Nepal Parbat

Vol 5 No. 10 February 5, 2004



Grand Opening

International Mountain Museum



NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

International Mountain Museum

POKHARA, NEPAL

On the occassion of
the Grand Opening of
International Mountain Museum
we heartily welcome
Summiteers, Mountaineers, Associates and
all distinguised Guest and Invitees.



NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

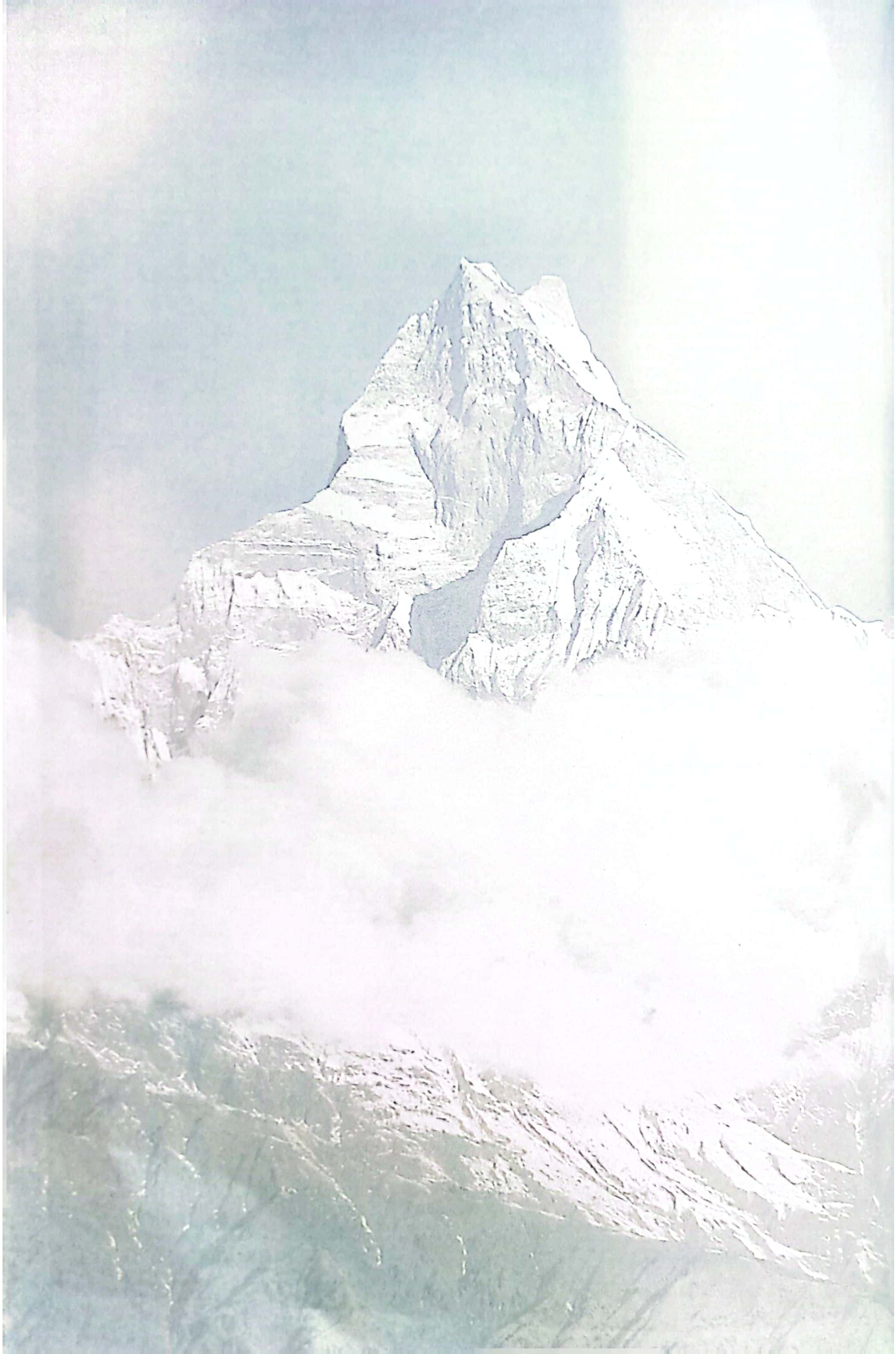


HIS MAJESTY KING GYANENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV





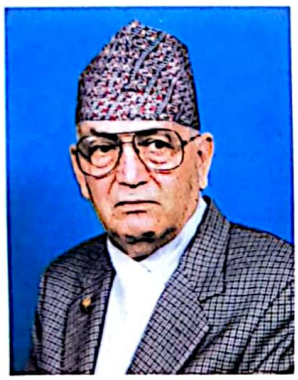
HER MAJESTY QUEEN KOMAL RAJYA LAXMI DEVI SHAH



KATHMANDU
NEPAL

The Prime Minister

February 3, 2004



Message

It gives me pleasure to learn that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is bringing out **Nepal Parbat** *a special commemorative issue to mark the Grand Opening Ceremony of International Mountain Museum (IMM).*

I wish all the success to NMA in its future endeavor and extend on my own and on behalf of HMG a Hearty Congratulation to all the parties concerned and involved with IMM and the Editorial Board of **NEPAL PARBAT.**

(Surya Bahadur Thapa)



SARVENDRA NATH SHUKLA
Minister
Ministry of Culture,
Tourism & Civil Aviation

His Majesty's Government

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Ref. No.



Message

I am glad to learn that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is organizing the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum (IMM) in Pokhara. I considered it as another important tourism product to attract more mountaineers and mountain lovers to Nepal.

Tourism has remained one of the most potential areas that must be further developed to generate more employment opportunities as well as earn more foreign currency. It must also be remembered that mountain tourism has been promoted in Nepal with both these objectives in mind. Nepal possesses a large number of highest peaks in the world including the highest peak Mount Sagarmatha. They have made mountaineering here popular.

We all are aware of the fact that the external and internal events have had some adverse effect on Nepalese tourism in the past. However, His Majesty's Goverment has always worked to bring about timely and relevant reforms in the existing tourism policies in general and mountain tourism in particular. Its aim has been to promote tourism and several steps have been initiated to make the tourism industry more vibrant once again. The Golden Jubilee Celebration of First Ascent of Mt. Everest, Destination Nepal Campaign 2002 - 2003, Regional Tourism Promotion Programme, preparation for Golden Jubilee Celebration of eight-thousander peaks opening up of newer peaks, waiver or reduction of royalty fees on certain peaks, opening up of some river for rafting and other such forward looking policies and programmes are in line with the government's objectives of developing and promoting tourism industry. I am pleased to note that because of these major initiatives taken by the government in the past, the mountain activities continued to grow even in the time of recession in tourism front.

The role of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), a non-profit making non-governmental organization is regarded as being very important for mountain tourism development. Because of its significant role, His Majesty's Government has authorized it to issue climbing to manage 33 peaks. I would like to thank NMA for bringing out this special issue of *NAPAL PARBAT*. I wish you all the best on the Grand opening of the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara.

(Sarvendra Nath Shukla)
Minister



MESSAGE

Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City

I feel it an honour to convey my best wishes and congratulations, through ***Nepal Parbat***, to Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) on the occasion of the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara.

I have always been watching the construction of IMM with keen interest. Now the important day has come. As a resident of Pokhara, I feel that the museum is an important asset of Pokhara.

NMA must be thanked for choosing Pokhara as the site for such a unique museum. It will further increase the attraction of Pokhara among both the tourists and the local people. Working together with NMA has always been a pleasure.

I would like to thank ***Nepal Parbat*** for out its Special Issue to coincide with the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum today.



Harka Bahadur Gurung
Mayor
Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City

MESSAGE

Union of Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme

The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation

It is with great pleasure that I received the news of the opening of the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara. I had the privilege of visiting the site at the early stages of the project and could see the splendid location that had been chosen. I have no doubt that a visit to the museum will be on the agenda of many mountaineers, trekkers and other visitors to Nepal. The vision of the initiators of the idea for the museum and the determination of the many people involved in seeing the project to a satisfactory conclusion must be admired and they should be complemented. On behalf of the worlds climbers and mountaineers I wish Nepal Mountaineering Association every success in the future on what will become one of Nepal's outstanding site to visit.



Ian McNaught-Davis
President, UIAA



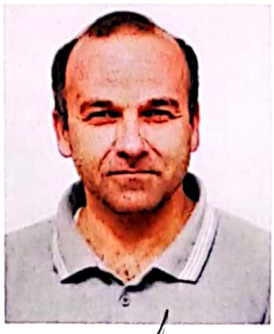
MESSAGE

Union of Asian Alpine Associations

Mountains are one of the largest and most important phenomenon in the nature which has play a very curtail rule in the balance of the earth and environment and more over to settle the civilizations. Mountain people and mountaineers have lots of experiences, tales and stories about their living environment in the mountains and all generations are interested to have and gather information about ancestor they would like to know how they live and how participate in different activities. Himalayas the highest and longest mountain range of the world with tolerant, honest, helpful and hard working people like ask all mountaineers of the kind mother to herself and kept stories from those who could climbed it which goes from one generation to another.

We and the next generation should study what would happen to our ancestor and the museums are one of the main tools which assist to transfer the required information.

The Pokhara Mountain Museum which was built up with great effort of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Kingdom of Nepal and all mountaineering organization can be used as a center to record the history of mountaineering and leave it to our children.



Sadegh Aghajani
President

MESSAGE

International Mountaineering Associations

The establishment of the International Mountain Museum (IMM) in the beautiful Himalayan country is a great achievement for Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). NMA must be congratulated for this.

Around the world there are many fine national exhibitions and museums and it is excellent that this new museum should be within display of high Himalayas which will make IMM unique in every sense that gives information of the world mountaineering events and achievement. The museum will be very much beneficial for all mountaineers, mountain lovers and researchers to learn more about mountain life and mountaineering.

We wish the NMA a grand success for the Official Opening Ceremony and also wish for every success in future endeavors.



Gia Tortladze
President



MESSAGE

The Chinese Mountaineering Association

Congratulation

We are very happy to learn that the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara will be officially opening soon, The Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) would like to express its warm congratulation.

We very much appreciate the great efforts made by the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) in the preparation of the museum construction in the past several years.

The International Mountain Museum in Pokhara is the precious fortune of the world mountaineering. We deeply believe the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara will make great contributions to the development of the mountaineering cause in the whole world.



MESSAGE

Indian Mountaineering Foundation

I am very happy to learn that NMA has established an International Mountain Museum (IMM) at Pokhara and that this complex is being inaugurated on 5th February, 2004.

On behalf of the IMF and the Indian mountaineering fraternity, which is closely associated with Himalaya, I send you our greetings and best wishes on this happy occasion. The IMM will make a most valuable contribution to recalling the history of mountaineering and the heroic achievements of eminent climbers, past and present. I look forward to an early opportunity to see the IMM.



N N Vohra
President
Indian Mountaineering Foundation



Japan Mountaineering Association

First of all, I wish to express congratulation from my heart as representative of Japan Mountaineering Association (JMA) for completion of International Mountain Museum in Nepal.

We know that this project was established by Nepal Mountaineering Association in 1996. However, the project at the initial stage was doubtful for completion due to huge funds it required, but now the doubts are over.

It is wonderful dream that has come true to all mountain associations. In 1997, we were requested by the Nepal Mountaineering Association to raise fund for the completion of this Museum. Upon request from them, we immediately took action to raise funds by Japan Mountain Association with cooperation of 5 other Japan Mountain Associations like The Japanese Alpine Club (JAC), Japan Workers' Alpine Federation (JWAF), Japan-Nepal Society, the Himalayan Association of Japan (HAJ), Himalayan Adventure Trust of Japan (HAT-J).

So, far we have contributed US$193,532.00 to N.M.A. This was realized with the cooperation of many people.

The Himalayan Mountain is our dream to climb some day. Nepal is an attractive country and it is the base camp for all mountain climbers of the world. That is the reason why huge amount was contributed by these people.

I trust many more people will visit this country at the completion of the International Mountain Museum, and much more information will be gathered in this place.

We wish to cooperate on this project further to realize the bigger dream ever before.

Lastly, we wish to express again, CONGRATULATION FOR COMPLETION of the IMM and express our best wishes for the Official Opening.



F Tanaka
President
Japan Mountaineering Association



MESSAGE

Korean Alpine Federation

It is a matter of great pride for the whole mountaineering community on the historic event of the Official Opening of the International Mountain Museum (IMM). The museum which is the first of its kind should play an important role in developing mountaineering, educating the new generation and also preserving various events and achievement. It is a place where mountaineers can relive the past.

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is to be congratulated on their continuous effort in making the International Mountain Museum a reality.



Kim, Sang-Hyum
President, Korean Alpine Federation



MESSAGE

Nepal Mountaineering Association

It gives me immense pleasure to offer my heartiest greetings to everyone on the occasion of the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum, a mega-project of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA).

