long day. The worst is over; we are nearly down ...

We trek down to our dismal little campsite; already the wind has ripped the tent half away. It is 2 pm Tenzing heats up some more lemonade on the paraffin stove, while I change our oxygen sets onto the last bottles and cut the flow rates down to two litres a minute. We sip our drinks, looking rather dazedly down at the South Col where a couple of dots that may be Lowe and Noyce move out now from the camp.

On our feet again, we load up our air mattresses and sleeping bags and stumble off, numb with exhaustion, to the top of the couloir. Here we get a rude surprise: the wind has wiped out all the steps we cut the day before, leaving only a smooth, frozen slope beneath us. With a grunt of disgust, I start chipping a new flight, 200 feet down the gully, pausing only when a particularly vicious gust tries to tear me loose from the mountain and forces me to dig my axe in fast and hang onto it, shielding my face from the pelting snow.

Once at the couloir's foot, it's only a long, rough tramp down to the South Col. Before we get there, a lone figure stumps up to meet us—George Lowe, carrying hot soup and emergency oxygen. I grin weakly at old George and say:

"Well, we knocked the blighter off!"

It is rather pleasant to see his face light up. We have climbed a good bit together, George and I, and it does me good to have some decent news for him after all he and the others have been through to put our team in position. But both Tenzing and I are too fagged to chatter much about our experiences.

We totter down to the camp. My oxygen gives out before we get there; it doesn't seem to matter much any more. We crawl into the tents and collapse on our sleeping bags with a sigh of sheer delight.

Excitement Prevents Sleep

Yet we sleep very little that night. The wind, the bitter cold, the delayed-action burst of excitement within us keep us awake, keyed up, reliving the best and the worst passages of the long assault. By morning we are quite weak, though by no means truly exhausted.

We pack up. It takes us longer than it should; Everest, right up to the end, is making us pay for the liberties we have taken with its heights. Trudging up the 200-foot slope above the South Col, we begin the gruelling traverse across the Lhotse Face.

Tenzing and I have treated ourselves to the luxury of oxygen on the way down. We don't need it terribly; but we figure that perhaps we've earned it. Even so, we have to move slowly.

As we clamber down the ice steps to Camp VII, which we have assumed is deserted, we're startled by a loud, cheerful shout. It's Charles Wylie and his Sherpas, boiling out of the tents to greet us and press hot drinks into our numbed hands. Charles's voice has a curious effect on me: it seems so unnaturally strong and vital and fresh after our days of deterioration up above that I feel suddenly very relaxed and confident, as though sure at last that everything is going to come out all right.

Our news has an equally pleasant effect on the Sherpas. They crowd around and shake our hands, saluting Tenzing—one of their own—with a new and even more affectionate respect. I hear the phrase popping up here and there:

"Everest khatm ho gya, Sahib! Everest has had it!"

Source: National Geographic, July 1954

THE LAST INNOCENT ADVENTURE

"That which has always fascinated men most is the unknown."

- Cicero

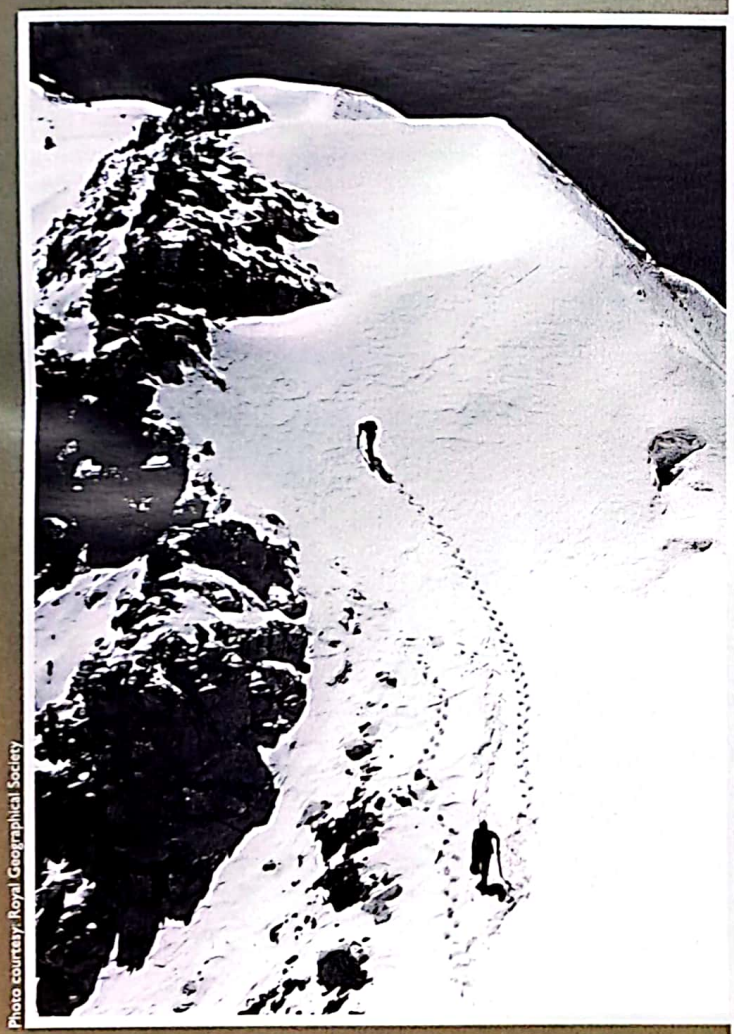


Photo courtesy: Royal Geographical Society

"Their victory is a victory for the human spirit."

The Times - 1953

Dr. Victor Klenov is an explorer, writer, climber and freelance journalist from Russia.

Celebrating 50 glorious years

This May marks the 50th anniversary of the New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa's epochal first ascent of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953. On May 29, 2003 the world will celebrate this feat, an event which became a defining landmark of the 20th century adventure and delivered fame and glory to the men who took part in John Hunt's spectacular expedition. Sir Edmund Hillary, Honorary President of the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Committee, will participate in the celebration surrounded by 800 other Everest climbers. The anniversary of this great achievement is seen as a milestone in mountain development and boosting the tourism industry – backbone of Nepal's economy.

The call of Everest

For many years the elusive and mystical Peak XV – Everest – remained a distant vision through the Himalayan clouds. The irresistible challenge of Everest captured the imagination of the world's mountaineers, particularly the British. Towards the end of the 19th century Gurkha officer Charles Bruce suggested that it might be possible to climb Everest and had led a few expeditions from the Tibetan side. The history of these expeditions overwhelms anything imaginable. The first eight expeditions ended in failure - and some in tragedy – as with Mallory and Irvine, who were last seen 300 m below



Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

Hillary & Tenzing about to leave the south col to establish camp IX

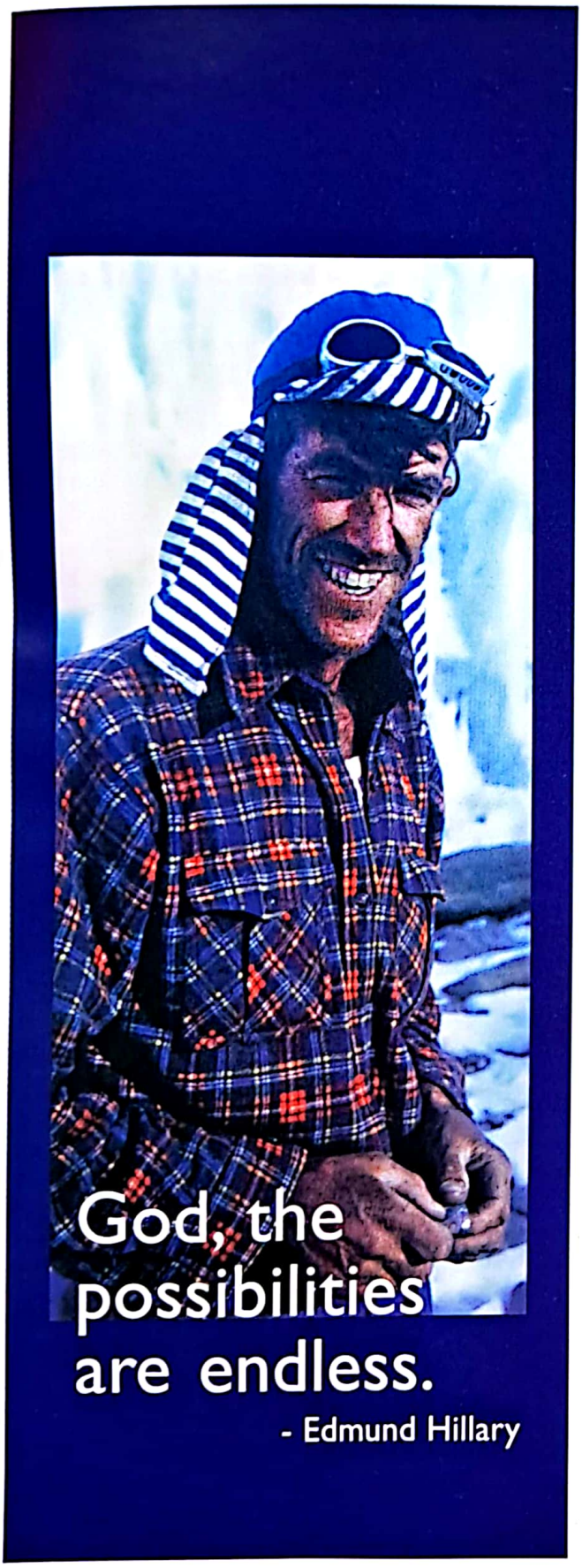
the summit. Whether they actually reached the top remains an unsolved Himalayan mystery. But the loss of some splendid men is part of the price that has to be paid to keep alive the spirit of adventure. It can never be said that lives lost in fighting Nature's greatest obstacles in the name of adventure and exploration were thrown away.

After World War II, in a dramatic bid for the Everest summit was undertaken from the Nepal side. A strong Swiss team of Lambert and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa in 1952 had to return from only 300 m to the top. But finally on May 29, 1953 a perfectly organised expedition of the best British climbers under the leadership of John Hunt achieved the seemingly impossible. To actually put two men on top of Everest. Hunt's choice of Hillary aged 33 and Tenzing aged 39 as the attack team proved decisive. They had gelled well, matching each other in speed and drive. Tenzing's skill and rope work had saved Hillary's life on the dreadful Khumbu Icefall – Sagarmatha's version of Russian Roulette, and the incident had formed a bond between the two men.

Tenzing Norgay – whose name means "lucky follower of religion" was born on 29 May 1914 in the Khumbu region of Nepal. In 1932 he left his homeland for Darjeeling and later became a Sherpa guide. Tenzing was a skilled and forceful climber which earned him the distinction of being called the Himalayan Tiger as well as the position of sirdar. Tall and strong, with a flashing smile, he radiated an aura of firm confidence. But perhaps his unique quality was his absolute determination to try and reach the summit of any mountain he was climbing. He was a Nepali and Hunt saw Tenzing as a symbol of the Sherpas in their quest for success on Everest. It was also a tribute to all the Sherpas who had contributed so much to the exploration of the Himalayas over the last century. "In the work of the Sherpas," Hunt wrote later, "lies the immediate secret of our success."

On May 26 the first summit team of Bourdillon and Evans climbed the South Summit, but finally had to turn back. After camping in the high winds, on the South Col, Hillary and Tenzing on May 29 started at 6:30 am and alternating the lead, made their way forward. At 11:30 am they stepped on the summit of Everest – a little over a 100 years after its discovery. They had achieved a goal on which so many before and after them have set their sights. Tenzing was really excited. His desire to climb Chomolungma was born of his own love of climbing and personal affection for this mountain. "At that great moment for which I had waited all my life my mountain did not seem to me a lifeless thing of rock and ice, but warm and friendly and living." After the congratulations, Hillary took the famous shots of Tenzing on the summit with ice axe upraised and the flags flapping in the breeze – the UN flag, the Union Jack, the Nepali and Indian flags. After a short time on the top, the pair started their way to the world glory. That was just a fantastic step onto the unknown at the time. It was a feat comparable to landing on the Moon. Back in 1953, reaching the top of the world was seen as pinnacle of human achievement. The editorial in *The Times* eulogised: "Their victory is a victory for the human spirit." Hillary and Tenzing were idolised around the globe as prominent heroes of the post-World War II era. Their names went instantly into all languages as heroes, partly because they really were men of heroic mould but chiefly because they represented the spirit of the time. They had to pioneer the route and tackle the problems, to establish their own tracks and make their own decisions. They were a strong and good team! Hillary and Tenzing were considerate members of a team, and it was true to the temper of their adventure, that Hillary's most famous quotation after summiting wasn't anything pretentious and enigmatic, but rather simple to expedition member George Lowe: "Well, George, we've knocked the …….. off!" Besides, it was an undramatic expedition – nobody was killed, maimed or even frostbitten…They did what they liked doing, and did the best!

The men from Hunt's team were not driven by ideas of fame and fortune, all they wanted to do was climb a mountain that had been a constant challenge for more than 30 years. Those were such halcyon days no other mountaineer was likely to ever experience. James (later Jan) Morris, *The Times* correspondent, called it "the last innocent adventure". The two men were astonished by the scale of the welcome they received. Their life was transformed overnight – Tenzing was hailed as a national hero in Nepal, and Hillary was knighted by the Queen. It was the fate of Hillary and Tenzing, though, to



become public heroes, and it was a measure of the men that over the years they truly grew conditioned. Perhaps, they thought that just being the first to climb a hill was hardly qualification for immortality; perhaps they instinctively realised destiny had another place for them. For both became, in the course of time, representatives not merely of their particular nations but of humanity.

Because it is still there...

After Everest, Tenzing returned to Darjeeling, where he became the Director of Field Training at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI). In 1986, Tenzing Norgay Sherpa passed away, touching the hearts of many people in the world. On the hilltop above HMI stands his statue to remind us of the great man, a most famous son of Nepal. Tenzing Norgay deserved the "Rastriya Vibhuti" – an accolade awarded to the Himalayan Kingdom's elite and declared National Hero of Nepal.

For Hillary, Everest was more a beginning rather than the end. Life had given him an amazing variety of experiences. He spent his life pushing human ability to its limits. He went on to knock off another half-dozen peaks, led an expedition to the South Pole, took the jet-boats up the Ganges and led the famous hunt for the Yeti. Hillary found in his Himalayan adventure and his subsequent celebrity status the inspiration and the opportunity to repay his debt of fame by assisting the people who were his comrades on that climb, and to help protect their beautiful homeland. Through his personal efforts, and through the Himalayan Trust Foundation, he has built 30 schools, 2 airstrips, 2 hospitals, 12 medical clinics in Nepal's Khumbu region. Many mountaineers climbed Everest since then, but none have contributed more to the fame and welfare of the Sherpas, than the New Zealand beekeeper who made it first.

May 29,1953 event not only created international ripples then but also continues to be spoken, read and written about even 50 years later. It also inspires mountaineers from across the world to emulate the two men's incredible feat. The magic of Everest remains undiminished. "I remember looking out over the Himalayas and not thinking that I'd closed the door on exploration but rather just the opposite. I remember thinking, 'God, the possibilities are endless.' It looks like I was right," says Hillary, now 82.

Interest in Everest has grown by leaps and bounds, so much that since 1953 over 1200 people have conquered the mighty peak by some 15 different routes yet it is still remains a supreme challenge. Its very name is synonymous with the biggest, the highest, the best and the most dangerous. Everest – the world's largest and highest stage – still continues to stir and challenge the human spirit. That is the incredible awesome beauty and magnificence that has inspired so many intrepid men and women to reach the pinnacle of the highest mountain in the world. Mallory wrote: "Enjoyment of life is, after all, the aim of life. We don't live to eat and make money. We like bracing ourselves against the physical difficulties the mountain presents, and feeling that we are forcing the spirit within us to prevail against the material." And there will always be undaunted spirits with a deep passion for heights like Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, toiling up and down the world's highest peak – because it is still there...

Temba Tsheri
YOUNGEST CLIMBER TO SAGARMATHA



Photo: Personal collection, Temba Tsheri

A glorious moment during the ascent

Prekshya Khatri
is a freelance writer.

Temba Tsheri Sherpa is renowned worldwide as the youngest person to successfully reach the summit of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) but his feat has enhanced the image of Nepal in the international arena.

At the age of 15 years and 18 days he was able to reach the summit of Sagarmatha, the highest peak in the world. The feat was accomplished from the Tibet side by Temba Tsheri on May 23, 2001.

Earlier the record for the youngest climber to the highest peak was held by Shambhu Tamang who had made the ascent from the Nepali side in 1973, when he was 17. Breaking the record was a momentous achievement for Temba Tsheri

Stories of famous mountaineers who had scaled Sagarmatha, kindled in him a desire to climb the peak.

though it had not been easy. The first attempt that he had undertaken in 2000 had ended in failure.

But failure did not deter him, he made it the stepping stone towards success. On his first attempt to scale Sagarmatha, Temba Tsheri had to turn back a mere 22 m away from the summit. It was a historical attempt but luck did not favour him. He had to abandon the attempt because three fingers of his right hand and two fingers of his left hand got frostbitten and immobile as he had removed his gloves to adjust his boots. He took all this in his stride with only the thought of returning again to fulfil his dream.

In 2001, he was a member of the International Tibet Expedition which was sponsored by Yeti Airlines and Thamserku Trekking. Siddhartha Vanasthali School, the school where he studied and from which he had just appeared for his School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examination, also provided financial assistance of Rs 50,000. He feels that success was possible only with the help of well wishers and friends.

The first attempt made was through the South Ridge from the Nepal side which did not meet with success. Temba succeeded in reaching the top of Sagarmatha in 2001 through the Tibet side. Temba says, "The route is somewhat longer but there are fewer dangers like crevasse and avalanches that are a constant threat to attempts from the Nepal side."

But success has not changed him. He is still a shy, soft spoken and polite person. Temba Tsheri Sherpa was born on May 6, 1985 in Ward 5 of Tashinam village of Gaurishankar Village Development Committee in Dolakha district. His family members include his father Chhauwa Sherpa, mother Lakpa Diki Sherpa and two brothers aged 22 and 16.

Temba was fascinated by the mountains from a very young age. Since his father, brother and relatives were in the trekking and mountaineering profession, stories of famous mountaineers who had scaled Sagarmatha, kindled in him a desire to climb the peak. His determination grew steadfast and though he did not receive encouragement from his family members, there were others who helped him achieve his desire. He says that if sponsorship is available he would love to give it another try in the future though for the moment he just wants to concentrate on his studies. This reflects the sentiments which have been echoed by many famous mountaineers from Nepal that the desire to climb will always be there but education is a must before anything else.

Looking back at his achievement he says when on the summit he felt nervous and his heart was pounding. "My joy knew no bounds when I stepped on the summit. It was one of the rare moments of my life," he says. And success has helped him believe that courage is a must and one must remain undaunted despite failures in life.

Prior to scaling Sagarmatha, Temba Tsheri had successfully climbed Nawal Peak (5,938 m), Manang in 1999 and Island Peak (6,160 m).

He feels that mountaineering training is necessary before attempting to climb peaks as it provides the basic knowledge of climbing together with the safety measure that are necessary when emergencies arise. Pemba himself received basic mountaineering training organised by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) in Manang three years back.

He says he will always be indebted to NMA for the assistance that he received for the treatment of his frostbitten fingers in 2000.

Temba Tsheri was decorated with the Ganesh Man Prativa Puraskar in 2057 BS, Sungdare Sherpa Rastriya Prativa Puraskar 2057 BS and TAAN Everest International Award 2001.

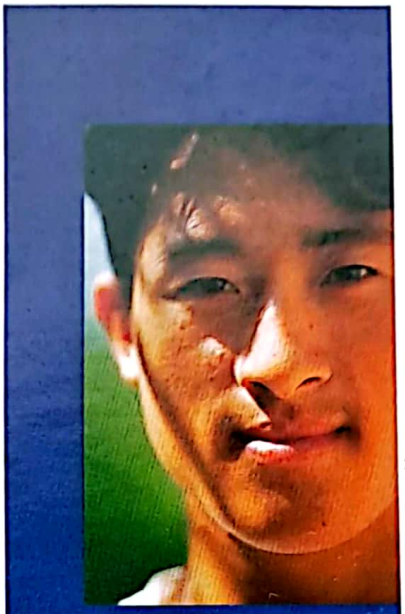


Photo: Sanchit Lamichhane

My joy knew no bounds when I stepped on the summit. It was one of the rare moments of my life.



Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti

Restriction on number of Everest expeditions needed



Photo: Prami Shrestha

Junko Tabei, born in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan in 1939, became the first woman to summit Mt. Everest in 1975. Her interest in mountain climbing started from the age of ten. She also formed the women's mountain climbing club "Ladies Climbing Club Japan" in 1969.

A director of Himalayan Adventure Trust of Japan, dedicated to preserving the mountain environment, Ms. Tabei is the first woman to have climbed the highest peaks on each of the seven continents.

In a talk with ***Nepal Parbat***, she dwelt on many issues related to Everest and mountain tourism. Excerpts:

What should Nepal do to uphold the dignity and stature of Mt. Everest ?

The restriction on the number of climbers should be strengthened and there should be proper extraction of garbage and human waste.

After numerous successful expeditions, what do you think is the place of Mt. Everest in the world mountaineering map?

Since climbing Mt. Everest has become so popular, it has become less of a glorious achievement, and therefore the status of the mountain has diminished.

Do you think that Mt. Everest is under excessive pressure? Should there be more efforts to curb competition?

Yes, Mt. Everest is being overused. The number of people climbing it should be restricted. For instance, there could be a limit of three expeditions in one season

How do you feel about being the first lady to have climbed Mt. Everest? How do you recall the momentous event?

Rather than thinking of it as the first ascent by a woman, I felt happy and privileged to be the only party on the mountain. We were able to face the mountain without any other obstruction.

Do you think something has to be done to attract more female mountaineers?

Mt. Everest was a very attractive place for all mountaineers, both men and women, in the 1970s. If the mountain became less crowded in the future, more women would be attracted.

Being the first lady to have climbed the highest peak in the world do you think your achievement has resulted in some kind of responsibility?

So far I have achieved what I wanted to though I could have done more. I feel more than a sense of responsibility, I feel that I should return the debt that I have received from society in successfully reaching the summit of Everest.

You have been championing the cause of mountain environment preservation throughout the world and particularly in Asia. How do you evaluate the work done so far for the preservation of the Himalayan environment?

I have been organising several activities to promote awareness of environmental issues in the Himalayas and other mountain regions of the world. One such activity is the annual International Youth Camp, which includes garbage collection, trekking and debates as well as symposiums to discuss the mountain environment in Japan. Also we invited Sir Edmund Hillary to Japan in order to raise such awareness. Through such activities, Japanese and Asian youth have been able to increase their awareness about the mountains with a wider perspective. I am satisfied with these results so far and wish to carry on. The financial burden is our main difficulty in continuing these activities. It would be good if the Alpine Federation in Asia could join forces to extend their activities for such common causes.

Nepal has also been making efforts on in collaboration with various international and national agencies to preserve the mountain ecology of Mt. Everest. What else needs to be done to preserve the Nepali Himalayas in general and Mt. Everest in particular?

Since I do not have adequate knowledge about work on Himalayan environmental issues, I may not be able to answer this question. Restriction on the number of climbers is required not only for Everest but also peaks where one can only go with a trekking permit, like Island Peak. Also it is important to raise awareness among trekkers and porters who go into those areas. While Sherpas who have been brought up in the Khumbu are well aware, porters who come from other areas do not necessarily have a good knowledge of the issue. It is necessary, therefore, to raise environmental awareness among the porters. It would be good if we could know more about what the Nepali government has done for environmental protection using the income from issuing expedition permits. This information would help people know what has been done with that money and what contributions need to be extended. The government needs to make the income and expenses on permit issues transparent and cooperate with NMA, SPCC and other regional NGOs in tackling the issue.

Should Nepal promote mountaineering as a mass sport or isolated undertaking?

It may not be a good idea to encourage mountaineering as a popular sport in Nepal. Its value lies in that there is no disruption in the life of the people living in the mountains.

What changes have you found in respect to mountaineering in Nepal? Is it as challenging as in the past?

Compared to the 1970s, there is a big difference, particularly now that anyone can come.

What additional support, should be added to promote mountain tourism in Nepal?

I do not have sufficient information about what kind of support is currently being given. The important things are educating and encouraging the younger generation through experience and maintaining financial transparency among both the donating and recipient parties.

What is your most memorable event associated with Mt. Everest?

The most unforgettable event for me was being dug out from avalanche debris by Sherpas who insisted on staying with us if we continued our ascent. After such a huge avalanche, almost anyone would have wished to run away from the expedition. We were so delighted to hear that. Also I shall never forget the words they said: 'We are proud of being able to work as Sherpas for the Japanese women's expedition'.

Your message to the Nepali people in general and mountaineers in particular?

I wish the Nepali people would understand and cooperate in restricting the number of expeditions in order to maintain the Himalayas, which are the most vital resource for Nepal, in that it has been a dignified and admirable place for generations. That policy would lead to maintaining and enriching its values. Mountaineers who visit should be aware that they have been chosen and permitted to go into a holy place and so they should take care of the environment while climbing the mountains.

Geographical Prospective and Human Inhabitation

Of

Sagarmatha (Everest) Region

Dr. Nanda Gopal Ranjitkar is the Associate Professor in the Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

General Background

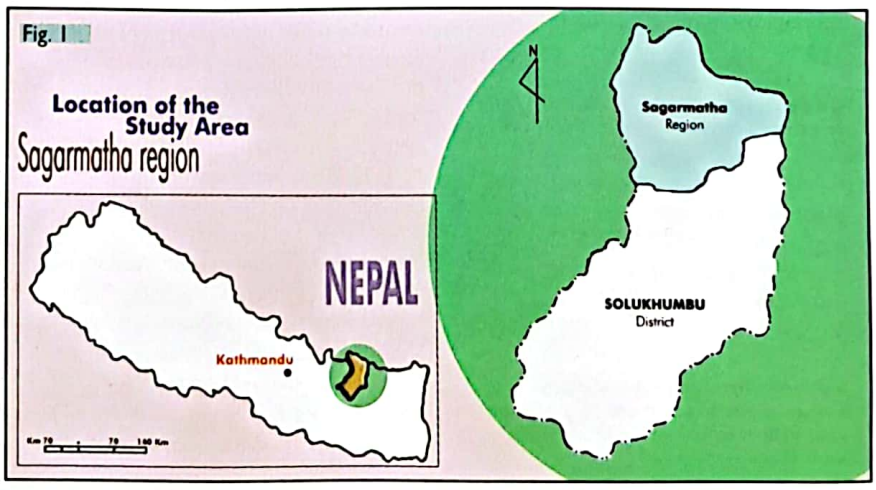
Less than 50 years ago Nepal was largely isolated from the outside world. Since the opening of Nepal's border in the 1950s, the overall trend for international tourist arrivals has been increasing. The main focus of interest of visitors to Nepal is the high mountain regions. One of the most an attractive mountain area for tourists in Nepal is Mt. Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) region. Mt. Everest (8848 m) was identified as the highest point on the earth's surface in 1852, during the great Trigonometric Survey of India.

The physical, social and economic linkage of people with this mountain has greatly influenced the surrounding areas of this mountain peak. The preservation of the areas around the Sagarmatha has been given more emphasis and hence this area was designated as a national park by the Nepal government in 1976 and as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1979. According to IUCN Management, Sagarmatha National Park is classified as the second category and it is considered as the 10th World Heritage Site of Nepal. Representation of the highest terrestrial eco-system of the world, wonderful evolution of geological formation, prospects of Himalayan eco- system, habitat of threatened species and prospects of several religious sites are special features of the Sagarmatha Region.

The Sagarmatha Region lies along the Nepal-China (Tibet) border in the north eastern highland of Nepal at about 90 km from Kathmandu (Figure1). This region is locally known as Khumbu Region. This region lies in between 86° 31c East to 86° 58c East longitude and 27° 47 to 28° 7c North latitude. It is bound on the north by the Tibetan border, on the west by the Rowling Valley, on the east by the Arun Valley and on the south by Pharak Region of the Solokhumbu district. It is spread over an area of 1148 sq kms.

The region is the home of spectacular mountain scenery and the renowned Sherpa people. It is more of nature and a little bit of culture and known for its unique natural and cultural landscape characteristics.

Fig. I



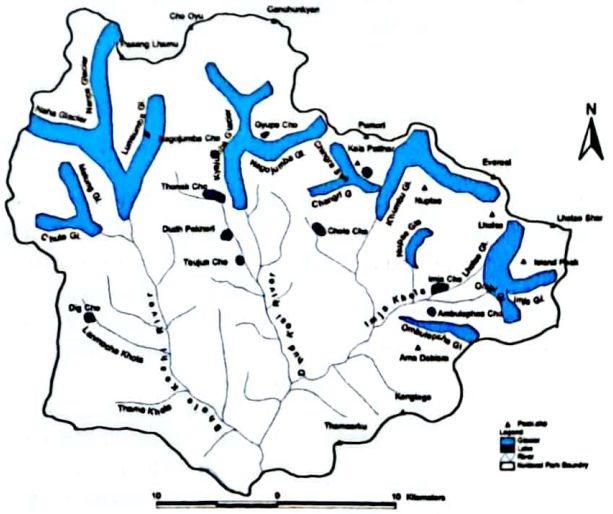
Physiography, Lakes, Rivers and Glaciers

The Sagarmatha region is one of the most important areas of the Himalayan regions. Originally, the Himalayas geologically were a part of Tethys Sea in between the Indian plate in the south and Tibetan plate (Eurasian plate) in the north. The origin of the Himalaya is related to the orogenetic movement (Mountain Building). This type of tectonic process began about 60 million years ago, at the beginning of the tertiary period. During this

period, the Indian plate began to move towards the Tibetan plate, which forced the descent of the Indian plate under the Eurasian plate. The collision of these two plates caused the massive folding of the sediments deposited in the Tethy Sea bringing about the upheaval of the Himalayas.

Fig. 2

Water Bodies and Peaks in the Sagarmatha Region



The Sagarmatha region is triangular in shape almost enclosed by mountain peaks of above 6000 m and characterised by rugged landscape of mountains, glacial ridges, hanging valleys, U-shaped valleys and fluvial terraces. This region is full of rugged terrain with deep gorges, glaciers and ice and rock faces and peaks. The altitude of this region ranges from 2805 m at Jorsale to 8848 m at the summit of Everest. River valleys, glacial valleys and mountain ranges and peaks are the three main Physiographical divisions (Figure.2). The middle part of the southern half of the region covers the river valleys of Bhote Kosi in the west, Dudh Kosi in middle and Imja Khola in the east). The Thame Khola and Lammoche Khola are the tributaries of the Bhote Kosi. Imja Khola joins the Dhud Kosi and Chola Khola joins the Imja Khola. These river valleys lie at altitudes between 2600 m and 4500 m above sea level. These are the narrow, deep-cut valleys of fluvial origin with typical V-shaped valleys. These valleys are the main agricultural areas of the region. In the upper part of the valleys above 4500 m, there is a glacial morphology. Glaciation has created U-shaped valley profiles. These glacial valleys in this region generally occupy the altitude of 5000 to 6000 m.

All the glacial valleys are located at the lower slopes of the Mahalangur Himal. The altitude of 6000 m makes the summer snowline in this Himalaya range. There are two types of glaciers based on location, dimension and dynamism. Some glaciers are big, dirty and dead valley glaciers and other are clean, little and lively mountain glaciers. The first type of glacier covers more landscapes. The major notable glaciers in this area are Imja glacier, Ombi glacier, Ambulache glacier, Nuptse glacier, Khumbu glacier, Ngozumpa glacier, Kyajumba glacier, Lumsumba glacier, Nangpa glacier, Naha glacier, Melung glacier etc. Narrow benches below present snow line are the remnants of some of extensive glaciers.

Glacial lakes are prominent features in this region. The major glacial lakes are Digcho, Homi Cho, Nago Jumba, Yupa tal, Thonako Tal, Tujuncho, Dhud Pokhari, Naktok Cho, Chola Cho Tal, Imja Cho Tal, Ambulapeha Cho etc. All these glacial lakes are located at the altitude of more than 5000 m (Figure.2). Sometimes these glacial lakes cause glacial out-burst causing catastrophic consequences in down stream valleys.

The larger part of northern region occupies the mountain ranges above 6000 m. The Mahalanguar range is the most important range in this Sagarmatha Region. The other important northern ranges are the Raunsiyar and the Dejunkhon Himal in the north and the Tesilapcha Danda, the Gonla Danda, the Khumuche Himal and the Kulapcha Danda in the southern part of the region. The most notable snow peaks of this regions are Sagarmatha (8848m), Lhoste (8501m), Nuptse (7896m) Lhotse Sher (8383m), Cho Oyu (8189m), Amadablam (6856m), Pumori (7145m), Kantega, Gyachung Kiang, Kala Pathar, Island Pe (6185m) etc. (Figure.2).

The snow-clad mountains here overlook various glaciers at the head of this region. In the south there are some ranges such as Numbur, Konge Ri, Thamserku (6808 m) and Kang Tiaga Himal (6685 m). These Himalayan ranges impose partial topographical barrier to full force of monsoon bringing about semi arid climate in the Sagarmatha Region.

The geology is dominated by the Khumbu series, which forms the Palaeozoic basement. This region mostly consists of the thick and banded Barun gneiss; fine grained Makalu granites and Everest Meta sediment. The development of soil is relatively poor. Well-developed soils are mostly cultivated. Generally, soils in the upper horizon in the south facing birch/juniper/ rhododendron forest are sandy loam to loam, while it is sandy clay loam to silt loam in the north-facing rhododendron forest. In the grassland zone (below 3750 m) thick entisol soil is found. Soils in the high alpine areas are thin entisol.

Climate

The whole Sagarmatha region lies in sub tropical area. However, due the high altitude ranging from about 3000 m to more than 8000 m, the climate in this area ranges between temperate to arctic condition. The climate is generally cool and wet in summer and cold and dry in winter. Lapse rate of temperature with altitude is above 6°C per km. The lower and southern parts of the region are comparatively warmer than the snow covered area of the north. Morning is generally clear even in summer and late morning temperature seems highest in Khumbu. The average temperature at Namche Bazaar is recorded as –0.4°C in winter and 12.1°C in July. At Tengboche, January and July temperature are found to be –9°C to 3°C and 4°C to 14°C respectively (Table 1). In high alpine areas as Dingboche, the daily temperature in January is below –15°C and less than 10°C in July. At Syangboche –2.1°C to –4.7°C temperature is recorded in January and 8.7°C to 10°C in July.

Topography introduces a considerable variation into total precipitation. The average precipitation in this region is less than

1100mm (Table.1). Rain falls mostly in monsoon, which lasts from June until September and varies regionally with topographical condition. Precipitation increases northward with increasing altitude within the north-south trending valleys (Bhote Kosi and Imja valley). There is a general decrease in rainfall with increasing altitude from south to north; however, on higher slope and ridges in the areas further north from Namche Bazaar rainfall is higher. The high mountain ranges in the southern border cause the rain-shadow effect for the north. Winters are normally dry. This wind system causes heavy snowfall. Snowfall in winter normally takes place during Nov-Feb when daytime temperature is 0°C. At an altitude above 5500 m, precipitation is in the form of snow. Heavy snowfall may occur due to storm. Generally, southern face of the areas is dry which is suitable for cattle. Summer snowline is 6100 m. In Winter, there may be long precipitation free period in winter with just occasional snowfall. Summer rain dissolves into drizzly mist at higher altitude.

The average temperature and precipitation in summer and winter at the following villages are given in Table.1.

Table. 1
Temperature and Precipitation of Major Villages

Village	Jan. Temp(0° C)	July. Temp(0°C)	Precipitation(mm)
Namche Bazaar	-0.4°C	12.1°C	1048 mm
Khumjung	N.A	N.A	733 mm
Tengboche	-9°C to 3°C	4°C to 14°C	1078 mm
Dingboche	-15°C	< 10°C	600 mm
Syangboche	-4.7°C to –2.1°C	8.7°C to 10°C	941 mm

Sources: Climatological Record, DHM.

Rain falls at Tengboche mostly in June and September. Namche Bazaar has 80 percent rainfall in May and 10 percent in October. July is the wettest months for Khumjung.

Vegetation

The variation in altitude, slope aspect, amount of precipitation and exposure to sun and wind affects the vegetation in this Himalayan area. Because of 6000 m rise, local landscape and weather condition have created a wide variety of vegetation providing habitat for wide variety of birds and animals. Exposure to sun and wind affects vegetation. Shady, moist north freezing slope supports greater variety of plants than sunny southern slope. The 4000m contour line serves to mark the tree line, below which mixture of broad leaf species and conifer species begin to figure in the landscape. Generally speaking, broad-leaf species including birch and rhododendron occupy the northern face slopes, whereas conifer prevails on the sunnier southern facing slopes. During spring and monsoon, the varieties of rhododendron flowers emblazon the park's vegetation. The tree line is 4500 m where birch gives way to juniper and rhododendron. The region has four vegetation zones.

1. Forested Lower Zones:
This type of vegetation is generally found at the lower parts with the altitude from 2500 to 3500m. This region is characterised by woody ground cover and the dominant trees are Himalayan pine, hemlock, oak and rhododendron arboreum. The main animal found here are serow, goral, squirrel lesserpond, marten, wild cat, and birds like cuckoo, kalij, pheasants, tit and warblers.

2. Mid-Alpine Zone:
The area is found at the altitude of 3500 to 4500 m and main vegetation species are silver fir on warmer aspects and birch, juniper and rhododendron on cooler aspects. The important animals in these areas are musk deer, tahr, impeyan pheasant (Danphe), blood pheasant and snow cock.

3. Alpine Zone:
This area lies between the altitudes of 4000 to 5000 m. This area is fairy dry and covers shrubby alpine area with juniper rhododendron species. The main animals found here are snow leopard, tahr, marmot wolf, rosy finch, red billed chough and Tibetan snow cock.

4. Snow area:
The area above 5000 m is very cold and always covered with snow. Lichen, moss sedges, cushion plants and dwarf grass are the main vegetation in this cold area. The highest dwelling birds in the world are in this area. The main animal species are Himalayan griffon, vulture, raven, red billed chough, pika, marmot etc.

Few traces of vegetation exist above 6000 m. Below this altitude down to around 4500 m, alpine meadows prevail providing grazing pasture for yak.

Population and Settlement

Settlement is considered as the most important cultural landscape. The evolution and development of settlements in the Sagarmatha Region has been deeply rooted to the inhabitation of the Sherpa community. This region is the home of the world renowned mountain-climbers, the Sherpas. It is very difficult to invite human habitat in this hard topography and rigorous climatic condition. However, the Sherpas are the most dominant ethnic group in this area and they have inhabited this region for at least 500 hundred years. But Khumbu's first occupants probably were not the Sherpas. It is believed that there was another group that came here to settle for livestock and agriculture activities before the Sherpas.

The first human residents who settled here were the Kirati Rais who came from the east and settled at Dingboche in the upper Imja khola in the Khumbu region. After that the Sherpa people came there and settled permanently. There is a historical base of document found in Solu that the Sherpas arrived in Khumbu via Nangpa La in about 1533 from Tibet. These first Sherpa people were fleeing from the first Mongol-induced tensions in Kham, their homeland in eastern Tibet. Furer Haimendorf (1964, 1984) and Stevens (1993) provide account of early Sherpa settlement in Khumbu region. It was established in the early part of the 16th century. Originally they were nomads

and began to settle permanently after the introduction of potato in 1850. Immigrations from Tibet have continued over the centuries and various other ethnic and caste groups from lower land of Nepal have also moved up into Khumbu region especially in recent years. However, the Sherpas always outnumber other people.

The role of glacier fluctuation in the original settlements of Khumbu region makes considerable point. Melting of glacier has made crossing Nangpa La to Tibet easier. Big glacier is better for trans-Himalayan travel. Barbara Anne Brower revealed that permanent settlement; scattered subsidiary settlement, special used settlement and monastery settlement are four types of settlements in the region. Phortse, Pangboche, Khumjung, Khunde, Namche and Thamsichok are the primary and first Sherpa settlements in this region. These old settlements are all located at the altitude between 3400 m and 4000 m above the sea level. These settlements are mostly located in the warmer parts of the Sagarmatha region along the Dudh Kosi, the Bhote Kosi and the Imja khola where there are more prospect of agriculture and animal husbandry. However, most of the settlements are located near the forest and grazing lands. Other permanent settlements are Thangmite, Ilajung, Orsho, Chanyakpa, Thami etc. All these settlements are collectively known as Thamichok settlement. In the upper Dudh Kosi there are other settlements like Phortse, Pangboche, Pheriche, Dingboche, Devuche, Milingo, Tyangboche, and Dole.

There are also a few scattered subsidiary settlements. These subsidiary settlements are summer places called Yersha (summer place) and Gumsa (winter places). They are the high valley settlements. These subsidiary settlements are used traditionally by stock keepers and farmers with fields and grazing ground far from homeland.

There are also special use settlements in Khumbu. Dingbuche is the settlement of such type. Such settlements were developed for barley or potato crops. Buddhist monasteries are also the type of settlements with residents of population of monks or nuns. All above mentioned settlements are located at various altitudes (Figure.3).

Some of the settlements are also classified on the basis of activities people do. Thami, Thagmite, Ilalajung, Orsho and Chanykpo are purely related to livestock farming. Namche, Khumjung, Khunde, Pangboche, Phortse are tourism based settlements.

Solokhumbu district had a population of 1,07,686 in 2001, which is very low as compared to the population of other districts of the Eastern Development Region of Nepal. This district has only about 3 percent of the total population of the region. The main ethnic population group is the Sherpa. However, Magar and Tamang are also ethnic composition in this area. A survey in 1979 of SNP (Sagarmatha National Park) revealed 3500 population in the region; 860 in Khumjung and Kunde, 700 in Bhote Kosi valley, 500 in Namche Bazaar, 300 in Pongboche, 300 in Phortse and less than 40 in each village of Jorsalle, Dingboche, Tengboche, Deboche, Milingo and Pheriche (Jefferies, 1985). In 1991 the population reached 3456 and it decreased to 3335 in 2001 (Table.2). In Namche VDC, population has

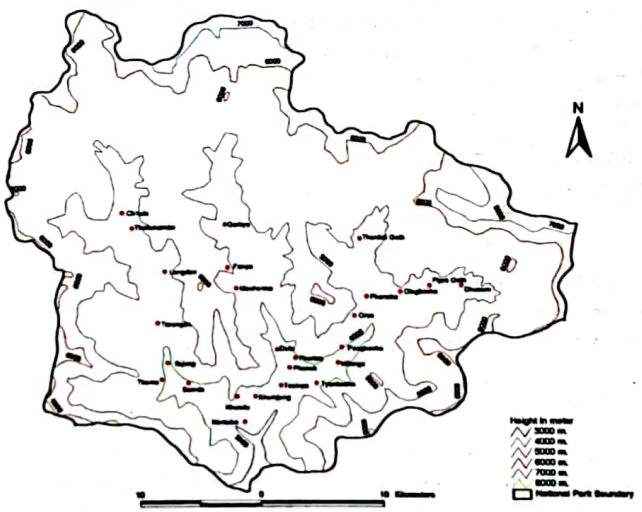
Table. 2
Household and Population in Namche and Khumjung VDC

	Khumjung VDC			Namche VDC		
	1991	2001	Change (1991-2001)	1991	2001	Change (1991-2001)
T.HH	433	437	4(1%)	397	341	-56(14%)
Male	895	989	94(10%)	880	643	-237(27%)
Female	914	1021	107(12%)	767	682	-85(11%)
Total	1809	2010	210(12%)	1647	1325	-322(20%)

Source: Dist. Demographic Profile, 2002. Informal Sector Research Study Centre, Kathmandu, p.24

Fig. 3

Settlements by Altitude Zones of Sagarmatha Region



decreased. The decrease of population is due to out-migration for better jobs in Kathmandu or out of the country. The table shows that Namche VDC has less population than Khumjung VDC. The ward wise population of Namche and Khumjung VDC are given in (Table.3).

Dynamism in Economic Sources

Geographical elements like weather and topography are very important determining factors that affect the economy of the region. Livestock and subsistence farming supplemented by trading activities formed the basis of the early economy. There was a considerable trade with Tibet in the past. Since 1950s, there has been a tremendous decline of trade with Tibet. At present, because of growing tourism activities, mountaineering and trekking have become very important activities for the Sherpas.

Table. 3
Wardwise Population in Namche and Khumjung VDC

Ward No	Khumjung VDC		Namche VDC	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
1	237	292	111	218
2	268	358	123	102
3	232	241	119	148
4	123	132	63	80
5	146	176	73	179
6	76	15	29	85
7	210	243	119	139
8	198	214	104	92
9	319	339	173	82
Total	1809	2010	914	1325

Source: National Population Census 2001, Nepal

1. Agriculture

Subsistence farming is the main form of economy in this region. Altitude, slope and local climate have largely shaped traditional patterns of regional agriculture. Compost human waste and animal manure play an important role in agriculture. Thus, agriculture is strongly tied up with animal farming. Summer is the main cropping season. The main agricultural lands are confined to warmer low altitude valleys of the Bhote Kosi, the Dudh Kosi and the Imja Khola. Crops like potato, buckwheat and barley are grown at an altitude of less than 4500 m. Barley is grown at 4000 m upstream from the permanent settlements in the Bhote Kosi at Taranga and Dingboche. Potato production has recently intensified in Khumbu. Taranga is known as the potato capital of Khumbu. However, poor harvest of potato causes food deficit and economic problems for the poorest people. Hay is cultivated at higher highland areas for the livestock.

The growing tourism influences these patterns of agricultural activities both directly and indirectly. Increase in helicopter service allowed some foodstuffs to be brought from Kathmandu. Thus, tourism has affected Khumbu's agro- activities practices over the long-term. Even at lower areas especially in Farak region (out of SNP), land suitable for farming has been absorbed into the production process and variety of vegetables and some fruits have been introduced. Very small number of households in Solu (out of SNP) area adopted farming activities to meet demand for the tourists going to the Sagarmatha Region. The farmers in this area expanded production of maize and established apple orchards for passing trekkers. Hence, there is spatial dimension of interaction within the sub-regions. There should be understandings throughout the sub regions to encourage the production of crops and the Sagarmatha Region should keep agricultural links with Farak and Solu, the sub regions of Solukhumbu district.

2. Livestock Farming

Animal husbandry and grazing are four hundred years old traditions in Sagarmatha Region. Agriculture and trade are ultimately tied up with cattle keeping. Cattle are by far the most important animals in the livestock farming in the Sagarmatha Region. This region has only high altitude cattle known as *chauri*, which refers to both bull and cow hybrid of nak and yak. Nak, dzum, zopkio, pamu, lhang are the major types of yak. Cattle are mostly reared at Namche, Khunde, Khumjung, Thami, Pangboche and Phorste. Around these settlements a lot of grazing land is available. The grazing place of pasture is known as *phu* or *kharka*. The Bhote Kosi valleys and its tributaries are the grazing land for Thami; the Imja Khola and Khumbu khola for Khunde; west side of the upper Dudh kosi for Khumjung; eastern side of the Imja Khola for Phortse and both side of the Imja Khola up to the valley of Khumbu glacier for Pangboche. However, the Bhote Kosi Valley is the best place for livestock farming.

Sherpa livestock farming is not only for milk products but also for manure production, fertiliser but it is also used for building materials. The dung mixed with mud is used as plaster material. Yak especially Zupkyo is used as draught animals. In Khumbu area, Stevens and Sherpa noted the slight increase in livestock number. But the increase in helicopter service due to tourism has negatively affected the demand for yak porters. Thamichok has the lowest proportion of people involved in tourism but high in livestock activities.

There is a regulation on livestock movement. Livestock are not allowed to stay within the village in the growing period of potato and buckwheat. *Dee* is the line designating the season of protection for field and grazing land. Mostly daily movement of livestock takes place around permanent and subsidiary settlements. Unlike transhumance in Europe, grazing of cattle is not barred from high altitude grazing in winter and may be found in any highest settlement in any season.

3. Trekking and Mountaineering

The scenic beauty of Himalayan peaks, live glaciers, glacial lakes, Sherpa's traditional customs and wonderful fauna and flora are the major attractions for the tourists in this area. Gokyo and Gorak Shep are two main viewing areas of the Mt. Sagarmatha. Therefore, the Sagarmatha Region has become the most attractive tourist area in Nepal. After the successful ascent of the Sagarmatha by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary in 1953, tourism economy (mountaineering and trekking) flourished in the Sagarmatha Region bringing about profound change in the Sherpa economy. In 1964, only 20 trekkers visited the Sagarmatha and the number of trekkers in this region increased to 18,179 in 1997. Because of the very attractive geographical values of the Sagarmatha region, mountaineering and trekking activities have increased. A large number of local people are engaged in this activity. Mountaineering and trekking are the most labour-intensive form of tourism in this region. The study by D W Robinson shows that commercial trek had begun only in 1960's. This region is unique in having undergone a relatively rapid transition from subsistence to cash economy over the past 30 years. The change has brought about by primarily through dependency on tourism-generated income. Mt. Sagarmatha, Lhotse, Cho Oyu, Pumori and Amadablam are the important mountaineering peaks more than 6000 m high and the trekking

peaks are Island Peak and Loboche range with the altitude of 5650 to 6500 m. For the Sherpa people, trekking and mountaineering expeditions are the main sources of income. Trekking tourism provides a much wider and more equal distribution of income than hotel tourism. The Sherpa use zopkyo animal for the transportation of trekking goods. Zopkyo are infertile and excellent for transportation because they are easier to handle than yak and particularly the yak and zopkyo are very sensitive by smelling the presence of crevasse on the track of Himal. High altitude zopkyo is for carrying load from Namche to base camp and low altitude zopkyo is for transportation of load from Lukla to Namche.

There are three major trekking routes in the Sagarmatha Region. These are Lukla-Everest camp, Namche Bazaar- Gokyo and Namche Bazaar- Chhukung. In 1994, the helicopter service to Syangboche caused Lukla to be bypassed by Namche, which altered trekking pattern and caused 50 to 70 percent loss of a good deal of other business of yak herders and lodge owners. Road to Saleri also affected trekking and it reduced Jiri – Namche walk by three days rendering the loss of income of the Sherpas in the trekking career. However, trekking business has tremendously increased the source of income of the Sherpa people. Trekking now is the main source of income in the region and on an average one member from each household is involved in the trekking industry.

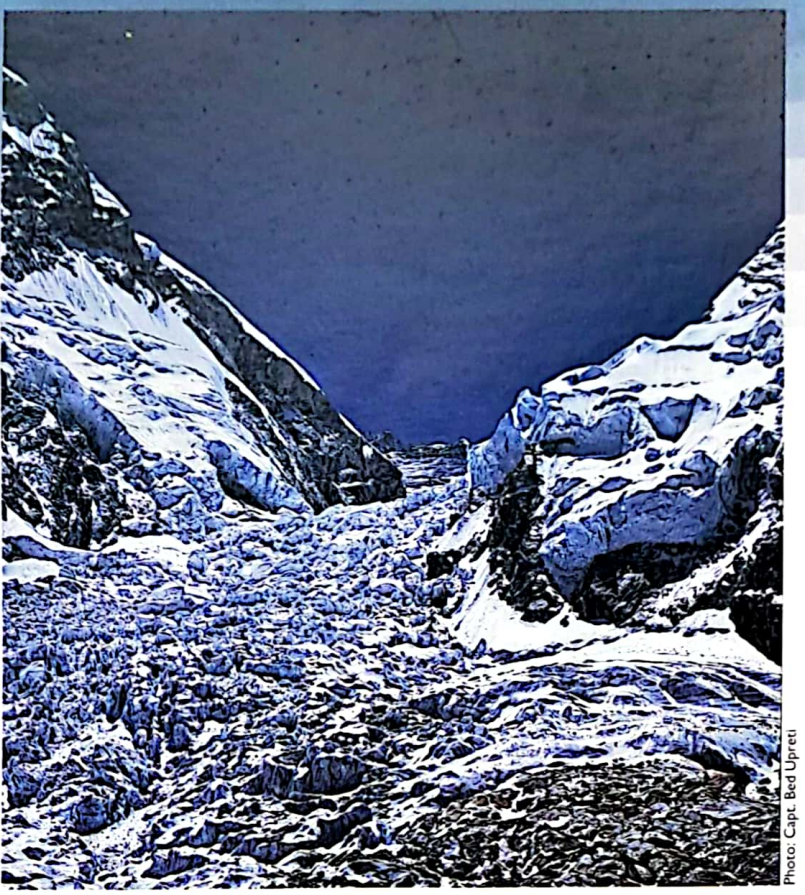


Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti

Khumbu Ice-fall.

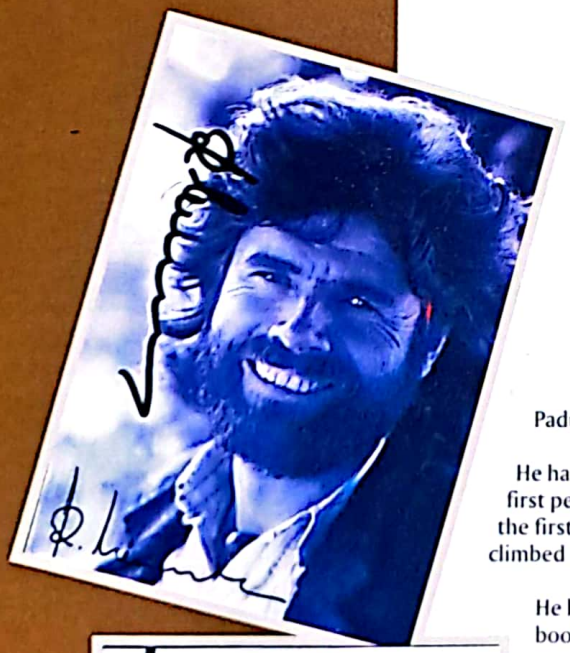
Environment Issues

Though deforestation, overpopulation, over grazing, poverty and cultural erosion are threatening many mountain areas of Nepal, deforestation, solid waste and cultural degradation have been important environmental problems in the Sagarmatha Region. Both poor waste management and deforestation have been widespread in the region. Due to impacts of tourism, degradation of forest has been increasing. The forest assessments in this region suggested that much of the forest has been depleted after 1950s. Deforestation of forests caused by increasing demand for fuel wood generated by tourists has attracted the most attention. With the rapid development of tourism in late sixties, there was increased use of fuel wood. Consumption of fuel wood by lodged was found to be 24 percent of the total consumption in the region. The total number of lodges in the Sagarmatha Region was 224 in 1997 and the consumption of wood for a lodge is on an average 43 kg per day. The growing need of fuel wood for incoming tourists and the need of timber for lodge construction have made unsustainable cutting of juniper and conifer forest. However, forest management in Khumbu has been strictly controlled by the SNP since its creation in 1976. SNP issued forest policy specially to control the cutting of all live wood for fuel and timber. Local people have also become actively involved in the management process through the reintroduction and employment of *Shing gi nawa* (traditional forest guardians). In 1994, the completion of the Thame hydroelectricity plan made a considerable difference to wood consumption. The 650 kw installation provides electricity to virtually all the households in Thame Valley, particularly in Khumjung, Khunde and Namche. In these places wood consumption for lodges and for household decreased by half and two third during 1993-1996 respectively. However, the despite the ban on the cutting of live wood at higher elevation, households and porters have continued cutting juniper and birch. There is also a regulation that group trekkers are required to use kerosene for cooking instead of wood.

Garbage produced by trekking and mountaineering in the Sagarmatha Region has caused significant environmental problems. There is a growing international attention on the disposal of abandoned dead bodies, abandoned tourism related goods and human waste around the mountaineering and trekking peaks by visitors, local residents, and their support staff. Because of such problems, the Sagarmatha Region has been labelled "the world's highest junkyard" as stated by Edmund Hillary. In 1997, SPCC data shows collection of 243 tons of trekking related garbage in the region. There is Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee to deal with the solid waste problems. However, there is doubt that the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee has been highly effective in improving the waste problems. There are serious shortcomings related to the way in which lodges manage human waste. There have been more than a dozen national and international clearing teams on Mt. Everest but none have come up with a sustainable waste management policy. There is no regulation or system to effectively monitor the management of human waste. The high altitude littering and abandoning of dead bodies are difficult issues to control. Long-term solution is necessary for disposal of waste. ▲

INTERVIEW

EVEREST *will always remain a* SPECIAL PEAK





Reinhold Messner, a famous climber, writer, photographer and Member of European Parliament (June 1999), was born in Brixen, South Tyrol, Italy on September 17, 1944. He studied at the University of Padua with his early life spent in the Villnoss Valley in the Dolomites.

He has remained a most outstanding mountaineers of the world. He was the first person to climb Mt. Everest without supplementary oxygen. He was also the first to make the solo ascent of Everest. He is also the first person to have climbed successfully all the world's peaks over 8,000m in altitude.

He has made some three thousand trips in the mountains and written 40 books that have been translated in more than a dozen languages.

In a talk with ***Nepal Parbat*** Messner had many things to say about his experience and other related matters. Excerpts:

What should Nepal do to uphold the dignity and stature of Mt. Everest ?

In my opinion, Everest would again become a strong mountain if the Government of Nepal and China would give strictly only one permit for each route per season. The income for Nepal and China would be the same, but the difficulties for the various groups would differ.

After numerous successful expeditions, what do you think is the place of Mt. Everest in the world mountaineering map?

Mt. Everest will be always a special peak because it's the highest. The person who is doing Everest on a difficult route is still today a top climber.

Do you think that Mt. Everest is excessively under pressure? Should there be any effort to curb competition say for example by giving time occasionally or periodically for it to rejuvenate itself?

Yes, the normal route is under pressure. The difficult routes are always empty. It's a pity.

How do you compare Mt. Everest with other 8000 m. plus peaks in terms of challenges, difficulties and satisfaction they offer?

There are more difficult mountains than Everest like Mt. K2. But also on Everest there are big challenges left.

Nepal has been making efforts on its own as well as in collaboration with various international and national agencies to preserve the mountain ecology of Mt. Everest. Are you satisfied with the efforts made so far? What more do you think has to be done to preserve the environment of Nepali Himalayas in general and Mt. Everest in particular?

There are environmental problems growing with the number of climbers and Sherpas on one spot. Five hundred people on the Khumbu-glacier is far too much. Again I press for dividing the groups on all the sides of Mt. Everest. Also all over Nepal. All the mountain regions should receive benefit from mountaineering. Not only the Annapurna and the Everest areas.

How far are you satisfied with your having been associated with Mt. Everest in such a noble and dignified manner being the first person to have climbed all the peaks above 8000 meters on this earth? Do you think your achievements have resulted in some kind of responsibility?

I was very lucky to be the first without bottled oxygen on the summit of Mt. Everest and totally alone. Today it would not be anymore possible because the mountain all the year long is totally crowded. If people would approach Mt. Everest in my style, Sagarmatha would be still a holy mountain.

Having been an established celebrity mountaineer you have so far not exposed yourself in the development of mountain region and people of Nepal. Don't you think you should be involved in one way or other?



Photo courtesy: All 14 Eight-thousanders, Reinhold Messner

Reinhold Messner and Fried Mutschlechner on the summit of Kangchenjunga (6 May 1982). Ang Dorje's Nepali flag is photographed on the measuring post left by Indian mountaineers in 1977.



Photo courtesy: All 14 Eight-thousanders, Reinhold Messner

Reinhold Messner on the summit ridge of Gasherbrum I, a few metres below the top (28 June 1984). In a snowstorm, without a rope, this corniced ridge demanded the utmost caution.

In the last twenty years I did many public conferences to help organisations who work for the development of the mountain region of Nepal like Nepal-Hilfe and Himalayan Trust. At the moment I am building schools in the Nanga Parbat area. In case we would have peace in Nepal, I will focus my help especially for the people of Nepal.

What changes have you found in respect to mountaineering in Nepal? Is it as challenging as in the past, in your opinion?

There are many beautiful peaks in Nepal, some of them are also very challenging. For me climbing a peak today is less important than knowing intensively the local people on the base of these mountains.

Should Nepal promote mountaineering as a mass sport or isolated undertakings?

Mountaineering and trekking will never be mass sports. But these activities could be the base of genuine tourism in the Himalayas of Nepal. We should work together and stop in a definitive way the civil war. Only a democratic Nepal with all the political forces included would be the political ground for success on a long term basis.

What additional other than the existing support, should be added to promote mountain tourism in Nepal ?

The truce achieved should hopefully be the beginning of peace in Nepal and the beautiful Himalayas and the peaceful people of this beautiful country would be the strongest possible promotion of mountain tourism in Nepal. The European Union and the World Bank will surely help if efforts are made towards a peaceful solution to this problem.

How do you view Nepal and the Nepali people?

In our vision Nepal is a peaceful country. I remember the Nepali people as the most generous people in the world. They should give a clear sign to the world that they are able to live peacefully together. The rest of the world could return to visit your country and help if there is stability.

Lure of Everest

MOUNTAIN TOURISM IN NEPAL

The abode of gods, King of mountains, Himalaya!
You bond the ocean from east to west.
A northern yardstick to measure the earth."
- Kalidas: Kumar Sambhava

Anand P. Shrestha is an associate professor at Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University



Photo courtesy: Qomolangma • Sagarmatha 1988, Yomiuri Shimbun-Sha

South Base Camp at night

The Himalayas, starting from the Brahmaputra in the east stretch westward through Bhutan and Sikkim where snow peaks range from 2,000 – 25,000 ft in height. Further, towards the west, along Sikkim and Nepal, lie the world's highest peaks, the fabled giants ranging from 20,000 ft to 29,028 ft including Everest the bald, black triangular rock that straddles the border of Nepal and Tibet. Mt. Everest, the highest mountain on earth is locally known as Chomolungma or Sagarmatha - the mother goddess of the earth, the Goddess of the wind or forehead in the sky. The Nepal Himalaya extends over an impressive stretch of almost 800 km with Byas Rishi Himal in the west, to Kanchanjunga in the east. Of the 1310 identified peaks, 249 are opened to mountaineers and trekkers.

The Kingdom of Nepal is the geographical centre of the Himalaya. It therefore, reflects the characteristics of the entire Himalayan region and, in effect, constitutes a microcosm of the world's highest mountain chain. Extending over 147,181 sq km, 85 percent of Nepal's land is high-mountain, mid mountain and terraced hills. Of the 31 Himalayan peaks over 7600 meters in height, 22 lie in the Nepal Himalaya including eight of the world's 14 highest peaks.

Nepal remained closed to Western tourists until 1950. The first attempts to scale Mt. Everest were all made from

Tibet, including the famous, ill-fated expedition of George Mallory and Andrew Irvine in 1924. Since 1950, the mighty 8000 m peaks have also been climbed from the Nepal side. Ever since the first Everest Reconnaissance Expedition by the British in 1924 and the subsequent unsuccessful and successful attempts that followed, Mt. Everest acquired that awesome stature that at once repelled and lured mountaineers from the world over. Even Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, the first Everester, recounting his childhood once said: "*As I tended my father's yaks I used to gaze at the mountains, especially Sagarmatha, (Everest) and imagine what it must be like to climb so high to the sky. Surely only the Gods could live at such heights.*" The temptation among climbers to accomplish the mountaineering feat of a lifetime and gain entry into the prestigious club of Everest Summiteers is still strong, so much so, that it has almost become an obsession!

Today, 50 years after the first successful attempt on Mt. Everest, climbers of many nationalities have attempted to reach the summit by an increasing variety of routes. Some just for the record ascended it several times, and others, equally eager to get into the Guinness book of world records, bettered even such records! If some set new records by scaling the peak without oxygen, others reached the summit in record time, if some stayed the longest on the world's highest peak, some set records in accomplishing the mountaineering feat by being the youngest in age! By whatever route and whichever means, Everest seems destined to remain the ultimate dream of future generations of mountaineers. The never-ending queue of 'wannabe' Everest summiteers anxiously awaiting their turn clearly indicates that Mt. Everest will not be left in peace.

High altitude mountaineering is one of the most dangerous sports on earth and has today become the symbol and spirit of adventure. The success of a climb to the top has come to be associated with hard work, tremendous patience, meticulous planning and organisation, constant practice and unwavering devotion. The history of mountaineering in Nepal has reached half a century and is regarded to be one of the most important aspects of adventure tourism. Nepali mountaineers and summiteers have also played a crucial role in the history of tourism development and the promotion of mountain tourism in Nepal. As a matter of fact, whatever development there has been in the field so far has come, not from the government but from the efforts of the private sector, from individuals and concerned organisations and associations.



Photo courtesy: Qomolangma • Sagarmatha | 1988, Yomiuri Shimbun-Sha

Members from the three nations carrying supplies up the snow wall of the ice-fall.

In spite of regression the tourism industry faced as a whole in the last three years, the mountaineering sector of the smokeless industry proved to be the sustainability factor in its contribution to the country's economy. Statistics prove that despite the continuous and somewhat alarming fall in tourist arrivals in the country, climbing activities still gathered momentum in 2002, except for the month of June. According to reports, there were altogether 132 expeditions in the year 2002 as compared to 112 in 2001.

The increase of 20 more expeditions has been noteworthy in spite of the Maoist uprising -and conspicuous especially, at a time of global recession. This trend speaks volumes and stands as an encouragement for the future of Mountain tourism in Nepal. Experts in the field are of the opinion that with far-sighted vision, long term planning and aggressive marketing in the development of mountain tourism along with preservation of mountain biodiversity, Nepal can reach the level of sustainable development, invariably emphasised.

By way of celebrating and at the same time marketing mountain tourism, Nepal's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) is to observe a week long eventful ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the successful ascent of Mt. Everest. According to reports -and at the time of penning this piece- various programmes are to be organised on 27, 28 and 29 May 2003 in Kathmandu. Of the important events under the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration banner, will be the Everest Summiteers meet scheduled on 29, May 2003. An added attraction in celebrating the event will be the *gratis visa* -an official visa which will be granted to all the Everest summiteers and invitees participating in the event.

The government will also be offering a 100 percent discount on visa fees to those mountaineers who have successfully scaled Everest and this concession will continue to be provided to them on every future visit to scale Everest. For non-

mountaineering purpose the concession will be a 50 percent discount on visas. Invitations have already been sent out to more than 600 mountaineers around the world and positive responses from them are said to be coming in. According to reports, some 200-300 summiteers are expected to attend the function!