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed in making this project of NMA s success. Meanwhile, NMA sincerely expects the continued support and cooperation to be forthcoming in the days to come.

The International Mountain Museum project was not born in an instant. It took a lot of deliberations and planning before it was launched. Because of the heavy investment required, assistance from all has been welcome and we feel indebted to all the donors.

Any work on a museum is a continuous process. The work never finishes, as there are many things to be done as part of the on-going operation for the museum to be full-fledged.

IMM is one of the most unique and the only of its kind in the world and hence our pride. The museum is a meeting point for "Man, Mountain and Mountaineering". It will be useful not only for researchers, scholars and mountaineers but also for people who love to but cannot go up the snowy mountains. It will, in reality, be a miniature Himalaya in the laps of the scenic Pokhara valley. It is another glowing landmark in Pokhara legendary for its beautiful lakes with the Himalayan peaks like Machhapuchhre, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri in the background. Pokhara now has one more tourism product to boast about.

NEPAL Mountaineering Association (NMA) has, since its establishment in 1973, been committed to promote mountain tourism together with the preservation of the Himalayan environment , assisting mountaineers, honouring successful climbers, conducting skill development training in mountaineering to both Nepalese and foreigners, and other related works.

The relations with other alpine clubs and alpine federations of which NMA is a member has fostered greater understanding and cooperation. The assistance received from alpine clubs of different countries and federations has been of great help in seeing the International Mountain Museum reach this stage. It is a matter of pride for all of us to reach fruition. This is a reflection of the fact that no task is impossible if there is mutual understanding and cooperative effort. The IMM is a living testimony of this simple fact.

There are still more works to be done but whatever has been achieved is because of the generous contributions of all donors, well-wishers, mountaineers and mountain lovers. If it had not been for the moral and financial support the museum would have remained a dream.

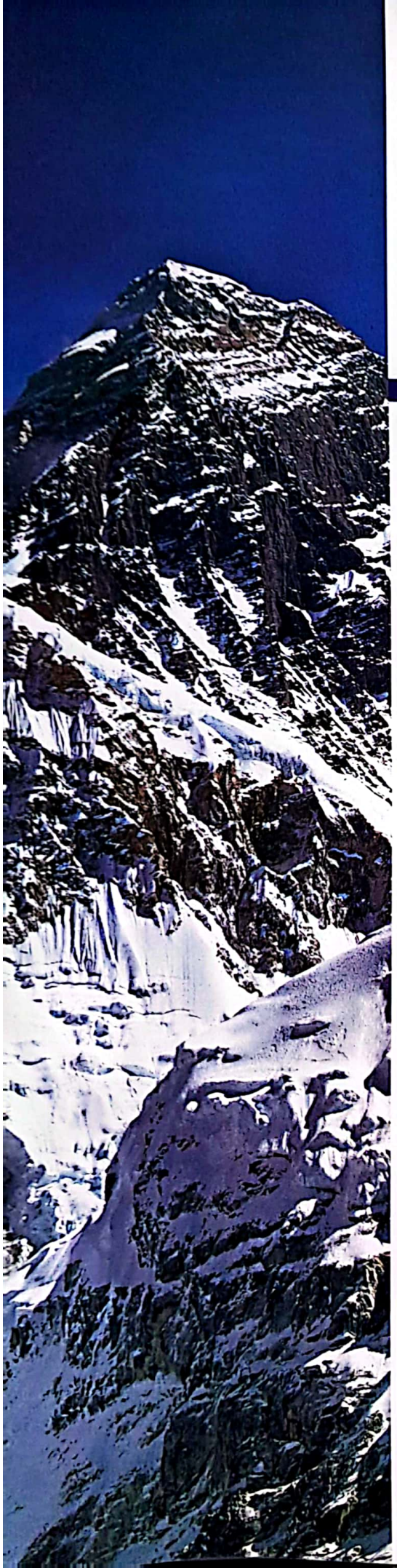
IMM is a reality now!

Last, but not the least, I would like to thank all my colleagues, the Secretariat and the staff who have worked relentlessly to see the project come of age.

I would also like to thank ***Nepal Parbat*** for bringing out its Special Issue on this memorable occasion of the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum.



Ang Tshering Sherpa
President
Nepal Mountaineering Association



International Mountain Museum Specic

Nepal Parbat

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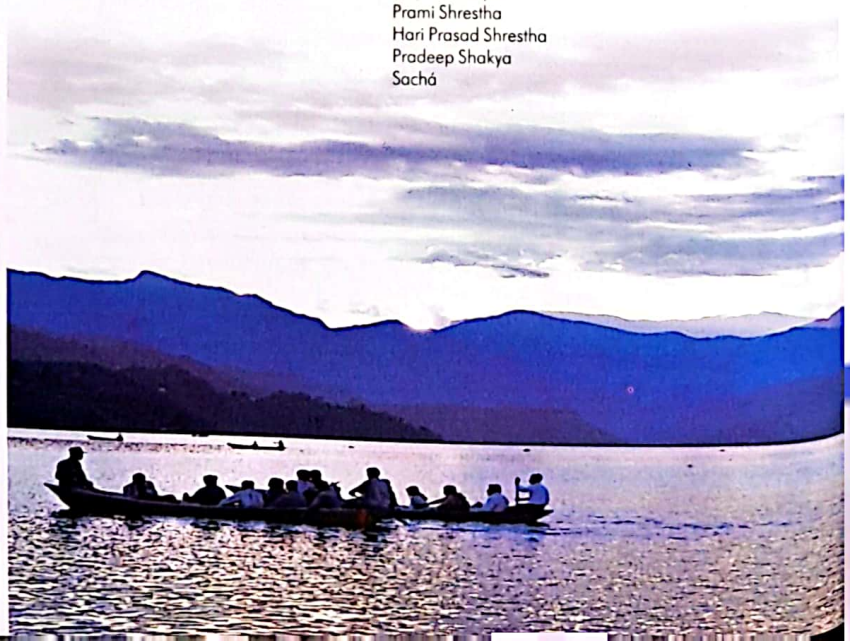
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International Mountain Museum

POKHARA, NEPAL



Achievement That Speaks

It is a matter of great pleasure to come up with the Special Issue of *Nepal Parbat*, a publication of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), to coincide with the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum ((IMM), a mega project of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, today that is the 5th of February, 2004. It had been a vision to bring it to materialisation since its inception in 1996. In fact, all along Nepal Mountaineering Association has been endeavouring since the idea was mooted to make IMM, the one and only of its kind in the world, to meet the expectations of everyone be they mountaineers or ordinary folks. It has been designed in such a way that it will be able to present all the aspects of the mountains in the world with special focus on the Himalayas which consists of the highest peak Mt. Everest, mountain tourism, glimpses into the Himalayan and other mountain systems and activities of Nepal Mountaineering Association including its humanitarian works, preservation of the mountain environment through clean-up campaigns among others. The information on mountains and mountaineering provided and 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.

Today is an important day in mountaineering history as this is the day (February5, 2004) that the Grand opening of the International Mountain Museum is taking place amidst fanfare. Of course, in the backdrop lies the finest of achievements made by late Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary to be the first humans to step on the summit of Everest, the highest peak in the world. Despite all prior attempts they came to be reckoned as the testimony of human endeavour, endurance and courage. It also put the name of Nepal in the mountaineering map that still continues. Nepal with that exposure to its natural heritage of the unparalleled Himalayan range, including eight of the fourteen peaks in the world which are over 8,000m in height, has become playground of mountaineers and mountain lovers. Nepal, as a result, has become the meeting point of adventure lovers especially those interested in mountain climbing. The lure for the Himalayas and its peaks still continues especially with Everest being at the centre of all attraction though ther are other peaks which have made their own name in mountaineering history.

The idea of the International Mountain Museum may have started with the visionaries working to create something important and big as well and which could be remembered for times to come. But it had not been a smooth ride as far as the construction and its decorations are concerned. Glitches were there related to the financial crunch. NMA could not have done it alone on its own. So fund had to be generated not only from the coffers of Nepal Mountaineering Association but also from all well-wishers, friends and all the interested people including the famous mountaineers.

While on this topic, it may be worthwhile mentioning that tourism still remains important as far as the national economy is concerned and thousands of people are directly or indirectly benefiting from this sector. This speaks for the importance of the tourism industry for the country. In this respect the development of new tourism products are of great importance in that they will be able to attract a greater number of tourists to the country. In this respect, the International Mountain museum has come as a new tourism product which can not only enhance the image of the country but also extend the stay of visitors in the country by at least two days.

The Museum Hall Building covers an area of 4242 sq. metres of the total area o 12.5 acres of the land owned by Nepal Mountaineering Association for the IMM project. The location of the museum being Pokhara might seem bewildering to some but on the whole there are many reasons why it is the most appropriate of places. Talk of transportation or the panoramic view of the Himalayas including the famed Mt. Machhapuchhare or the Annapurna range, everything is here. When the idea is to give the feel of the mountains, no better choice seems to be there.

It is an ambitious project, no doubt, but someone has to take a lead and in this context it has bee the Nepal Mountaineering Association which has put its whole weight behind this major project.

Everyone concerned or related to mountaineering activities have shown their utter interest in the project and have offered their financial as well as moral support and that is the reason why NMA has arrived at the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum today. It is no feat to have achieved so much with the good wishes and support of friends and well-wishers. However, further assistance is needed to take the museum to its fullest extent and in this regard more support and help will be forthcoming.

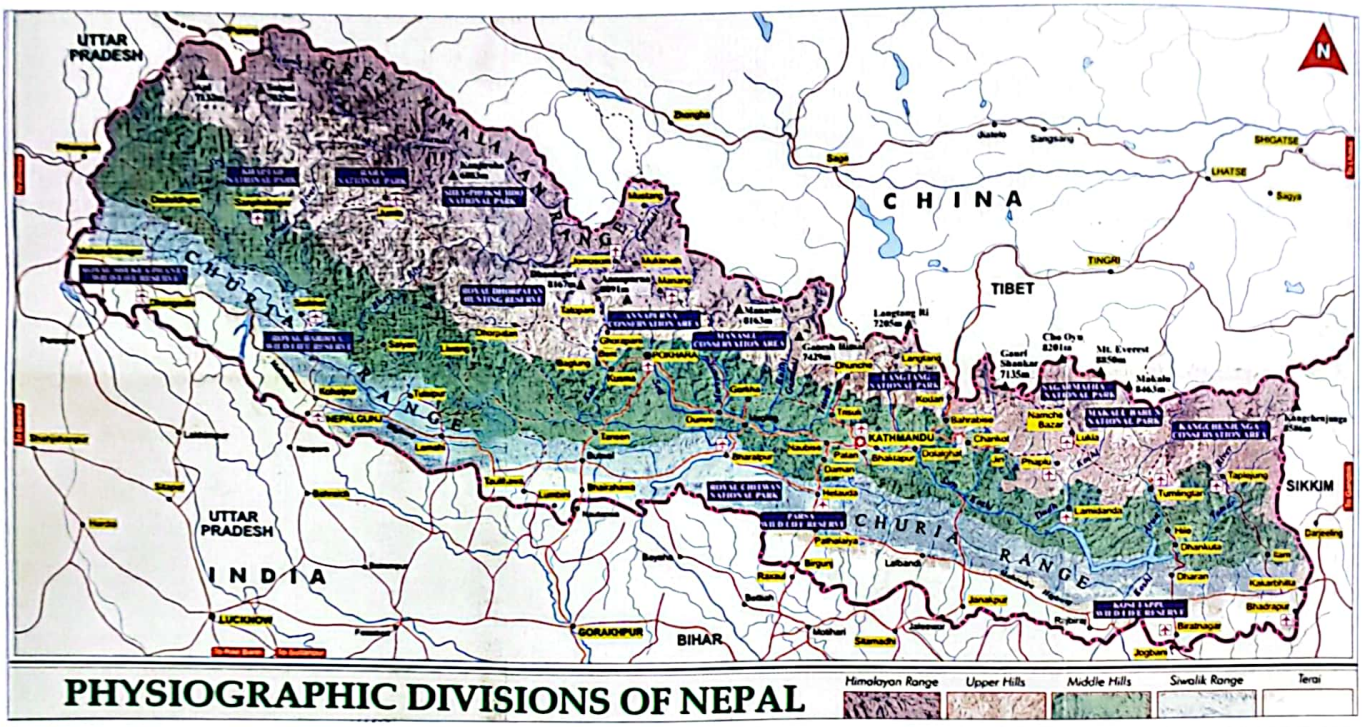
To go back to the commemoration of the first successful ascent of Sagarmatha, NMA is proud to have fulfilled its commitment. It was not only the local media but also the international that highlighted the mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration in May, 2003.

The role of *Nepal Parbat* has always been to include various thought provoking as well as informative articles on every sphere of mountains and mountaineering so that everyone can gain insight of the reality. We have tried our best to make this Special Issue worth the grand and momentous occasion of the much-awaited Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum.

There may be some shortcomings but they can be rectified if our respected readers point them out to us. To be factual is our motto hence if anything goes off the track it may be of great help if they are pointed out to us so that they do not get repeated in the future.

On behalf of *Nepal Parbat*, we wish that all our friends and well-wishers will be able to participate in the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum. ▲

NEPAL FACTSHEET



PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS OF NEPAL

Himalayan Range | Upper Hills | Middle Hills | Siwalik Range | Terai

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 of Birth in 2001	:	59.7 years
People	:	Nepal has more than 60 caste/ethnic group 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	:	Rhodedendron - Arboreum (Lali Gurans)	
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 to 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 famous for its natural beauty and nature based adventure tourism. Mountaineering, trekking, rafting and wildlife sanctuaries are the special attractions for adventure tourism.

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. But in the year 2002 total foreign currency earning from tourism were US $ 106.8 which is 23.8 percent decrease of the last year.

A total number of 275,468 tourists visited Nepal during the year 2002 representing decrease of 23.7 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 tourist was recorded as 12 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, in 1953, 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 to 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 27.9 percent and 21.5 percent respectively in the years 2001and 2002. Trekking/ mountaineering is also one of the major factors to increase the average length or stay of the tourists in the country.

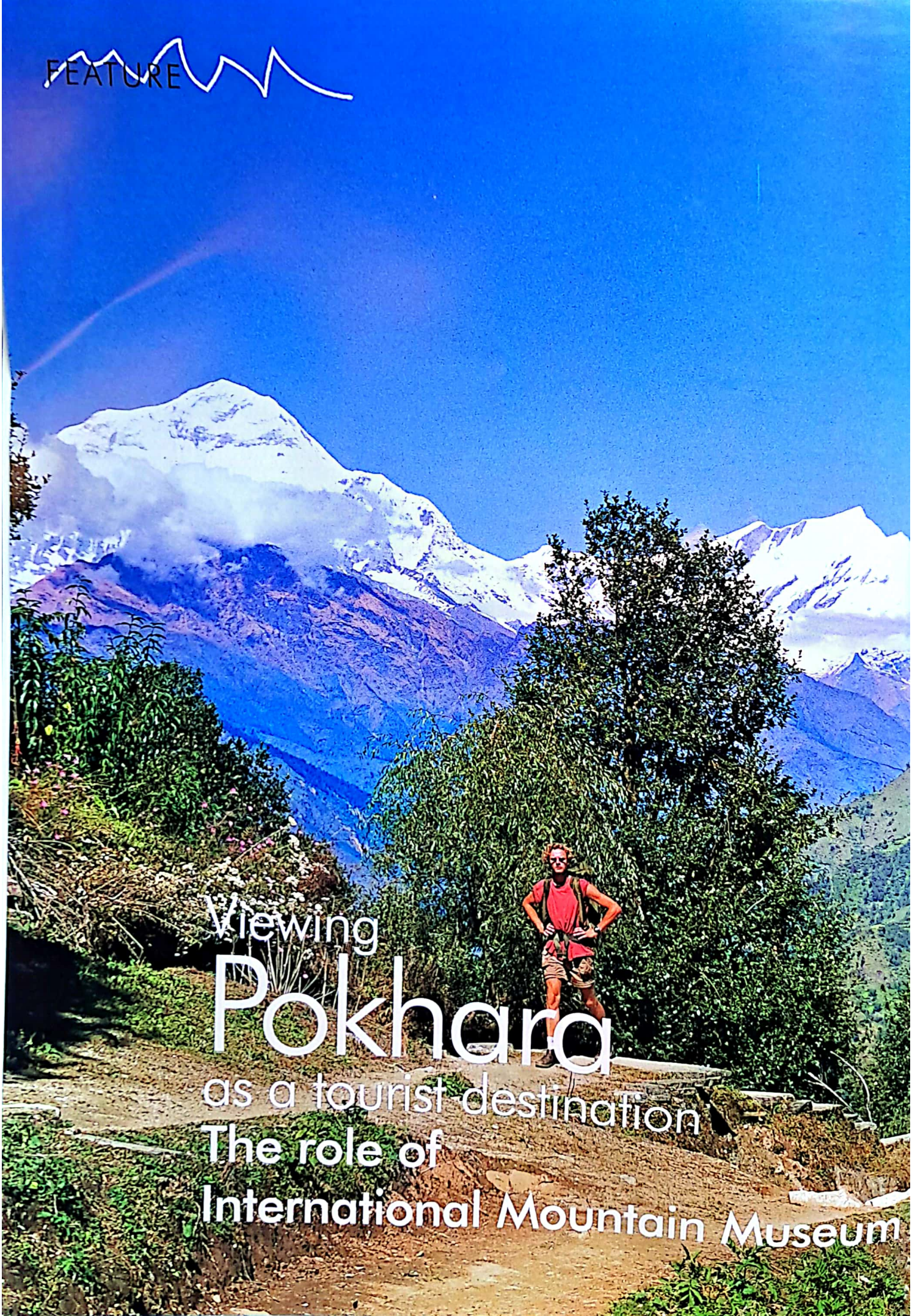
In the year 2002 a total 134 expedition teams were granted permission to scale different peaks and out of which 83 teams were successful. The total number of mountaineers was 913 in 2002.

Text : **Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha**



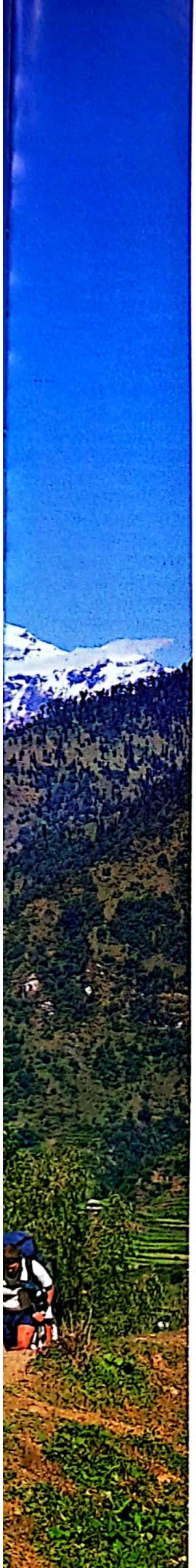


FEATURE



Viewing Pokhara as a tourist destination

The role of International Mountain Museum



Dr. Hari Shrestha is Lecturer in Culture Department, Padma Kanya Campus, Kathmandu.

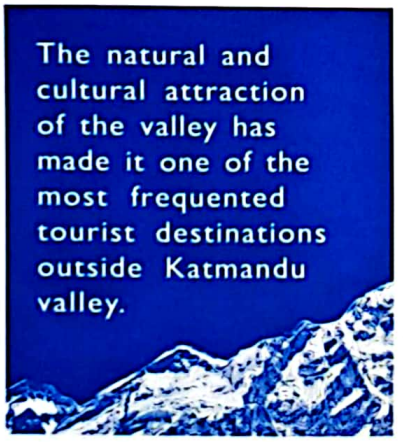
The ultimate entry point for mountaineers, Pokhara is a beautiful Valley with a solitary town of the same name in the central hill of Nepal. It lies on the lap of lofty and fascinating ranges of snowy mountains called the Annapurna with lovely Machhapuchhre. These beautiful mountains rising just above the Pokhara Valley remain not only as sources of pristine beauty but also as sources of myths, legends and facts on the origin of the Valley. Recent discoveries have led geologists to conclusions indicating that the Valley floor of Pokhara appeared and came into existence with the catastrophic debris flow event from Machhapuchhre about ten thousand years ago. The more recent of another, less powerful flow was about seven hundred years ago. Having many charming lakes and enchanting Himalayas around, Pokhara has become one of the most beautiful towns of Nepal with its central location in the middle of the country. The location factor has made Pokhara the "heartland of the kingdom" of Nepal. Apart from this, the geological structure of the valley and the unique ethnic-cultural mosaic seem to be more interesting and enchanting for the observers. Like the two major geological upheavals leading to diverse surface formation, the cultural backbone of Pokhara was also formed by diverse ethnic groups of people who came and settled there in different phases of history. The first phase marked the beginning of super-imposition of Hindu culture with royal patronage. The establishment of the "castle settlement" of the ruling class chhetris and "temple settlement" of Hindu Brahmins, who got tax-free, granted land by the king to promote Hindu culture in the Valley supports this fact. With the arrival of Hindu/Buddhist Newars from Kathmandu Valley the second phase turned more towards the process of assimilation among the people from different ethnic-cultural background.

The Newar people introduced commercial network of market system and initiated the culture with more urban features. After the migration of several ethnic groups from the hill the third phase marked another super imposition with complex form of socio-cultural tradition that resulted in the growth of ethnic revivalism and identity consciousness in the urban complex.

The socio-cultural process as the main feature of urban culture of Pokhara with its somewhat weaker rural base resulted in the evolution of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society in the town. The tribal Mongoloid and caste-stratified Caucasoid are the two major ethnic groups living together in close proximity thereby influencing each other in their way of life and culture. Within these two major racial groups, there are many ethnic and caste communities representing their own traditions and customs.

Among them, three major ones are the Brahmin/Chhetris and occupational caste with Hindu tradition, the Newars with Hindu, Buddhist and Tantric system and the hill migrants of ethnic community with Shamanistic tradition and Tibetan Buddhism. Interaction among these three culture groups has initiated a process of change in the pattern of urban culture in Pokhara. Pokhara by the late twentieth century represented various ethnic, religious, linguistic-cultural traditions creating and promoting a "melting pot" situation without losing a group-specific cultural character. One of the striking features in the urban growth of Pokhara is the presence of "three layer culture" consisted of the urban (Newari), the rural (pahadi Hindu) and the hill (ethnic or indigenous) people with their distinct traditions and customs. These factors have made Pokhara one of the major urban centers presenting as a unique and live "ethnic-cultural museum" in the Kingdom of Nepal.

Pokhara as a fastest growing town in Nepal is virtually a synonym of modern Nepali Tourist industry. The growth of tourism has contributed much to the expansion of commercial function in Pokhara. The town is considered to have significant tourism potential, which provides one of the most important economic bases to the town. Pokhara is one of the most popular destinations and second most visited city by tourists in Nepal. The city is well known for the Phewa Lake, the panoramic view of Annapurna Himalayan ranges, natural caves, waterfalls, gateway to entire Annapurna and upper Mustang area, day hikes, narrow and deep Seti River gorge, temples, monasteries and other tangible and intangible features of diverse cultures. The natural and cultural attraction of the valley has made it one of the most frequented tourist destinations outside Katmandu valley. In 1899, Ekai Kawaguchi, the Japanese Buddhist scholar



who as a first foreigner to visit Pokhara said, "In all my travels in the Himalayas, I saw no scenery so enchanting as that which enraptured me in Pokhara." Tony Hagen, who traveled all over Nepal in the fifties and sixties on foot, also noted after his visit to Pokhara, "Pokhara is certainly one of the most extraordinary and most beautifulplaces in the whole world." These observations deserve special appreciation and demonstrate the particular fascination that Pokhara Valley evoked. The tourists can enjoy the most impressive landscape and beautiful sights without any discomfort and additional cost.

The famous Phewa Lake is situated in the suburbs of Pokhara. The lakeside has a great potential for development into a resort destination for tourists. The development of tourism and increasing number of tourists visiting Pokhara and nearby hills and the charm of living in a quiet and peaceful location like Phewa lake have led to the growth of a number of hotels, lodges and restaurants of various grades in the lakeside. This place, formerly a village, is now one of the major tourist attractions of the town. As a result, many remarkable hotels and restaurants around the lakeside in Pokhara have emerged with cosmopolitan services.

The phenomenal development of tourism in Pokhara was also due to the location factor, which further assisted the urban growth of town. The beautiful location of Pokhara attracted a large number of tourists, which greatly enhanced the development of modern hotels, restaurants and other infrastructures. Tourism, as a source of foreign exchange, has played an outstanding role to generate economic opportunities. It is not only a source of foreign exchange but also an important factor for employment opportunity. The tourist industry is a labor-intensive service industry and hence is a valuable source of employment. It employs a large number of people and provides a wide range of jobs, which extends from the unskilled to the highly specialized.

Tourism industry in Pokhara has brought distinct changes in the economic, social and cultural life of the people. It has generated large employment opportunities in hotels, travel and trekking agencies and other service sectors, which are involved in tourist service. Tourist facilities such as hotels, restaurants, museums, clubs, and sports complex, cultural show, public transport, etc. are increased rapidly in the town. The steadily increasing flow of travelers and tourists have created a demand for a variety of vegetables, and introduced the restaurant owners to many popular foreign recipes. Hotel industry mainly backed by tourism is regarded as one of the most successful and profitable sector in Pokhara. Export of handicrafts, which flourished highly because of tourism in the town, is another important source of earning foreign currency. A prosperous middle class is emerging today, which was not possible without tourism industry in the town. Thus Pokhara has acquired more advantage from tourism industry, which has definitely helped in stimulating the growth of other urban activities in the town. Besides, tourism industry has also encouraged certain changes in the traditional socio-economic and cultural relation of the town population. The impact of tourism on the socio-cultural life of the city resulted in the growth of more exposure, contact and interaction with foreign people and also among various communities who have different role to play in the total urban system. The tremendous growth of English-medium schools and colleges in the Valley manifests that the town population has become more aware of the value of modern education and English as language of modern vocations. The growing trend of female education furnishes them with opportunity for their economic independence.