Nepal will also be hosting the "World Peace Climb" at the end of May 2003 to mark the golden jubilee occasion. Some 1200 people from different countries have already made successful attempts on Everest. The occasion will also see distinguished personalities like the first Everester Sir Edmund Hillary, amongst several others. Many mountaineers including people from different walks of life are also expected to scale Everest on the occasion. The government has already provided permits to 20 teams to climb Everest this season, which also consists of a joint team comprising of cadres from the Nepal and Indian army. Groups from America, Britain and Japan have also succumbed to the Everest lure and have requested permission to scale the peak.

The Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration is probably one of the most significant undertakings under the Destination Nepal Campaign 2002-2003 banner. According to reports, celebrations with weeklong programmes are to be observed in different parts of the country. The concluding ceremony of the programme, expected to be a grand affair, will exhibit and highlight cultural and ethnic glimpses. A grand celebration programme is also to be held at the Dashrath Stadium and street and Music Festivals are expected to light up the occasion in Kathmandu.

However, in addition to such preparations on the home front, it is equally important that proper projection of the country also be made at other times if we really want to go market mountain tourism in a big way. The point becomes particularly relevant in view of the new marketing strategies employed by our potential rivals in the region. Therefore, doing our utmost to combat it within our limits and reaching the right market with the correct profile of the country should be the mainstay of our marketing policy of the country's tourism in general and that of mountain tourism in particular. In addition, special attention must be paid to Nepal's



Photo: Narendra Shrestha

Capturing a moment at Thyangboche.

constant participation in related international forums, as it will supplement marketing efforts. Such exposures are crucial as we still lack a permanent contact point in areas that have a potential for generating tourists interested in mountain tourism.

However, in spite of all our efforts, Nepal still has a long way to go in developing tourism in the sense of developing the country into a tourist destination in itself. Even after five decades of experience in the field, the country is still to make headway in most of the lucrative markets such as the US and Japan. Today, with the tourism scenario gradually improving, and the ever-growing popularity of adventure tourism the world over, it is rather ironic that Nepal with its natural attributes, magnificent scenery and varied eco-systems should lie waste when it should be working wonders and topping the list of interesting travel destinations round the globe.

High altitude mountaineering is one of the most dangerous sports on earth and has today become the symbol and spirit of adventure.

Nepal thus needs to promote itself in a big way as it severely lacks a domestic tourism policy as such like in Japan, UK and the USA failing which the hard hit global tourism scenario is bound to affect us more. Like other countries heavily dependent on tourism, Nepal too must move ahead with the times, be forward

looking and push aggressively with a positive attitude and realistic plans.

While formulating plans, policies and strategies especially, pertaining to mountain tourism, wherein we could virtually monopolise the world market, there has been a conspicuous lack of attention paid to our very own mountaineers' interests from the social security point of view. In other words, the safeguarding and developing human resources must be accorded priority. The importance of mountaineers in the development and furtherance of mountain tourism in the country, has from the very start, evaded the notice of our plans and policy makers.

The need for providing relief packages and funds, social security and mountaineering resources to Nepali mountaineers and their families are pertinent issues that need looking into with immediate effect. Commercial expeditions to Mt. Everest are ever on the increase and this means an increase in the demand of expert Sherpa guides. Without Sherpas, commercial expeditions would have no meaning and the number of successful Everest ascents would be drastically reduced. There is a great deal of truth in the argument that mountaineers from abroad are able to scale the world's highest peak primarily because of their help.

Though tourism and mountaineering may have generated employment on the one hand and become Nepal's main source of foreign exchange, it must on the other, pay heed to the fact that since the second half of the twentieth century, the exploitation of the Himalayan environment has become alarmingly intense. In selected pockets, these recreational activities have exacerbated environmental deterioration. The upper Khumbu Valley for example, has been stripped of its natural vegetation by various tourism and mountaineering expeditions.

Another aspect that merits attention while marketing mountain tourism is that the Nepal Himalaya, a product of both natural and man made processes presents a unique ecological and socio-cultural diversity. There is common concern in Nepal and the outside world that the natural and cultural heritage of this unique part of the world needs to be preserved.



Photo: Bhushan Malla

Trekking in the Khumjung area.

There is also growing concern in developing countries that the promotion of mountain tourism must not be at the cost of the Himalayan environment and the legitimate interests of the local people. The unparalleled scenic splendour of the Nepal Himalaya may attract outside visitors, particularly tourists and mountaineers in great numbers, yet the harsh reality is that for the local inhabitants and their economy these mountains present a hostile terrain. It is little wonder that the people of the region are one of the poorest in the world. Therefore, the challenge is to find mechanisms that can help conserve the fragile environment as well as raise the standard of living of the inhabitants. For this to come about, it is imperative that Nepal also develop sensitive environmental planning aimed at the attainment of sustainable economic development over time.

Therefore, a hard look at our tourism master plan is long overdue. To make this country a powerful tourist magnet, virtually a destination in itself, will have to be the basis of our new master plan for tourism. In a world where all nations are neck to neck in the competitive tourist market, it would be naive to bank on short term gains. The selling of Nepal to foreign visitors will have to be more practical and realistic. Since the tourism industry makes over riding demands like development of infrastructure at the expense of regional agriculture and the taking over, as it does, the precious water supply of the inhabitants, such factors ought to figure prominently in the formulation of future plans. In other words, the master plan ought to strike that delicate balance between development through tourism and the hard complex reality it involves.

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Sagarmatha, Glaciers & MOUNTAINEERING

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Summitting Sagarmatha, the tallest peak of the world, has always been a challenge for mountaineers all over the world. Although attempts were already made to scale the summit during the 1920's, it was only in 1953 that Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa were successful in ascending the summit. Mountaineering since then has come a long way as the number of mountaineers trying to summit the Sagarmatha is increasing at a dramatic rate.

Table. 1
Distribution of types of Glaciers in Nepal Himalaya

Region	Mean Glacier area, km² (Total number of Glaciers)		
	Debris-free (Clean Glacier)	Debris covered (Glacier)	Area Ratio Debris covered And Clean
Khumbu	0.4 (89)	6.6 (37)	16 times
Langtang	0.8 (58)	6.7 (14)	8 times

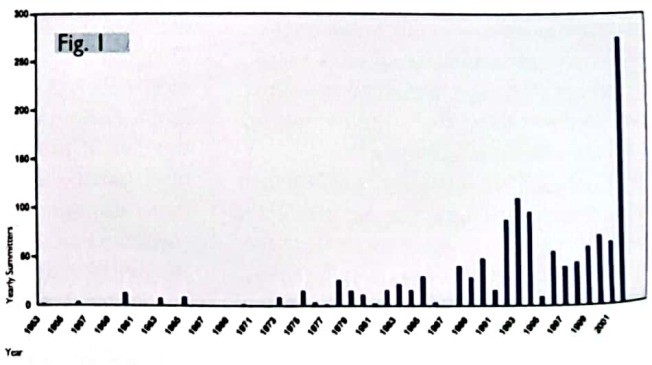
Khumbu region, after Fujii & Higuchi, 1977
Langtang region after, Shiraiwa & Yamada, 1991

Khumbu Glacier: It is about 18 km in length and most of its ablation area i.e. below Khumbu Ice-Fall faces south and is covered with debris. It is also one of the biggest glaciers after Ngozumpa Glacier in Nepal. The records of Glaciers or the glacier conditions have been very poorly recorded as probably it was not the goal of mountaineers at that time. Hence the glacier condition of Khumbu Glacier originating from Sagarmatha, Lohtse and Nuptse flowing down the Khumbu Ice-Fall with very deep and wide crevasses, was not understood by mountaineers and some even lost their lives attempting the summit. The Khumbu Ice-Fall is always an "Iron gate" for Mountaineers to summit the Sagarmatha. Had mountaineers better knowledge of meteorology and glaciology at such altitude like these days, the Summit to Sagarmatha could have been, different. But, the first successful summit to Sagarmatha was fated for Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

The glaciers in Nepal are clearly defined in two categories: clean and debris covered. The clean glaciers are located at higher elevations, are smaller in size and hanging. The debris covered glaciers are larger and at much lower elevation with little slope. The surface of the glaciers is covered by dirt, boulders, stones and smaller natural material. It is this Debris that has preserved the glacier from melting by insulating the solar heat.

The increasing number of successful summiteers might be interlinked to better technical knowledge in climbing, lighter warmer mountaineering technological equipments and probably the changing features of Khumbu ice-fall, (thinning and higher melting comparing to the 1920s. According to records at Nepal Mountaineering Association, successful summiteers until 2002 numbered more than 1000 (Fig 1).

Total Yearly Summitters



A recent study by DHM, Japan Glaciological Expedition to Nepal (GEN) with University of Washington, USA measured about 450 m thick glacier ice at Khumbu glacier around the Base Camp area, below Khumbu Ice-Fall, gradually decreasing to about 20 m in terminus of the glacier. It shows the amount of Glacier ice flowing from Khumbu Ice-Fall and accumulating near the base camp (Photo 1) the terminus of the Khumbu Glacier stretches down to about 4680 mamsl above the place named as Dugla. The terminus is full of boulders and rocks.

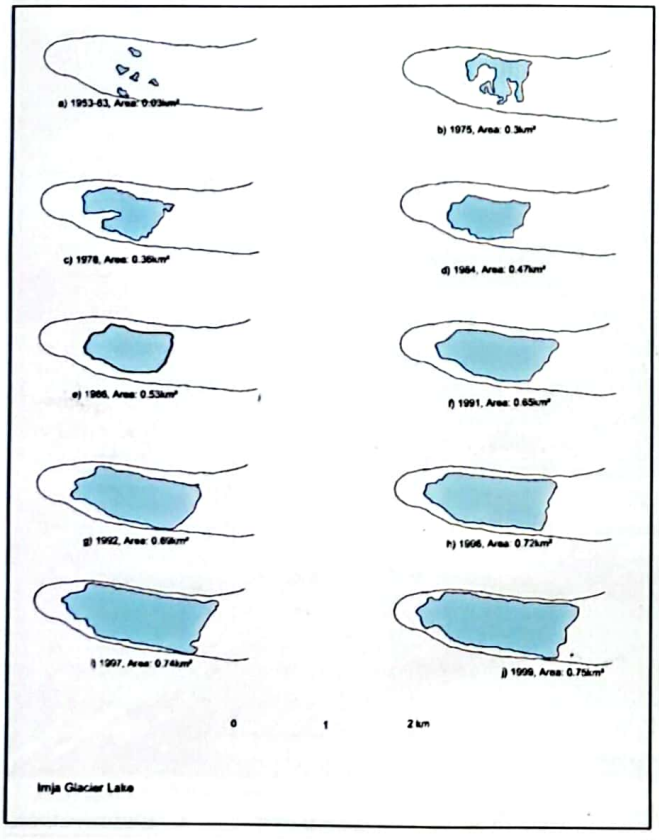
Crevasses are well known to all mountaineers because they



Photo courtesy: Dr. Birbal Rana

Khumbu Glacier with Nuptse Peak, cloud above Sagarmatha

are critical and dangerous to pass when covered by fresh and soft snow. These crevasses are formed during the glacier flow mechanisms and play very important role in the formation of glacial lakes in debris – covered glaciers. The studies conducted on glaciers like Tsho Rolpa Glacier Lake, Imja, Lower Barun and Thulagi Glacier Lake have shown that they have been recently formed and some pose a great threat to human lives and infrastructure if they suddenly released the large amount of stored water which is also known as Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). As per the data collected from different sources like aerial photographs, satellite images, Imja Glacier Lake (photo 2), located between Lohtse and Amadablam did not exist before 1950. The



Imja Glacier Lake

lake growth (expansion) is shown in fig2. The maximum depth is about 100 m and has about 30 mil m^3 of water in the lake. If growth continues at a similar rate, a time may come when the shore line of the glacier lake reaches the ridge of the Moraine Dam, which is about 400-5000 m at present, may prove dangerous.

The people of Khumbu region are aware of such phenomena after the Dig Tsho Lake below Langmoche Glacier Outburst Flood in August 4, 1985. Though the lake was about 30 m deep and the total amount of released water was about 10 million m^3 only, it destroyed an almost complete, small Namche Hydropower plant 10 km away from the lake in Thame and caused further damage downstream up to 30 km from the source, destroying bridges and others (Jack Ives, ICIMOD vol. 5). Recent global warming has melted the glaciers: they are thinning and retreating and the occurrence of GLOF events are still happening, the most recent one was in 1998 from Sabai Tsho (Tam Pokhari) in Dudh Koshi catchment. Shrestha Arun Bhakta* has shown an increasing rise in air temperature in the Himalayan region and global warming due to green house gases will lead to further warming and rise in air temperature , it may further lead to higher melting of glaciers and formation of glacier lakes. It even may lead to the complete loss of glaciers in future.

The other largest glacier lake in Nepal, Tsho Rolpa Glacier Lake is in very a critical situation may witness an outburst (photo3). Development of it is shown in Fig.3. government of Nepal with the financial help from The World Bank and the government of the Netherlands has initiated mitigation work from Early Warning systems to the construction of an open channel lowering the lake level by 3 m to reduce the risk of GLOF. This has been completed and the monitoring of the Trakarding Glacier terminus and surrounding lake environment is being undertaken.

The joint preliminary field study with Japanese scientists in 1976 observed some small glacier ponds. The survey of the glaciers was again conducted in 1989-90. Those small glacier ponds on Khumbu Glacier did not grow larger but some of them do not exist at present. The monitoring of the glacier lake can be done with satellite images also, but surface information is much more reliable. The latest technology can detect surface objects but

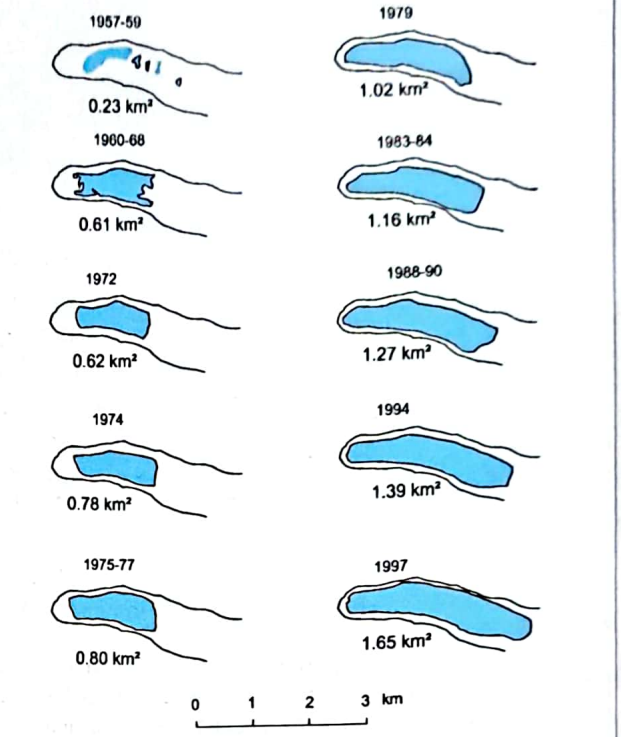


Photo courtesy:WECS

Aerial view of Imja Glacier Lake, 1993.

are expensive. It is nature's gift that none of the large size glacier lakes have developed in Khumbu Glacier. This decreases the danger for the expedition teams heading for Sagarmatha.

An International Symposium on the "Himalayan Environment; Mountain Sciences and Ecotourism/Biodiversity' was organised by Hokkaido University, Tribhuvan University and The United Nations University in Kathmandu in 2001. Organisation and collection of scientists and people from different disciplines helps to share knowledge and recommend preserving better mountaineering environmental conditions through collection and monitoring of the mountain environment. The monitoring of the glacier lakes is being done by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology either alone or jointly with other institutions like GEN, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), (Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, Ministry of Water Resources) WECS and others. This study will help to understand the conditions of glaciers and glacier lakes, which might help to save the lives of local people and to climbers while trekking upward to Sagarmatha and other peaks. The pictures of Glaciers taken by the mountaineers will be of importance in understanding and conducting the necessary mitigation work to save the natural beauty, lives of people and different kinds of infrastructure being built for the comfort and safety of local people and tourists coming to Nepal for climbing the peaks or trekking. ▲



Development of the Tsho Rolpa Glacier Lake

Source: Department of Hydrology and Meteorology



Photo courtesy Dr. Birbal Rana

Aerial view of Tsho Rolpa Glacier Lake, August 1999.

Sagarmatha Belongs To Nepal

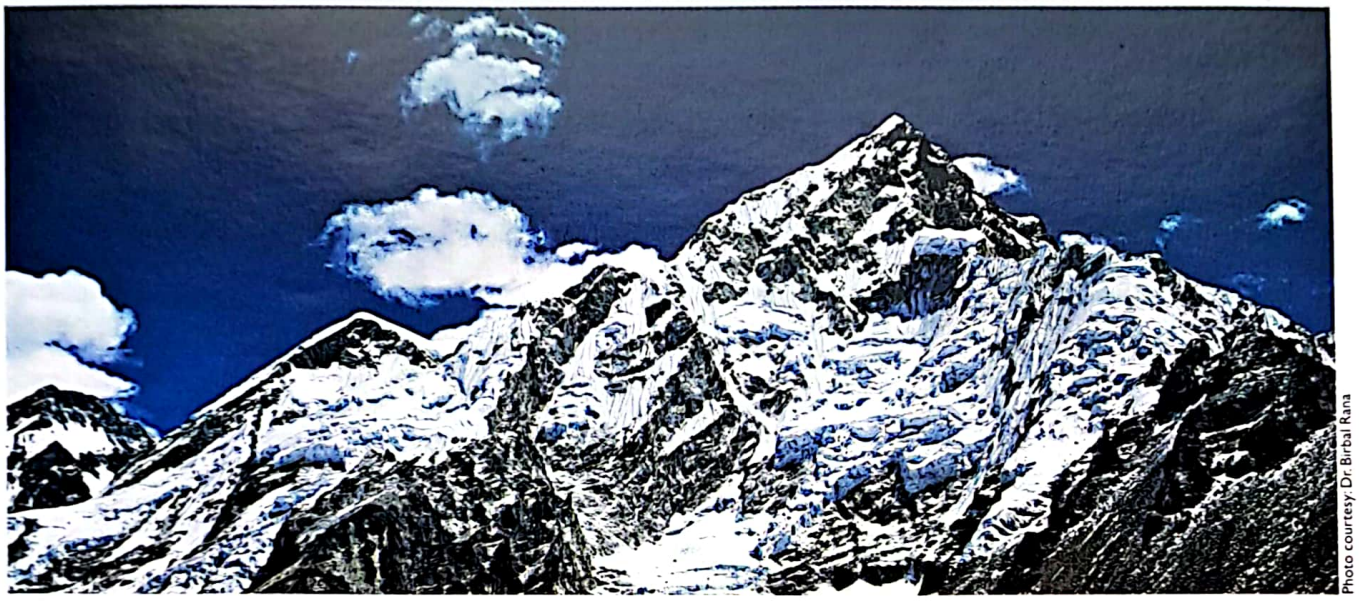


Photo courtesy: Dr Birbal Rana

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It has taken many expeditions and many more mountaineers from different parts of the globe in umpteen attempts to scale the Everest. Many have met with success and many others have failed in their trials. So far 1,250 mountaineers from 62 countries have been successful in 1,740 attempts to summit Sagarmatha and hoist their national flags atop the highest mountain in the world.

In a single day, on May 16, 2002, a group of 61 mountaineers accomplished reaching the top of Mt. Everest. Even while, many climbers have, over time been compelled to return from Hillary Step, the south peak, the balcony and South Col. There have also been many cases when climbers could not make it to the base camp itself. There are many who have lost their lives having accidentally fallen into crevasses or having slipped on a glacier or getting trapped in an avalanche while descending, even after having successfully climbed the Everest.

Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the first Nepali woman who climbed the world's highest peak, lost her life on April 22, 1993 while descending after having successfully reached the summit. Similarly, the courageous mountaineer Babu Tshiri Sherpa, the first to reach the Everest summit in the shortest time (16 hrs and 56 min) and who stayed at the top for the longest time (21 hrs), had climbed twice in the same season in 1995 and 1999 each, slipped into a crevasse and died on April 29; 2001. He had summited the Everest successfully ten times.

History tells us that "Sagarmatha" had nearly become totally a part of Chinese territory. It was the then Prime Minister B P Koirala's efforts retained Sagarmatha in Nepal. Interestingly, during his visit to China premier Koirala had signed an agreement on March 21, 1960 in Beijing with Chinese leaders for the demarcation of the border line, to erect the border pillars, and to prepare a draft of boundary treaty between the two countries. Returning back to Kathmandu, Koirala was very serious in telling journalists that China claimed that Sagarmatha was theirs adding that he had rejected their claims. He added, in a confident tone "Discussion shall be held with Chinese Premier Chou-En Lai during his forthcoming visit to Kathmandu. All the disputes relating to the border-line and their claim on Sagarmatha shall be resolved in a friendly and peaceful manner at that time."

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Nepal organised a rally and mass meeting in Kathmandu chanting anti-Koirala slogans that claimed that he had sold Sagarmatha to China. This movement awakened the sentiment of nationalism among the Nepali people. The opposition parties meanwhile utilised this issue against Koirala and his ruling party. All because the Chinese leaders had claimed that Sagarmatha was in their territory during Koirala's visit. At the time both sides had presented their respective maps wherein the location of Sagarmatha was indicated. Today it is a matter of curiosity as to what type of map

was presented by the Nepal side, who had prepared the map, whether the name of Sagarmatha was mentioned on the map or not and how far north from Sagarmatha the border line was drawn on the map, etc.

Commenting on the map presented by Nepal, the Chinese leaders had said that the word Everest has been mentioned in this map and that it was a British name. There was no Nepali word indicated on the map. However, the mountain was known as Chomolungma in Tibetan language from time immemorial. In response to this comment, the Nepal side had said that its Nepali name is Sagarmatha. However, the Chinese understood that this name had been kept momentarily by the Nepal side.

During the discussions in Beijing, Nepal could not hold their point firmly that Sagarmatha was named many years back. However, Prime Minister Koirala had consulted with the great historian Baburam Acharya prior to leaving for Beijing. Acharya had told Koirala, citing his study conducted over the name of the peak and it had been called Sagarmatha since long and that this name had been officially recognised in 1956. But the Nepal side, during the visit, could not firmly assert that the peak was named Sagarmatha long ago because this name had been formally recognised by the government only three years back. However, historian Acharya had told Koirala that he had named the world's highest peak as Sagarmatha in 1938 and this was the name recognised by the general people of Nepal.

Explorers had discovered Sagarmatha as the highest mountain of the world 145 years ago. A survey carried out by India on different Himalayan mountains applying the Great Triangulation Surveying method in 1849-50 allocated Sagarmatha with the identity Peak XV. Since the various snow covered peaks of Nepal had not been given any name, the survey team gave their name in Roman numerical. When the data had been compiled, computed and heights were compared with one another, this peak was found to be the highest. Peak XV was then declared to be the highest peak in the world with its height 8,840 m (± 3 m) high from the mean sea level.

1 Kantipur Daily, November 13,1999: 1
2 Edney, Matthew H (1999), Mapping An Empire, Oxford University Press, New Delhi: 262
3 Kantipur Daily, March 11, 2000:4

In 1954, a resurvey by India declared its height to be 8,000 m China announced its height as 8,848.13 m in 1954. Again on November 11, 1999, Boston Museum of Science/National Geographic Society officially declared its height to be 8,000 m after measurements conducted by Dr. Bradford Washburn.[1]

A joint team of surveyor general Sir George Everest, Indian Bengali surveyor Radhanath Sickdhar and Nepali Corporal Tejvir Budhathoki had first discovered the peak of Sagarmatha.[2] Royal Geographical Society named it Mt. Everest in 1865 in honour of the British Surveyor, Sir George Everest. In reality, Radhanath Sickdhar was the person who had laboured to calculate and determine the height of Sagarmatha and declare it to be the highest peak in the world. But regrettably, it was named Everest after the name of Sir George Everest, a British national, who had not really instrumental in determining the height of Sagarmatha.

The eminent historian Baburam Aacharya did not appreciate this fact. He was determined that the peak must have its local name as belonged in Nepal. He visited Ramechhap, Okhaldunga and Solukhumbu districts of Nepal to consult the people towards finding the mountain's local name. He also studied documents in different local offices including the district administration, land revenue offices and the local courts. Finally, he found out that it was called Sagarmatha and that the local people of the region identified with this name. He eventually published an article titled "Sagarmatha or Jhyamochongma" in the then famous literary magazine "Sarada" (Year 4, Issue 8, 1995 BS or 1938). According to his study and research, the word "Sagarmatha" is the product of two words *Sagar* and *Matha*. *Sagar* means heaven as mentioned in Vedic and Sanskrit literature. The word is used in Nepali language to mean heaven is *Sagar*.[3] For example, the Nepali people in colloquial language say "*Sagar Dadhyo*" or the heaven is in flames, when the west horizon appears glowing at sunset. And similarly *Matha* or *Math* means head or skull in general. As the mountain is the highest in the world or the uppermost part of the earth, it is meaningful to call it Sagarmatha in Nepali language.

Going back to the discussion on Nepal-China border, the map presented to the Chinese leaders by then Prime Minister B P Koirala demarcated the borderline between the two countries on the basis of the water parting ridge on the mountain. That map was prepared by the British Survey of India. Based on hearsay, in those days if the Nepali side had presented the map prepared by Nepal herself, which was kept in *Jaisikotha* (Tibet Section) of the foreign department, the border would have reached the middle of the northern bottom part of Sagarmatha. But nobody knows the reason as to why the Nepali side did not present the map prepared by Nepal itself.

It is also known that Mao-tse Tung had also suggested naming Sagarmatha or Chomolungma or Everest as "Friendship Peak" representative of Nepal-China monument, but Koirala did not agree.[4] It is worth mentioning that the bridge on the border along the Kodari highway that links Nepal and Tibetan region of China is named as "Friendship Bridge". Mao-tse Tung might have proposed the name in a similar fashion, but Nepal was not in favour of this name regarding the symbol of the nation - Sagarmatha. If the Nepali Prime Minister Koirala had nodded his head as a signal of agreement to name Sagarmatha as Friendship Peak, it would have held no meaning as a Nepali word and Nepal would not have been country of Sagarmatha as known today.

Baburam Aacharya was determined that the peak must have its local name as belonged in Nepal. He visited Ramechhap, Okhaldunga and Solukhumbu districts of Nepal to consult the people towards finding the mountain's local name.

As scheduled, Chinese Premier Chou-En Lai came to Kathmandu on a three-day visit with the aim of fostering friendship between the two countries and to settle the outstanding issue of Sagarmatha. In the context of his visit, a press conference was arranged. At the press conference, held in Singha Durbar Gallary Baithak (Government Secretariat), on April 28, 1950 at 10:30 pm, he had said "Sagarmatha belongs to Nepal".[5] This ended the dispute or confusion regarding Sagarmatha instantly. Chou-En Lai further told journalists that the two premiers had agreed on the granting of permits by Nepal to those mountaineers who wanted to climb Sagarmatha from the southern side and by China to those who wanted to climb from the northern side. He also declared that China had accepted and given recognition to the map produced by Nepal on which the location of Sagarmatha had been drawn on the border line. It is to be noted that the dispute over Sagarmatha was solved at prime ministerial level forever. Had this dispute gone to other levels of governance, things may not have been resolved.

His Majesty, late King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on a visit to New Delhi on August 29, 1961 on his way to Belgrade, addressed journalists and stressed that Sagarmatha always belonged to Nepal and no Nepali would like to abandon it. Later, King Mahendra also visited China and signed the Nepal-China Boundary Treaty on October 5, 1961. On returning to Kathmandu on October 27, 1961, King Mahendra in his speech addresses to a gathering at Tundikhel (parade ground) said that the border between Nepal and China had been delineated by signing the treaty. It had ended the confusion and dispute that had persisted over 18 months. The demarcation work to erect the border pillars were to be started at a convenient time for both the countries while the treaty had strengthened the friendship and bilateral relation between the two countries. The treaty had also benefited Nepal with about 300 square miles of land towards north. The king announced that the dispute over the northern border was solved in a manner benefiting Nepal. [6]

According to the maps of both countries, the northern face of Sagarmatha from its top became China's land and the southern side became Nepal's territory. Border pillars were erected accordingly. The boundary protocol was signed on 20 January 1963 by the heads of the government of the two countries. Despite claiming Sagarmatha to belong to China for long, China abandoned the claim and gave recognition to the fact that Sagarmatha belonged to Nepal. All this was due to China's friendliness, close mutual feelings and good neighbourliness on the basis of equality and peaceful co-existence. China regarded Sagarmatha as the national treasure of Nepal. There was no dispute, debate or delay resolving the confusion over Sagarmatha nor over the border line between the two countries.

Many people may be eager to know why Sagarmatha belongs to Nepal as the border line runs on the ridge on the basis of the watershed principle. Moreover, there may be curiosity as to which country owns the peak or the highest part of the mountain. As the highest portion of the mountain lies on Nepal's frontier, so Sagarmatha belongs to Nepal.

The main highest peak is the meeting point of three ridges from three sides. In other words the three ridges, as the sloping roof of a house, run down on three sides. Among the three ridges, one runs down towards the western side, the second runs down towards north-east and the third runs down the southern side. The western ridge is long and steeply slanted. North-eastern ridge is very steep and the southern ridge is less steep and easier than the two ridges to climb to the top. The western and southern ridges work as the international borderline between Nepal and China. The north-eastern ridge completely lies on the Chinese territory. The northern side of the ridge is dangerously steep compared to the western and southern ones. In comparison to the others, the southern side towards Nepal is less steep for climbing. The most important matter of Sagarmatha is that there is a sloping terraced surface about 6 feet wide and 7 feet long which is located just on Nepal's frontier from the border line. But there is a steep slope, running vertically down towards China's side from the border line. So the mountaineers who want to climb and conquer Sagarmatha from the northern face or Chinese side have no option but to step on the Nepali side before reaching the summit of Sagarmatha. The winners of the peak cannot stand on the border ridge. As the highest part of the world is located within Nepal from the borderline, so it is said "Sagarmatha belongs to Nepal".

The border between two countries was delineated and demarcated on the basis of the watershed principle and the above mentioned sloping terraced highest part adjoining the water parting border ridge is located on the Nepali side. In case there are more than seven or eight mountaineers they cannot stand on the terraced slope of the peak at the same time. They have to wait to step on the summit turn by turn since there is no sufficient space for a considerably large group.

In 1988, twelve mountaineers had reached the summit of Sagarmatha at the same time from southern and northern faces as arranged by China-Japan-Nepal Friendship Campaign. On May 10, 1993 thirty-eight mountaineers and on May 16, 2002 sixty one mountaineers had reached the top at the same time. The successful summiteers had to wait and step on the summit one after another because there is only enough space for seven or eight people on the top. A group of seven to eight climbers can step on the top of the sloping terrace and take pictures and they have to step down so as to provide room for the other groups.

It is to be noted that the dispute over Sagarmatha was solved at prime ministerial level forever. Had this dispute gone to other levels of governance, things may not have been resolved.

[4] Risal, Bhairab, Patrika Weekly, April 23-29, 1999: 8
[5] Ibid, September 9-15, 1999: 8
[6] Devkota, Grishma Bahadur (1983), Political Mirror of Nepal, Vol-III: 159

The Snow Guardians of NEPAL

an aerial pilgrimage

Captain Bed Upreti is a pilot with a commercial airliner in Nepal.

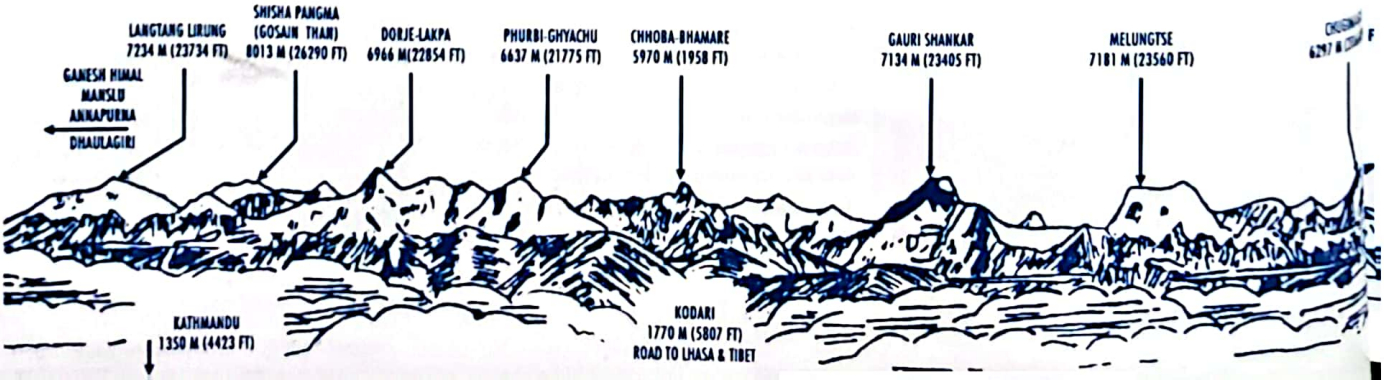


Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti

Without doubt, Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) is the world's most famous mountain. No other peak comes close to it either in its loftiness or rich history. It has captivated the attention of more geographers, mountaineers and writers than any other mountain. Syangboche is the most convenient place to see Mt. Sagarmatha from a distance. Located just a couple of days walk from the nearest airport Lukla, Syangboche offers a view of Sagaramatha above the blanketed southern face of Nuptse. To get a closer view yet, one must walk further. The places to choose are between Kalapathar and Gokyo; each with its own flavour of Sagarmatha as well as of the serene assembly of high peaks around it. If you are in a hurry or prefer to do without the rigours of trekking to see Sagarmatha, mountain flights offer the perfect opportunity to come face to face with the snowy guardians of Nepal. A mountain flight is indeed an extraordinary experience. It is an aerial pilgrimage over the most awe inspiring landscape in the world. It is the grandest sight on earth, more than two dozen peaks, of which five are over 8000 m tall. Three 8000 m peaks Manasalu, Annapurna I and Dhaulagiri are west of Kathmandu, near Pokhara. One has to take a special mountain flight to view these snowy peaks. The normal mountain flight proceeds towards the east to view the mighty Sagarmatha and other peaks.