Interesting is the fact that mountain climbing expedition was first introduced Pokhara to outside world. The Westerners knew about Pokhara's Annapurna Mountain when Maurice Herzog's book provided information about the 1950 French Expedition to the top of this first 8,000-meter peak to be climbed. Only then its impact was felt in Pokhara, a city to become a tourist paradise later. Expeditions to Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges and most of the popular treks starts from Pokhara, since the high mountains

are reached quickly and there is a variety of beautiful scenery within a week

of walking. Porters, tents, hotels and restaurants are needed for trekking, so trekking has brought jobs and opportunities for many Nepalis of the region and beyond. In the early days the expedition kept in touch and often arranged for mail or additional porters through the Shining Hospital or the Himalayan Hotel at the airport. Now there are many agencies established in Pokhara for the support of the expedition team.

The International Mountain Museum - a new ornament in the landscape the town of Pokhara has a regional museum catering the need of students, local people, and visitors. There is also one small museum at the local campus of Tribhuvan University. The third in the line is the International Mountain Museum (IMM) founded by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). As Pokhara lies on the gate to the mountaineers going to various mountains such as Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and others, the establishment of the International Mountain Museum here has become an important event that will bring far-reaching impact in the city and peripheral region. As a Himalayan

Kingdom, Nepal has a pride to come forward and fulfill its responsibility

to honor the heroic deeds of native and

foreign mountaineers by establishing the Mountain Museum. The Museum itself has multiple functions to promote mountain expedition and mountain tourism in the country. It can serve as a learning center for those who have great desire and ambition of mountain climbing. The potentials of Nepali youths will definitely release through the exhibition of rare materials once used by the mountain heroes from within and abroad.

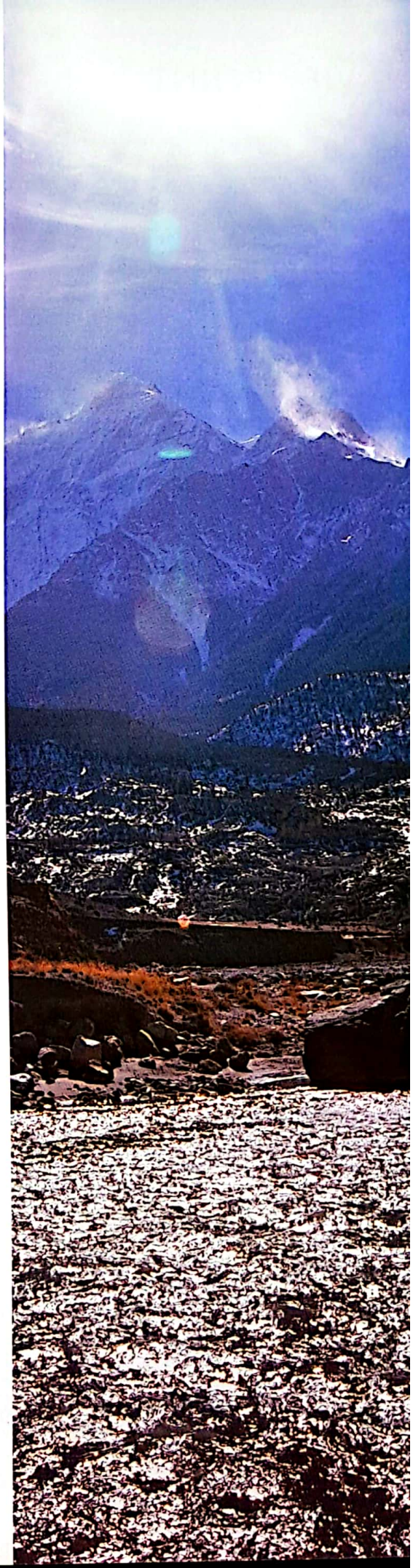
As a learning center, the Museum can further provide variety of opportunities such as; basic course on climbing, national and international symposium, exposure and preservation of valuable things of mountaineers, enhance the interest of Nepali youths towards mountain climbing etc. The objects collected in the Museum are the valuable sources of knowledge and understanding about humanity and the natural world. Further, the Museum can provide new horizon of knowledge and information to the school children that evokes feelings and inspire learning. The Museum can also provide intellectual contents for its research mission.
There are greater opportunities to carry out research work from different angle and approaches in the field of mountaineering. The important contribution of such Museum is to stimulate understanding and inspire wonder among the young generation of the country.

Pokhara, as a gateway town to the entire Annapurna and Mustang region, has greater potentials to promote mountain trekking and high mountain expedition as well. For this the Museum will also play positive role to attract the foreign mountaineers to Nepal and particularly to Pokhara. Opening of new peaks for expeditions will definitely generate multiple chances for the people of the entire region. The native expertise and the manpower in the field will have the opportunity to have contact and interaction with the people with more advanced knowledge thereby enhancing themselves for better achievements in the days ahead. The process of interaction and assimilation with the people of trans-Himalayan region will also be highly accelerated. As the Museum develops as a center of attraction for the people far and wide there arises greater chances to expand knowledge and increase understanding.

As Pokhara is developing as a tourist attraction, colleges in Pokhara can cater for the growing need of tourism related education. Increasing number of higher and technical education establishments in the city of Pokhara are now able to provide a wide range of choices and can offer modified and marketable courses in tourism sector including mountain tourism and mountaineering. Some courses on cultural tourism with more classical approach have already been offered for the students of graduate level at the local campuses. But this is not enough. Actually teaching courses in tourism in the present context should be dynamic to cope with the need of changing scenario. With the introduction of International Mountain Museum in Pokhara as a viable and potential source of mountaineering and tourism, there is an immediate need of redesigning the course on tourism for the higher-level students. The academic institutions offering advanced courses on tourism at present may be benefited by developing a new course giving more focus on mountain /adventure tourism. International Mountain Museum will be a center for the practical studies for the students of adventure or/and mountain tourism. There is a good scope and enough ground for all academician and expertise to launch new programs related to adventure tourism. Such new approach will help and enhance to broaden the horizon of knowledge of tourism. It also expands the space of relation and functions of Mountain Museum in Pokhara.

The International Mountain Museum has just been opened and there are many things to be done to run it effectively. Moreover, it has a distinct mission to collect and preserve objects, record information about them, study and make them available to the public for educational purposes. The care and maintenance of significant objects is another challenges to overcome. Well organization of the Museum with good insight and vision is also equally important to mention. There are both challenges and opportunities for the Pokhara International Mountain Museum to expand its multiple functions and step up towards a new mission in the Kingdom of Nepal.

The museum will start its function after its inauguration on February 5, 2004. Located at Rato Pairo, lower Pokhara Valley, the museum will definitely play its due role in familiarizing the mountains of Nepal to the viewers. It will serve as an educational center. One can hope that the Museum has fulfilled a need felt by the mountaineers. ▲



HOW people look at International Mountain Museum?

People from different walks of life in Pokhara were interviewed by Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha and Prem N. Kakkar for *Nepal Parbat* and their views regarding the role of International Mountain Museum in Pokhara is presented below.



Mahadev Gurung

Former Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation

The construction of the International Mountain Museum was indeed eventful. The Pokhara residents are happy that something of importance is being constructed in their area. However, I feel that the participation of pokhara residents is not enough. There should be more participation. It is well-known that Pokhara was chosen as the site for the museum over Solukhumbhu so a feeling has developed among us that IMM is ours.

I remember that the Bishwa Shanti Puja (World peace Worship) in Pokhara at IMM made it known among the people here. This led to the growth of interest in IMM among the Pokhara residents.

On how to promote IMM, I feel that the beauty of Nepal lies in its Himalayan range, its unique flora and fauna, art and architecture, culture and religion. But the museum makes it convenient to the people to *feel* the Himalayas and the mountain environment without venturing out in the mountains. That would be a wonderful feeling and experience. That's why I feel that the museum can do much to promote tourism in Pokhara as well as in the country.

I have seen that the Soft opening of IMM last year has led to more people including tourists being interested in the museum. It also led to much publicity no only of the museum but of Pokhara as well.

Pokhara's unique beauty together with the presence of IMM will add a glorious chapter to the tourism industry in Nepal.



Harka Bahadur Gurung

Mayor, Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City

The International Mountain Museum is Pokhara's prestige, its dignity. Pokhara has a responsibility to see the museum flourish and develop for the sake of city itself. The development of IMM is essential keeping in view the inputs that it would give to the development of the tourism industry here and that would help generate employment opportunities for the people.

This is the reason we would like to make a modest contribution, including financial help,s for its development. It will be an additional attraction and thereby attract more tourists.

I am committed to support all activities aimed at developing Pokhara so IMM is also in my priority list. For IMM, I have plans to metal the road inside the IMM premise.

I have great affection for IMM and so wish its greater progress which will also help Pokhara itself.



Kamal Man Gurung

President, District Development Committee, Kaski

With the construction and operation of the International Mountain Museum, I am hoping for a big change in life here in Pokhara. It is not only Pokhara but Kaski District and the whole of Nepal, that will benefit.

What do you think would be the role of the International Mountain Museum in tourism development of not only Pokhara but also of Nepal? Any other benefits besides the tourism sector?

I have seen that the Museum has attracted, since its Soft Opening in 2002, the attention of all from the international community. Therefore it is necessary to cash in on what IMM has to offer and Pokhara has to do most because it is in Pokhara itself. I alos believe that IMM will do much to contribute for tourism development.

For the IMM to be located here is a privilege to Pokhara. And IMM, as I haveheard, is the only museum of this kind in the world. IMM is a model and a pride of Pokhara.

I have the feeling that when IMM is fully opened there will be a greater flow of tourists to Pokhara which has repercussions for the country as a whole.

On participating in IMM activities, I love it and participate in every related programme, including the Soft Opening in 2002.

I feel that there are some problems relating to the public participation in the construction of IMM. It seems Nepal Mountaineering Association, whose project the International Mountain Museum is, has not been able to generate local people's participation in the construction of IMM. It is true at the same time that the people of Pokhara are not fully aware of the importance of IMM. It is necessary that the people must know the message that IMM is in Pokhara and it will be one of the tools to promote Pokhara as a tourist destination. The tourist in general also must be made aware of the location of such an exquisite museum in Pokhara that needs to be visited.

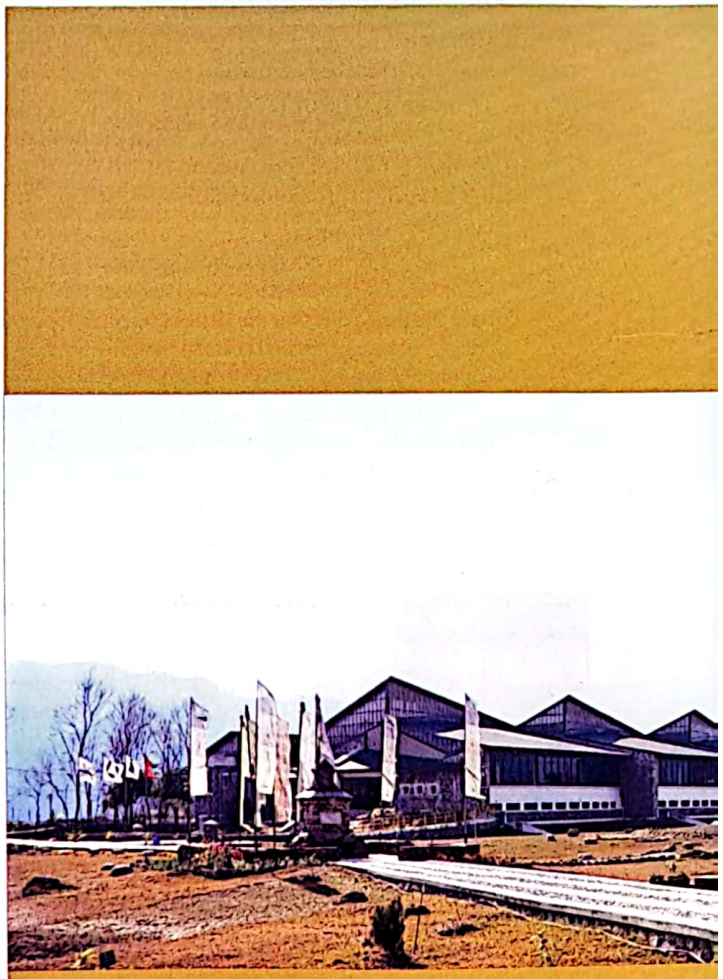
I think that more publicity and promotion of the museum is necessary through various the media.



Tirtha Shrestha

Poet/Litterateur

Pokhara has been referred to as a most beautiful valley in Nepal. It has attracted Nepalese people from various part of the country together with tourists from various countries. They come because Pokhara has something unique to offer. Nature has been very kind to Pokhara and hence the valley, the lakes, rivers and the



HOW people look at International Mountain Museum ?

majestic Himalayan peaks in the background.

The famous lakes like Fewa, Begnas and Rupa are great attractions. The Annapurna and Machhapuchhare remain as grand as ever. Similarly, the International Mountain Museum will be one more landmark in Pokhara. It will be wonderful.

As far as tourism is concerned, IMM will be another very saleable tourism product. When the need for new tourism product is very evident, IMM is surely going to fulfil its role in promoting tourism and the identity of Pokhara.

I believe that with the Grand Opening of IMM, the inflow of tourist to Pokhara will increase. At the same time I have the firm belief that the Nepalese people themselves will also take interest and visit the museum for the experience and knowledge that it will be able to provide.

I agree that a museum is a continuous process so there can never be a time when it is really complete. However, I want to make a suggestion that it would encouraging if the people's and porters' songs also find their entry into the collection which goes on to make the museum.



Durga Baral

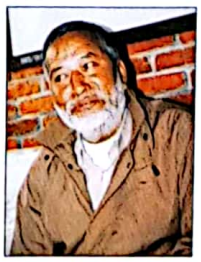
Artist/Painter

Not only for the Pokhara residents in general but the artists and painters too stand to benefit with the construction of the International Mountain Museum. The museum will prove to be useful.

It may be a tourist attraction but everyone stands to benefit from it. The visitors will learn not only about the Himalayas and mountains but also the culture and other things related to the mountain people and the environment. What greater opportunity would there be to learn without visiting the mountains?

I feel that the culture and traditions of the mountain areas must be reflected to the greatest extent possible. Costumes and instruments and materials of daily use must also be displayed.

As I am artist, my contribution can always be sought. I believe every artist will contribute to make IMM an able institution which will be a symbol of the vibrant Pokhara. But promotion and publicity of the museum must be done in a grand manner especially by making the Pokherilis aware that there is something that is an additional attraction.



Jhalak Thapa

Executive Director, IMM

Yes, IMM is related to tourism. 35 years back Pokhara was so clean that it was like a paradise on earth. For any place or institution there is a need for a vision. But, there has been nom legacy for Pokhara residents to follow.

A moot question is how far have the Pokhara residents been able to contribute for the actual development of Pokhara. There's a need for self criticism.

I agree that IMM has its own importance yet I believe that it must be of accepted international standard. Again a question: How much progress have we made in this direction?

The museum may be the only of its own kind but I want to ask as to how many Nepali summiteers have donated their artefacts to the museum. Do not they have a responsibility? They may bask in glory but the country must benefit. Isn't the IMM a symbol of all this?

I would like all Pokhara inhabitants to say, "IMM is ours." Only then will IMM be a living entity.

I feel that there are some requirements for maintaining international standard which include sincerity in words and deeds, determination and efforts. With all these in place the museum is sure to make a headway according the vision that is there.



Punya Paudel

President, FNJ Pokhara

The International Mountain Museum being constructed in Pokhara is a matter of pride. Whenever there is a project in Pokhara we naturally tend to talk about local participation and the need to mobilise civilised society so that better benefits can accrue. But, as far as I can see the people's participation in the construction and promotion of IMM is lacking. The initiatives for the local people's participation has not been done, I feel. This is necessary. The inclusion of all sections of the local people is essential for any project to bear the fruits. Can't we make the local taxi drivers, hotel workers, guides, trekking agents to spread the message that could be of benefit in promoting IMM? They could do a

What do you think would be the role of the International Mountain Museum in tourism development of not only Pokhara but also of Nepal? Any other benefits besides the tourism sector?

wonderful job for the promotion and publicity for the museum. Hasn't this been thought about? I am saying this because the publicity and promotion of IMM has not been enough in the local context.

The people must be made aware that there is a museum of international repute in their own city. This can lead to their participation in the development of the museum. We all must be aware of the fact that the people can contribute as well as destroy os it is essential to take the local people into confidence.

The media is a powerful weapon to spread the message and in this context the help of the local media must be taken so that IMM receives greater coverage and thereby its promotion as well as that of Pokhara.

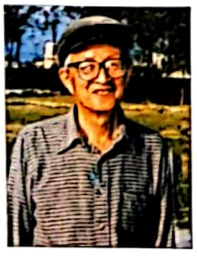


Surendra Bhariju

Campus Chief, Kanya Campus, Pokhara

I feel that the International Mountain Museum has a great significance to Pokhara that is itself a favourite among the tourist and the Nepalese people as well. The museum can play a very important role in increasing the number of visitors to Pokhara. The museum is unique in presenting itself as a informative and educative centre. This is the reason that it will have great importance of the tourist city of Pokhara. The Nepal Mountaineering Association must be thanked for locating the museum in Pokhara.

However, despite the progress made by the museum, I feel that the local people's interest in the project has not been enough. There should have been a greater level of public participation so that everyone would feel that the museum belonged to the people of Pokhara. A more aggressive publicity regarding the museum should also be undertaken. A way could be take students and teachers of various schools and colleges in Pokhara for an outing to IMM. That could be a way to make IMM known to all others.



Hisao Ando

(Museologist/Geologist),
JICA Senior Volunteer for IMM

I have firm belief that the International Mountain Museum would not only promote tourism but would do so for Pokhara as well as for Nepal.

However, it is necessary that not only mountaineering gear but the flora and fauna of the country must be displayed. Together with it the geological evidences must also be given space. Anything displayed to be meaningful need to be accompanied by explanatory notes or the use of photo panels.

I have to say frankly that the total completion of a museum is impossible because it is an ongoing process where artifacts and materials keep on being added. It is a continuous process so there is the need for vigilance and caution.

On the whole, I feel that Pokhara is the best site selected for the establishment of the International Mountain Museum.



Jyoti Bhattachan

Lecturer (History), P.N. Campus, Pokhara

I agree with the fact that Pokhara needs more development than what is taking place at the moment. For this the International Mountain Museum has come at the right moment to add a new tourism product in addition to the prevailing ones. How long can we depend on lakes alone?

IMM is a good venture as it is stated to be reflecting the culture and traditions of the mountain people. The people in general will be able to learn much from what the museum exhibits. IMM, I think, has a good future and according to what I have seen and heard it is impressive. As a teacher, I feel that it will be able to provide enough material for research in the relevant field. I am greatly impressed with the plans.



Ashok Palikhe

Chairman, Nepal Tourism and Hotel Management College, Pokhara
Ex-President, FNCCI

The International Mountain Museum will be an added attraction not only for tourists but the Nepalese also. At present we have the lakes and the Himalayas, so IMM will be a completely new type of tourism product. I believe that with this product in place the length of stay of the visitors to Pokhara will definitely increase.

It will be useful in the promotion of Pokhara and Nepal also.

What do you think would be the role of the International Mountain Museum in tourism development of not only Pokhara but also of Nepal? Any other benefits besides the tourism sector?

HOW people look at International Mountain Museum ?

The students, researchers, scholars, mountaineers and mountain lovers will also be able to acquire more knowledge.

As far as people's participation in the IMM project is concerned, there was some misunderstanding in the beginning but now it is changing. Positive thoughts are developing among the people. A fruitful partnership must develop betweeen the people of Pokhara and the Nepal Mountaineering Association. The concept of the people is changing and now coordination is developing which all looks good for the development of the museum.



Ramesh Karmacharya

President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pokhara

The International Mountain Museum will greatly help in tourism promotion. Its completion is an achievement not only for Pokhara but for Nepal itself. It will have role for economic development of this place.

I have the feeling that the educational, health and tourism sectors must develop for the right development of the museum.

For IMM to take the right direction, the participation of the local people is very necessary. Interaction between the local people and the officials of the nepal Mountaineering Association must take place at regular intervals. The people too must feel that the museum belongs to them also. Another point that I would like to mention is that the involvement of the Pokhara Chamber of Commerce and Industry is also necessary.





Anila Gurung, Sachi Shrestha

Students, BBS III Year, Kanya Campus, Pokhara

Yes, we had heard a lot about the museum and so we also visited the International Mountain Museum. It is really wonderful though it is not complete as yet. But when it is completed it will be a very interesting place. People can learn much about mountains and mountaineering. Regular visits to the museum must be arranged for students of schools and colleges. This will generate awareness among all. The museum is a landmark of Pokhara and we are proud of it. We wish IMM a grand success

Elisabeth Kraft

Tourist, Salzburg, Austria

I was very much impressed by the beauty of Pokhara. It is peaceful and cleaner than Kathmandu. I have heard about the International Mountain Museum though I have not visited the site. From what I have heard and read it will be wonderful place. Many people cannot go to the Himalayas so they will be able to experience and learn about mountains and mountaineering by visiting IMM. I am glad that such a project is near completion. I wish the Nepal Mountaineering Association all the best wishes.



Hari Dhwoj Tulachan

Tourism Entrepreneur
Member, IMM Committee

It is not only Pokhara's wealth but of Nepal. The role of the International Mountain Museum is great because of curiosity in the people to learn more. So, I believe that there is bright prospect for the museum. It will also help people gain more knowledge about the Himalayas.

There is every reason to be satisfied with the museum. More work must be done to promote the museum not only in Nepal but in other countries also.

As for local participation, the people here must be made aware of the importance of IMM. ▲



On the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum we extend our Hearty Congratulations and Best Wishes.

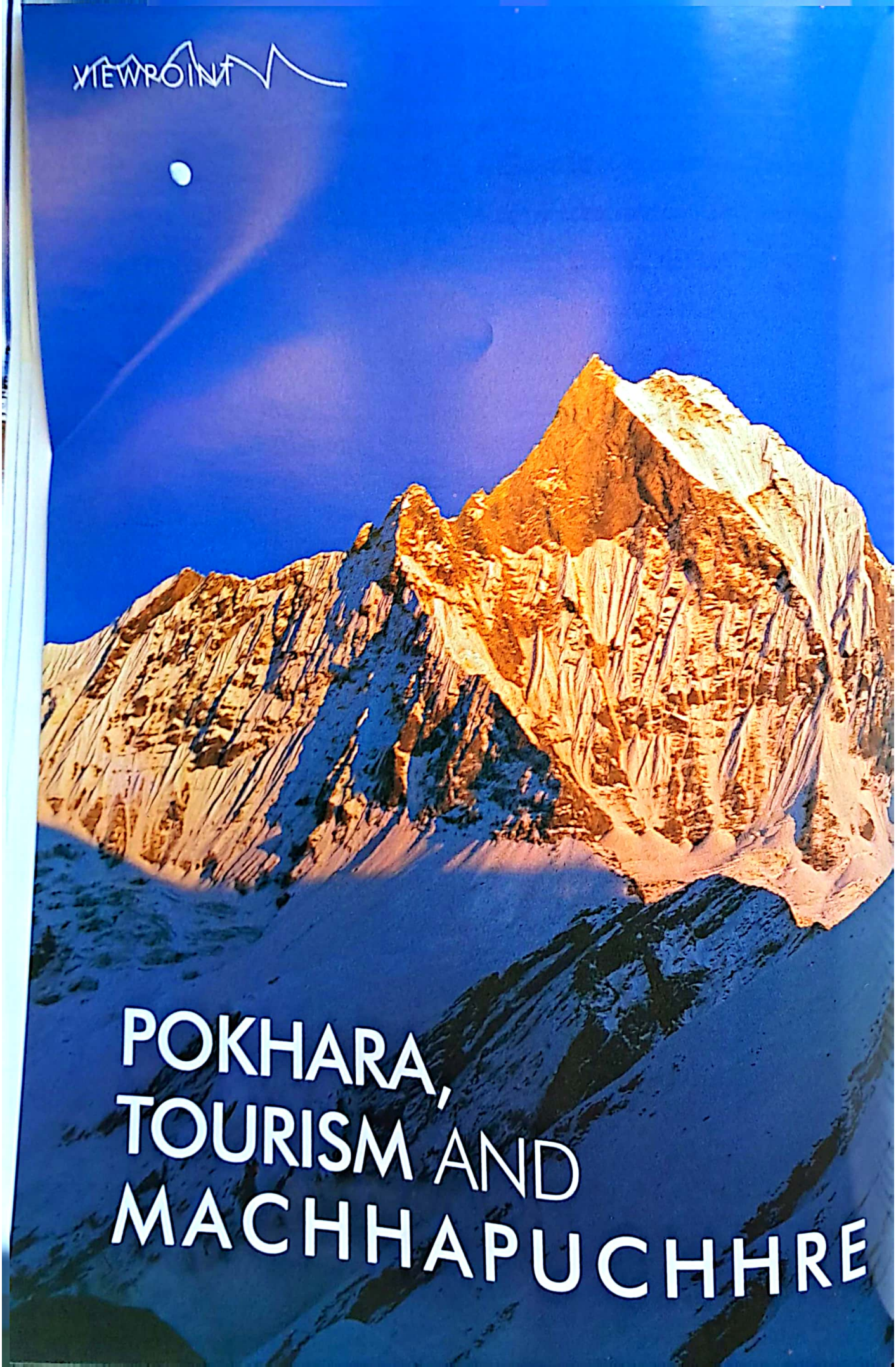


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VIEWPOINT
POKHARA,
TOURISM AND
MACHHAPUCHHRE

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

1. Pokhara Highlights

The term "Pokhara" is etymologically derived from "pokhari", which means a pond. And Pokhara Valley has not mere ponds but seven lakes: three large (Phewa, Begnas, Rupa) and four small (Dipang, Gunde, Khaste, Maidi). This low valley (900 metres) is dominated by Annapurna Himal only 40 km. due north. From the summit of Annapurna-1 (8071 m) to Pokhara town, the loss of elevation averages 180 meters per kilometer. This immense relief contrast has embued the area with a dramatic landscape. I will cite only three observations – by a British climber, a Japanese monk, and Swiss geologist.