As a pilot, I enjoy these flights perhaps more than others. When I have to take a mountain flights, I reach the airport by 6 am in the morning. The French built ATR aircraft gets checked by engineers and awaits us on the tarmac. Approximately 20 to 25 passengers from all over the world check in at the airline counter. The thought that dominates most passenger minds is always the wish for a clear view of Sagarmatha. As soon as passengers have fastened seat belts, I request Kathmandu tower for the clearance to start our aircraft. There are usually many aircraft awaiting this clearance to begin the mountain flight and the flights to Lukla.

When it is our turn to start, we proceed towards the runway. And on clearance from the tower, we are ready for take off. We always begin with a turn towards Swayambhu (west), making a climbing turn to gain altitude and check over Kathmandu airport. At this point, we are already over 10,500 feet and heading at the course of 100 degree. Now the beautiful mountains on the north fascinate all the tourists on board.



Mt. Langtang, Lirung, Dorje Lakpa and Phurbi-Gyachu are clearly visible from the left windows. All these mountains are also clearly visible from the Kathmandu valley.

When we are 30 miles from Kathmandu, Gauri Shanker and Melungtse are quite prominent. I always pray to the holy mountain Gauri Shanker when I first notice it. The supreme god of the Hindus, Shankar and his wife goddess Gauri are believed to dwell atop this mountain. The Buddhists God, Tashi Tsheringma is also supposed to live on one of the peaks of the mountain Gauri-Shankar. Tashi, who is one of the five sisters, is responsible for giving long life to mortals.

Mt. Melungtse is distinct from other surrounding mountains because it is the only bright mountain in Rolwaling Himal region. According to Sherpas, Melungtse means the 'fire wind peak'. Old Sherpas say that a long time ago, a volcanic eruption gave the mountain its present shape.

At 40 miles from Kathmandu, we can see Chugimago, Cho-Oyu, Karyolong and Numbur. All these mountains have interesting stories. According to Lamas, 'Cho' is the sacred text whereas 'Oyu' is the Sherpa word for turquoise which is greenish blue precious stone. Thus the 'Cho Oyu' is known as the goddess of turquoise. For example, Numbur is considered to be the mother, the milk giver to the children of Solu. According to Sherpas, Numbur means breast. Therefore the mountain's name.

Further ahead of Cho-Oyu, a black pyramid shaped mountain to the east is the Mother Goddess- Sagarmatha. The nearer we get, Sagarmatha looks more prominent, clear and huge. All passengers on board come to the cockpit one by one to experience this extraordinary view. This is the moment that all of them have taken this flight for, a moment that takes away all human worries and revels in the majesty and beauty of the Himalayas.

To the east of Sagarmatha, Mt. Lhotse, the fourth highest peak is located. Tibetans call this mountain 'Lhotse' which means south peak. There was no name for this peak before 1920 when a British expedition team named it Lhotse using the local word for south. Lhotse is the eastern part of the Nuptse Lhotse wall. As we fly ahead, Sagarmatha seems peering out towards the south. When we are 65 miles from Kathmandu, we approach Lukla from where the trail to Namche along Dudh Koshi is clearly visible.

Namche, Syangboche and Khumjung villages can be viewed from the height we maintain at 25,000 feet. The beautiful mountain Ama Dablam close to Tyangboche, and I recall the blue pine and rhododendron forests, thundering waterfalls, enchanting boulder gardens and burbling stream on trekking routes.

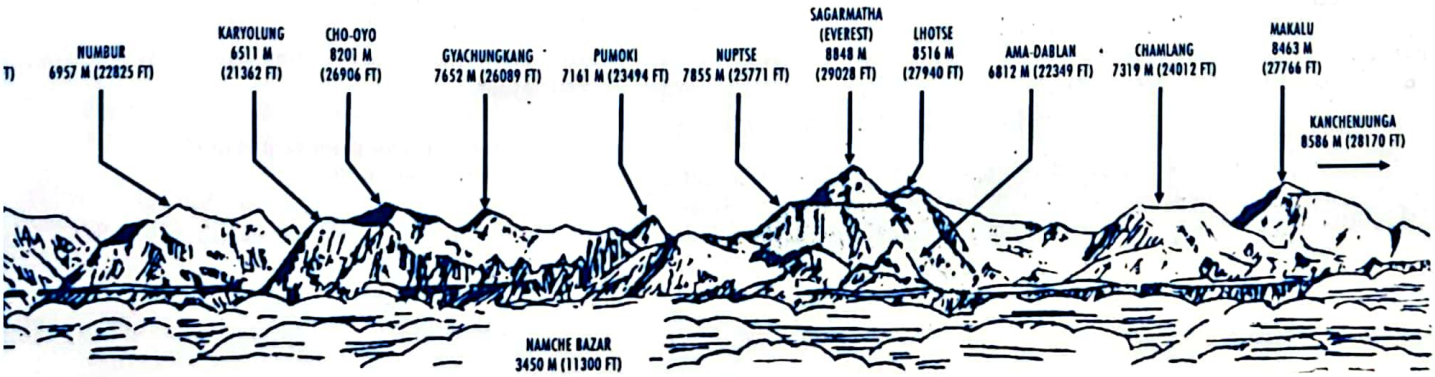
When I fly over Solukhumbu, I also reminisce about the people of this region. Sherpas work incredibly hard. And have played an extraordinary role in mountaineering history. Sherpas set up camps, put in the routes, do the cooking and carry the majority of the load on the mountains. They are the most honest , simple and dependable people. Four times Sagarmatha summiteer Rob Hall, leader of Adventure Consultants Guided Expedition from New Zealand, has rightly said, 'Most of the western summiteers would have absolutely no chance of getting to the summit of Everest without the help of Sherpas'. Rob Hall unfortunately died tragically while descending from the Everest on May 11, 1996. When I reach close to Sagarmatha, I remember all the mountaineers from Mallory to Rob Hall and Sonam Sherpa.

By this time, we are 80 miles from Kathmandu. From this point Sagarmatha and Mt. Makalu look fascinating. The name Makalu, the fifth highest mountain, is derived from 'Mahakala' which means the god of death in Hinduism but it is known as 'Nagpochenpo' in Tibet. Towards the east, a huge mountain looms in the distance – it is the Kanchenjunga. In the distant past, Kanchanjunga was considered the second highest peak in the world. Paul Bauer, who published a book called '*Himalayan Campaign*' in 1937, mentioned that this was the second highest peak. There was some doubt about the exact height of the peak. As time passed, Mt. K-2 (8,611 m) was declared the second highest peak on the earth. Thus, now Kanchenjunga (8,586 m) is the third highest mountain in the world.

We turn around 80 miles from Kathmandu. While turning, we head north for a minute or so. This is the best time to view Mt. Sagarmatha in a mountain flight. Further north, the dry Tibetan plateau stretches to the horizon in a boundless expanse of dull-coloured earth. When I feel that there might be turbulence towards the north, I turn to the west and fly along the Himalayan range. This is the normal route for the mountain flight.

Shortly after, the tower clears us to descend from 25,000 feet to 10,500 feet. When we reach Gauri-Shankar, we head towards Kathmandu, the valley is covered in light fog. In a few minutes, we receive clearance from the tower to land. At the end of flying for approximately an hour, all the passengers receive mountain flight certificates. Nowadays a book written on Sagarmatha "Everest from the Air" in English, French and Japanese with colourful photographs is also available on board for passengers. Being the author of the book, many passengers come with the book to me for my signature after landing.

We should understand Sagarmatha because she is a challenging mountain, kind and beautiful when the weather is good, but wrathful amidst snow storms and winds. It requires courage, willpower and stamina not just to climb to the summit of Sagarmatha, but even to reach the base camp. A glimpse of this beautiful mountain must be experienced at least once in a lifetime. ▲



WOMEN MOUNTAINEERS
AT PAR WITH MEN



Photo courtesy: NMA

Ms. Lhakpa Sherpa, a resident of Ward No. 5, Balakharka, Makalu Village Development Committee in Sankhuwasabha district, was born in 1974. She is first woman mountaineer to have climbed Everest twice.

This year (2003) in the spring season she is going as a member of the Romanian Everest Expedition team that will try to scale peak from the Tibet side. In this attempt besides the Romanian mountaineers she is accompanied by her sister and brother. If successful, she will set a new record on women Everest climbing history.

In a talk with *Nepal Parbat*, she talked about her desire to climb Everest, the experiences and future plans.

What has been the inspiration behind your desire to climb Everest?

I have seen many women climb Everest and other Himalayan peaks. As a Nepali woman the urge to climb Everest was stronger. I requested Ang Tshering the president of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) and my wish was fulfilled. I scaled Everest successfully as the team leader of the Nepalese Women Millennium Everest Expedition on May 18, 2000. It was my first stint at reaching the top of the highest peak in the world. I had realised my dream

You have reached the Everest summit twice and this is the third time you are attempting to scale it for the record third time (as a woman). Your future plans with regard to climbing Everest and other peaks?

I have the desire in me to try again and again. After the completion of the climb this spring through the Tibet side, I will be looking for sponsors who can support me so that I can scale Mt. K2. I have a great desire to attempt climbing the second highest peak in the world that is K2. If possible, as I am still young, I have the desire to climb Everest every year.

When do you plan to attempt climbing Mt. K2?

After I complete the present

expedition and return I will start planning to climb Mt. K2.

They say Mt. K2 is more difficult than Everest. But when I first scaled Everest from the Nepal side they said it was more difficult than the Tibet side, but I didn't find it so. That is the case with K2 as well. There are some differences, but then climbing any peak is difficult.

What differences did you find between the ascent from the Nepal and Tibet side?

It's the feeling that counts. Climbing from the Nepali side I felt it was my own country so it was more emotional. The only difference is that from the Tibetan side one can reach the Base Camp by vehicle itself while from Nepal it is on foot that you have to go all the way to the top.

That means that it is easier from the Tibetan side?

I wouldn't say so, mainly because of the lack of acclimatisation while climbing from the Tibetan side. This makes many people sick because altitude is gained rapidly so many have to return. From the Nepali side, it's a slow ascent so there is enough time for acclimatisation and less risk of altitude sickness. I prefer to attempt Everest from the Nepali side.

In the present expedition, your sister and brother are accompanying you. Does this mean you have the full support of your family?

We are seven sisters and three brothers. I am the fourth sister. My sister, Nim Kipa (15) is the youngest and she will accompany me. My brother, Mingma Gelu (24) will also be with us on this expedition. My family has no objection to us going together.

Have your brother and sister any kind of formal training?

They have been trained by us. Walking up and down in the mountains in itself is a form of training.

So you are hoping to make history with your third attempt which will be a record for a woman mountaineer?

Yes, that's true. I will be very grateful if we can make it successfully to the summit of Everest together.

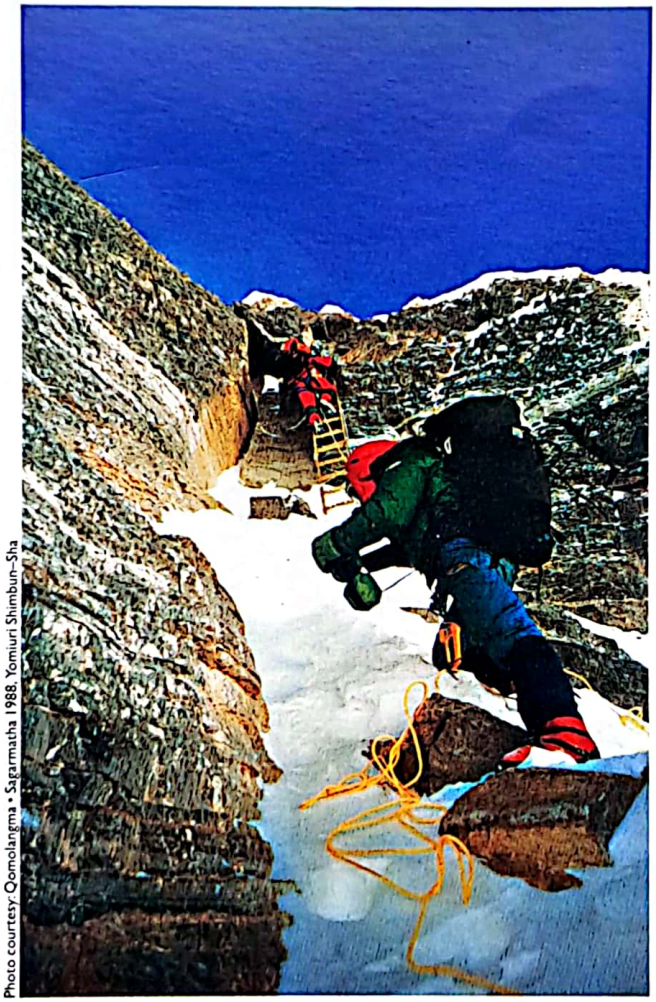


Photo courtesy Qomolangma • Sagarmatha 1988, Yomiuri Shimbun–Sha

Summiteers climbing the second step, the most difficult part on the Northeast Ridge.

Is there a difference between male and female mountaineers is it more difficult for women?

I feel there is no difference. We can climb mountains at par with men. We feel as much at ease in the high Himalayas as the male members of expedition teams.

Which is more difficult ascending or descending in the Himalayas?

Good climbing means ascending and descending with equal care. Many mountaineers lose their lives while descending. Personally, I find making the descent more difficult than ascending. While descending you are tired and you can see all the way down, which is scary.

Can you tell us something about crevasses which are so common on Everest?

They are quite dangerous. Covered with snow they can't be seen, and the mistake of stepping on one can be fatal. A mountaineer has to be very careful to avoid crevasses.

What was the weather like during your first and second ascent of Everest?

Both times it was in the spring season so the weather was generally fine, but sometimes there are fierce winds and snowfall so climbers have to wait for the weather to improve.

What were your feelings on the summit of Everest for the first time?

It felt very different. I was very happy to be there. On one side I could see Nepal and on the other side Tibet. It was an extraordinary experience. It was a unique feeling. It's a different world altogether. I also felt that though Nepal is considered poor it is rich in natural splendour and because of such beautiful Himalayan peaks.

Who is your most favourite mountaineer?

I admire everyone. I can't answer this. It's a difficult question.

You are now going with the Romanian expedition team. How do you feel about the team and its members?

They are very friendly and helpful. In Romania also they have done mountain climbing, which means they are experienced. ▲

FEATURE

MT. EVEREST FOCAL POINT FOR MOUNTAINEERS



Photo courtesy: Qomolangma • Sagarmatha 1988, Yomiuri Shimbun–Sha

Climbing from camp I to camp II.

Dr. Soorya Lal Amatya is a retired Professor of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the first successful human ascent of Mt. Everest (May 29, 1953) in the last week of May 2003. Indeed, it was a historical achievement when Sir Edmund Hillary and late Tenzing Norgay Sherpa for the first time climbed the highest peak in the world. This happened just on the eve of the Royal Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London. It was the second attempt from the south–east (South Col) route. Prior to 1949, quite a number of expeditions were launched from the northern route (North Col) in Tibet. The first expedition was in 1921. It was a reconnaissance expedition led by C K Howard Bury and was launched from Darjeeling. Dr. A M Kellas and a Sherpa lost their lives and it was the first

tragic casualty in the Everest area. All the Everest expeditions from the northern route were British expeditions as foreigners were forbidden entry into Nepal except for a few special cases.

It was for the first time a Swiss expedition to Mt. Everest was organised in 1952. It included the Swiss guide Raymond Lambert and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa. This expedition contributed in reconnaissance survey of the southern Everest area and particularly the most accessible South Col route to Mt. Everest. This expedition paved the foundation which was used successfully by the British expedition team under the leadership of Lord John Hunt in 1953. It was on May 29, 1953, Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary made the sensational historical event, ascending the peak. Later, quite a large number of expeditions from different countries successfully climbed the peak. More than 300 Nepali climbers have already successfully ascended Mt. Everest and some of them have even climbed several times. The climbers of more than 50 countries have already been on the top of Mt. Everest.

The Himalayan Mountain System, the home of snow (*hima* – snow and *alaya* – home in Sanskrit), stretches for almost 2,400 kms from the Indus river in the west to the Brahamaputra in the east. This is one of the youngest and loftiest mountain systems in the world. This mountain system comprises quite a number of ranges and sub-ranges and can be broadly subdivided into three major sections - Western Himalayas, Central Himalayas (Nepal) and Eastern Himalayas.

The Nepal Himalayan Range, stretching for about 800 kms from Byas Rishi Himalayan range in the west to the Kanchenjunga range in the east, comprises of 28 main ranges and sub–range systems. A study made by the Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University in 2002 has identified about 1783 peaks which are more than 5,500 m above sea level. An earlier study had identified about 1,310 peaks above 6,000 m in the Nepal Himalayas. Mahalangur is one of the most extensive Himalayan ranges and comprises of three sub systems of Makalu, Barun and Khumbu. Mt. Everest lies in the Khumbu sub system of the Mahalangur range.

Currently, 249 peaks are open for mountaineering and trekking in different parts of the country. Some of the peaks in the mid western and far western Nepal are even exempted from the royalty charges in order to promote mountaineering and trekking in those remote areas.

Mt. Everest was initially recorded as peak XV when its height was measured by a survey team. Sir George Everest was the Surveyor General in British India at that time. It was officially named Mt. Everest in 1865. It was, of course, known as Chomolungma in Tibet as a "Goddess Mother of the Earth". It was named as Qomolangma in China. In 1956 it was named "Sagarmatha" in Nepali.

The height of Mt. Everest when it was measured as Peak XV in 1852 was 29,002 ft (8,840 m) above sea level. When its height was measured again in 1954, it was recorded as 29,028 ft (8,848 m). Recently, in 1999, when it was again measured with modern equipment and satellite (National Geographical Society, November 1999) its height was recorded as 29,035 ft (8,850 m) above sea level. There has been an increase of 7 ft or 2 m. This height has yet to be confirmed by the Survey Department of HMG/Nepal. It is generally assumed that Himalayas being a young mountain system are still rising and Mt. Everest is tilting towards the north–east direction by about 2.4 inches (6 cm) each year.

It is stated that the northern route to Mt. Everest is less polluted and much of the credit for this goes to Qomolangma Nature Preserve established in 1988. Edmund Hillary and other mountaineers expressed serious concern regarding pollution of the south east route and high camp sites. The mountain route was even termed as the garbage route .Now with restrictive provisions in mountain climbing regulations and clean up efforts initiated by Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee and environmental expeditions, the south east route to Everest has improved comparatively.

The great mountaineer G L Mallory believed climbing Mt. Everest was challenging and an irritation. For most climbers, it is adventure. For Tashi Tenzing (grandson of Tenzing Norgay Sherpa) and Yves Lambert (son of Raymond Lambert) it was a compulsion to commemorate the expedition of Raymond Lambert and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa in 1952. Babu Chiri Sherpa who created historical records by staying on the peak of Everest without oxygen for 21 hours on May 21, 1999 and climbing the peak from the base camp in the shortest period of 16 hrs 56 min on May 21, 2000 believed that it was due to good weather and favourable situations that he could do it.

To most climbers, mountaineering is a sport and adventure. Expeditions are organised for various reasons that include exploration, adventure, research, environmental protection, promoting friendship and understanding. Expeditions were even organised to Mt. Everest for national prestige. The American Medical Expedition in the autumn of 1981 and British Doctors Everest Expedition in the autumn of 1994 are examples where the main objective was to conduct medical research at high altitude. There were a few environmental expeditions organised with the main objective of climbing as well as cleaning the route and high campsites. Sagarmatha Environmental Expedition in the autumn of 1994, Sagarmatha Environmental Expedition in the spring of 1998 and Everest Environmental Expedition in the spring of 2000 are a few such examples.

China–Japan–Nepal Friendship Expedition in the spring of 1988, Franco–German Joint Expedition in the autumn of 1978, Everest International Expedition in the autumn of 1992, German–American Everest Expedition in the spring of 1983 and Indo-Nepali Everest Expedition in the spring of 1993 are good examples of promoting friendship and mutual understanding. In recent years, mountaineering to Mt. Everest can be broadly conceived as of two types - commercial and alpinist. The number of expedition organised on commercial basis has substantially increased in recent years.

In recent times, quite a number of expeditions are organised each year to Mt. Everest from the Tibetan side (North Col), though the information is not easily available. As such it is difficult to ascertain the total number of expeditions to Mt. Everest through the North Col route. In 2000, there were 21 expeditions that successfully ascended Mt. Everest from the south–east route and 82 climbers reached the peak. If we assume an equal number of expeditions from North Col route the successful summiteers may range from 100 to 150 climbers every year. ▲



Mt. Everest STAMPS

Jal Krishna Shrestha is Director of Patan Museum, Lalitpur. He is a member of the International Mountain Museum Committee and a philatelist.

The year 2003 marks the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of the World's highest mountain, Everest/ Sagarmatha/ Chomolungma. The British Everest Expedition, led by John Hunt, made the first successful ascent of Mt. Everest with two of its climbing members Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa making it to the summit on May 29, 1953. A number of countries issued postage stamps to commemorate their conquest of Everest including His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Department of Postal Services who have issued numerous stamps depicting Mt. Everest, the pride of Nepal.

This year the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee is organising a "Mountaineering Philately Exhibition" to coincide with the grand gathering of Everest summiteers on May 29, 2003 in Kathmandu. Besides Nepal, many countries have issued postage stamps depicting the image of Mt. Everest.

India issued two stamps to commemorate the first conquest of Everest on October 2, 1953. The denominations of the stamps were 2 Ana in violet and 14 Ana in brown colour.

The New Zealand postal administration issued two different denomination stamps under semi postal stamps, in 1954, showing a mountain climber studying a map with Mt. Everest in the background.

In 1959, Nepal received membership to the Universal Postal Union (UPU). On the occasion, the Department of Postal Services, HMG, issued a series of stamps including a four paisa denomination ultramarine colour stamp depicting Khumbu Glacier with Mt. Everest. This was the first Nepali stamp showing Mt. Everest.

In 1960, on the occasion of the first Children's Day celebration, Nepal issued a blue and black coloured big stamp of six paisa denomination depicting two children seated on a plinth of a temple with Mt. Everest in the background. This is one of the more valuable stamps in the philatelic sense.

In 1960, Nepal issued a series of three stamps of the Himalayan peaks of Machhapuchhre, Everest and Manaslu, with late King Mahendra's portrait on the top right side of each stamp. This ten paisa denomination blue coloured stamp was the first to be issued on the Mt. Everest theme in particular.

China issued a series of five stamps including the north face view of Mt. Everest to show Chinese mountaineering achievements from 1957 to 1964. All five stamps are in 8 f denomination and black and grey in colour. These stamps were issued on May 25, 1965.

India issued a stamp to commemorate the first successful Indian Everest Expedition depicting the raising of the flag on Everest by two summiteers including Phu Dorjee Sherpa from Nepal.

On the auspicious occasion of His Majesty King Mahendra's 51st birth anniversary, Nepal issued a large colourful stamp depicting King Mahendra, Mt. Everest and the Crown.

In 1971, Nepal issued a series of stamps showing the Himalayan peaks of Mt. Everest, Mt. Kanchenjunga and Mt. Annapurna I under the Visit Nepal Series.

India issued a 20 paisa denomination blue coloured stamp depicting Mt. Everest on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Indian Mountaineering Foundation on May 15, 1973.

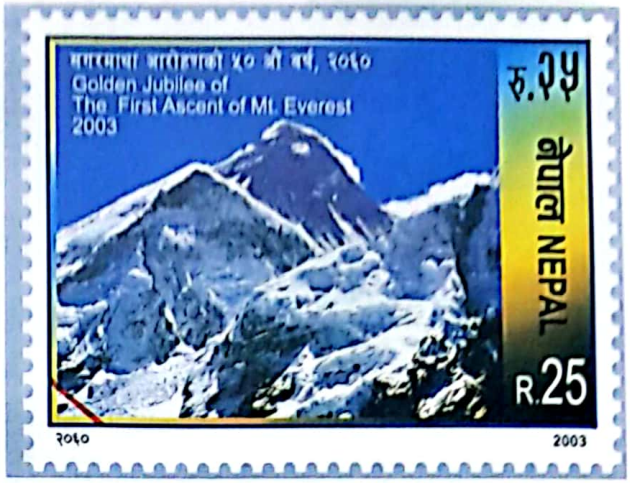
China issued a series of three stamps on the occasion of the second successful ascent of Mt. Everest to coincide with the International Year of Women in 1975. These three beautiful stamps depict a group of mountaineers raising the Chinese flag on the summit.

South Korea issued a stamp to commemorate the first successful Korean ascent of Mt. Everest on November 11, 1977. The 20 w denomination beautiful multi-colour stamp depicts the Korean flag with an ice axe and Mt. Everest.

On May 29, 1978, Nepal issued two different denomination commemorative stamps on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the first successful ascent of Mt. Everest depicting two south faces of Mt. Everest. The Department of Postal Services had provided special postal cancellation from Kathmandu and Namche Bazaar, the gateway for Mt. Everest expeditions.

Nepal issued a series of three stamps showing Mahalangur Himalayan Range including Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse and Mt. Nuptse in blue and black colour. These stamps were issued to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of International Union of Alpine Associations (UIAA). The 44th General Assembly of UIAA was held in Kathmandu in 1982.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal is issuing a stamp on Mt. Everest on May 29, 2003, showing the south face to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the first successful ascent of Mt. Everest.



The erstwhile USSR (CCCP) issued a souvenir sheet stamp showing three climbers and the national flag to commemorate the first successful Russian ascent of Mt. Everest through a difficult route in 1982.

China issued a stamp on Mt. Everest depicting the north face under regular stamp series, dark grey in colour and 70 f in denomination on April 1, 1983.

Bulgaria issued a stamp to commemorate the first successful Bulgarian ascent of Everest in 1984. The 5 ct. green coloured stamp shows the south face Mt. Everest.

Romania issued a stamp in honour of Sir Edmund Hillary in 1985. The stamp depicts the smiling portrait of Sir Edmund Hillary with Mt. Everest in the background.

Poland issued a souvenir sheet stamp in honour of world renowned mountaineer Jarzy Kukuczka in 1988. The souvenir sheet depicts the portrait of Kukuczka with Mt. Everest in the background.

Australia issued a special post envelope (37c in denomination) showing a climber in the background of Mt. Everest. This postal envelope was issued on the occasion of the successful Australian Bicentennial Everest Expedition in 1988.

Lithuania (Lietuva) issued two stamps of different denominations showing an ice axe in the background of Mt. Everest to commemorate the first successful Lithuanian ascent of Mt. Everest in 1991.

United Nations issued a special stamp on National Sagarmatha Park under World Heritage Sites and a special cachet showing Mt. Everest also on January 24, 1992.

Nepal issued a stamp in honour of late renowned mountaineer Sungdare Sherpa, who was the first person to climb Mt. Everest five times, under the National Personality Series in 1993. The one rupee denomination stamp depicts a portrait of Sungdare Sherpa with Mt. Everest in the background.

Nepal issued a beautiful small stamp of Mt. Everest under the regular series in 1994.

Nepal issued a stamp in honour of the first Nepali woman Everest summiteer late Pasang Lhamu Shrepa in 1994. This stamp depicts a portrait of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa in the background of Mt. Everest.

Nepal issued a stamp to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Nepal–Japan diplomatic relations in 1997. This stamp depicts Mt. Everest, Mt. Fuji and Mt. Manaslu. The first successful ascent was made by Japanese climbers on Mt. Manaslu in 1956.

Kazakhstan issued a souvenir sheet stamp to commemorate the first successful ascent by Kazakhstan Everest Expedition in 1998. The stamp shows a summiteer raising a flag on the top of Mt. Everest.

Bolivia issued a beautiful stamp to commemorate the first successful Bolivian ascent of Mt. Everest in 1999.The stamp depicts summiteer Bernardo Guarachi in the background of Mt. Everest.

Nepal issued a stamp of Mt. Everest under the Visit Nepal Series in 1999.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal is issuing a stamp on Mt. Everest on May 29, 2003, showing the south face to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the first successful ascent of Mt. Everest. The stamp will be of Rs 25 in denomination with a sheet of 16 stamps including a legend of the golden jubilee of the first ascent of Mt. Everest on each sheet.

This is a complete list of stamps, issued by Nepal and other countries, depicting Everest. The stamps that show Everest are in fact marketing and enhancing the image of Nepal in the World. These stamps also promote the Himalayan peaks like Everest and mountaineering in Nepal. ▲

FEATURE

Planning Mountain Tourism

An Urgent Need to Promote Cultures



Photo: Narendra Shrestha

Dr. Prem Khatry is a Professor of Culture in Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

This year Nepal is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of man's first successful ascent on Everest. Nepal's Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary had stepped onto the Summit of Everest on May 29, 1953. Although Mt. Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest), like other mountains and hills of Nepal is sacred to the Nepalis, hundreds of adventure seekers, male and female, Nepalis and foreigners, handicapped and non-handicapped, teenagers and septuagenarians, professionals and amateurs have since stepped on the top and made history, even while the list of successful climbers goes on.

What is Mt. Sagarmatha or, for that matter, the entire Himalayan range for the Nepalis, for the people residing under the very shadow of the bright, snowy mountains stretching nearly the entire length of the country ? The Himalayas, more particularly Mt. Sagarmatha is the most significant, globally valued national identity. To celebrate this occasion as an international event has thus significant impact on the contemporary society and culture.

Mountains, the home of cultural diversity

Nepal's topography, the rugged terrain, the landscape with dominating harsh mountains and hills are both asset



Photo courtesy: Personal collection, Appa Sherpa

Team spirit shows strongest on the mountains.

and hurdle to Nepal's vision for balanced development.

It is a commonplace knowledge that the two types of diversity – physical (natural) and cultural (social) are the most important pull factors that lure thousands of visitors to the land of legends, myths and mighty mountains. But at the local level, these characters have also been strong push factors. With such a small, almost invisible physical profile in the world map, Nepal's long range of high mountains provide a very wide variety of interest and choices for the enthusiastic and adventure seeking individuals from all over the world. As Nepal celebrates the 50th anniversary of man's first successful ascent on Everest the year 2003 becomes an important occasion to celebrate one special aspect of man-nature relationship.

The mountain region of Nepal covers 35 percent of the total land surface of the country. Scores of ethnic groups also dwell in this region. In terms of culture, the region is the home of Buddhist, Kirat, Bon, Shamanism, and a host of local, minor faiths and belief systems and ways of life. Similarly, the region also represents a wider variety of language, and dialects such as Sherpa, Tamang, Kirat, Bhotia, Lhomi, Thakali, Manangi/Gurung, Magar, Lepcha, among others, falling in the Tibeto-Burman-Mon/Khmer family of languages. Culturally, therefore, the mountain region of Nepal is the most valuable asset of the country with ever-unfolding potential of contribution to the nation and the world.

Soon after the 1951 political change the region opened its door to researchers and adventures alike. Today, the mountain region offers the nation's economy a significant portion of revenue through tourism and related activities and natural products.

The mountains are a major source of inspiration for people to live and conduct their activities in an atmosphere of security and peace. The mountains are indeed the gods that have always blessed the people and provided them their wide and accommodating laps, love and sense of security. Yet in the hierarchy of existence – both seen and unseen – there also dwell the other facets of nature – the demons. Gods protect, demons disturb and destroy progress – this is a common cultural paradigm that has worked as the base of mountain worldview and a strategy for livelihood amidst challenges. Striking a desired level of balance is thus the task of those who have dedicated their life in the service of God – the Buddha and a host of other deities depending on the regional and ethnic background. Festivals, rites and rituals in this region are all directed toward creating and maintaining such a balance. Dance dramas, rituals and other form of rites are organised for the success of farming, other ventures, property, and better relationship between human beings and nature. The Lama, priest and shaman play key and decisive roles in the process and help preserve the culture. The entire northern range from east to west has a continuous ring of hundreds of *gompas* (monasteries) and other shrines with rich store of cultural assets – both material and non-material - that require conservation, protection and promotion. These are the places mountain tourism of Nepal can bank on with special focus and enrich the local culture at the same time.

Tourism to address and change the harsh facts of life

Despite political, social and economic changes felt in other parts of the country, the mountains of Nepal still speak the harshest and hardest facts of life. Hard work and uncertain product, substandard life, scarcity and challenges are the incidents of reality most of the mountain people live and cope with. Traditional farming and animal husbandry has seen very limited or no change in technology.

Tourism is the only viable option to mend the prevalent condition and improve the circumstance of the people of the mountains. 50 long years have passed since tourism officially became part of the government's development and economic agenda. Nearly the whole range of the Himalayas has since been opened and has been synonymous of tourism in Nepal. But the distribution of the revenue thus derived from the mountain does not show a judicious trend. Average people under the shadow of all the popular mountains remain where they were before 1950. Some exceptions such as the Hillary Foundation and its highly acclaimed activities in the Khumbu region are worth mentioning here as the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of Conquest on Sagarmatha.