The Land of Gurkhas by W.B. Northey was published in Cambridge, 1937. Its "Foreword" by Gen. Charles Bruce has the following passage:

"There is almost underlying this great center [of mountains], a town and a mart which always attracted my curiosity almost beyond any other town in Nepal. No one has been there, no one has seen it, but we know that its climate is almost tropical, that it cannot be more than 2,500 ft. in attitude that it is on the banks of a great lake, that it is an open valley and lies almost immediately at the foot of these magnificent giants [Annapurna Himal]. Phewa Tal is the name of the lake and Pokhara that of the town. Some day and from somewhere some one will arise who will do adequate justice to what must be one of the most impressive and beautiful sights to be found in any mountain country".

The above statement has both realistic and rhapsodic elements. It also has colonial view that since no Westerner had been there, others had not seen it. Pokhara then abounded with Bahun, Chhetri, Gurung and Magar natives and was actually visited by a Japanese in March 1899. He was Ekai Kawaguchi whose travelogue, **Three Years in Tibet** (Madras, 1907), has this sentimental reference about the place:

"Pokhara looked like a town of villas at home [Japan], the site being chosen for its beauty and natural scenery. Bamboo-covered ravines, flower-roofed heights, rich in green foliage, picturesque because of its rushing and winding streams, itself set in the midst of high mountains. Such were the characteristic features of Pokhara: ... In all my travels in the Himalayas I saw no scenery so enchanting as that which enraptured me at Pokhara".

The third observation owes to Toni Hagen who traveled extensively in Nepal and wrote the illustrated volume **Nepal: Kingdom in the Himalaya** (Berne, 1961). The statement is significant, coming from a Swiss whose country is famous for post-card scenes:

"Pokhara area shows the greatest contrast in landscape. Nowhere in the world can the highest mountains reaching 8,000 metres level be admired from such a short distance and the tropical lowland without any intermediate mountain ranges. Pokhara is certainly one of the most extraordinary and most beautiful places in the whole world".

I wish to refer to some development interventions in Pokhara. I know of three Pokhara projects with poor conception and design. In the 1850's when this district was a personal fief of the Rana Prime Minister, he was advised that pumping the water of Phewa Tal for irrigation would greatly enrich him. The pumping machine was duly shipped from London to Calcutta. However, its installation called for an English engineer. Since Nepal was forbidden to foreigners in those days (until 1950), the Rana prime minister had to cancel his pet project.

Other two development projects relate to the 1950's. One was Bijayapur Khola irrigation project with aid from India. The 15 km. long canal proposed to irrigate 650 hectares of barren land. The water requirement was based on 24 hectares per cubec water as in the Gangetic plain with alluvial soil. But the Pokhara soil is mostly colluvial being composed of boulders, pebbles, gravel, and sand, and highly porous. Since one cubec could cover only 9 hectares, the irrigation area coverage was one-third than that planned. Then, there is the case of Sheep Farm. One New Zealand consultant (G.M. Bennet) arrived in winter when the Pokhara air was crisp and snow peaks close at hand. Merino sheeps were duly flown in only to suffer high mortality due to heat (+32°C) and heavy rain during the summer. Meanwhile, the Gurungs were giving up sheep farming, turning to paddy cultivation in lower valleys and also migrating to bazaar settlements.

It is noteworthy that the introduction of modern transport system in Pokhara had a reverse sequence. First came the air service in 1952 with DC-3 service linking Pokhara with Kathmandu and Bhairahawa. Then, a Willys jeep for rural development project was flown in 1957. Bicycles and bullock carts (with truck tyres) were introduced in the early 1960's. The road link to the south (Indian aid) was inaugurated in 1967 and that with Kathamndu (Chinese aid) completed in 1972.

2. Tourism Growth

Pokhara has emerged as an important tourist destination of Nepal. Ekai Kawaguchi was the first foreigner who visited Pokhara disguised as a Chinese monk. He trekked west from Kathmandu, rested a few days at Pokhara

Table 1: Target and Progress, 1985

Category	Target	Achievement	Percent
Indian visitors	42,000	53,989	+28.5
Overseas visitors	224,000	127,109	-43.3
Total visitors	266,000	181,098	-31.9
Trekkers	11,000	11,433	+3.9
Guests in classified hotel	54,424	15,767	-71.0
Guests in unclassified hotel	25,175	12,230	-51.6

in March 1899, spent 11 months in Charang gompa to be tutored by a Mongolian Lama. He then entered forbidden Tibet via Dolpo. In 1950, a French expedition climbed Annapurna – I (8,078m) the first ascent of a 8,000 metre peak. However, this expedition group did not visit Pokhara. They approached the mountain along the Kali-Gandaki Valley via Butwal, Baglung and Tukche and made a hasty retreat by the same route as the leader, Maurice Harzog, was badly frost-bitten.

The first available record shows that Pokhara had 119 tourists in 1957. My own field investigation indicated that the place had three small lodges and 387 tourists in 1962. During the 21 month period (November 1961 to August 1963), Pokhara had 681 tourists.[1] They came from 24 countries and of these 28 percent were Indian. According to the statistics of the Tourism Ministry, the number of tourists to Pokhara increased from 26,415 in 1977 to 59,488 in 1990 and 105,546 in 1999. In other words, there was a four-fold increase during the period between1977-1999.

Recognising the touristic importance of Pokhara, PATA sent an expert mission in 1975.[2] The team made a package of



recommendations along with projections on the tourist volume for 1985. The achievement, however, remained short of the target since most of their recommendations were not implemented.

The total number of visitors was nearly one-third of that targeted. Indian visitors flow exceeded the projection by 28 percent. The number of trekkers also exceeded the projection. These was considerable shortfall in tourists targeted for classified hotels. PATA sent another mission in 1988 to review the progress and made various recommendations[3]. Of these, increase in flight frequency to Pokhara and establishment of mountain museum have been accomplished.



3. Machhapuchhre Context[4]

Whether Machhapuchhre (6991m) should be opened for mountaineering expeditions or not has been debated. This beautiful mountain, that rises about 24 km due north of Pokhara and often depicted reflected on the Phewa lake, has become a symbol of the stupendous scenery that Nepal has to offer. Poets, painters, and photographers find inspiration in this soaring pyramid. Nepalese and visitors alike are awe-struck by the natural sculpted pinnacle of rock and ice that dominates the Annapurna range. What is most impressive is that the terrain rises from sub-tropical Pokhara, with its banana and bougainvillea at 900 meters above sea level, to nearly 8,000 meters all within a horizontal distance that would take 30 miniutes to drive if there was a highway.

A large part of the debate were the views expressed by some Pokhara residents to a news agency. Some said that climbing on Machhapuchhre should not be allowed because it is beautiful and also because it has religious significance. Others felt that further studies should be carried out, and still others believed the opinion of people in nearby villages should be taken before deciding, whether or not to open the mountain.

Let's take these questions one by one. Banning climbing only because the mountain is beautiful has no rationale. The beauty or otherwise of the mountain cannot determine whether it should be climbed or not. If that were the case, Ama Dablam would also qualify for a ban, and so would Pumori and other beautiful peaks. And how do you quantify something as subjective as beautiful anyway? Isn't Everest beautiful as well, and how about Annapurna or Dhaulagiri?

It is the height and the beauty of a mountain that attracts mountaineers. Just look at the statistics: of the 78 expeditions that went to the Khumbu region in 1988, 10 attempted Sagarmatha (for height) while 31 tried Ama Dablam (for beauty). In the Alps, Matterhorn on the Swiss-Italian border is one for the most beautiful peaks. It was first climbed in 1865, but the rush to climb it has not diminished and the village of Zermatt below it has become one of the most famous tourist resorts in Switzerland. Given that Machhapuchhre is twice as high as Matterhorn, its attraction for tourism is enormous.

The second argument concerns the mountain's religious significance. We can look at examples elsewhere. Macha Pichu in Peru is today a very important tourist site because of its religious significance. Similarly, on 27 August every year, Mount Fuji is climbed by hordes of Japanese of all ages, prying and enjoying the trek to the top. In Nepal itself, there are many other mountains that are actually considered holy but which are open for climbing and some of these even have the names of gods and goddesses: Gaurishankar, Annapurna, Baudha Himal, Ganesh Himal.

On the question of further study, since Annapurna was conquered 50 years ago, there have been voluminous studies on this mountain range. The Annapurna Conservation Area Project has been there for the last 14 years and it has enough data on tourism and environment of the area.

The fourth argument calls for seeking the opinion of inhabitants who live at the base of Machhapuchhre. The truth is that of all the 151 peaks opened in Nepal till now, the opinion of the villagers living at their base has never before been a consideration. Why this sudden interest in what the locals are likely to say? Rather, since Macchapuchhre was open for climbing till 1965 and then closed, it becomes important to examine why the peak became off-limit to climbers after that.

It had nothing to do with security or the lack of it. The reason given so far and one that has been internalised by a generation of Nepalese is that this peak has great religious significance for the Gurungs who live below it. That Machhapuchhre is sacred to the Gurungs is nothing more than a myth. It is easy to speculate that it has something to do with Col Roberts, a British Gurkha officer who led both the reconnaissance (1956) and expedition (1957) teams to the mountain. During the first visit, the team discovered that no chicken, eggs and untouchable caste people were allowed in upper Modi Khola. Thus, it was designated by them as Annapurna Sanctuary. The climbing team had to retreat just 45 meters short of the summit due to heavy snowfall. Roberts writes in his preface the account of the



FOOTNOTES

[1] Harka Gurung.
Pokhara Valley: A Geographical Survey
London, 1965 and Kathamndu, 2002.
pp. 36-37.

[2] PATA. 'Pokhara-Nepal: Development of Secondary Destination'.
San Francisco, 1975.

[3] PATA. Pokhara, 1988, San Francisco, 1988.

[4] Harka Gurung. "To climb or not to climb," Nepali Times,
26 January – 1 February 2001.

expedition, *Climbing the Fish's Tail* by Wilfred Noyce (London 1958): "Everybody seemed to be climbing mountains in Nepal and I flew at once to Kathmandu in a fever of anxiety lest some trespasser had already had the effrontery to ask permission to attempt Machhapucchre". He continues: "So Machhapuchhre became for me the ideal mountain, a personal possession yet out of this world, unattainable but mine by illogic right, brooding over a country and a people which will shape the rest of my life."

It would seem natural that Roberts would wish that no one should succeed on a mountain he bad begun to believe was his own and which he had failed to conquer. In the 1960s, Col Roberts happened to be Military Attache at the British Embassy in Kathmandu and it is not difficult to imagine that his sentimental advice to the Foreign Ministry (that handled expeditions) regarding Machhapuchhre's sanctity influenced the fate of the mountain. In 1983, I was chairman of a committee to suggest suitable Nepalese names of some mountains that had foreign names. I visited the Modj area, meeting villagers to collect required data. Last March, I was at Sandu hot springs of Machhapuchhre village development committee itself. On both occasions I was unable to learn of local names for any snow peak nor their sacredness. I, however, did discover some cultural minutiae that may be of interest to readers.

- The people living around Machhapurchhre do not have a specific name for it, but call all the snow peaks 'klin', which means 'snow' in Gurung language. Since the peak does not influence their lives directly, it does not hold any importance for them. Therefore, Machhapurchhre does not hold any religious significance.
- For the protection of their sheep and goats, the mountain people perform *puja* at sites along the route to high pastures during the seasonal migration in spring and autumn. They also revere the nearby rockfaces as *hyu-la* (a local deity).

The actual religious site along the Modi Khola is Tomon on the way to the Annapurna sanctuary (Devathali). Thousands of trekkers and scores of climbers trespass the actual venerated site. Why is it that a religious site, Devathali, can be visited by foreigners, but a peak without any religious significance, Machhapuchhre, can not? If there is official concern for Gurung sacred sites, the logical step to protect Devathali from desecration would be to begin at the Annapurna Sanctuary itself.