If the Terai supplies the country with the urgently needed food grains and other produce, the mountains are also not lagging far behind to offer the country's economy needed foreign currency, medicinal plants, and white gold (in the form of the source of revenue from the mountain and the Himalayan water) besides the huge and underused labour force. But a comparison of development scenario in these two regions shows that the hill and mountain region lag far behind in terms of resources spent for development.

These examples are not cited here to pit one region and culture of Nepal against the other. The planners of this country must know that the people of the Mountain region lead the hardest lives because they are formidable, tolerant, hardworking and enduring. A workable, feasible and reliable - short as well long-term - plan to improve the condition of the people would further encourage and enhance the zeal of the people. But the government has not given much thought to the concept of regional planning and focus on human resource development. It is the most obvious technical lacuna our planning system faces till date. So, how many Nepali intellectuals, planners and politicians in Kathmandu's cosy parlours know that forced by nature and limited resources in hand the DDC of Humla is rallying the half-hungry people of Humla to sweat on regular basis their labour to construct a motor able road to link Simikot not with other parts of Nepal but with Tibet's Hilsa instead ? The Nepalgunj-Surkhet-Jumla road has also been a victim of the People's War in the past several years. So, when something goes wrong with the Valleys and the hills, it is the mountains that receive the first shock. And it lasts awfully long.

Main Challenges

The major issue that remains a

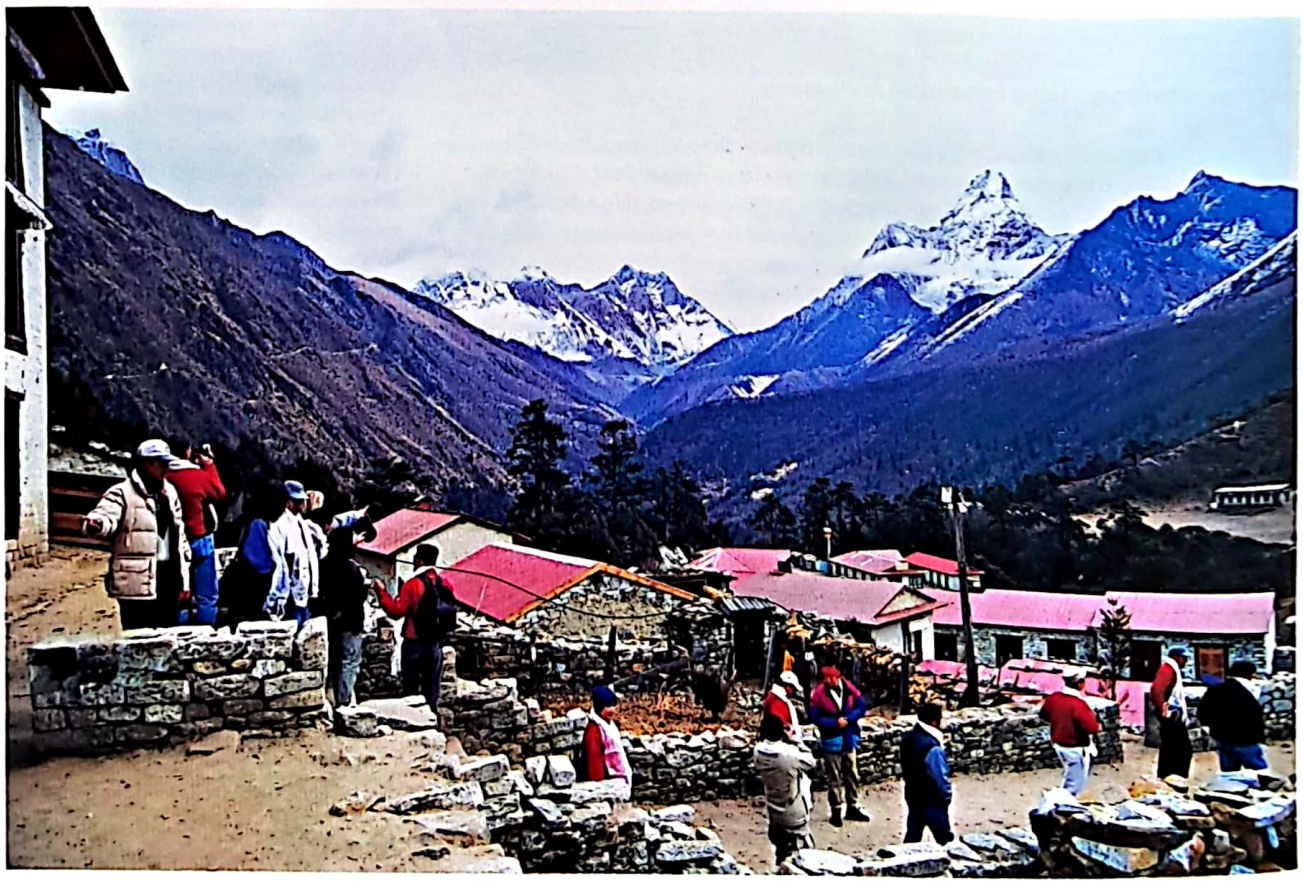


Photo: Narendra Shrestha

Thyangboche Monastery, Solukhumbu.



Photo: Charu Chadha Rizal

Dumje festival, Solukhumbu.

challenge today is the complete integration of the mountain people and culture into the national mainstream. There is a traditional pattern of thinking in Nepal that mountain people are dangerous, illiterate, and above all, backward. No government in the past tried to open its purse wide enough to bridge the gap between the mountain region and the rest of the country in terms of social and economic development. Some INGOs, NGOs and individuals have shown interest in the development of the region and reached out to people, but they have faced setbacks in the recent past. Many have closed down before showing concrete evidences of improvement. In the changed context of political equation, some of them might renew their interest in Nepal. But the government and people themselves must judge the need and either open or close their arms and hearts to receive such cooperation.

The entire northern range from east to west has a continuous ring of hundreds of gompas (monasteries) and other shrines with rich store of cultural assets - both material and non-material - that require conservation, protection and promotion.

Development is also a cultural agenda and no donor agency can substantially narrow the nature of culture that system has created and fostered over the long past. Each geographical region of Nepal has its own typical natural beauty, human resource and potential for development therefore integration and not isolation should be the guiding policy of our planners. Development priority should be based on the need, and need only. The silent cry of the remote hills and mountains will speak for themselves, if we have ear to listen to them.

Conclusion

The mountains of Nepal have provided a wide variety of tourism-related activities and options to interested individuals across the globe. Considering this, concerned agencies such as HMG/Nepal, other agencies should make adequate provision to use the potential. Equally important is to make use of the revenue for the development of the region on priority basis such as:

- Education - for all children
- Employment opportunity - for the youth
- Knowledge about culture and environment preservation for all
- Infrastructure development in all regions
- Demand- and community-driven projects to lift the life style of people
- Attempt to narrow the cultural gap between Himalayan and other regions

Finally, both nature and Nepal's bureaucratic culture have remained fairly reserved and have not done enough to limit the distancing nature of cultures. The quiet, receptive and tolerant mountain people have seen this state of affairs for ages. Well thought of and planned mountain tourism can be a good stepping-stone for the development of mountain people and their culture. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Ascent on Mt. Everest, the country's tourism sector should make plans to make all attempts to climb the peak of evils, imbalance, cultural distancing, and poverty and see to it that the revenue derived from tourism sector trickles down toward bridging the gap – cultural as well as economic - in the days to come. ▲

The Himalayas
Garbage Management

Ballav Dahal is the Sub-Editor with *The Rising Nepal* Daily



Photo courtesy: Prami Shrestha

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the first successful ascent of Mt. Everest is a milestone mountaineering history. The significant event has not only become a tool to generate massive awareness among the general public about also stress the importance of the tourism industry, especially mountaineering and trekking, is also instrumental for the promotion of our mountain tourism abroad.

Despite some unfavourable internal and international reasons, the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the first ascent of the 8,848 m world's highest peak has been able to attract a record number of mountaineers from across the globe. More than 20 expeditions have attempted to scale Sagarmatha this spring. Hundreds of Everest summiteers from different nooks and corners of the world are gathering in Nepal to observe the momentous event. The get together of summiteers and the sharing of experiences and ideas among them will be memorable and mark a new chapter in mountaineering history.

The country's mountain tourism sector passed through a critical phase from late 1980s to the early 1990s, as the foreign media had dubbed Mt. Everest as a 'heap' of garbage. The fact was that the mountain peaks, especially Mt. Everest, were facing the problem of garbage. But the problem was not as serious as it was blown up internationally.

Considering the gravity of the problem, the government introduced a garbage management system in 1992. Some clean up campaigns have already been conducted to make Mt. Everest free from trash of all sorts. The efforts of the government, Nepal Mountaineering Association, Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) and clean-up expeditions have proved to be effective in reducing the problem of garbage on Mt. Everest. The Everest climbers in recent times have remarked that there is now less trash on Everest. This is good news considering the drive for the conservation of the mountain. "There has been no new garbage on Mt. Everest after 1992," says Appa Sherpa, a 12 time Everest summiteers.

The well-known climber says that he had seen much trash there in 1988 when he first scaled the highest peak. He said he had seen a lot of disposed trash, oxygen cylinders and some dead bodies of climbers there. The peak still has some garbage and dead bodies above 8,000 m, as it is difficult to bring them down from there.

With a view of making garbage management more effective, the

Protecting the fragile environment in the mountain region has become a need of the hour.

government has enforced a new regulation since 2002. The provision covers all the peaks opened for expedition. As per this provision, an expedition attempting to climb Mt. Everest must deposit US$ 4,000 as garbage deposit. The amount is refunded to the team only when it presents a certificate from the SPCC.

Under the new garbage management system, which is a welcome step to maintain the ecology of the mountain region, expedition teams have to deposit from $ 2,000 to $ 5,00 depending on the height of peaks. The deposit for Everest is as mentioned above.

But the government has no mechanism to effectively implement the garbage management system. The government, together with various stakeholders, must develop a strong mechanism so as to reduce the environmental impact on the mountain region.

The initiative to manage the garbage in the Makalu and Annapurna regions has played a vital role in checking the problem of garbage. The Royal Makalu-Barun National Park looks after the garbage management aspect in the Makalu area, while the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) takes responsibility of maintaining the original mountain ecology in the Annapurna Region, which is one of the most popular sites among trekkers in the world.

Protecting the fragile environment in the mountain region has become a need of the hour. Measures must be taken to make the local community participants in the protection of the ecology in the mountain areas.

"Without the participation of the community, preservation of ecology in the mountain areas is almost impossible," says Umesh Kumar Singh, executive director of the newly established Nepal Mountaineering Academy.

Singh points out the need for massive public awareness to involve the local people in the conservation efforts. "They should also be offered incentives for their participation in the important task of conserving the local environment."

Apart from this, stronger laws and their effective implementation are equally important to save the mountain environment and give a boost to adventure tourism.

The garbage problem is said to be increasing in the Manaslu area and some other areas where new peaks have been opened for mountaineering and climbing activities. Urgent attention has to be paid to save these areas from environmental degradation.

Nepal's mountain peaks and trekking areas have been the major source of revenue. The government generates millions rupees from mountaineering and trekking. But it is disappointing that the mountain people are still deprived of development activities. So, the government must allocate certain amount of revenue generated from the mountain region for raising the living standard of the local people and infrastructure development.

Out of more than 270 peaks opened for expedition, the number of NMA-operated peaks stands at 33 at present. NMA spends about 10 per cent of the income it earns from the peaks as royalty for the social and economic development of the respective areas.

The most important aspect is that the mountain region and peaks, which are our valuable assets, have to be maintained and managed properly. They have also to be promoted abroad. For this, the government, NMA and all other stakeholders have to come up with more effective plans and programmes.

stronger laws and their effective implementation are equally important to save the mountain environment and give a boost to adventure tourism.



Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti

FEATURE

All Alluring Mt. Everest

Samidh Shrestha is an A-Level student studying in Budhanilkantha School, Kathmandu.



Photo courtesy: EVEREST The Struggle to Reach the Top of the World, Geoff Tibballs

Sir George Everest was the Superintendent General of the Survey of India from 1830 to 1843.

Mount Everest, as the highest peak in the world, has been the centre of attraction ever since its discovery. Everest stands at an altitude of 8,848 m above sea level. It is situated on the border of Nepal and the Tibetan region of China and is a part of the Himalayan Mountain Range, the highest and the youngest mountain system in the world, which extends over 2,400 km.

Everest was discovered in 1852 by the efforts of Sir George Everest, British Surveyor General of India, surveyor Radha Nath Sickdhar and Nepali corporal Tej Bir Budhatokhi. During those times the peaks did not have any confirmed names, so the surveyors symbolised them with Roman figures. Everest then was referred to as Peak XV. Only in 1865, Peak XV was accepted as the planet's tallest mountain standing at 8,848 m above the sea level. Sir Andrew Waugh, India's surveyor general, named Peak XV as "Mt. Everest", in honor of Sir George Everest, who was his predecessor as surveyor general. Though Sir Waugh named this lofty peak as Everest, the Tibetans in the north called it "Chomolungma" or "goddess mother of the world". Meanwhile, the Nepalis in the south called it "Sagarmatha". The name Sagarmatha was given by Baburam Acharya in 1956.

As Everest was heralded as the highest peak in the world, it was only a matter of time before people decided that Everest needed to be climbed, explored and conquered. Before Everest was finally conquered, it took the lives of 24 men, the efforts of 15 expeditions and a duration of 101 years since its discovery.

The British Reconnaissance Team organised the first expedition to Everest in 1921. The team was led by Lt. Col. Charles Howard Bury and the attempt was made through the Tibet side, as Nepal was closed to foreigners then. This expedition could not yield favourable result and was called off when one of its member Dr. A M Kellas and several other Nepali porters died in an avalanche, marking the first ever recorded human deaths on Everest. The third British Expedition of 1924 resulted in the unexplained disappearance of George Mallory and his climbing companion Andrew Irvine only 240 m from the summit. Their bodies were only found after 75 years in May 1999.

More attempts followed from the Tibetan side until the 1950s till it was out of bounds for foreigners. Nepal opened its borders to foreigners only in 1950 and it did not take long before W H Tilman and C Houston made the first ascent from the south and became the first people into the Khumbu cirque (a steep basin at the head of a mountain valley). It was only after three decades of unsuccessful attempts that the first human footprints were set on the summit. It was on May 29, 1953 that Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand finally conquered the indomitable Everest. They were members of the Tenth British Expedition led by John Hunt and the ascent was made via the South Col. It

was only in 1960 that Wang Fu Chou and Chu Ying Hau of China made the first ascent to the summit from the China side.

Junko Tabei of Japan became the first woman to join the exclusive club of Everest summiteers when she reached the top of the world on May 16, 1975.

In 1978, Reinhold Messner (ITA) and Peter Habler (AUT) set a milestone in mountaineering by ascending Everest without the use of any supplementary oxygen for the very first time. Later in 1980, Reinhold Messner set up his own individual record by making the first solo ascent to the summit. He is also the first person to summit all of the fourteen over - 8000 m peaks of the world. He has been rightly hailed as one of the foremost mountaineers of the world.

Appa Sherpa of Nepal ascended Everest 11 times in 2000, breaking the record set by Ang Rita Sherpa for the most ascents. By the end of 2002 he had climbed Everest for a record 12 times and now is set to ascend the summit again in the spring of 2003. The late Babu Chhiri Sherpa, who scaled Everest in a record time of 16 hrs 56 min on May 21, 2000, has been one of the most influential mountaineers of Nepal. He also holds the record for the longest stay at the summit for 21 continuous hours. Sungdare Sherpa, also from Nepal, is the first climber to have climbed Everest five times.

Temba Chhiri Sherpa (NEP) holds the record for the youngest person to scale Everest. He achieved this feat on May 23, 2001 at the age of 15 years and 18 days. He ascended the summit from Tibet and beat the record set by Sambhu Tamang (NEP) in 1973 at the age of 17. Tomiyasu Ishikawa and Tama Wanatabe, both of Japan, are the oldest men and women to reach the summit. They ascended Everest at the ages of 65 and 63 respectively in May 2002.

In 1988, Jean March Boivin of France paraglided from the summit and descended to camp II in 11 minutes and hence, become the first person to do so. On October 7, 2000 Davo Karnicar of Slovania descended from the summit on skis, making him the first person to do so. It took him 5 hrs to descend from the summit to the base camp.

Everest has always been an extreme challenge to any mountaineer irrespective of their experience or physique. It may sound unusual when we consider disabled people attempting to summit Everest, but there are mountaineers who have accepted the challenge. Tom Whittaker (USA) summitted Everest on May 27, 1998 thereby becoming the first disabled person to do so. Later in 2001, Erik Weinhenmayer, also from the USA, became the first blind person to summit Everest.

With every passing year, Everest has been able to capture the interest and imagination of more and more thrill seekers. With this the traffic on Everest has also increased drastically in the last decade. At times it seems that Everest is overcrowded. A record 64 persons reached the summit on the same day on May 16, 2002. But 1999 saw the most number of people reaching the summit. A total of 129 people reached the summit that year. The largest ever team to Everest was the Chinese Expedition Team of 1975 which comprised of 410 members. The China-Japan-Nepal Friendship Expedition of 1988 has added a new milestone in the history of mountaineering by simultaneously scaling the world's highest peak from both north and south side, and by putting a record number of 12 climbers on the summit at the same time.

Asu Okato (JPN) was the first person to ascend Everest from both the north and south whereas Cath 'O' Dowd (RSA) was the first women to do so. Babu Chhiri Sherpa (NEP) is the first person to ascend Everest twice in one season. He achieved this feat on two occasions in 1995 and 1999.

Till date, it is estimated that Everest has been summitted about 1600 times. The total number of summiteers being approximately 1200, including 173 women. Alongside the success on Everest, death rate is also significant. About 173 people have lost their lives attempting to summit it, including the heaviest toll of 15 in 1996.

Difficulties of climbing Everest are enormous. Massive snow and ice avalanches, deep crevasse and unfavourable weather are a constant threat to mountaineers. Despite exposure to such high risks, more and more people are flocking to Everest. With every passing year records are being rewritten and new records set. It will not be very long before most of these records are changed. It will be interesting to see more attempts and more records being set up in the coming years. ▲



All Seasons Good for Climbing Peaks



Gia Tortladze is a renowned mountaineer and archaeologist. Tartladge is also the president of International Mountaineers Association (IMA) and was a member of the Polish International Manasalu Expedition 2003. Excerpts from an interview with ***Nepal Parbat***

How many times have you reached the summit of Everest?

Twice. In 1999 and 2001. It was on my third and fifth attempts that I was successful in reaching the summit of Everest. My first attempt was in 1997 when the climb was abandoned as three of our expedition members died. In 1998 bad weather forced us to stop and return. In 2000, due to bad weather again we could not go any further than 8,600 m.

What route have you taken to climb Everest?

All my ascents to Everest have been from the Tibet side, Maybe next time I may make my attempt from the Nepal side.

What other mountains have you climbed in Nepal and elsewhere?

I have climbed many peaks in Nepal besides Everest. I have climbed Cho Oyu, Dhaulagiri, Lhotse and Ama Dablam once each. Besides Nepal the Caucacus, which is 6,000 meters. Climbing it is technically more difficult. I have also climbed Tian Shan, Mt. K2, Shisha Pangma twice.

When did you get the desire for climbing the Himalayas?

It was there in me since my childhood. I had heard a lot about them. This was also because my father was also a climber. The inspiration was always there.

What peak are you planning to climb this spring season?

This time it is Manasalu. Next time it may be Everest again.

Which season do you find the best to climb the Himalayan peaks?

For me, personally, all seasons are the same. The climb can be made in any season of the year.

How do you find the Sherpas of Nepal?

They are very good people. They are good friends. I love Nepal and have visited Nepal 17 times already.

What are the others things you like about Nepal?

The people. They are very soft spoken. And I love Nepali food as well. ▲

Formal Training Necessary



Mamuka Tsikaiseli was a member of the Polish International Manasalu Expedition 2003 team to Manasalu together with Gia Tartladge. Excerpts from his interview with ***Nepal Parbat***

When did you first scale Everest successfully?

It was in 1999 with the first Georgian expedition to Everest.

When did you first climb any mountain?

My first attempt at climbing a peak was in 1986.

What are the mountains that you have summitted?

I have scaled many mountains including Pamir, Caucacus, Tian Shan and others.

What generated your interest in mountaineering?

In fact, climbing is popular in Georgia. There is a lot of publicity also.

Any plans to climb Everest again?

Plans there are. I hope to try next time though this time it is Manasalu with the Polish expedition team. I want to return as many times as possible to climb Everest.

Challenges when making an ascent?

First of all good weather is desirable. Formal training is necessary so that problems or difficulties while climbing can be solved. ▲



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Santa Subba is the Managing Director of Kailash Himal Trekking (P) Ltd.



Photo: Bhushan Malla

Mountaineering in the Himalayas.

I still remember and feel the sound of jubilation at a British Gorkha Junior officer's mess in Hong Kong on May 29, 1953. I was very small at that time when my father was serving in the British Gorkha regiment. But the impact of the sound of jubilation and celebration still rings in my ear. It is one of the lasting impressions of my childhood. Now I realise it was the event when Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa had put the first human foot prints on the highest point on earth. Since then the stream of people longing to reach the highest summit on earth and the risk takers who wanted to follow the footsteps of the pioneer have never ceased.

Nepalis, wherever they were, celebrated the heroic feat of Tenzing Norgay. A popular song at that time was "*Hamro Tenzing Sherpa le chadhyo Himal chuchura*" (literal meaning in English 'Our Tenzing Sherpa has climbed the mountain peak). Now, after 50 years, Tenzing Sherpa is no more with us. We are fortunate to have Sir Edmund Hillary among us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the successful ascent of Mt. Everest.

Because of this famous climb, Nepal has been known everywhere in the world. The name of Mt. Everest is enough for any Nepali to give his/her introduction, wide pride of the country where one comes from. This is only comparable to the valour of Gorkha solders in the two world wars fought, on the side of British. We talk about Mt. Everest as if the whole massif belongs to us. Even the records of successful climbs and climbers reflect this sentiment. May be, it is because of the exposure the peak obtained from early days when it was first sighted and, most of the feats accomplished on Mt. Everest made from the south side must have given the feeling that Mt. Everest is synonymous to Nepal. Though some geographers would contend that, in fact, it was within the boundary of Nepal in the days gone by.

Nepalis, wherever they were, celebrated the heroic feat of Tenzing Norgay. A popular song at that time was "Hamro Tenzing Sherpa le chadhyo Himal chuchura" (literal meaning in English 'Our Tenzing Sherpa has climbed the mountain peak).

The successful climb of Mt. Everest heralded the beginning of the golden years of climbing in the Himalayas during which all 8000 m peaks were climbed. The other epoch that started another trend rolling in the anals of the history of climbing of Mt. Everest was when Junko Tabei, a Japanese housewife, stood on top of the Everest summit in 1975. This single event encouraged women in the adventure. Though several other astute women climbers who were more proficient and experienced came to Nepal and climbed other formidable peaks yet the record set by Junko Tabei on Mt. Everest has remained a milestone in mountaineering history. Another landmark event on the Mt. Everest was in 1978, when Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler set foot on the summit without supplemented oxygen. This is no small feat when the biggest deterrent factor, apart from weather, to reach the summit is thin oxygen content in the atmosphere. These events started the race to make record of feats that climbers could perform. In this feat making time names the Nepali climbers are unsurpassed by any other single nationality. Among them

Ang Rita Sherpa and Sambhu Tamang are prominent trendsetters in their own category like highest number of climbs and youngest to climb respectively. There are other great climbers who have set records by climbing in the shortest duration, stayed longest on the summit and climbed with national dress, etc.

The history of mountaineering is incomplete without mentioning Mt. Everest and the people who made history. Mt. Everest opened the gate for adventure tourism in Nepal. Trekking to the base camp of Mt. Everest has made it a single biggest destination. It created wide opportunities for people living in its vicinity and in far away places to make good living on tourism. The allure of this majestic peak has continued to nourish the economy of Solu Khumbu thereby generating multiple effects in the national economy.

Mt. Everest, like any mother, has only given. The renowned climbers became what they are today because of Mt. Everest. Though some have given back what they could in return in various forms either helping local inhabitants or through development activities in the region but the majority of the famous and not so famous climbers have only taken. In return, Mt. Everest has received nothing. In fact, it does not need anything except respect. Many would still come, climb and go but the lofty peak would remain there, as it has always been never asking anything in return.

Besides the bold and adventurous even we who live on its beauty and attraction have not given back. Instead many have climbed to its shoulders and made a mess all around. It is only due to sheer magnitude of this huge mountain all the debris and garbage have been buried underneath its cover. Perhaps human beings are by nature voracious uses of nature rather than giver. Trekkers, mountaineers, and people who live on it are no different from people elsewhere who haphazardly use nature. It is indeed sad to discover that we do not respect it. We don't even leave it alone to replenish itself. Moreover, now climbers can climb the peaks at any time they wish making it available at any time throughout the year. Sir Edmund Hillary did said at one time the mountain should be left alone for some time but human hunger is so big that his wise thought was regarded foolish and sometimes even selfish.

Perhaps, we as human beings are selfish by nature. We live by the instinct of survival of the fittest. Once it is over, we forget the service rendered to us. Sir Edmund is noticed because he is knighted. He is respected and remembered because he brought education in Namche and other places nearby. But the people of Khumbu forgot the teacher brought by Sir Edmund Hillary who gave education in the lives of many Sherpas.



Photo: Bhushan Malla

Expedition in the Himalayas.

It is ironic to feel unashamed as we continue to live in the fame of Mt. Everest. Apart from adventure and climbing, we cannot promote Nepal without its name. The promotion materials have to have its name without which the whole marketing is incomplete. We did try to build a different image than Mt. Everest using our unique blend of mixed and varied cultures but this has yet to have similar exposure as Mt. Everest. No matter how much we use its name its utility value will never diminish.

There are second opinions that questioned the over use of Mt. Everest. The mountaineering policy makers restricted the number of expeditions at one time and again allowed unlimited number of expeditions at other times. Restriction came in many forms. Sometime there is age limit, and at other times high price tag to climb the peak. Number of members in each team is another restriction. All these have been done to deter over use of the mountain but nothings seems to stop people from climbing the highest mountain on earth. The lure of Mt. Everest attracts not only the bold and adventurous but rich and beautiful too. The big expedition teams with national sentiment and big budget continue to be part of events in Mt. Everest ever since it was first ascend through alpine style climbing in 80's was in vogue.

Nothing seems to deter people from climbing the highest peak through the most popular route pioneered by the first summiteers. Imminent personalities even expressed misgivings as to the way it has been climbed and the crowd allowed in the climbing route. It is sad to see the definition of adventure changes and sheer joy of climbing and experiencing the limit of human beings replaced by record making and breaking race. The meaning of success, as generally defined by Sir Edmund Hillary, is that 'it is not only to climb up the summit but it is equally important to descend safely to the base camp' is important. The summiteers should be able to descend gracefully with dignity. It is no more 'I climb because it is there' kind of a situation. Now, the mountain especially Mt. Everest is climbed not in the spirit of pure sports or pursuit of adventure, nor the urge and emotion involve attracted disabled and disadvantaged. At least this seems to be the case in the eye of general public who keep track of the events on Mt. Everest. But else can the manager of Mt. Everest could do at a time when this popular peak has high commercial value. The high tag requires big sponsors and these sponsors need special events to attract the worldwide viewers. In such a situation individual climbers in the pursuit of sports have remained left out.

Mt. Everest is truly a mother Goddess like the inhabitants of the mountain have always believed. No matter how we climb and the degree of satisfaction we get from climbing we behave just like children. Her prestige and allure would continue to attract more stunt kind of adventure in the next 50 years. And traditional style of climbing would be refined by the introduction of high tech equipment. At that time most of us would not be around to witness it. However, the day it was first climbed - May 29th 1953 – and the name of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay and the 50th anniversary celebrations that attempts to gather all the successful climbers who are living would always be remembered. ▲

Dignity of Everest : Some Questions

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The British aristocrats undertook climbing as pastime and adventure in and around European Alps almost two centuries ago. Such pastime and adventure activities were extended to exploration and research in the remote areas with three major motives namely 1. Pass time hobby 2, Adventure and 3. Exploration behind it. Three motives combined together led them to organise bigger expeditions on the high Himalayas and the mountains of Latin America and Africa. The mountaineering expedition activities required lot of resources thus were limited to the wealthy section of the society and nation. Until and unless sponsored by the government or big companies, mountaineering expeditions could not have taken place. Even today most of the expeditions are sponsored by multi-national corporate houses and governments.

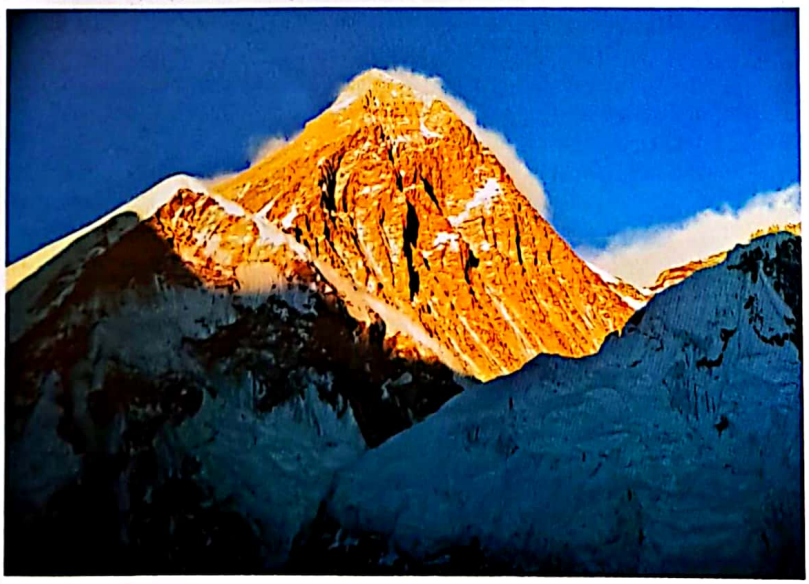


Photo: Capt. Bed Upreti

As the first rays of the sun touch Mt. Everest.

Record Setters on Mt. Everest

Radha Krishna Sikhdhar, the chief computer of Trigonometrical Survey of India, based on various measurements, finally found the then Peak XV as the highest peak on the earth during the 1860's. This very Peak XV was named after the retired Surveyor General of British India George Everest in 1865. Since then this Peak XV is popularly known as Mt. Everest. The local native name in Sherpa language is Chomolungma (mother goddess) and Quomolungma in Tibet.

Being the highest point on earth, Mt. Everest has attracted adventurers and explorers since 1921 from Tibet side. George Mallory was a climbing member of the expedition team that discovered the east Rongbuk Glacier route to climb Quomolungma, the most popular route even today.

The first record ever set on Everest was by Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary when they became the first humans to have summited it on May 29, 1953, fifty years before. And this historic occasion is being celebrated with great enthusiasm and spirit under the name of Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration in Nepal under the banner of Destination Nepal Campaign launched by HMG/Nepal to bring Nepal once again into limelight and popularise Nepal as a most favored destination in the world tourism map.

Ever since their success story, many expedition teams and even individual have made it successfully to the top of Everest. Since then the demand was felt for superior climbing equipment, hence, the manufacturers improvised the equipment from the safety point of view making sure that they not only were durable but also lighter and reliable. The climbing techniques have been improved as well making possible to climb the mountain easier than before and which resulted in setting and breaking world records on Everest one after another.

Looking back into the motives how mountaineering started one cannot say Edmund Hillary, Tenzing Norgay, Ms. Junko Tabei and Mr. Shambhu Tamang had

the slightest of intention of making records. It seems it happened by way of exploration, test of human endurance into the thin air and driven by the intuition for the challenge posed by Mt. Everest. It is same with the other high peaks of the mighty Himalayan range such as Mt. Annapurna I in 1950 and Mt. Manaslu in1956 to name a few. To quote Shambhu Tamang : "I did not know I was the youngest to summit Everest, all my concern then was how to riddle the giant mustang and land safely to Base Camp. Back in Kathmandu it was the journalists who told me I was the youngest. It was a great surprise for me."

A few records on Everest

- Chinese formed the biggest team consisting of 110 member in 1975;
- Most ascents in a year by putting 129 mountaineers atop in 1993;
- Highest number of human loss was recorded in 1996;
- Highest number of summitteers was recorded on a single day on May 16, 2002 by putting 64 climbers on the summit.

These records have compelled the cross section of the society to think over the aesthetic and original motive behind mountaineering. Not only that the sanctity of the mountain was also questioned and the environmental issue flared up once again.

Besides these records, a new set of records have been set e.g. the oldest, couple, the disabled, the blind to name a few. Many people are joining the rat race. Observing the trend of modern commercial mountaineering these days, two aspects need to be brought into the notice of all concerned firstly the HMG/Nepal, and secondly the mountaineers themselves.

HMG/Nepal has exorbitantly increased the royalty for Everest. The rationale behind this was that Everest is National ICON, a pilgrimage for mountaineers, a symbol of challenge and rare gift of nature. The other strong argument given was to discourage so many number of expedition teams and help to keep the mountain clean. Despite the above reasoning we have seen record number of expedition teams on Everest which raises two questions :- First, by such records it encourages many more expeditions to climb thus increased revenue for the government and income for the people engaged in the expeditions. At the same time Nepal receives wider publicity. Secondly, such record making sprees devalues the prestige and fame received by previous climbers who did it in the true sense of climbing in quest of adventure, hobby, exploration and profession. This will give negative message to true mountaineers and Everest will lose its attraction while people may divert their attention in search of other adventures and challenges.

These two arguments seem to hold ground in their own way. Nevertheless, certain norms and values of mountaineering need to be maintained for the sake of Everest itself and the heroes of Everest. This is the right time to set minimum criterion for Everest climbers when we are engaged in celebrating the fiftieth year of the historic feat of mankind, the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration 2002-2003 on May 29, 2003 in commemoration of the success story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa.



Photo: Galeottus Martius

Sherpa man in contemplation.

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STUDY

Sagarmatha Discovery, Nomenclature and First Summiteers

Dr. Padma C. Poudel is associated with Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu and Nepal Geographical Society.

Mountains are faulted or folded strata of elevated landforms with steepness of slope and enormous environmental contrasts within a relatively short distance. They offer enchanting scenic beauty, inspiration and symbol of peace and strength for mankind. Therefore, high mountains are regarded as objects of worship, abode of the gods, ideal place of natural laboratories for research and to communicate with nature. Hence, mountains have attracted men since antiquity.

In the world, the biggest geo-ecological zone of high mountains (Himalayas) is the Hindakush Himalaya (HKH) Range that extends over 2400 kilometers between Brahmaputra River in the East and Indus River in the West. The peak of Namcha Brawa (7,755 m.) Tibet Autonomous Region, China) in the East, Sagarmatha (8,848m, Nepal Himalaya) in the Centre and Naga Parbat (8,125m, Punjab Himalaya, India) in the West are its highest point.

Nepal Himalaya almost at the Central location of HKH covers a third (850 kms) of its length. It has 28 main ranges (Fig. 1) and panoply of 1792 peaks over 5,500 meters (Table 1). Out of the total 21 peaks of the globe exceeding 8,000 m. seventeen (80.9%) are in Nepal Himalaya. Including "Sagarmatha", 10 peaks higher than 8,000 m. are in Mahalangur Himalaya Range. Mahalangur Himalaya Range has three sub-systems – Makalu, Barun and Khumbu and consists 320 peaks higher than 5,500 meter. The other ranges Rolwaling, Janak, Dhaulagiri, Damodar and Gurans have more than 100 peaks over 5,500 m. In the rest 21 Himalayan Ranges number of peaks over 5,500 m. are 3-96. Kutang, Lugula, Nilgiri and Nalakankar Ranges have the least number (3-6) of peaks higher than 5,500 meter (Table 1).

Table. 1
Number of Peaks in Nepal Himalaya by Range

S. No.	Range	Total Peaks	Peaks >8000m	Peaks 5500-8000m	Peaks >5500m but height not identified
1.	Kanchenjunga	71	4	66	1
2.	Janak (Jhingsang)	130	-	130	-
3.	Umbak	40	-	40	-
4.	Mahalangur	320	10	293	17
5.	Rolwaling	138	-	103	35
6.	Pamari	27	-	27	-
7.	Jugal	62	-	62	-
8.	Langtang	15	-	15	-
9.	Ganesh	43	-	43	-
10.	Sringi (Serang)	9	-	9	-
11.	Kutang	4	-	4	-
12.	Manasalu (Mansiri)	40	1	28	11
13.	Peri	72	-	34	38
14.	Lugula	3	-	3	-
15.	Damodar	101	-	100	1
16.	Nilgiri	5	-	5	-
17.	Annapurna	42	1	41	-
18.	Dhaulagiri	108	1	105	2
19.	Mustang	92	-	86	6
20.	Gautam	96	-	82	14
21.	Palchung Hamga	13	-	9	4
22.	Kanjiroba	80	-	80	-
23.	Kanti	42	-	16	26
24.	Gorakh	22	-	14	8
25.	Changla	36	-	25	11
26.	Chandi	67	-	66	1
27.	Nalakankar	6	-	6	-
28.	Gurans	108	-	96	12
	Total	1792	17	1583	187

Source: CDG.T.U. 2000. Inventory of Nepal Himalaya Peaks. Unpublished Project Report Submitted to the Ministry of Tourism and civil Aviation, Industrial Branch, Exhibition Road, Kathmandu.

Discovery of Sagarmatha

Col. Crawford, in 1810, on a visit to Kathmandu, tried to measure the height of Sagarmatha by means of vertical angle. However, "Up to 1850, Nandadevi (25,650 ft.) had been the highest summit actually observed, but in that year calculations showed that Dhoulagiri (26,800 ft.) was higher. Nevertheless, it was assumed Kanchenjunga visible as a prominent peak from Darjeeling was the highest peak and Everest was hidden" (Lippan. 1982: 368).

Sagarmatha was formally discovered 152 years ago by Survey of India, when it carried out the Great Trigonometrical Survey during 1849-51. The summit of Sagarmatha at that time was named by Surveyor with the Roman figure peak XV. The Survey of the peak was conducted from six stations located at the distance of about 180 kilometers and an elevation of 70 meters above the mean sea level (Gulattee 1954:4). From those observations the

height of XV peak was obtained as 29002 ft (8,840 m) above the mean sea level.

During 1880-83 and 1902, further surveys of the mountain were performed from Darjeeling, India, at a distance of about 148 kilometers. This survey recorded 8,882 meter as the height of Peak XV. Even if more (+ 42m) difference to the earlier observation, this value (8,882m) was considered as the real height of Peak XV, until 1952. India carried out the Survey of Nepal Himalaya in 1952-1954 from Nepalese territory at a distance of 48-78 kms within an elevation of 2643-5000 meters. These observations were performed for the first time from Nepal and recorded the height (29,028 ft) 8848m, 26 ft higher than that was recorded in 1849-51 from Indian Territory.

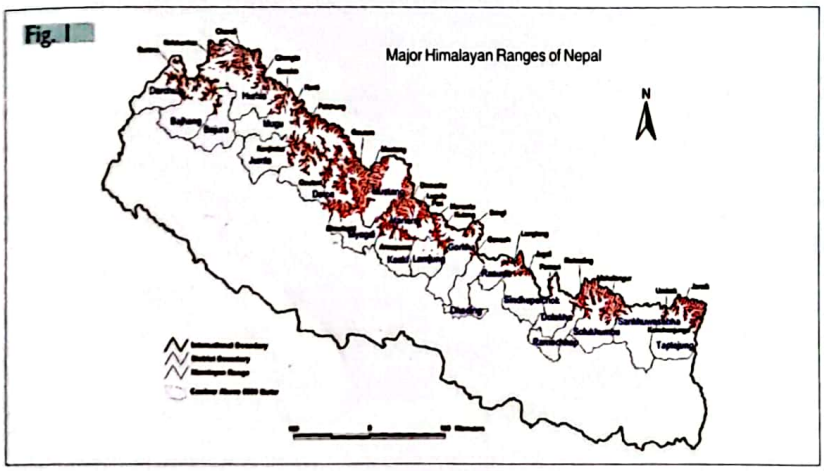
Similarly, the measurement of the world's highest peak was carried out from Chinese part in 1975 with the help of Trigonometrical Survey from nine points in Tibet (Chen and Gun 1980: 4). Out of these nine points, one was linked to the Chinese Geodetic height network. This survey determined the height of Sagarmatha to be 8,848.13 meters with snow thickness of 0.92 meters above the Yellow Sea level. Then only Nepal and the rest of the world confirmed the height of world's highest peak "Sagarmatha" 8,848 m. as authentic and official.

Several other Surveys – Wallerstein in 1987; Deio Ardito in 1987; Washburn 1984, 1992, 1997, 1999; Bilham in 1991; Athams in 1999 were carried out to determine the height of Sagarmatha. All these surveys reported increase by about two meters, the height of Sagarmatha (Beinat et. Al 1992:10, Shrestha 2000:5). But, Beinat, Marchesini and Poretti reported that the height of Sagarmatha had decreased by about two meters. They write " The thickness of the snow was measured with a sounding rod to be 2.5555m: the height above the rock results consequently 8,846.10 meters". But, HMG Nepal, Ministry of Land Reform and Management, the line Ministry of Survey Department, through a press release on in December, 1999 denied the change of height of Sagarmatha and re-confirmed the height 8,848 meter, which was declared in 1955. However, since the issue of change in the height (increase or decrease) of Sagarmatha has been raised publically, concerned Departments of HMG, NGOs, INGO's, Nepal Geographical Society and Nepal Mountaineering Association need to work in co-ordination and bring the reality to the public formally and officially.

Nomenclature of Sagarmatha

"SAGARMATHA" is the pride of Nepal and Nepalese. Sagarmatha, the Nepalese name of the world's highest peak was nomencleated by Laureate historian of Nepal, Baburam Acharya in 2013 B.S. This name is based on repeated field survey, local people's opinion, meaning of Chinese name and religious and traditional documents (Shrestha 2000:296; Bhattarai 1995). The name Sagarmatha is composed of two Nepali words *Sagar* and *Matha*. *Sagar* means the heaven or sky and, *Matha* means the head i.e. the source of the ocean or highest point of the globe to the heaven or sky or forehead of the globe. The geographical name "Third pole of the globe" also correspond to the Nepali name Sagarmatha and Chinese, Tibetan name Qomolongma. Qomolongma means the supremacy of the goddess.

Fig. 1



Local people name the Goddess of the base camp as Miologargma (the goddess at the highest point). It is an ancient religious tradition of the Sherpa to worship Miologangma at the base camp and pray for the success and safety of the team before proceeding ahead (Sherpa 2003:1). Perhaps, the tradition of worshiping Miologarma (Goddess Sagarmatha) may have been established by the local Yak herders as that of worshiping Goddess Annapurna at the base camp of Annapurna I. The tradition and name of the Goddess provides an indication of the pre-existence of the local name of the peak.

During the tenure of Andrew Scott Waugh (1843-1861) as a Surveyor General of India, the Surveyor Radha Nath Sickdhar and Nepali Corporal Tej Bir Budhathoki worked at the field and surveyed Sagarmatha. George Everest, after whom the highest peak of the world is named, contributed during the initial period of Trigonometrical Survey of India by establishing the Baseline at Dehra Dun (1834-1835); cover India by Triangulation and heading the extension of the Arc towards Himalayas (Smith 1990). Documents related to the highest peak of the world Waugh's (letter to Major Thuller in Calcutta in 1856), Smith 1990, etc. does not show George Everest's personal involvement in the Survey, exploration and research of Nepal Himalaya. However, in 1865 Andrew Scott Waugh, the then Surveyor General of India wished to honor his predecessor Sir George Everest and change the name of world's highest peak from Peak XV to Mount Everest. To materialize his wish and make the announcement by Captain Thullier, the in-charge, Surveyor General Office Calcutta writes in a letter dated first March 1856 as – "——But here is a mountain most probably the highest in the world, without any local name that we can discover, whose native appellation, if it has any, will not likely be ascertained before we are allowed to penetrate into Nepal and approach close to this steependous snowy mass. In the mean time the privilege as well as the duty devolves on one to assign to this lofty pinnacle of our globe a name whereby it may be known among geographers and became a household word among civilized nations. In virtue of this privilege in testimony of any affectionate respect for a revered chief in conformity with what I believe to be the wish of all the members of the scientific department over which I have the honor to preside, and to perpetuate the memory of that illustrious master of accurate geographical research. I have determined to name noble peak of the Himalaya **"Mt. Everest"**.
(for detail see the letter in Waugh's hand writing **Souvenir** – Everest Bi-centenary celebration, Survey of India, 1990).

The wordings of the letter of Waugh proposing to change the name Peak XV to Mount Everest are reflexive of the loyalty to the predecessor and the person in power, working as the manager of Royal Geographical Society, Royal Astronomical Society and different Royal Institutions of England. His letter clearly reflects that they had not been able to enter Nepal, search local name and the proposed name was based on his wish.

Therefore, change of name from Peak XV to Everest has no rational justification. If change is acceptable, why not adopt the local name "SAGARMATHA" by all in every type of writings and dealing as Mumbai for Bombay, Kolkata for Calcutta. In this perspective, the expression of D.W. Freshfield, Secretary to the Royal Geographical Society as "Since the name Everest still resides in English speaking Atlases, it is felt that nothing will now change" (Smith 1990: no page number), is meaningless.

The Nepali name of world's highest peak "SAGARMATHA" has been in the public tongue of Nepalese. Hence, HMG of Nepal, Nepalese organizations and Institutions etc. need to pay their attention to this issue and support to appraise the glory of Nepal and the Nepalese.

Endeavor for the Summit

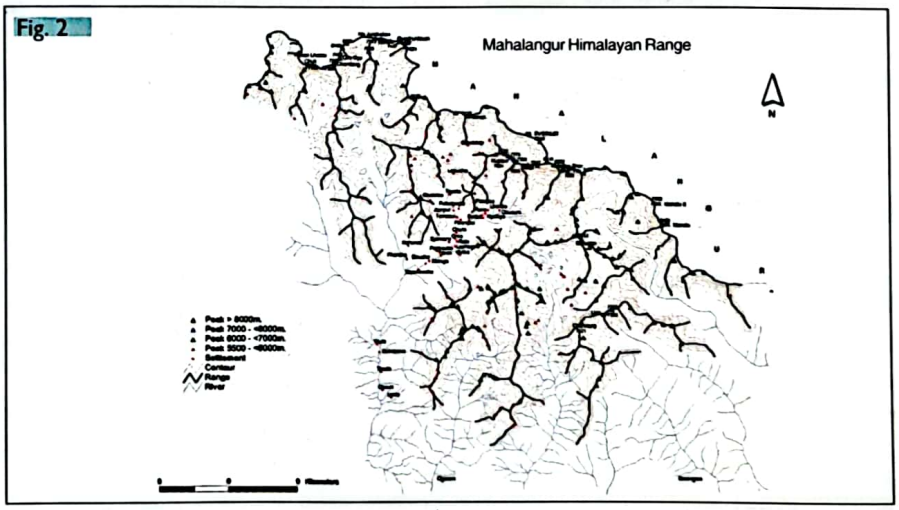
Clinton Dent first raised the question of climbing Sagarmatha publicly, as early as 1885. However, the thought of Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, was the leading endeavor for expedition to Sagarmatha. The Viceroy encouraged A.L Mumm and Tom Longstaff, two members of the Alpine Club, to scale Sagarmatha, and celebrate Golden Jubilee of the Club in 1907 (Unsworth 1995:2). But his thought could not materialise due to the lack of positive support from John Morley, Secretary of State of India. In those days India was under British rule. Therefore, it was easy for the British Government to encourage or discourage any expedition to any peak of Nepal Himalaya.

Aside from the ancient Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims, before 1949 only a few foreigners that too for missionary purpose were allowed to enter into the country. Even Nepalese nationals were required to obtain permits for visiting specified places within the country, that was merely valid for a period of seven days (Chand 2000:11, Karan et . al 1994:216). Therefore, exploration of Nepal Himalaya started mainly after 1949 (Gurung 1968:4).

Alexandar E. Powel got permission to visit Nepal during Nepalese Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher's medical treatment visit to Calcutta. Powel, at the end of his travel to Nepal in 1929, expressed that- "A British envoy resides at Kathmandu, where he is treated as an honored prisoner, not being permitted to go beyond a certain prescribed area without permission of the Nepalese authorities. For upward of a hundred years the government of Nepal steadfastly followed a policy of "absolute but friendly isolation", it has kept its gates closed to Europeans. It is safe to say indeed, that the Americans who have succeeded in penetrating as far as the capital could be numbered on the fingers of a single hand" (Powel 1991:178).

Nepalese Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher visited England in 1908 and was much honored by the Royal Geographical Society in London, hoping Sagarmatha would become approachable from the Nepal Side. But the hope of Royal Geographical Society could not take shape, because, prior to 1927 neither European surveyors nor travellers were given permission to enter Nepal, nor was photography allowed (Ward and Clark 1992:47).

The real opening of Nepal for foreign visitors began in the summer of 1949. In that year Arnold Heim made an aerial flight over Dhaulagiri, S. Dillon Ripley searched for mountain quail in Rekcha (Surkhet) and Chainpur, H.W. Tilman's party explored and climbed Langtang and Ganesh Himal, and Sutterr-Lohner's expedition made a 99 day alpine trek around Kanchenjunga (Gurung 1989:133). During that time (1950-51) all the Himalayan peaks of Nepal were permitted for mountaineering, including some now in the restricted list.



The closed door of Tibet, for the entry of foreign mountaineers opened in 1913 and J.B. Noel got permission for an expedition. Disguised as a local, Noel made a clandestine journey into Tibet in 1913, and arrived 40 miles (64 kms.) near Sagarmatha. This was the closest arrival of Westerners to Sagarmatha. Noel addressed the story of adventure travel to Sagarmatha at the meeting of Royal Geographical Society, London, in 1919, and once again raised the issue of climbing the world's highest peak. Consequently, Sagarmatha Expedition Committee and team were formed in 1921. This expedition team set out for Sagarmatha in the pre-monsoon season in 1921 from Tibet, China.

George Mallory, a British mountaineer, made a reconnaissance survey of Sagarmatha in 1921 and attempted to scale it in 1922. But he failed due to lack of proper assessment of the nature of weather and altitude. However, he was determined and expressed "Everest should be climbed because it is there". Also, he further expressed that "man should always try to overcome the greatest challenges confronting him". The second expedition to Sagarmatha took place in 1922. During this expedition Geoffrey Bruce and George Finch succeeded to reach a height of 8,320 m. The third expedition from Tibet took place in 1924. Two members of this expedition George Leigh Mallory, 37, (a talented writer, school master and a member of Ice Club at Winchester) and Andrew Comyn Irvine, only 22 years, reached much higher than that of the 1922 expedition. Unfortunately, both Mallory and Irvine disappeared on the way to or from the top (Hawley, No date:1).

In 1975, a Chinese expedition team followed the route of Mallory. One of the Chinese climbers Hangbao (who was following the Japanese women expedition team) said to a member of Japanese women team that "the body of a British climber had been found at 8,100m. This body may be of Mallory's or Irving's. Unfortunately, Hangbao himself was killed in an avalanche before he could be questioned further" (Unsworth 1995:3). Therefore, whether Mallory and Irvine reached the top of Sagarmatha is still an unsolved question.

The fourth expedition to Sagarmatha was set in 1933 by a group of military and non-military climbers but it could not reach higher than that of 1924 expedition (Unsworth 1995:3). In the succeeding years attempts to scale Sagarmatha were made in 1930, 1931, 1932, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1947, 1948, 1950 and 1953 by expedition teams of different countries, but they were not successful.

Fortunate Summiteers

Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary are the first victorious summiteers of Sagarmatha. They set foot on the top of Sagarmatha on 29 May 1953 from South Col, Nepal. This expedition team led by Lord John Hunt was formed of 13 members including a reporter and a cameraman. Three hundred and fifty porters were employed by the team to carry the equipments, other logistics and silver coins for the payment of the expenditure.

The expedition team spent two weeks in Khumbu area for acclimatization and struggled for 13 days to establish Camp VIII on South Col. Charles Evans and Bourdillon made the first attempt from this camp and reached 100m below the summit and succeeded to fix Camp IX at 27,900ft (8,508m). There, Tenzing and Hillary stayed overnight to try the highest peak in the following day. On 29th May 1953 they began to climb at 6.30 AM and reached South Summit at 9 A.M. Weather was exceptionally fine and favorable to step up to the top. They overcame the rock step laboriously and finally set foot on the summit of Sagarmatha at 11.30 A.M. They descended carefully and were met by George Lowe and Wifrid Noyce at the South Col. On June 2nd all the team members assembled safely, down in the Base Camp (John Hunt 1953: 32).

Credence of the Fortunate Summiteers

Tenzing Norgay, 11th child among 13, was born in a poor Yak herder's Sherpa family on May 1914 in the village of Thame, Solokhumbu, Eastern, Nepal. His birth name was Namgyal Wangdi. Later, Lama of Rongbuk, Solukhumbu changed his name as Tenzing Norgay. His parents send him to a monastery to carve him into Lama. He found life in the monastery dull and drab. Thus, one day, Tenzing left the monastery and came back to his home and resumed herding of Yak to high pastures up to the glaciers. This inspired him dreaming to set his foot on the top of the mountain. Therefore, in his late teens he traveled to Darjeeling, India, the Mecca of adventurous Sherpa, in those days. For many years, Tenzing worked as low altitude porter and progressed as high altitude porter, Sherpa Sirdar. Continuous attempt and determination placed him as a climbing member. In 1932, the British expedition team of Eric Shipton included him in the team. The team failed, however, it provided stamp of experience to Tenzing. Consequently, in 1947, he was recognized as Sirdar of Sherpas. In 1952, the Swiss climbers of the autumn expedition made Tenzing as both Sirdar and climbing member. This team climbed up to a height of 8,613m (28,250ft). Tenzing worked hard in different capacities to fulfill his dream. Appraising his strength and determination, Hillary expressed as : "Tenzing was outstanding Sirdar of his time and the obvious choice to lead the Sherpas on our expedition. Tenzing and I were given the summit job and with the vigorous support of all the team we had our great day on top on 29th May 1953" (Hillary 1995:6).

Edmund Hillary was born on 20 July, 1919 at Auckland, New Zealand. He was a beekeeper by profession. He learned mountaineering in his native country. Later, he joined the British expedition team and succeeded in scaling Sagarmatha, the highest mountain of the world on 29th May 1953 along with Tenzing Norgay.

Conclusion

Mountains are the zones with fragile eco-system. Mountaineering in the fragile eco-system and traditional values and culture need to ensure a balance between the numbers of mountaineers and the activities without favoritism of politics and economics of materialism. If mountaineering is to be a vehicle of the development and poverty mitigation, participation is required of the people both rich and poor, higher and scheduled castes in environmental management and mountain tourism development programmes. Otherwise, in the long run continuous and increasing pressure of mountaineering expeditions in the fragile eco-system of the same mountain area may prove to be more a burden than benefit. Therefore, every care needs to be given for the use and maintenance of fragile mountain environment. Continuous increment of mountaineering along with their support staffs cannot support environmental ethics and satisfy environmental concerns. The complete restriction of mountaineering also can't bring back the original virginity of the mountain and the environment, nor can local people be ignored looking at only the ecological and environmental problems. Therefore, the only viable alternative is sustainable mountain tourism (mountaineering) that can resolve the ever-present dialectical tension between economy and ecology, autonomy and dependence, and development and the carrying capacity.

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Chronology

SUCCESSFUL EVEREST SUMMITEERS

From Nepal's side

S.N.	NAME	ROUTE	DATE OF AICENT	NATIONALITY
1.	Tenzing Norgay	South Col	29.5.1953	Nepal
2.	Edmund Hillary	South Col	29.5.1953	New Zealand
3.	Ernst Schmied	South Col	23.5.1956	Switzerland
4.	Juerge Marmet	South Col	23.5.1956	Switzerland
5.	Adolf Reist	South Col	24.5.1956	Switzerland
6.	Hansrudolf Von Gunten	South Col	24.5.1956	Switzerland
7.	Jim Whittaker	South Col	1.5.1963	USA
8.	Nawang Gombu	South Col	1.5.1963	India
9.	Barry Bishop	South Col	22.5.1963	USA
10.	Luther Jerstad	South Col	22.5.1963	USA
11.	Williunsoeld	South Col	22.5.1963	USA
12.	Thomas F. Hombein	South Col	22.5.1963	USA
13.	A.S. Cheema	South Col	20.5.1963	India
14.	Nawang Bombu	South Col	20.5.1963	India
15.	Sonam Gyasto	South Col	22.5.1965	India
16.	Sonam Wangyal	South Col	22.5.1965	India
17.	C.P. Johra	South Col	24.5.1965	India
18.	Ang Kami Sherpa	South Col	24.5.1965	India
19.	H.P.S. Ahluwali	South Col	29.5.1965	India
20.	H.C.S. Rawat	South Col	29.5.1965	India
21.	Phu Dorjee Sherpa	South Col	29.5.1965	Nepal
22.	Naomi Uemora	South Col	11.5.1965	Japan
23.	Teruo Matsuurn	South Col	11.5.1965	Japan
24.	Katsutoshi Hirabayshi	South Col	12.5.1970	Japan
25.	Chotare Sherpa	South Col	12.5.1970	Nepal
26.	Ranaldo Careel	South Col	5.5.1973	Italy
27.	Mike Minunzzo	South Col	5.5.1973	Italy
28.	Lhakpa Ten Sherpa	South Col	5.5.1973	Italy
29.	Shambu Tamang	South Col	5.5.1973	Nepal
30.	Farrizion Innamorate	South Col	7.5.1973	Italy
31.	Virginio Epis	South Col	7.5.1973	Italy
32.	Chaudio Benedetti	South Col	7.5.1973	Italy
33.	Sonam Gyaljen Sherpa	South Col	7.5.1973	Nepal
34.	Yasuo Kato	South Col	26.10.1973	Japan
35.	Hisashi Ishiguro	South Col	26.5.1975	Japan
36.	Mrs. Junko Tabei	South Col	16.5.1975	Japan
37.	Ang Tshering Sherpa	South Col	16.5.1975	Nepal
38.	Doug Scott	South West Face	24.9.1975	British
39.	Dougal Haston	South West Face	24.9.1975	British
40.	Peter Boardman	South West Face	26.9.1975	British
41.	Pertemba Sherpa	South West Face	26.9.1975	Nepal
42.	Brommy Stokes	South Col	6.5.1976	British
43.	Bronco Land	South Col	6.5.1976	British
44.	Robert Cormack	South Col	8.10.1976	USA
45.	Chris Changler	South Col	8.10.1976	USA
46.	Sang Don Ku	South Col	15.9.1977	Korea
47.	Pemba Noru Sherpa	South Col	15.9.1977	Nepal
48.	Wolfgang Nairz	South Col	3.5.1978	Australia
49.	Robert Sxhauer	South Col	3.5.1978	Australia
50.	Ang Phu Sherpa	South Col	3.5.1978	Nepal
51.	Horst Bergmann	South Col	3.5.1978	Austria
52.	Renhold Messner	South Col	8.5.1978	Italy
53.	Peter Habeler	South Col	8.5.1978	Italy
54.	Dr. Oswald Qelz	South Col	11.5.1978	Italy
55.	Rainhard Karl	South Col	11.5.1978	West Germany
56.	Franz Oppurg	South Col	14.5.1978	Austria
57.	Mack Josef	South Col	14.10.1978	West Germany
58.	Hans Engl	South Col	14.10.1978	West Germany
59.	Hubert Hilimaier	South Col	14.10.1978	West Germany
60.	Jean Afanvassief	South Col	15.10.1978	France
61.	Hicolas Jaeger	South Col	15.10.1978	France
62.	Pierre Mazeaud	South Col	15.10.1978	France
63.	Kurt Diemberger	South Col	15.10.1978	Austria
64.	Robert Allengabach	South Col	16.10.1978	Switzerland
65.	Ms. Wanda Rutkewicz	South Col	16.10.1978	Poland
66.	Siegeried Hupfauer	West Ridge	16.10.1978	West Germany
67.	Wilhelm Klimek	West Ridge	16.10.1978	West Germany
68.	Mingma Sherpa	West Ridge	16.10.1978	Nepal
69.	Ang Dorjee Sherpa	West Ridge	16.10.1978	Nepal
70.	Ang Kami Tsering Sherpa	West Ridge	16.10.1978	Nepal
71.	Georg Ratzer	West Ridge	17.10.1978	West Germany
72.	Bernd Dulimann	West Ridge	17.10.1978	West Germany
73.	Zaplocnik Zarej	West Ridge	13.5.1978	Yugoslavia
74.	Stremfel J. Andre	West Ridge	13.5.1978	Yugoslavia
75.	Ang Rita Sherpa	West Ridge	15.5.1979	Nepal
76.	Bozic Stipe	West Ridge	15.5.1979	Nepal
77.	Stane Belak	West Ridge	15.5.1979	Yugoslavia
78.	Hermannwarth	South Col	1.10.1979	Germany
79.	Hans Von Vaenel	South Col	1.10.1979	Switzerland
80.	Gerhard Schmaiz	South Col	1.10.1979	Germany
81.	Pertemba Sherpa	South Col	1.10.1979	Nepal
82.	Lhakpa Gyalu Sherpa	South Col	1.10.1979	Nepal
83.	Tilman Gishbach	South Col	2.10.1979	W. Germany
84.	Gunter Keniple	South Col	2.10.1979	W. Germany
85.	Nicholas Victoer Aloysius Banks	South Col	2.10.1979	New Zealand
86.	Rsm. Hannelo Schamatz	South Col	2.10.1979	West Germany
87.	Raymond EdWard Genet	South Col	2.10.1979	USA
88.	Ang Jambu Sherpa	South Col	2.10.1979	Nepal
89.	Ang Phurba Sherpa	South Col	2.10.1979	Nepal
90.	Sungdare Sherpa	South Col	2.10.1979	Nepal
91.	Krysztof Wielicki	South Col	17.2.1980	Poland
92.	Leszek Cichy	South Col	17.2.1980	Poland
93.	Pasang Temba Sherpa	South Col	14.5.1980	Spain
94.	Martin Zabaleta	South Col	14.5.1980	Spain
95.	Ansrzei Czuk	South Pillar	19.5.1980	Poland
96.	Jerzy Kukuczka	South Pillar	19.5.1980	Poland
97.	Christoperh Kopazynski	South East Ridge	21.10.1980	USA
98.	Ang Tenzing Sherpa	South East Ridge	21.10.1980	Nepal
99.	Christopert Pizzo	South East Ridge	24.10.1981	USA
100.	Ang Tenzing Sherpa	South East Ridge	24.10.1981	Nepal
101.	Peter Hacket	South East Ridge	24.10.1981	USA
102.	Myslovsky Eduard	S.W. Face	4.5.1982	USSR*
103.	Ralyberdin Vladimir	S.W. Face	4.5.1982	USSR*
104.	Bershov Serget	S.W. Face	4.5.1982	USSR*
105.	Turkevttch Mikhail	S.W. Face	4.5.1982	USSR*
106.	Ivanov Valentin	S.W. Face	5.5.1982	USSR*
107.	Efimov Sergei	S.W. Face	5.5.1982	USSR*
108.	Khrischaryii Valerv	S.W. Face	8.5.1982	USSR*
109.	Valiey Kazbek	S.W. Face	8.5.1982	USSR*
110.	Velery Khomutov	S.W. Face	9.5.1982	USSR*
111.	Yun Coiodov	S.W. Face	9.5.1982	USSR*
112.	Vladimir Putchkov	S.W. Face	9.5.1982	USSR*
113.	Laurie Skreslet	South Col	5.10.1982	Canada
114.	Sungdare Sherpa	South Col	5.10.1982	Nepal
115.	Lhakpa Dorje Sherpa	South Col	5.10.1982	Nepal
116.	Patrik Marrow	South Col	7.10.1982	Canada
117.	Pema Dorje	South Col	7.10.1982	Nepal
118.	Lhakpa Tsering	South Col	7.10.1982	Nepal
119.	Yasuo Kato	South E. Ridge	27.12.1983	Japan
120.	Garry Neptune	South Col	14.4.1983	USA
121.	Janes Statew	South Col	14.4.1983	USA
122.	Lhakpa Dorjee Sherpa	South Col	14.4.1983	Nepal
123.	David F. Breashers	South Col	7.5.1983	USA
124.	Peter Jamieson	South Col	7.5.1983	USA
125.	Geraed Roach	South Col	7.5.1983	USA
126.	Larry Nielson	South Col	7.5.1983	USA
127.	Ang Rita Sherpa	South Col	7.5.1983	Nepal
128.	Sanguku Kawamura	South East	8.10.1983	Japan
129.	Shomi Suzuki	South East	8.10.1983	Japan
130.	Hiroshi Yoshino	South Col	8.10.1983	Japan
131.	Hironobu Kamuro	South Col	8.10.1983	Japan
132.	Haruyuki Endo	South Col	8.10.1983	Japan
133.	Noboru Yamada	South Col	16.12.1983	Japan
134.	Takashi Ozaki	South Col	16.12.1983	Japan
135.	Kazunari Muralami	South Col	16.12.1983	Japan
136.	Nawang Yonden Sherpa	South Col	16.12.1983	Nepal
137.	Hristo Ivanov Prodanov	West Ridge	20.14.1984	Bulgaria
138.	Iva Gueorgutev Valcheev	West Ridge	5.5.1984	Bulgaria
139.	Metodi Stefasiov Savov	Descend From SE Ridge	5.5.1984	Bulgaria
140.	Nikolay Mihaylov	West Ridge	9.5.1984	Bulgaria
141.	Kirik Dimitrov Doskov	West Ridge	9.5.1984	Bulgaria
142.	Phu Dorjee	South E. Ridge	23.5.1984	India
143.	Miss Bachendripal	South E. Ridge	23.5.1984	India
144.	Doarjee Lhatoo	South E. Ridge	23.5.1984	India
145.	Sonam Palxor	South E. Ridge	23.5.1984	India
146.	Ang Dorjee Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1984	Nepal
147.	Bart Vos	South E. Ridge	8.10.1984	Netherland
148.	Jozef Poskka (50 Yrs) (Died on the way back)	South Piller but desending from S.E. Ridge	15.10.1984	Czechoslovakia
149.	Zoltan Demzan	South E. Ridge	15.10.1984	Czechoslovakia
150.	Ang Rita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	15.10.1984	Nepal
151.	Chris Bonington	S.E. Ridge	21.4.1985	UK
152.	Odd Eliassen	S.E. Ridge	21.4.1985	UK
153.	Odds Ekiassen	S.E. Ridge	21.4.1985	UK
154.	Bjorn Myerlund	S.E. Ridge	21.4.1985	Norway
155.	Pertemba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	21.4.1985	Nepal
156.	Ang Lakpa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	21.4.1985	Nepal
157.	Da Nuru Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	21.4.1985	Nepal
158.	Arne Nasse	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Norway
159.	Falph Houbakk	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Norway
160.	Havard Nesheim	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Norway
161.	Aasheim Stein	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Norway
162.	Pema Dorje Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Nepal
163.	Sungdare Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Nepal
164.	Ang Rita Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Nepal
165.	Chawang Rinzing Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	29.4.1985	Nepal
166.	Richard D. Bass (55 Yrs)	S.E. Ridge	30.4.1985	USA
167.	David Finlay Dreasheres	S.E. Ridge	30.4.1985	USA
168.	Ang Phurba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	30.4.1985	Nepal
169.	Yagihara Kuniaki	South Col	Autumn 1985	Japan
170.	Noboru Yamada	South Col	Autumn 1985	Japan
171.	Najuka Hideji	South Col	Autumn 1985	Japan
172.	A Kusltsu Etsuo	South Col	Autumn 1985	Japan
173.	Kimoto Satashi	South Col	Autumn 1985	Japan
174.	Sato Tsuyoshi	South Col	Autumn 1985	Japan
175.	Saegusa Teruo	South Col	Autumn 1985	Japan
176.	Ang Rita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	Winter 1987/88	Nepal
177.	Young Ho Heo	South E. Ridge	Winter 1987/88	Rep. of Korea
178.	Cerin Doji*	North S. Col	5 May 1988	China
179.	Noboru Yamada*	North S. Col	5 May 1988	Japan
180.	Ang Lhakpa Sherpa*	North S. Col	5 May 1988	Nepal
181.	Rinjin Puncog*	South-North	5 May 1988	China
182.	Da Cering*	South-North	5 May 1988	China
183.	Ang Phurba Sherpa*	South-North	5 May 1988	Nepal
184.	Li Zhi Xin*	North	5 May 1988	China
185.	Muhehiko Yamamoto*	North	5 May 1988	Japan
186.	Lhakpa Sona Sherpa*	North S. Col	5 May 1988	Nepal
187.	Nakamura Susumu*	North S. Col	5 May 1988	Japan
188.	Nakamura Syoji*	North S. Col	5 May 1988	Japan
189.	Seagusa Teruo*	North S. Col	5 May 1988	Japan
190.	Sungdare Sherpa*	South Side	10 May 1988	Nepal
191.	Padama Bahadur Tamang*	South Side	10.May 1988	Nepal
192.	Paul Bayne	South Col	25.5.1988	Australia
193.	Patrick A. Cullinan	South Col	25.5.1988	Australia