Since Machhapurchhre does not hold any religious significancne for the Gurung community, there is no reason to debar it from climbing. In fact, the mountain should be opened and permission for first attempt should be granted to the team that commits the largest donation to the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara through a bidding.
Machhapuchhre is a virgin peak and if it is opened, there will be many expeditions to climb it. In 1998, 31 expeditions came to climb Ama Dabalam and they paid a royalty of $ 62,000. Machhapuchhre will attract a lot more expeditions, generate more revenue and create employment opportunities. The peak is not the monopoly of individuals of Pokhara Bazar with their sentimental ego.
Machhapuchhre must be utilized for the benefit of people living around it. ▲

On the Grand Opening of the
International Mountain Museum
the first of its kind
We extend our
Hearty Congratulations
and Best Wishes to
Nepal Mountaineering Association.



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Some Thoughts on INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN MUSEUM



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

The foundation of one more museum in the country is a welcome event for the community it is supposed to serve. It is more so in a country like Nepal where museums are still not a part of education, research and information and the museum-people ratio is very low. After much hard work, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has completed the construction of the International Mountain Museum (IMM) and opened it for public consumption beginning February 5, 2004 in the beautiful city of Pokhara, which has the reputation of being a gateway to the western Himalayas besides being a tourist haven.

It is a commonplace knowledge that information has no limit. Technology today has dramatically enriched human capacity to learn and to impart. A museum, whether general or specialised, is a reliable source of information. Museums are the perfect windows to a country's past, and present.

In Nepal, the history of museum is not very old. The National Museum of Chhauni had started as the Arsenal Museum in 1928 at the residence of Prime Minister Gen. Bhimsen Thapa, who was also the Commander-in-Chief of Nepal Army. It was made public in 1938 and called 'Chhauni Silkhana' and Nepal Museum (Dwivedi, 110-111). Biographical museums have

since been added depicting the life and times of King Tribhuvan, King Mahendra, and King Birendra. Fine Arts Museums located in the Kathmandu Valleys and in the regions outside Kathmandu have now been very popular among students, researchers, and the elites. Given the current percentage of educated population in the country, there is still much to do to make them part of people's life. Similarly, numismatic museums have also been attractions for interested people. The three royal palaces of Kathmandu Valley not only house these museums, they themselves stand as pride of our past – as living museums.

In the seventies, HMG of Nepal decided to open regional museums as part of decentralisation of administration based on five-region concept. Now there are museums in Pokhara and Dhankuta. Although the development of these museums has not been very encouraging as expected yet they have played a significant role in arousing popular interest in museums as centres of learning than mere entertainment. In a country of diverse culture, the regional museums can play very important role in preserving the material remains of cultures of the region.

In this context, a brief discussion on the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara, is in order. Many Nepalis do not know that a huge museum complex has slowly grown up on the lap of the illustrious Machapuchhre Himal in the Annapurna Range. The beautiful architecture of the huge complex set perfectly in the local landscape in the city of Pokhara and the objects displayed and preserved therein will soon be the public property honouing the vision and direction of the pioneers in the history of mountaineering in Nepal.

The grand opening of the International Mountain Museum (IMM) on Feb. 5, 2004, indeed marks a new era in the history of mountaineering in Nepal. It is distinct and tall milestone in the history of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) as well. Surely, this is a festive occasion for NMA but there is still much to be done in order to fulfill the goal for which IMM was conceived together with the birth of NMA itself in the early seventies. Spread in the six-hectare wide area, the mountain museum has to stand as a monument of learning, information, achievement and dedication. The successful management and sustainable growth of this museum as a center of information dissemination and research is a challenge NMA has to accept in order to realise the dream of those who championed the cause decades ago.

How will this museum be used and who will be its regular customer? This is a valid question now. Pokhara is the second important tourist destination after Kathmandu. The beautiful mountains that look like painted against the background of the valley, the lakes and valleys and most important of all, the people and their hospitality attract the tourists in Pokhara. Besides the general tourists who visit the valley in tens of thousands there are also adventure tourists who head towards several mountain ranges as trekkers or mountaineers. From now on, IMM will be one more item in their itinerary. The museum will serve as a good beginning point for the mountaineers as it provides a good glimpse of what lies ahead in their arduous journey. As the museum grows to be a resource for special interest people, it will be a must for all mountaineers before undertaking any campaign. Pokhara, thus will be a valid Ground Zero with IMM as a good starting point.

Local educational institutions – schools and colleges – will also greatly benefit from the museum. There short-term courses offered by the government agencies such as HMTTC to cater the need of the local tourism sector. At Prithvi Narayan Campus, T.U., there is a Masters Level course in Geography. Students can take advantage of this museum. Himalayan flora and fauna could be one section to be added to the museum to make it an attraction for researchers. A Mountain Museum will be good to its name if it represents the nature and culture of the mountain and people who dwell in it.

At the initial phase, the International Mountain Museum (IMM) will have the following major halls for the viewers:

- Gallery of Mountain People
- Gallery of Mountains of the World
- Gallery of World Mountain Activities
- Periodic Gallery of Guest Exhibits

In the future, there will be separate spaces for museum administration, library, research, conferences and refreshment.

From the standpoint of its nature and function, IMM is a very specialised museum compared to other museums in Nepal. It has to cater the need and interest of very special groups – those who are interested in mountaineering in Nepal. The main challenge at hand is to recruit trained manpower to handle the various specialised sections (Halls) mentioned above. NMA has to contact agencies like the Alpine Clubs and related organisations worldwide and make bilateral understandings for training opportunities to its staff. For the mountaineers worldwide, Nepal is the ultimate destination – the Mecca. There will be no dearth of interest among mountaineers and mountaineering agencies abroad in extending helping hands to equip the IMM with useful materials, guidance and highly needed training for its personnel.

Finally, at the initial stage the museum will be a collection of items related to mountaineering. But gradually it will grow as a place for information and research as well. Training, seminar-workshop, publication, exhibition, trade-fairs can be important activities for promotion and make it sustainable also. With the support of the local people and the government, IMM can play an important role in further highlighting Pokhara as a tourist destination. Already it is a distinct mark on the landscape in the map of Pokhara. With concerted effort from all concerned, it will play a vital role as a center of learning, information and achievement. The very festive mood that IMM is creating on its inauguration should be contained and further channeled to make it a spot of creation. NMA has acknowledged and appreciated the local support it has received from the beginning phase; no it expects the spirit of partnership from the local people to make the museum an institution that truly represents the vision and aspiration of the planners and pioneers whose dream has now come true. ▲

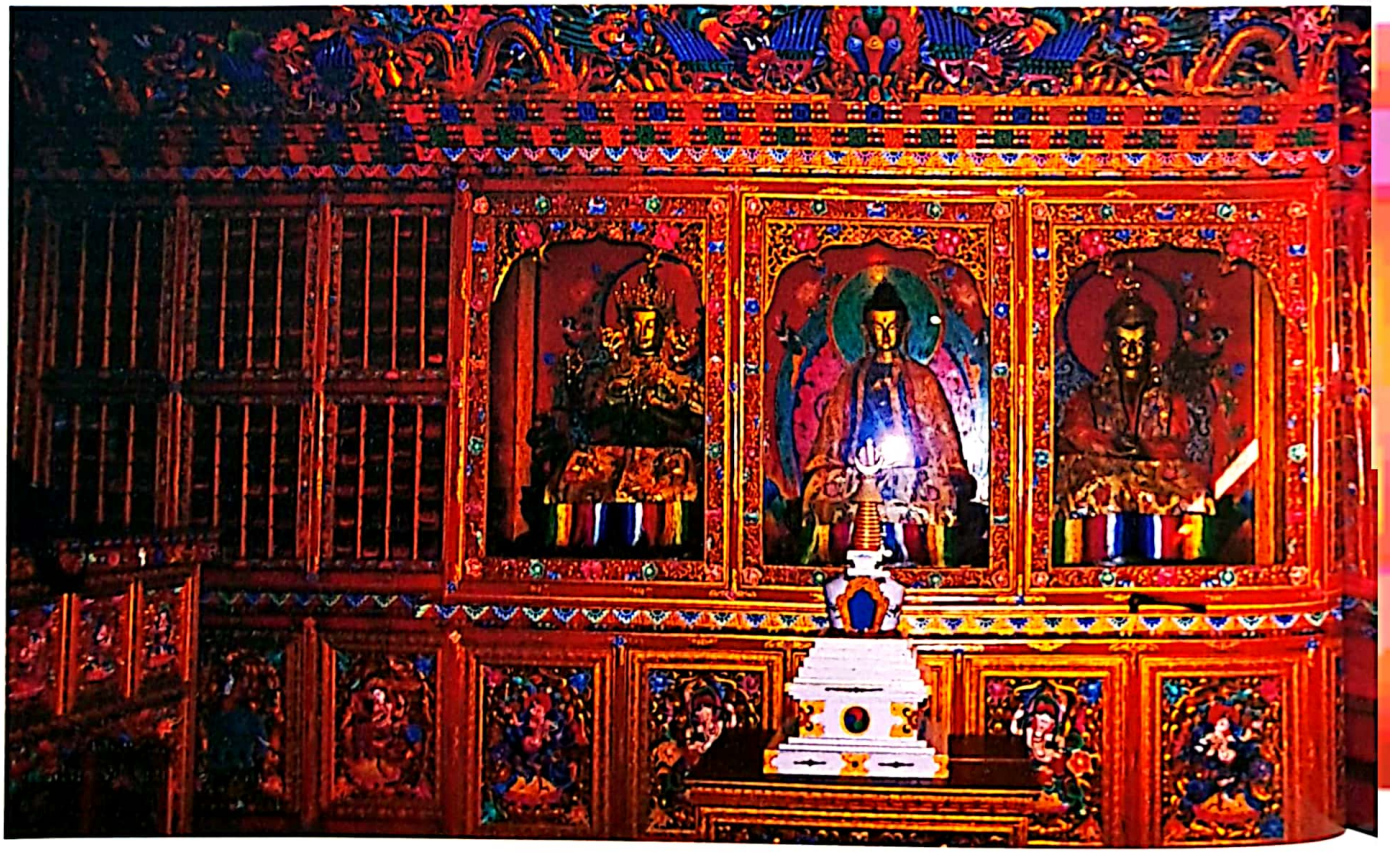
The International Community of Museums (ICOM) defines museum in the following words:
(A museum is an) ... 'establishment which has the goal of collection, protection, study and exhibition of objects of artistic, historical, scientific significance for public information according to general taste.
(Quoted by P.K.Dwivedi, Museum in Nepal, Kathmandu, 1976:57)



Jal Krishna Shrestha is the Secretary, International Council of Museum (ICOM), Nepal National Committee.

In Nepal, we have our own century old institutions similar to the museum concept of the western world. But the European style museum development in Nepal is a fairly recent phenomenon. It is just the beginning. The first museum of Nepal, the Nepal Museum, was founded only in 1938 A.D., during the time of Rana Prime Minister Juddha Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana. There are some specialised museum within, and a few outside, the valley of Kathmandu. They are still in their initial stages of development. With the advent of reestablishment of democracy in 1990 A.D., people have become more conscious about their identity and, natural and cultural heritage. Today museums are considered as tourism products in Nepal. But most of the educationists like calling museums as non-formal educational centres.

IMM The Museum and its management



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has mentioned in its statute that one of its main objectives is to establish an international standard museum for the preservation of mountain and mountaineering heritage. Nepal Himalayas is a great attraction for adventure mountaineers from all over the world. Most of the great mountaineers have a dream to scale at least one 8000m. plus peak on the Nepalese Himalayan range. Mountaineering has become one of the main components in mountain tourism of Nepal. It is very essential to have a world class museum to preserve all the records and artifacts of mountaineering activities in Nepal Himalayas in particular.

This museum has been named International Mountain Museum to generate support internationally. This museum has to be made a centre for all mountain lovers of the world. Nepal Mountaineering Association had done a lot of exercise to decide for the location of the museum. After much consideration, Pokhara was selected as the site to establish the museum. Moreover, Pokhara is the second most sought after tourist destination in Nepal.