* From the China-Japan-Nepal Friendship Expedition

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190.	John K. Muir	South Col	28.5.1988	Australia
191.	Mr. Jean-Pierre Frenchon	South Col	28.5.1988	Australia
192.	Mr. Jean Marc Boivin	South Col	26.9.1988	France
193.	Mr. Michel Menger	South Col	26.9.1988	France
194.	Mr. Andre Georges	South Col	26.9.1988	France
195.	Mr. Giovanni Vionet Pezzoni	South Col	26.9.1988	France
196.	Mr. Pasang Tshering Sherpa	South Col	26.9.1988	Nepal
197.	Mr. Agiwa	South Col	26.9.1988	France
198.	Mr. Sonam Tshering Sherpa	South Col	26.9.1988	Nepal
199.	Mr. Chang-Sun Kim	South Col	26.9.1988	Rep. of Korea
200.	Mr. Hong Gil Um	South Col	26.9.1988	Rep. of Korea
201.	Mr. Pema Dorjee Sherpa	South Col	26.9.1988	Nepal
202.	Mr. Marc Batard	South Col	26.9.1988	France
203.	Bong Wan Jung	South Pillar	29.9.1988	Rep. of Korea
204.	Byong-Mo Chang	South Pillar	29.9.1988	Rep. of Korea
205.	Seung Kwon Chang	South Pillar	29.9.1988	Rep. of Korea
206.	Ms. Stacy Marie Allison	South Col	29.9.1988	USA
207.	Pasang Gyalzen Sherpa	South Col	29.9.1988	Nepal
208.	Sun-Woo Nam	South Pillar	2.10.1988	Rep. of Korea
209.	Yang Kyoung	South Col	13.10.1988	France
210.	Pasang Temba Sherpa	South Col	13.10.1988	Nepal
211.	Lakhpa Sona Sherpa	South Col	13.10.1988	Nepal
212.	Nil Bohigas	South Col	14.10.1988	Spain
213.	Luis Giner	South Col	14.10.1988	Spain
214.	Jeronima Lopez	South Col	14.10.1988	Spain
215.	Ang Rita Sherpa	South Col	14.10.1988	Nepal
216.	Nima Tira Sherpa	South Col	14.10.1988	Nepal
217.	Josef Just	S.W. Face	17.10.1988	Czechoslovakia
218.	Viktor Groselj	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1989	Yugoslavia
219.	Stipe Bozic	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1989	Yugoslavia
220.	Dimitar Ilivsko (Missing After Summit)	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1989	Yugoslavia
221.	Sonam Tshering Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1989	Nepal
222.	Agiwa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1989	Nepal
223.	Ricardo Torres Nava	S.E. Ridge	16.5.1989	Mexico
224.	Phu Dorje Sherpa (Died While Decending)	S.E. Ridge	16.5.1989	Nepal
225.	Dawa Norbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.1989	Nepal
226.	Adrian Burgess	S.E. Ridge	24.5.1989	U.K.
227.	Roderick Mackenzie	S.E. Ridge	24.5.1989	U.K.
228.	Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	24.5.1989	Nepal
229.	Sonam Diendu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	24.5.1989	Nepal
230.	Eugeniusz Chorbak (Died of Injuries from Avalanche)	West Ridge	24.5.1989	Poland
231.	Andrzej Marciniak	West Ridge	24.5.1989	Poland
232.	Toichiro Mitano	S.E. Ridge	13.10.1989	Japan
233.	Hiroshi Ohnishi	S.E. Ridge	13.10.1989	Japan
234.	Atsushi Yamamoto	S.E. Ridge	13.10.1989	Japan
235.	Chulding Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	13.10.1989	Nepal
236.	Chiring Chumdi Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	13.10.1989	Nepal
237.	Carlos Carsolio	S.E. Ridge	13.10.1989	Mexico
238.	Chokwang Jae	South Pillar	13.10.1989	S. Korea
239.	Sang Young Jung	West Ridge	23.10.1989	S. Korea
240.	Nima Rita Sherpa	West Ridge	23.10.1989	Nepal
241.	Nurbu Jangbu Sherpa	West Ridge	23.10.1989	Nepal
242.	Oskar Bertil Kihlburg	South Col	10.5.1990	Sweden
243.	Da Nuru Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1990	Nepal
244.	Robert Dewin Hall	South Col	10.5.1990	Newzealand
245.	Gary Ian Ball	South Col	10.5.1990	Newzealand
246.	Peter Hillary	South Col	10.5.1990	Newzealand
247.	Apa Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1990	Nepal
248.	Rudy Van Snick	South Col	10.5.1990	Belgium
249.	Mikael Reuterswerd	South Col	11.5.1990	Sweden
250.	Gleen Porzak	South Col	10.5.1990	USA
251.	Michael F. Browing	South Col	10.5.1990	USA
252.	Brent V. Manning	South Col	10.5.1990	USA
253.	Peter G. Athans	South Col	10.5.1990	USA
254.	Diana Quentin Coffield	South Col	10.5.1990	USA
255.	Nima Tashi Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1990	Nepal
256.	Ang Zambu Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1990	Nepal
257.	Andrew A. Lapkass	South Col	11 May 1990	USA
258.	Tim Macartney Snape	South Col	11 May 1990	Australia
259.	Ang Rita Sherpa	South Col	11 May 1990	Nepal
260.	Ang Kami Sherpa	South Col	11 May 1990	Nepal
261.	Pasang Norbu Sherpa	South Col	11 May 1990	Nepal
262.	Top Bahadur Khatri	South Col	11 May 1990	Nepal
263.	Alexander S. Lowe	Couth Col	4.10.1990	USA
264.	Daniel G. George	Couth Col	4.10.1990	Canada
265.	Hooman Aprin	South Col	5.10.1990	USA
266.	Ang Temba Sherpa	South Col	5.10.1990	Nepal
267.	Aleksi S. Kras-Nokutsky	South Col	7.10.1990	USSR
268.	Catherine J. Gibson (MS)	South Col	7.10.1990	USA
269.	Phinzo Sherpa	South Col	7.10.1990	Nepal
270.	Eric Decamp	South Col	5.10.1990	France
271.	Christine Janin	South Col	5.10.1990	France
272.	Pascal Lour Naire	South Col	5.10.1990	France
273.	Marc Batard	South Col	5.10.1990	France
274.	Nawang Thile Sherpa	South Col	5.10.1990	Nepal
275.	Sonam Diendu Sherpa	South Col	5.10.1990	Nepal
276.	Ang Dawa Sherpa	South Col	6.10.1990	Nepal
277.	Jea Soo Kim	South Col	6.10.1990	S. Korea
278.	Jong Young Pok	South Col	6.10.1990	S. Korea
279.	Chang Woo Park	South Col	6.10.1990	S. Korea
280.	Dawa Sange Sherpa	South Col	6.10.1990	Nepal
281.	Pemba Diorje Sherpa	South Col	6.10.1990	Nepal
282.	Andrej Stremfelj	South Col	7.10.1990	Yugoslavia
283.	Maria Stremfelj (Mrs.)	South Col	7.10.1990	Yugoslavia
284.	Janez Jeglic	South Col	7.10.1990	Yugoslavia
285.	Lhakpa Rita Sherpa	South Col	7.10.1990	Nepal
286.	Yves Salmo	South Col	4.10.1990	France
287.	Denis Pivot	South Col	7.10.1990	France
288.	Alain Desez	South Col	7.10.1990	France
289.	Jean-Noel Roche	South Col	7.10.1990	France
290.	Bertarnd Roche	South Col	7.10.1990	France
291.	Rene Du Bus	South Col	7.10.1990	France
292.	Sona Dendu Sherpa	South Col	8.5.1991	Nepal
293.	Ang Tomba Sherpa	South Col	8.5.1991	Nepal
294.	Peter G. Athans	South Col	8.5.1991	USA
295.	Apa Sherpa	South Col	8.5.1991	Nepal
296.	Richard Wilcox	South Col	15.5.1991	USA
297.	Mark A. Richy	South Col	15.5.1991	USA
298.	Yves Laforest	South Col	15.5.1991	USA
299.	Bary J. Rugo	South Col	15.5.1991	USA
300.	Edmund Karl Viesturs	South Col	15.5.1991	USA
301.	Vladmir Bal Yverdin	South Col	6.10.1991	USSR
302.	Antoli Burkeeu	South Col	6.10.1991	USSR
303.	Roman Gunoytachvili	South Col	10.10.1991	USSR
304.	Deniel Majoe	South Col	10.10.1991	USSR
305.	Francisco Jose Perez	South Col	6.10.1991	Spain
306.	Hafael Vidaurre Garayo	South Col	6.10.1991	Spain
307.	Antinio Ubieto Asere	South Col	6.10.1991	Spain
308.	Hove Antinio Garces	South Col	6.10.1991	Spain
309.	Sunil Dutt Sharma	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1992	India
310.	Prem Singh	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1992	India
311.	Kanhaya Lal	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1992	India
312.	Mohab Singh	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	India
313.	Miss Santosh Yadav	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	India
314.	Lopsang Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	India
315.	Sange Mutuk Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	India
316.	Nima Wangchuk Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	India
317.	Robert Edwin Hall	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	New Zealand
318.	Gary Ian Ball	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	New Zealand
319.	Guy Cotter	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	New Zealand
320.	Ned Gillette	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	USA
321.	Ms. Ingrid M. Baeyend	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Belgium
322.	Douglas L. Mantle	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	USA
323.	Cham Yick Kal	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Hong Kong
324.	Randall C. Danta	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	USA
325.	Doron Meir Erel	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Israel
326.	Sonam Tshering Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
327.	Apa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
328.	Daws Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
329.	Tashi Tshering Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
330.	Ang Dorje Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
331.	Ronald Naar	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Holland
332.	Edmond Ofner	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Holland
333.	Nima Temba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
334.	Dawa Tashi Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
335.	Ivan Dusharin	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	RUSSIA
336.	Andrew Volkov	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	RUSSIA
337.	Iliy Babelnikov	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	RUSSIA
338.	Alexandre Guerassimev	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	RUSSIA
339.	Louis M. bowen	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	USA
340.	Sugene Horner	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	USA
341.	Ang Gylzen Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
342.	Dawa Temba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	Nepal
343.	Vernon Tejas	S.E. Ridge	12.5.1992	USA
344.	Vladimir Zaharov	S.E.Ridge	14.5.1992	RUSSIA
345.	Sergey Penzov	S.E.Ridge	14.5.1992	RUSSIA
346.	Fedor Koniovkhov	S.E.Ridge	14.5.1992	RUSSIA
347.	Eugieni Vinogracdski	S.E.Ridge	14.5.1992	RUSSIA
348.	Todd Burleson	S.E. Ridge	15.5.1992	USA
349.	Peter Athens	S.E. Ridge	15.5.1992	USA
350.	Hugh W. Morton	S.E. Ridge	15.5.1992	USA
351.	Keth G. Kerr	S.E. Ridge	15.5.1992	USA
352.	Lhakpa Rita	S.E. Ridge	15.5.1992	Nepal
353.	Dorje Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	15.5.1992	Nepal
354.	Man Bahadur Tamang	S.E. Ridge	15.5.1992	Nepal
355.	Mauricio Purto	S.E.Ridge	15.5.1992	Chile
356.	Jonathan Cullemo Pratt	S.E.Ridge	15.5.1992	Chile
357.	Ang Rita Sherpa	S.E.Ridge	15.5.1992	Nepal
358.	Ang Phuri Sherpa	S.E.Ridge	15.5.1992	Nepal
359.	Francisco Gan Pampols	South Pillar	15.5.1992	Spain
360.	Ramon Portilla Blanco	South Pillar	15.5.1992	Spain
361.	Alfonos Juez Reoy	South Pillar	15.5.1992	Spain
362.	Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa	South Pillar	15.5.1992	Nepal
363.	Pemba Norbu Sherpa	South Pillar	15.5.1992	Nepal
364.	Eguillor Ulzurrun Juan Maria	S.E. Ridge	25.9.1992	Spain
365.	Alberto Inurrantegui Iriarte	S.E. Ridge	25.9.1992	Spain
366.	Felix Inurrategui Irriarte	S.E. Ridge	25.9.1992	Spain
367.	Ferndadaz Elizalde Francisco Jose	S.E. Ridge	25.9.1992	Spain
368.	Jesus Maria Bereziarwatua	S.E. Ridge	1.10.1992	Spain
369.	Pedro Tous Roldan	S.E. Ridge	3.10.1992	Spain
370.	Juan Tomax	S.E. Ridge	3.10.1992	Spain
371.	Mike Reparaz	S.E. Ridge	3.10.1992	Spain
372.	Mario Panzeri	S.E.Ridge	29.9.1992	Italy
373.	Lorenzo mzzoleni	S.E.Ridge	29.9.1992	Italy
374.	Giauseppe Petigax	S.E.Ridge	29.9.1992	Italy
375.	Pierre Royer	S.E.Ridge	29.9.1992	France
376.	Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa	S.E.Ridge	29.9.1992	Nepal
377.	Benoit Chamous	S.E. Ridge	28.9.1992	France
378.	Oswald Santin	S.E. Ridge	28.9.1992	Italy
379.	Verza Giampiero	S.E. Ridge	30.9.1992	Italy
380.	Abele Blanca	S.E. Ridge	30.9.1992	Italy
381.	Eugene Berger	S.E.Ridge	1.10.1992	Luxemburg
382.	Falf Dujomits	S.E.Ridge	4.10.1992	Germany
383.	Sonam Tsering Sherpa	S.E.Ridge	4.10.1992	Nepal
384.	Wallace Wayne Berg	S.E.Ridge	7.10.1992	USA
385.	Augusto Ortega	S.E.Ridge	7.10.1992	Peru
386.	Poncho Alfonso	S.E.Ridge	7.10.1992	Mexico
387.	Appa Sherpa	S.E.Ridge	7.10.1992	Nepal
388.	Pasang Kaji Sherpa	S.E.Ridge	7.10.1992	Nepal
389.	Michel Vicent	S.E.Ridge	7.10.1992	France
390.	Scott C. Barsney	S.E.Ridge	9.10.1992	USA
391.	Michel Pelle	S.E.Ridge	9.10.1992	France
392.	Pierre Aubertin	S.E.Ridge	9.10.1992	France
393.	Thierry Defrance	S.E.Ridge	9.10.1992	France
394.	Asin Roussey	S.E.Ridge	9.10.1992	France

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399.	Pholoppa Grenier	S E Ridge	9.10.1992	France
400.	Ms. Pasang Lhamu Sherpa (Died on the way back)	E. Ridge	22.4.1993	Nepal
401.	Sonam Tshiring Sherpa (Died on the way back)	E. Ridge	22.4.1993	Nepal
		E. Ridge	22.4.1993	Nepal
402.	Dawa Tashi Sherpa	E. Ridge	22.4.1993	Nepal
403.	Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa	E. Ridge	22.4.1993	Nepal
404.	Pemba Nuru Sherpa	E. Ridge	22.4.1993	Nepal
405.	Pemba Dorje Sherpa	E Ridge	10.5.1993	UK
406.	Harold C. Toulor	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	USA
407.	John Helcnck	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	USA
408.	John Dufficy	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
409.	Appa Sherpa	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
410.	Chhuldin Temba Sherpa	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
411.	Danuru Sherpa	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	USA
412.	Alex Lowe	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	USA
413.	Wallace Berg	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Canada
414.	Michael Sutton	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	USA
415.	Mark Selland	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	USA
416.	Ms. Mary B. Lefevir	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	USA
417.	Charles M. Armalys	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
418.	Motilal Gurung	E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
419.	Pemba Temba Sherpa	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	India
420.	Ms. Santosh Yadav	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	India
421.	Ms. Dicky Dolma	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	India
422.	Ms. Kunga Bhotia	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	India
423.	Dal Dev Kunwar	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
424.	Nga Temba Sherpa	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
425.	Dorjee Sherpa	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
426.	Wonda Chhiring Sherpa	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
427.	Dirji Sherpa	S.Ridge	10.5.1993	New Zealand
428.	Jonathan Gluckman	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Finland
429.	Vcikka Gustafsson	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	New Zealand
430.	Robert E. Hall	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	New Zealand
431.	Ms. Jan Elizabeth Arnold	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
432.	Nurbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
433.	Ang Chumbi Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
434.	Chhuldim Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Australia
435.	Micheal Gromm			
436.	Lopsang Tshiring Bhotia (Died on the way back)	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	India
		S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Korea
437.	Ms. Hyun Ok Gi	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Korea
438.	Ms. Kim Soon Joo	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Korea
439.	Ms. Oh Soon Choi	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
440.	Sonam Dendu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
441.	Rinji Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
442.	Dawa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1993	Nepal
443.	Ang Tshering Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	11.5.1993	RUSSIA
444.	Baldimir Jonochkin	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
445.	Ms. Radha Devi Binurma	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
446.	Ms. Deepa Sharma	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
447.	Ms. Suman Kutiyal	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
448.	Ms. Savita Martolia	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
449.	Rajeev Sharma	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
450.	Nima Norbu	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
451.	Nga Temba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
452.	Nima Norbu	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
453.	Lopsang Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	India
454.	Tenzing Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	RUSSIA
455.	Vladimir Bachkkirov	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Korea
456.	Young-Seok Park	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Korea
457.	Jin Seob An	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Korea
458.	Tea Kon Kim	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Nepal
459.	Kaji Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Spain
460.	Alberto Cercain Berasa Tegui	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Spain
461.	Jose Ramon Aguirre	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Spain
462.	Joxe M.G. Perez	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Nepal
463.	Ang Rita Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Nepal
464.	Jambu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	USA
465.	Micheal c. Sinclair	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	USA
466.	Mark Robold	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Nepal
467.	Phinjo Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Nepal
468.	Durga Tamang	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Nepal
469.	Dorjee Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Spain
470.	Josep Antonil P. conesa	S.E. Ridge	16.5.19993	Nepal
471.	Ang Phurba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	17.5.1993	UK
472.	Ms. Rebecca Lucy	S.E. Ridge	17.5.1993	Nepal
473.	Ang Pasang Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	17.5.1993	Nepal
474.	Ang Tshering Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	17.5.1993	Spain
475.	Oscar C. Ruing	S.E. Ridge	17.5.1993	RUSSIA
476.	Vladmir Koroteer	S.E. Ridge	17.5.1993	RUSSIA
477.	Aeksej Muralev	S.E. Ridge	4.10.1993	France
478.	Vionnet Fuasset	S.E. Ridge	4.10.1993	Nepal
479.	Nurbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	6.10.1993	France
480.	Franccois Bernard	S.E. Ridge	6.10.1993	France
481.	Antonine Cayrol	S.E. Ridge	6.10.1993	France
482.	Eric Gramond	S.E. Ridge	6.10.1993	Nepal
483.	Gyalbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	6.10.1993	Nepal
484.	Dawa Tashi Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	France
485.	Alain Esteve	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	France
486.	Hubert Giot	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	Nepal
487.	Nima Gombu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	Nepal
488.	Norbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	UK
489.	Stephen J. Bell	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	USA
490.	Gary Pfisterer	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	Venezuela
491.	Ramon Balanco Suarez (60 Yr.)	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	Venezuela
492.	Graham Francies Hoyland	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	Venezuela
493.	David Kim Adams	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	Nepal
494.	Dorje Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	Nepal
495.	Nga Temba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	7.10.1993	Nepal
496.	Passang Kami Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	Nepal
497.	Tenzing Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	Nepal
498	Lakpa Gelu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	Nepal
499.	Ang Pasang Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	Nepal
500.	Nga Temba Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	9.10.1993	Nepal
501.	John Scott Mivor	S.E. Ridge	10.1993	UK
502.	Ms. Ginette Harrison	S.E. Ridge	10.1993	UK
503.	Martin Clive Barricott	S.E. Ridge	10.1993	UK
504.	Lee Nobmann	S.E. Ridge	10.1993	UK
505.	Juang U. Oiazabal	South Pillar	7.10.1993	Spain
506.	Wangda Tsering Sherpa	South Pillar	7.10.1993	Nepal
507.	Osamu Tanabc	South West Face	20.12.1993	Japan
508.	Shinsuke Ezuka	South West Face	20.12.1993	Japan
509.	Yoshio Ogatta	South West Face	22.12.1993	Japan
510.	Ryushi Hoshino	South West Face	22.12.1993	Japan
511.	Hideji Nazuka	South West Face	18.12.1993	Japan
512.	Fumiaki Goto	South West Face	18.12.1993	Japan
513.	Kiyohiko Suzuki	South Pillar	5.8.1994	Japan
514.	Wataru Atsuta	South Pillar	5.8.1994	Japan
515.	Mingma Dorje Sherpa	South Pillar	5.8.1994	Nepal
516.	Dawa Tsiri Sherpa	South Pillar	5.8.1994	Nepal
517.	Nga Temba Sherpa	South Pillar	5.8.1994	Nepal
518.	Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa	South Pillar	5.8.1994	Nepal
519.	William Hall Wendel	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	USA
520.	Robert E. Hall	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	New Zealand
521.	Edmund Karl Viestures	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	USA
522.	Devid P. Taylor	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	USA
523.	David D. Keaton	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	USA
524.	Hellmut Seitxl	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Germany
525.	Ekkert Gundelach	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Germany
526.	Erling Kagge	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Norway
527.	Chhulding Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Nepal
528.	Nima Gombu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Nepal
529.	Nurbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Nepal
530.	Scott Fisher	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	USA
531.	Ralph Hels	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	USA
532.	Brent Bishop	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	USA
533.	Sona Dendu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Nepal
534.	Lopsang Jangbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.9.1994	Nepal
535.	Tomiyasu Ishikawa	South Pillar	5.13.1994	Japan
536.	Nima Temba Sherpa	South Pillar	5.13.1994	Nepal
537.	Dawa Tashi Sherpa	South Pillar	5.13.1994	Nepal
538.	Pasang Tsiring Sherpa	South Pillar	5.13.1994	Nepal
539.	Randy Todd Burleson	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	USA
540.	Peter Athans	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	USA
541.	Paul Harold Morro	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	USA
542.	Robert E. Cedergreen	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	USA
543.	Lhakpa Rita Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	Nepal
544.	Dorjee Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	Nepal
545.	Kami Tira Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	Nepal
546.	Rysazxard Pawlowski	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	Poland
547.	Man Bahadur Tamang	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	Nepal
548.	Tsewang Nima Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	Nepal
549.	Steven Goryl	S.E. Ridge	5.13.1994	USA
550.	Muneo Nukita	S.E. Ridge	10.10.1994	Japan
551.	Apa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.10.1994	Nepal
552.	Chhewang Nima Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.10.1994	Nepal
553.	Dawa Tsiring Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.10.1994	Nepal
554.	Kirkwood W. Rederkick	S.E. Ridge	5.11.1994	UK
555.	Charles A. Hornsby	S.E. Ridge	5.11.1994	UK
556.	Dorjee Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.11.1994	Nepal
557.	Dawa Tembs Aherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.11.1994	Nepal
558.	Lopsang Jangbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.7.1995	Nepal
559.	Tomas Heinrich	S.E.Ridge	5.15.1995	Argentina
560.	Bredford C. Bull	S.E. Ridge	5.15.1995	USA
561.	Apa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.15.1995	Nepal
562.	Nima Rita Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.15.1995	Nepal
563.	Arita Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	5.15.1995	Nepal
564.	Young Tae Kim	S.W. Face	14.10.1995	Rep. of Korea
565.	Jung Hun Park	S.W. Face	14.10.1995	Rep. of Korea
566.	Angdawa Tamang	S.W. Face	14.10.1995	Nepal
567.	Keepa Sherpa	S.W. Face	14.10.1995	Nepal
568.	Mr. Makalu Mingho-Gau	Normal Route	10.5.1996	Taipei China
569.	Mingma Sherpa	Normal Route	10.5.1996	Nepal
570.	Mr. Nima Gumbu Sherp	Normal Route	10.5.1996	Nepal
571.	Mr. Scott Fisher (Died on the way back)	South Col	10.5.1996	USA
572.	Mr. Martin Adams	South Col	10.5.1996	USA
573.	Mr. Nil Jay Beidleman	South Col	10.5.1996	USA
574.	Mr. Anatoly Boukreev	South Col	10.5.1996	USA
575.	Ms. L. Gammer Gaurd	South Col	10.5.1996	Kazakhstan
576.	Ms. Charlotte Fox	South Col	10.5.1996	Denmark
577.	Mr. Timothy todd Madsen	South Col	10.5.1996	USA
578.	Ms. Sandra H. Pittman	South Col	10.5.1996	USA
579.	Mr. Klev W. Schoening	South Col	10.5.1996	USA
580.	Mr. Lobsang Janbu Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1996	Nepal
581.	Mr. Nawang Tenzi Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1996	Nepal
582.	Mr. Tenzi Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1996	Nepal
583.	Mr. Tashi Tshering Sherpa	South Col	10.5.1996	Nepal
584.	Mr. Robert E. Hall (Died on the way Back)	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1996	New Zealand
585.	Ms. Yasuko Namba (Died on the way Back)	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1996	Japan
586.	Mr. Andrew M. Harris (Died on the way Back)	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1996	New Zealand
587.	Mr. Michael Graene Groom	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1996	Australia
588.	Mr. Jonathan R. Kvakauer	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1996	USA
589.	Mr. Chhuldin Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1996	Nepal
590.	Mr. Nurbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	10.5.1996	Nepal
591.	Mr. Laras Olof	South Pillar	23.10.1996	Sweden
592.	Mr. Martinez Novas Jesus	South Pillar	23.10.1996	Spain
593.	Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa	South Pillar	23.10.1996	Nepal
594.	Mr. Douglas Hansen (Missing after summit)	South Pillar	23.10.1996	USA
595.	Mr. David Breashears	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	USA
596.	Mr. Edmund Karl Viesturs	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	USA
597.	Mr. Robert Schaure	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	Austria
598.	Ms. Araceli Segarra Roca	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	Spain

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599.	Mr. Jamling Norgay	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	India
600.	Mr. Lapa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	Nepal
601.	Mr. Jangbu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	Nepal
602.	Mr. Thilen Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	Nepal
603.	Mr. Mukter Lhakpa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	Nepal
604.	Mr. Dorjee Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	23.10.1996	Nepal
605.	Mr. Thierry Renard	S.E. Ridge	23.5.1996	France
606.	Mr. Babu Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	23.5.1996	Nepal
607.	Mr. Dawa Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	23.5.1996	Nepal
608.	Mr. Ian Woodall	S.E. Ridge	25.5.1996	South Africa
609.	Ms. Cathy O' Dowd	S.E. Ridge	25.5.1996	South Africa
610.	Mr. Bruce Herrod	S.E. Ridge	25.5.1996	UK
611.	Mr. Pema Tongi Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	25.5.1996	Nepal
612.	Mr. Ang Dorje	S.E. Ridge	25.5.1996	Nepal
613.	Mr. Jangbo Sherpa	S.E. Ridge	25.5.1996	Nepal
614.	Mr. Jong Tai Choi	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	South Korea
615.	Mr. Kwang Chal Shil	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	South Korea
616.	Mr. Panaru Sherpa	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	Nepal
617.	Mr. Ang Dawa Tamang	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	Nepal
618.	Mr. Kippa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	Nepal
619.	Mr. Misrin	South E. Ridge	26.4.1997	Indonesia
620.	Mr. Asmujino	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	Indonesia
621.	Mr. Appa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	Nepal
622.	Mr. Dawa Nuru Sherpa	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	Nepal
623.	Mr. Anatoli Bukreev	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	RUSSIA
624.	Mr. Vladimir Bachkirov	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	RUSSIA
625.	Mr. Evgueni Vinogradolski	South E. Ridge	11.10.1996	RUSSIA
626.	Danuree Sherpa	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Nepal
627.	Mr. Bjorn Olasson	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Iceland
628.	Einar Stefanson	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Iceland
629.	Mr. Hallgrimur Magnisson	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Iceland
630.	Mr. Nicola Kekus	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Iceland
631.	Mr. Babu Tsheri Sherpa	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Nepal
632.	Mr. Dawa Sherpa	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Nepal
633.	Mr.Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa	South E.Ridge	21.5.1997	Nepal
634.	Mr. Jamie Clarke	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	New Zealand
635.	Mr. Lhakpa Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
636.	Mr. Gyalbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
637.	Mr. Alan Hobson	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Canada
638.	Mr. Tashi Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
639.	Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
640.	Mr. Guy Cotter	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	New Zealand
641.	Mr. Edmund Viesturs	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	USA
642.	Mr. David Carter	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	USA
643.	Mr. Eero Vikka Gustafsson	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Finland
644.	Mr. Tashi Wangchuk Tenjing	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Australia
645.	Mr. Chhuldim Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
646.	Mr. Mingma Tsering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
647.	Mr. Andres Calderon	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Mexico
648.	Mr. Tenji Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
649.	Mr. Mohandas Nagappan	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Malaysia
650.	Mr. Magendran Munisamy	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Malaysia
651.	Mr. Nga Temba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
652.	Mr. Dawa Temba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
653.	Mr. Gyalzen Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
654.	Angfuri Gyalzen Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
655.	Mr. Fura Dorze Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.1997	Nepal
656.	Mr. Kami Rita Sherpa	South E.Ridge	25.5.1997	Iceland
657.	Mr. Wallace Berg	South E. Ridge	25.5.1997	USA
658.	Mr. Mingma Chhiri Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1997	Nepal
659.	Mr. Lhakpa Rita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1997	Nepal
660.	Nima Tashi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1997	Nepal
661.	Mr. Pema Tenji Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1997	Nepal
662.	Mr. Tenji Nuru Sherpa (Missing after summit)	South E. Ridge	25.5.1997	Nepal
663.	Yuri Contreras	South E. Ridge	26.5.1997	Mexico
664.	Ms. Brigitte Muir	South E. Ridge	27.5.1997	Australia
665.	Mr. Kippa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	27.5.1997	Nepal
666.	Mr. Dorjee Sherpa	South E. Ridge	27.5.1997	Nepal
667.	Mr. Jeffery E. Rhoads	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	USA
668.	Mr. Tashi Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
669.	Mr. Robert H. Hoffman	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	USA
670.	Mr. Pasquale Vincent Scatorro	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	USA
671.	Mr. Don N. Beavon	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	USA
672.	Mr. Charles H. Demarest	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	USA
673.	Mr. Mark L. Cole	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	USA
674.	Mr. Appa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
675.	Mr. Nima Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
676.	Mr. Aarita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
677.	Mr. Gyltzen Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
678.	Mr. Ang Passang Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
679.	Mr. Pemba Norbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
680.	Mr. Chhuldim Nuru Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
681.	Mr. Wallace Berg	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	USA
682.	Mr. Hamid Reza Olanj	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Iran
683.	Mr. Mohammad Oraz	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Iran
684.	Mr. Mohammad Hassan Najarian	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Iran
685.	Mr. Jalal Cheshmeh Gasabani	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Iran
686.	Mr. Chhuldim Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
687.	Mr. Da Tenji Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.1998	Nepal
688.	Mr. Bernardo Gurachim	South E. Ridge	24.5.1998	Bolivia
689.	Mr. Dave Walsh	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	UK
690.	Mr. Sundeep Dhillon	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	UK
691.	Mr. Nima Gumbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Nepal
692.	Mr. Kusang Dorjee Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Nepal
693.	Mr. Nima Dorjee Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Nepal
694.	Mr. Swee Chiow Khoo	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Singapore
695.	Mr. Edwin Cheok Wai Siew	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Singapore
696.	Mr. Kami Rita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Nepal
697.	Mr. Dorjee Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Nepal
698.	Mr. Phurba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Nepal
699.	Mr. Nawang Phurba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	25.5.1998	Nepal
700.	Mr Alan Silvas	South E. Ridge	26.5.1998	Singapore
701.	Mr. Neil Laugthon	South E. Ridge	26.5.1998	UK
702.	Mr. Edward Grylls	South E. Ridge	26.5.1998	UK
703.	Mr. Pasand Dawa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	26.5.1998	Nepal
704.	Mr. Pasang Chhiri Sherpa	South E. Ridge	26.5.1998	Nepal
705.	Mr. Thomas Whittaker	South E. Ridge	27.5.1998	USA
706.	Mr. Lhakpa Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	27.5.1998	Nepal
707.	Mr. Tashi Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	27.5.1998	Nepal
708.	Mr. Da Sonam Sherpa	South E. Ridge	27.5.1998	Nepal
709.	Mr. Norbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	27.5.1998	Nepal
710.	Mr. Carlors Pitarch Francisco	South E. Ridge	15.10.1998	Spain
711.	Mr. Kaji Sherpa	South E. Ridge	17.10.1998	Nepal
712.	Mr. Peter G. Athans	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	USA
713.	Mr. William C. Crouse	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	USA
714.	Mr. Chhewang Nima Sherpa	South E. Eidge	5.5.1999	Nepal
715.	Mr. Phu Tashi Sherpa	South E. Eidge	5.5.1999	Nepal
716.	Mr. Gyalzen Sherpa	South E. Eidge	5.5.1999	Nepal
717.	Mr. Dorje Sherpa	South E. Eidge	5.5.1999	Nepal
718.	Mr. Nga Temba Sherpa	South E. Eidge	5.5.1999	Nepal
719.	Mr. Goran Kropp	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Sweden
720.	Ms. Reneta Chlumska	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Sweden
721.	Mr. Bernard Voyer	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Canada
722.	Mr. Joby D. Ogwyn	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	USA
723.	Mr. Mingma Chhiring Sherpa	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Nepal
724.	Mr. Dorjee Sherpa	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Nepal
725.	Mr. Kami Sherpa	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Nepal
726.	Mr. Ang Chhiring Sherpa	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Nepal
727.	Mr. Chhongba Nurbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Nepal
728.	Mr. Pasang Chhiri Sherpa	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	Nepal
729.	Mr. Andrew Aties Lapkas	South E. Ridge	5.5.1999	USA
730.	Ms. Tina Olga M. Sjogren	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Sweden
731.	Mr. Jerk Thomas Sjogren	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Sweden
732.	Mr. Hugo R. Barroso	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Mexico
733.	Mr. Carlos G. Pereda	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Mexico
734.	Mr. Babu Chhiri Sherpa	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Nepal
735.	Mr. Dawa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Nepal
736.	Mr. Nima Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Nepal
737.	Mr. Dawa Temba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Nepal
738.	Mr. Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Nepal
739.	Mr. Pemba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Nepal
740.	Mr. Mingma Chhiri Sherpa	South E. Ridge	6.5.1999	Nepal
741.	Mr. Nima Gomby Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
742.	Mr. Tenji Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
743.	Mr. Pasang Dawa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
744.	Mr. Benedict Kashakavili	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Georgia
745.	Mr. Bindznia	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Georgia
746.	Mr. Aphi Gigani	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Georgia
747.	Ms. Elsa Avila	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Georgia
748.	Mr. Lev Sarkisov	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Armenia
749.	Mr. Ken Noauchi	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Japan
750.	Mr. Chhewang Dorjee Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
751.	Mr. Ngawang Tenji Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
752.	Mr. Nima Wangchu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
753.	Mr. Krishna B. Tamang	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
754.	Mr. Ang Dawa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
755.	Mr. Ngawang Wanchu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Nepal
756.	Mr. Michael Smith	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	UK
757.	Mr. Martin Doyle	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	UK
758.	Mr. Augusto Ortega	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Peru
759.	Mrs. Katja K. Staartjes	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Netherlands
760.	Mr. Mr. Guillermo. Benegas	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	USA
761.	Mr. Ray Brown	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	Australia
762.	Mr. Graham Ractliffe	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	UK
763.	Mr. Michael Treuman	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	UK
764.	Mr. Guillermo Benegas	South E. Ridge	12.5.1999	UK
765.	Mr. David Todney	South E. Ridge	13.5.1999	Canada
766.	Mr. Christopher Brown	South E. Ridge	13.5.1999	UK
767.	Mr. Michael Mathews	South E. Ridge	13.5.1999	UK
768.	Mr. Nicolas Constantine	South E. Ridge	13.5.1999	Switzerland
769.	Mr. Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	13.5.1999	Nepal
770.	Mr. Nima Tashi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	18.5.1999	Nepal
771.	Mr. Da Sona Sherpa	South E. Ridge	18.5.1999	Nepal
772.	Mr. Chhewang Nima Sherpa	South E. Ridge	18.5.1999	Nepal
773.	Mr. Charts N. Corfield	South E. Ridge	18.5.1999	USA
774.	Mr. Heon Ju Park	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	KOREA
775.	Mr. Sang Hyun Mo	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	KOREA
776.	Mr. Andrew Salter	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	UK
777.	Mr. Polly Murray	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	Australia
778.	Mr. John Barry	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	UK
779.	Mr. Jangbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	Nepal
780.	Mr. Pemba Gyalge Sherpa	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	Nepal
781.	Mr. Jordi Bayona Silva	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	Spain
782.	Mr. Joan Bellmonte Vlanch	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	Spain
783.	Mr. Tamding Sherpa	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	Nepal
784.	Mr. Nima Noru Sherpa	South E. Ridge	16.5.2000	Nepal
785.	Mr. Nazir Ahmad Sabir	South E. Ridge	17.5.2000	Pakistan
786.	Mr. Benjamin M. Webster	South E. Ridge	17.5.2000	Canada
787.	Mr. Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	17.5.2000	Nepal
788.	Mr. Lakpa Gelu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	17.5.2000	Nepal
789.	Mr. Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	17.5.2000	Nepal
790.	Mr. Da Nuroo Sherpa	South E. Ridge	17.5.2000	Nepal
791.	Ms. Lhakpa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	18.5.2000	Nepal
792.	Mr. Ang Phurba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	18.5.2000	Nepal
793.	Mr. Ang Pasang Sherpa	South E. Ridge	18.5.2000	Nepal
794.	Mr. Ang Mingma Sherpa	South E. Ridge	18.5.2000	Nepal
795.	Mr. Mada Fich Granlien	South E. Ridge	20.5.2000	Denmark
796.	Mr. Asmus Aastrup Norrestle	South E. Ridge	20.5.2000	Denmark
797.	Mr. Dawa Chiri Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.2000	Nepal
798.	Mr. Dqwa Temba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	20.5.2000	Nepal
799.	Mr. Ngima Dawa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
800.	Mr. Babu Chiri Sherpa (16.56 hrs)	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
801.	Mr. Dawa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
802.	Mr. Ram Krishna Shrestha	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
803.	Mr. Byron Smith	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Canada
804.	Mr. Lakpa Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
805.	Mr. Chhuldin Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal

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806.	Mr. Mingama Tenzing Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
807.	Mr. Mingma Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
808.	Mr. Tenzing Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
809.	Mr. Nuru Wangchu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
810.	Mr. Karchen Dawa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	21.5.2000	Nepal
811.	Mr. Pasang Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Nepal
812.	Mr. Chhewang Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Nepal
813.	Mr. Michael Brown	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	USA
814.	Mr. Dav A. Hohn	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	USA
815.	Mr. Tashi Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Nepal
816.	Mr. Phu Tashi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Nepal
817.	Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Nepal
818.	Mr. Manuel Gonzalez Diza	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Spain
819.	Mr. Evan Jara Muriel	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Spain
820.	Mr. Juan Jose FGarra Lorenzo	South E. Ridge	22.5.2000	Spain
821.	Mr. Andrew Lock	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	UK
822.	Mr. Paul Frank Giorgio	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	USA
823.	Mrs. Christine F. Boskoff	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	USA
824.	Mr. Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
825.	Mr. Denish Urbko	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Kazakhstan
826.	Mr. James M. Williams	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	USA
827.	Mr. Francois Slakey	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	USA
828.	Ms. Laly Richardson Leonard	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	USA
829.	Mr. Appa Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
830.	Mr. Pemba Nuru Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
831.	Mr. Arita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
832.	Mr. Ang Nima Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
833.	Mr. Lhakpa Chhiring Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
834.	Mr. Pemba Shhiri Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
835.	Mr. Pasang Tharke Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
836.	Mr. Kami Rita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
837.	Mr. Pemba Thoti Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
838.	Mr. Dawa Jangbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Nepal
839.	Mr. Climoni Mori	South E. Ridge	24.5.2000	Italy
840.	Mr.Richard Allen Stone	South E. Ridge	26.5.2000	UK
841.	Mr. Richard Allen	South E. Ridge	26.5.2000	UK
842.	Mr. Patrick J. Kenny	South E. Ridge	26.5.2000	USA
843.	Mr. Hwan Koo Kim	South E. Ridge	4.10.2000	Rep. of Korea
844.	Mr. Seong Cheol Kim	South E. Ridge	4.10.2000	Rep. of Korea
845.	Mr. Woong-Sik Kim	South E. Ridge	4.10.2000	Rep. of Korea
846.	Mr. Sun-Dok Hong	South E. Ridge	4.10.2000	Rep. of Korea
847.	Mr. Cheol-Hee Cho	South E. Ridge	4.10.2000	Rep. of Korea
848.	Mr. Davorin Kamicar	South E. Ridge	7.10.2000	Slovenia
849.	Mr. France Oderlap	South E. Ridge	7.10.2000	Slovenia
850.	Mr. Chuldim Sherpa	South E. Ridge	7.10.2000	Nepal
851.	Mr. Pasang Tenzing Sherpa	South E. Ridge	7.10.2000	Nepal
852.	Mr. Tadej Golob	South E. Ridge	9.10.2000	Slovenia
853.	Mr. Grega Lacen	South E. Ridge	9.10.2000	Slovenia
854.	Mr. Matej Flis	South E. Ridge	9.10.2000	Slovenia
855.	Mr. Emilio Vicente Lagunilla Alonos	South E.Ridge	22.5.2001	Spain
856.	Mr. Pedro Rodriguez Anchez	South E.Ridge	22.5.2001	Spain
857.	Mr. Martin Romos Garcia	South E.Ridge	22.5.2001	Spain
858.	Mr. Vivianne Cuq Maggi	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Chile
859.	Mr. Christian Cuq Maggi	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Chile
860.	Ms.Cristina Alejandra Prieto Overem	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Chile
861.	Ms.Patricia Andrea Soto Borqueze	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Chile
862.	Mr. Phillipe Peuter	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Chile
863.	Mr. Kame Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Nepal
864.	Mr. Chhongba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Nepal
865.	Mr. Wangchhu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Nepal
866.	Mr. Phura Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	22.5.2001	Nepal
867.	Mr. Guillermo Benegas	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	USA
868.	Mr. James Sparks	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	USA
869.	Mr. Alexander R. Allan	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	USA
870.	Mr. Pemba Rinzi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
871.	Mr. Phanden Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
872.	Mr. Pemba Gylze Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
873.	Mr. Pemba Rinzi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
874.	Nb. Sub. Mr. Amar Prakash	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	India
875.	Hav. Mr. Mohinder Singh	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	India
876.	Nk. Mr. Chanchal Singh	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	India
877.	LNk. Mr. Neeo Chand	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	India
878.	Mr. Pasang Tendi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
879.	Capt.Mr. Saurab Singh Shekhawat	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	India
880.	Hav. Mr. Tilbikram Budhatoki	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	India
881.	Sep. Palden Glachho	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	India
882.	Mr. Nga Tembs Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
883.	Mr. Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
884.	Mr. Grand Douglas Maclaren	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	UK
885.	Mr. Paul Giorgion	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	USA
886.	Mr. Tunc Findik	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Turkey
887.	Mr. Richard Paul O' Bryan	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	USA
888.	Mr. Nima Gombu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
889.	Mr. Lhakpa Temba Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
890.	Mr. Nima Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
891.	Mr. Pasang Nurbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
892.	Mr. Miguel Alvarez Menor	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Germany
893.	Mr. Julen Gotzon Requeta Anton	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Spain
894.	Mr. Carlos Soria Fontan	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Germany
895.	Mr. Jourg Stingl	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Germany
896.	Mr. Francisco Javier Goni Lobera	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Spain
897.	Mr. Thukzen Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Nepal
898.	Mrs. Edurne Pasaban Lizarribar	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Germany
899.	Mr. Ivan Vallejo Ricaurta	South E. Ridge	23.5.2001	Germany
900.	Mr. Silvio Mondinelli	South E. Rigde	23.5.2001	Canada
901	Hav. Mr. Chhering Narbu Bodh	South E. Ridge	24.4.2001	India
902	Mr. Tendi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.4.2001	Nepal
903.	Mr. Mingma Tshering Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.4.2001	Nepal
904.	Mr. Pasang Gelu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.4.2001	Nepal
905.	Mr. Pasang Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.4.2001	Nepal
906.	Mr. Jason Edwards	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	USA
907.	Mr. Francois Langlois	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Canada
908.	Mr. David Rodney	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Canada
909.	Mr. Deryl Kelly	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Canada
910.	MrMaximoHenostaroza Zambrano	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Peru
911.	Mr. Da Nuru Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
912.	Mr. Lhakpa Rita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
913.	Mr. Aarita Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
914.	Mr. Tenzi Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
915.	Mr. Norbu Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
916.	Mr. Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
917.	Mr. Ngawang Tenji Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
918.	Mr. Pasang Kitar Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
919.	Mr. Tshering Dorje Sherpa	South E. Ridge	24.5.2001	Nepal
920.	Mrs. Tamae Watanabe	South E. Ridge	16.5.2001	Japan
921.	Mrs. Susan Ersher	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
922.	Mr.William Prictie	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
923.	Mr. Vernon Edward Tejas	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
924.	Mr. Tsering Dorjee Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
925.	Mr. Pemba Rinjee Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
926.	Mr. Mingma Tseri Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
927.	Mr. Michael Robarts	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
928.	Mr. Luis Benitez	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
929.	Mr. Lakpa Rita Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
930.	Mr. Kmi Rita (Thapkee) Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
931.	Mr. Kami Tira Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
932.	Mr. Joseph Leroy	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
933.	Mr. Cleve Mc. Donald	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
934.	Mr. Chewang Nima Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
935.	Mr. Arnold Witzing	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Canada
936.	Mr. Ang Pasang Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
937.	Mr. Um Hong Gil	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Korea
938.	Mr. Stuart Smith	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
939.	Mr. Ra Kwan Ju	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Korea
940.	Mr. Phil Ersher	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
941.	Mr. Park Mu Taek	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Korea
942.	Mr. Mingma Tshering Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
943.	Mr. Mingma Ongel Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
944.	Mr. Lee In	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Korea
945.	Mr. Edward Tevis Wheeler	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
946.	Mr. Dorje Lama Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
947.	Mr. Danuru Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
948.	Mr. Karma Rita Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
949.	Mr. James Rurie Norton	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
950.	Mr. Nim Gombu Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
951.	Mr. Kami Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
952.	Mr. Kame Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
953.	Mr. Da Jangbu Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
954.	Mr. Arita Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
955.	Mr. Ang Nima Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
956.	Mr. Sean Swaner	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
957.	Mr. Peter Hillary	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Newzealand
958.	Mr. Peter Athans	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
959.	Mr. William Charles Crouse	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
960.	Mr. Pasang Tenzing Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
961.	Mr. Lhakpa Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
962.	Mr. Haraldur Om Olafsson	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Iceland
963.	Mr. Ellen Elizabeth Chumbluy Miller	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
964.	Mr. David John Hiddleston	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Newzealand
965.	Mr. Ang Chhuldim Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
966.	Mr.Yves Lambert	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Switzerland
967.	Mr. Tashi Wongchuk Tenzing	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Australia
968.	Mr. Stephane Schajter	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Switzerland
969.	Mr. Phurba Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
970.	Mr. Phillippe Aruis	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Argentina
971.	Mr. Nuru Wanchu Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
972.	Mr. Noriyuki Margguchi	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Japan
973.	Mr. Nima Norbu Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
974.	Mr. Igor Khalatian	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
975.	Mr. Guilaurne Vallot	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	France
976.	Mr. Dawa Nuru Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
977.	Mr. Chhewang Dorjee Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
978.	Mr. Apa Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
979.	Mr. Ang Sona Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
980.	Mr. Ang Pasang Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
981.	Mr. Randy Peeters	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	U.S.A
982.	Mr. Pasang Dawa Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
983.	Mr. Pasang Chhiri Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 16th, 2002	Nepal
984.	Mr. Mike Morris	South East Ridge	May 18th, 2002	U.S.A
985.	Mr. Lhakpa Chhiri Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 18th, 2002	Nepal
986.	Mr. Gimi Dorjee Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
987.	Mr. Geoffrey Stanford	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	UK
988.	Mr. Zsolt Eross	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Hungary
989.	Mr. Laszlo Varkonvi	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Hungary
990.	Mr. Robert Gerer	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Australia
991.	Mr. Ngima Wangdi Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
992.	Mr. Nanchheri Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
993.	Mr. Mingma Chhiring Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
994.	Mr. Mingma Chhiri Shedrpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
995.	Mr. Jason Rodi	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Canada
996.	Mr. Guillero Ma Benegas	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	U.S.A
997.	Mr. Fanden Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
998.	Mr. Charles Scotte Wollums	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	U.S.A
999.	Mr. Lhakpa Gela Sherpa	Normal Route	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
1000	Mr. Julio Bird	Normal Route	May 25th, 2002	U.S.A
1001	Mr. Jangbu Sherpa	Normal Route	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
1002.	Mr. Hector Mark Ponce De Lean Gomez	Normal Route	May 25th, 2002	Mexico
1003.	Mr. Charles D. Fowler	Normal Route	May 25th, 2002	U.S.A
1004.	Mr. Chuldim Nuru Sherpa	Normal Route	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
1005.	Mr. Alberto Mangliano	Normal Route	May 25th, 2002	Italy
1006.	Mr. Lhakpa Chhiri Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
1007.	Miss. Pemba Doma Sherpa	South East Ridge	May 25th, 2002	Nepal
1008.	Mr. Peter Ackroyd	South West Ridge	May 28th, 2002	U.S.A
1009.	Mr. James Frush	South West Ridge	May 28th, 2002	U.S.A

Profile

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Establishment

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization and it is the only national alpine club of Nepal. It was established on November 1, 1973. This association is working as a prime institution for mountain tourism promotion and mountain environment protection in the country.

Objectives

The main objectives of this association are:

- to familiarize everyone with mountains, mountaineers and mountain activities,
- to provide support to professional climbers and all those involved in mountaineering,
- to organize mountain cleaning campaigns,
- to coordinate with regional and international organizations related to mountaineering and Himalayan environment,
- to develop mountaineering skills, efficiency and rescue techniques,
- to establish International Mountain Museum & International Mountaineers Memorial Park,
- to popularize mountaineering activities among Nepalese students and youths and so on.

Income Generation

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has authorised NMA to issue permits for 18 peaks between 5,587 meter to 6,654 meter in the Manang, Annapurna, Langtang and Khumbu area since 1978. Mera Peak (6,654 m.) is the tallest among these 18 peaks while Mardi Himal (5,587 m.) is the smalest in altitude. These 18 peaks are also known as the NMA Climbing Peaks.

NMA has also been given the rights, according to His Majesty's Government's decision, to issue mountaineering permits to 15 new peaks to climbers and mountaineers since 2002.

At present, fees collected from issuing peak permits for 33 peaks to foreign climbing teams is the main financial resource of NMA. Beside this, NMA draws its financial resource from membership fees, donations, assistance and gifts received in cash and kind from the Government of Nepal, national and international individuals and organizations.

Plans and Programmes

NMA since its establishment, has had the foremost objective of not only promoting mountain tourism in the country but also work for the conservation of the fragile mountain and Himalayan ecology. It also has undertaken the task of organizing mountaineering training programs and conduct welfare works in the form of assistance to the families of those mountaineers who unfortunately meet tragedy on the high Himalayas. In addition to NMA's regular activities, it has other major plans and programs as below:



Photo: Dr Hari Prasad Shrestha

International Mountain Museum, Pokhara.



NMA Office, Kathmandu.

International Mountain Museum, Pokhara

The plan to open an International Mountain Museum (IMM) in Pokhara is Nepal Mountaineering Association's most ambitious project. Pokhara was chosen as the site for this unique and the only kind of museum in the world because of the scenic location, and first eight thousander Mt. Annapurna I summited by Maurice Herzog and Luis Lachnel, lies in the laps of mighty Annapurna range. Moreover, almost every visitor to Nepal has Pokhara included in the itinerary.

International Mountain Museum is not a museum of the ordinary kind, it has the objectives of documenting, recording and chronicling the past and present development of mountaineering not only in Nepal but the world over. It can be said that it will be place where "man, mountain and mountaineering" will meet under one roof.

The soft opening of IMM took place on May 29, 2002 attracting world attention. Though there is much yet to be done but NMA has been working on it on war footing.

The importance of the museum lies in the fact that Nepal has the longest range of the Himalayan range including eight of the world's 14 highest peaks over 8,000 meters.

IMM is spread over a total floor area of 4,242 square meter in 12.5 acres of land.

The museum will contain three main exhibition halls: Hall of the Great Himalayas, Hall of Fame and the Hall of World Mountains. It will also contain the models of famous peaks, mannequins of famous mountaineers, culture and lifestyle of mountain peoples, flora and fauna including geology.

IMM is indeed a "mega project" considering the huge investments being made. The cost of the first phase was over one million US dollars. With the income generated by issuing permits to the 33 NMA peaks it has many works lined up. Without in any way hampering the IMM project, NMA has been active in utilising its own resources together with support of friendly and generous donors. The reason that NMA has received support over the years for the project is that it has very good relations with all the alpine clubs of the world.

The opening of the International Mountain Museum is slated for February 5, 2004.

International Mountaineers Memorial Park, Kakani

Nepal Mountaineering Association has always accorded deep respect and has kept its tradition of honouring mountaineers. However, the hazards of mountain climbing is always there. It needs no mention that tragedies do occur on the high mountains which sometimes is unavoidable.

Many mountaineers have met unfortunate death while on the mountains. They also must be respected and honored. With this objective in mind, Nepal Mountaineering Association is moving ahead for the establishment of International Mountaineers Memorial Park in Kakani north of Kathmandu. Kakani is one of the most scenic sites in Nepal and such a park here would offer solace to the bereaved families of mountaineers and their friends.

The Mountaineers Memorial Park is being constructed in Makaibari of Kakani area. The foundation laying ceremony was held on May 28, 1998.

The Mountaineers Memorial Park could also be instrumental in attracting tourists as well as people from within the country so that they would be able to learn the risks that mountaineers face while on expeditions. They will also realize that mountaineering involves great dangers and those who face it must be respected.

For the park to materialize, NMA feels that everyone can support/contribute in his/her own way so that the memory of those mountaineers who are no more will receive the honor that is due to them.

Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration 2002-2003

May 29 is a great historic day celebrated every year. That day in 1953 marked a landmark in mountaineering



Photo courtesy: NMA

International Mountaineers Memorial Park, Kakani.

history. That was the day 50 years back when the first human steps were atop the highest peak Mount Everest. Two brave and enduring men Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary were the first people to successfully climb Everest. It was a glory and an achievement for mankind. The whole world joined in celebrating the day.

The focus of this event was on Nepal also. Nepal with its high Himalayan ranges came to be known worldwide. It needs no reiteration that of the 14 peaks of over 8,000 meters in the world, eight are in Nepal including Everest the highest Himalayan peak in the world standing at 8,848 meters.

The event on May 29, 1953 has been glorified as *The Conquest of Everest*. This summarises all that has to be said. It is now half a century since one of the greatest feats of the 20th century took place.

Memories must not fade. Hence, to comemorate the historic day, Nepal is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first successful ascent of Everest through the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration.

Nepal Mountaineering Association, which has taken a lead role in the field of mountain tourism, is also doing its best for the grand success of the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration.

There are many events lined up to celebrate the occasion.

In June 2002, MEGJC was launched by The Honourable Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation in Kathmandu and the first event being the Inter School Athletic meet. There were 350 athletes from 34 schools who participated in the meet.

The first Trans-Himalyan Lhasa - Kathmandu - Lhasa Auto Rally was held in October 2002. There were 24 vehicles and over 90 participants who took part in creating a landmark between Nepal and the People's Republic of China thus opening the roadway to adventure and sport tourism between our countries.

White water rafting was held on November at Sukute Beach, situated on the banks of Bhotekosi (River from Tibet). There were altogether 161 participants, which included 75 foreigners and 86 Nepalese. The event was divided into two categories - Rafting and Kayaking.

The 21st World Championship of the Elephant Polo took place in December. Tiger Mountain had organised the event at Chitwan National Park, where the National Park's team beat teams from all over the world.

Everest Marathon (1-23 May, 2003)
Venue: Solukhumbhu District

The highest marathon to take is from Everest Base Camp (5,450m) to Namche Bazar (3,440m).

Football Tournament
A friendly football match took place on March 22, 2003 between the teams of Nepal Mountaineering Association and Nepal Film Artists National Association

Mountaineering Philatelic/ Photograph Exhibition
It is being held in the last week of May 2003.

Gathering of Mount Everest Summiteers (27-29 May, 2003) in Kathmandu.

Besides these events, the last week of May, 2003 will be full of events such as : Meeting of Executive Committee of Himalayan Environment Trust and UAAA Council Meeting on 27th May; Planting of sapling at the International Mountaineers Memorial Park, Kakani and General Board Meeting of International Mountaineers Association on 28th May; Symposium for Mt. Everest Summiteers and Presentation of Memento/Award on 29th May.

Looking Back

1973	NMA Established
1979	Manang Mountaineering Training School Established
1982	44th General Assembly of UIAA at Kathmandu
1988	Tri-Nation Mount Everest Expedition Nepal-Japan-China
1992	UIAA Mountain Protection Commission Meeting in Kathmandu
1994	UIAA Expedition Commission in Pokhara, IMM Site
1995	UAAA First General Meeting in Kathmandu
1996	Foundation of Internation Mountain Museum, Pokhara
1996	Spring Everest Cleaning Campaign
1997	Mt. Everest Cleaning Campaign (Base Camp) Joint effort with SPCC
1997	International Climbers Meet
1998	International Mountaineers Memorial Park Site at Kakani granted by HMG
1998	NMA Silver Jubilee Celebration and Felicitation of Nepalese mountaineers of Everest & over 8000m climbers
1999	UIAA Expedition Commission Meeting, Pokhara
2000	First time Basic Mountaineering Training for foreigners
2001	Everest Rejuvenation Campaign
2002	Soft Opening of IMM, Pokhara
2002	Initiation of IMMP, Kakani
2003	Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration

NMA - Various Committee

Training & Expedition Committee
Welfare Committee
Environment Conservation Committee
Publication & Publicity Committee
International Mountain Museum Committee
Mountain Rescue Committee
International Mountaineer's Memorial Park Committee
Discipline Committee
Chapter Co-Ordination Committee
Fund Raising Committee
Artifacts Collection Committee

NMA Climbing & Expedition Peaks

Group "A" NMA Expedition Peaks

S.N.	Name of Mountain	Height (m)	Himalayan Range	District	Caravan Route
1.	Mt. Cholatse	6,440	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Pheriche- BC
2.	Mt.Machermo	6,237	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Gokyo-BC
3.	Mt. Kyazo Ri	6,186	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Gokyo-BC
4.	Mt. Nirekha	6,159	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Gokyo-BC
5.	Mt. Langsisa Ri	6,427	Jugal	Rasuwa	Dhunche-Langtang- Langshisa-BC
6.	Mt.Ombigaichen	6,340	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Ombigaichen- BC
7.	Mt. Bokta	6,143	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Taplejung-Ghunsa-BC
8.	Mt. Chekigo	6,257	Gaurishankar	Dolakha	Charikot-Simigaon-Beding- BC
9.	Mt. Phari Lapcha	6,017	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Machermo- BC
10	Mt. Lobuje West	6,145	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-BC
11	Mr. Larkya Peak	6,249	Manaslu	Gorkha	Gorkha-Samagoun-Lamjung- BC
12	Mt.ABI	6,097	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Merala-BC
13	Mt. Yubra Himal	6,035	Langtang Himal	Rasuwa	Dhunche-Legbeni-BC
14.	Mt.Yala	5,732	Langtang	Rasuwa	Ktm-Dhunche-Langtang-BC
15.	Mt. Chhukung Ri	5,550	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-BC

Fee Structure for Group "A" NMA Peaks

Royalty for up to seven members (U.S. Dollars) 500.00

Royalty for each additional member upto 12 person (U.S. Dollars) 100.00

Group "B" NMA Climbing Peaks

S.N.	Name of Peak	Height (m)	Himal	Region	Route
1	Hiunchuli	6441	Annapurna Himal,	Gandaki	Ktm.-Pokhara-Dhampus-chomrong-Bamboo Deurali-B.C.
2	Singu Chuli (Fluted Peak)	6501	Annapurna Himal	Gandaki	Ktm.-Pokhara-Tilkedhunga-Ghorepani Tadhaani-Chhomrong-Machhapuchre - B.C.
3	Mera Peak	6654	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm.-Jiri-Shivalaya-Bhandar-Sete-Junbesi-Nunthala-Kharikhola-Poyanbung-Chadrabu-Kothe-Thangna-Khare
4	Kusum Kangru	6367	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm.-Lukla-Namche-Thame-Khumjung - B.C.
5	Kwangde	6011	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm.-Lukla-Merala-Randimga-Hunde B.C.
6	Chulu West	6419	Manang	Gandaki	Ktm.-Besisahar-Ngadi-Jagat-Dharapani
7	Chulu East	6584	Manang	Gandaki	Ktm.-Besisahar-Ngadi-Tall-Chame-Hongde-Manang-Yak-Kharka-B.C.
8	Imja-tse (Island Peak)	6160	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm.-Lukla-Namche-Tyangboche-Pangboche-Dingboche-Chhukung - B.C.
9	Pharchamo	6187	Rolwaling Himal	Janakpur	Ktm.-Dolakha-Shigati-Gongar-Doranangbu-Beding-Na-Kabung-Kydug Kongma-Drolmaban-Tashi Lapcha - B.C.
10	Lobuje	6119	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm.-Lukla-Namche-Thame-Rermo Pokhari-Gokyo-Dzonghla B.C.
11	Ramdung	5925	Rolwaling Himal	Janakpur	Ktm.-Dolkha-Siguti-Jagat-Simigaon-Chagebu Kharka-Beding-Na-.B.C.
12	Pisang	6091	Manang	Gandaki	Ktm.-Beshisahar-Bahundanda-Chamje Bagarchhap-Chame-Pisang B.C.
13	Tharpu Chuli (Tent Peak)	5663	Annapurna Himal	Gandaki	Ktm.-Pokhara-Dhampus-Langdrung-Ghandrung-Chomoro-Kuldi- B.C.
14	Khongma-tse (Mehra Peak)	5849	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm.-Lukla-Namche-Dole-Machermo-Gokyo-Dughala B.C.
15	Ganja-la Chuli (Naya Kanga)	5844	Langtang Himal	Bagmati	Ktm.-Dhunche-Syabru Gaon-Lama Hotel-Kyanjin Gomba-Ganjala B.C.
16	Pokhalde	5806	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm.-Lukla-Namche-Dole-Gokyo-Na-Thagna-Chola pass-B.C.
17	Mardi Himal	5587	Annapurna Himal	Gandaki	Ktm.-Pokhara-Hyangja-Dhiprang-Kharka-Mardi Base Camp
18	Paldor	5896	Langtang Himal	Bagmati	Ktm.-dhading-Ankhu Khola-Rigaon-Jharlang-Sertung-Kharka-Somdang

Fee Structure for Group "B" NMA Peaks

Group Size	Rate US$	Additional P/P US$
1-4 Persons	350.00 Only	
5-8 Persons	350.00 Plus	40.00 (Per person)
9-12 Persons	510.00 Plus	25.00 (Per person)

Note : Maximum number of members in a team is 12.

NMA has the sole authority to issue permits for those Climbing and Expedition Peaks.

For Details : Nepal Mountaineering Association

GARBAGE DEPOSIT FOR ALL 33 NMA PEAKS

An amount of US$ 250.00 should be deposited to NMA as garbage deposit to get permit to all 33 NMA peaks. The refund shall be made as per the provisions made by NMA.

Nepal Mountaineering Association

Central Executive Board 2002 - 2005



Ang Tshering Sherpa
President



Zimba Zangbu Sherpa
First Vice President



Bikrum Pandey
Second Vice President



Bhumi Lal Lama
General Secretary



Krishna Kumar Aryal
Secretary



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Ang Phurba Sherpa
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Member



Da Gombu Sherpa
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Tashi Jangbu Sherpa
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Member



Mingmar Dorje Sherpa
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