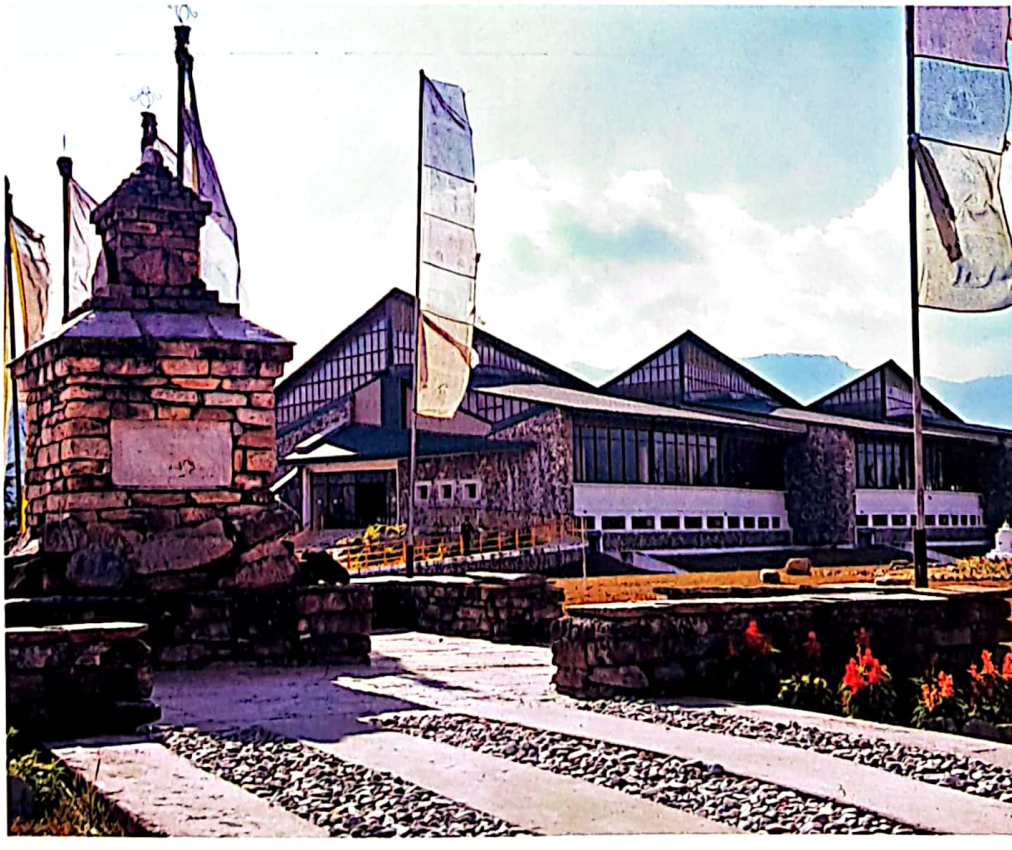
This museum should be planned in a manner worth visiting and also as to who will be visiting Pokhara or Nepal, otherwise the number of visitors might be meagre. The Museum has to be materialise in terms of the investment made. This museum should not be a white elephant for Nepal Mountaineering Association. The national and international resources have to be mobilised carefully to maintain the international standard of this museum.

This museum was not conceived on the basis of existing collections, it is actually a theme oriented museum. This museum's idea originated very lately, so it is very difficult to acquire original exhibits. Frankly speaking, much effort is needed to collect exhibits and artefacts internationally. However, the collection in the museum is a continuous and time consuming process. The Museum should have clear policies for such collection. Purchase of such materials must not be encouraged. We should motivate people and mountaineers to make donations or through exchanges. We should not accept irrelevant exhibits for the museum. It would clutter museum and difficult to manage. At the moment, this museum has acquired very few original quality exhibits, most of the exhibits are secondary as such. One of the main functions of the museum is to preserve irreplaceable original objects as much as possible. All exhibits should have full documentation for exhibitions, research and security reasons.

The natural and cultural attraction of the valley has made it one of the most frequented tourist destinations outside Katmandu valley.

This museum has a very attractive modern building. The building was built solely as a museum should be but there are some shortcomings as regards a full fledged modern museum. However, the existing building has to be adapted for museum exhibition purpose. The museum should be accessible and hospitable to all including the disabled. Ramps and steps have been made for disabled people in this museum building. There should be ideal micro climatology condition in the museum building for presentation and the visitors must find it comfortable. Air conditioning is







not possible in our context. The museum should be careful regarding the maintenance costs also. The beautification of the premises and cleaning is also equally important for the prestige of the museum.

The most important feature of the modern presentation approach is its flexibility. Not only does a museum organise a large number of changing shows, but even its so called permanent galleries or sections undergo periodical changes in the manner of installation. The presentation of exhibits should be effective considering the maintenance costs. Good lighting makes all the difference to a museum. Natural light should be utilized to the maximum to reduce the expenses on electricity. There should not be unnecessary showcases so that economy can be maintained in the museum budget.

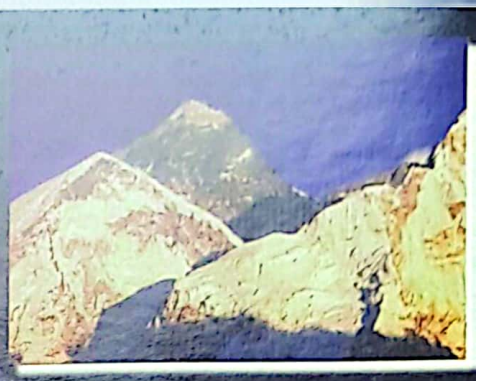
Museums have an important role in providing education services to users, whether they are students, children or adults. Some education services have to be managed in the museum. Every museum governing body should clearly understand definite objectives on which the museum operates. The laws of different countries vary so greatly that it is often difficult to know how their different museums are established. At present there is no exclusive Museum Registration Act in Nepal. The International Council of Museums, Nepal National Committee has been providing museological guidance to the museums of Nepal. The three types of museums which seemto the visitors very similar in terms of management, one may be set up by an university authority, for example Natural History Museum, one may be run by HMG like National Museum, Chauni, Kathmandu, while the third may be run by the executive body operating under Organisation Registration Act, 2054 B.S. which govern non-profit organisations like Nepal Mountaineering Association. It is not the legal status that determines the character of a museum, but the actual management structure also. The Museum Director runs the museum, but his or her ability to take decisions may be very severely constrained. The Director may be responsible to the Governing Body who has no time or ability to attend to the museum, but without whose approval no decision can be made. Actually the character and standard of this museum will be determined by the committed president of NMA who is in control. There should be two levels of management for this museum: the Governing Body, which decides on the policy of the museum, and the Museum Director and his or her trained staff, who both advice the Governing Body and put its policy into practice. The Museum Director is to advice the Governing Body on the museum's policy. First, he or she must ensure that the members of the Governing Body know the museum and its work well. They should visit the museum regularly and the Director should take every opportunity to keep them in touch with the wider world of museum and museological trends both nationally and internationally.

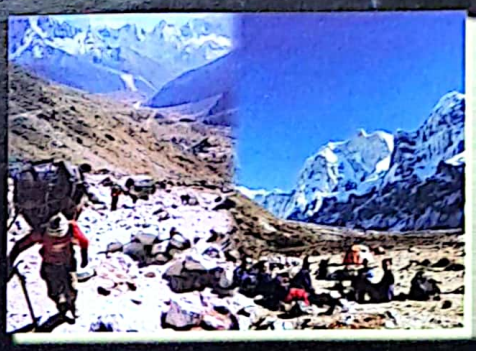
This museum should have a clearly written and agreed management plan. A management plan essentially describes the museum's purpose, it objectives and its programme of action. This museum should know the updated new definition of museum adopted by ICOM as follows "A non-profit making, permanent institution, in the service of society and its development, and open to the public, which acquires conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits for the purposes of study, education and enjoyment, natural evidence of man and its environment."

Efforts should he made to maintain the operating cost by organising various income generating programmes. Regular budget must be allocated by the Nepal Mountaineering Association and financial support from foreign donors. After all, is a prestigious institution of Nepal. This museum would undoubtedly help the promotion of tourism in Nepal. ▲

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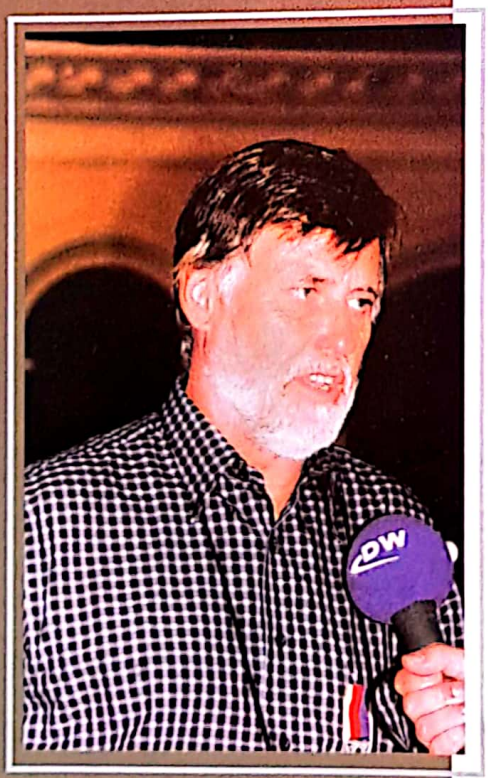


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SUCCESSFUL ASCENT REQUIRES TEAM WORK

WOLFGANG NAIRZ



Born on November 27, 1944 in Kitzbuhel-Tirol, Austria, Wolfgang Nairz has been a well-recognised mountaineer. Interested in mountaineering activities since his childhood, he has been expedition leader of many expeditions. He summitted Everest on May 3, 1978 and the same expedition saw Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler reach the Everest summit five days later without the use of bottled oxygen. The climbing partners of Wolfgang Nairz are very well-known climbers like Reinhold Messner, Peter Habeler, Oswald Oelz, Robert Schauer, Horst Bergmann, Reinhard Karl, Rudi Mayr, Raimund Margreiter and others. He is more famous as an expedition leader. Besides Nepal, he has climbed many mountains in different parts of the world like Mount McKinley in Alaska, diferent mountains in the Andes, Mount Aconcagua the highest mountain in South America and Kilimanjaro and mount Kenya in Africa.

Having a deep regard for Nepal and its people, he has visited Nepal more than 56 times since 1970. He has written nine books on mountaineering and ballooning while three books are soley devoted to Nepal. He is also a keen social worker. He is the chairman of Nepal Hilfe Tirol, an organisation to help Nepal. He has made many projects for the benefit of the Nepalese people and is also supporting the Himalayan Trust, the Hillary Hospital at Khunde, the Dhulikhel Hospital among others.

In reply to some questions put to him by Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha and Prem N. Kakkar of *Nepal Parbat*, he had some interesting experiences to share. Excerpts:

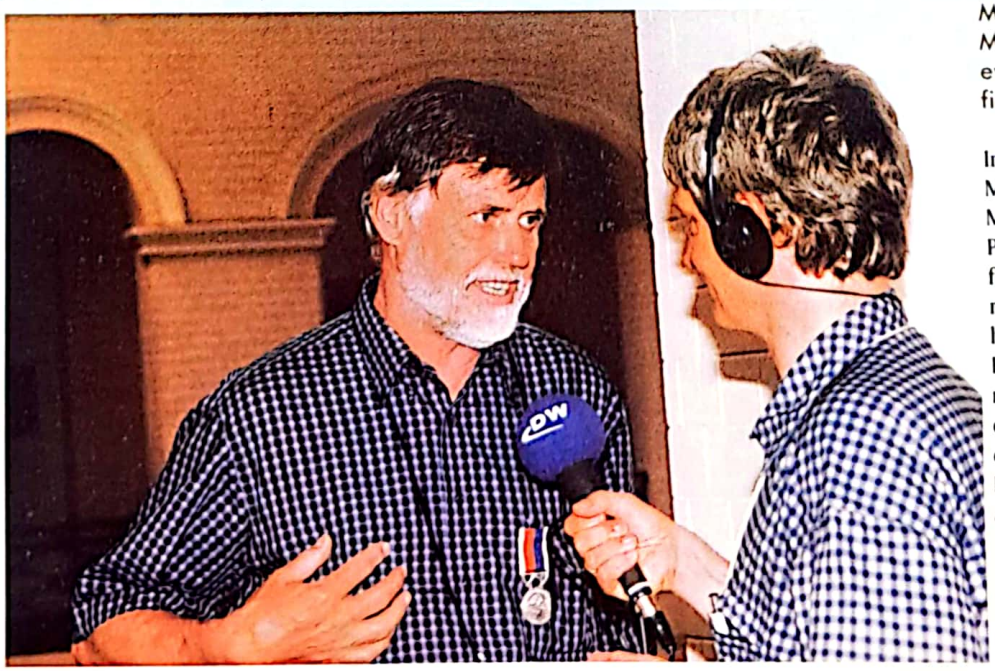
How did your career in mountaineering develop?

Nairz: My career in mountaineering can be called 'classical' or you can also say traditional:

I started climbing with the family and than I went to the mountains with friends. With friends we climbed through very difficult routes in the Alps before we started to go for high mountains.

Can you elaborate your role and responsibility as an expedition leader?

Nairz: As an expedition leader I was responsible for the whole organisation of the expedition, the sponsoring, logistic problems and, of course,s to make decisions during the expedition. We always worked as a team and made decisions together, but for difficult decisions I as the expedition leader had to decide- it´s important that the leader is accepted by all the members- and this was on all my expeditions.



What has been your experience of working with mountaineers of different types?

Nairz: In my expeditions, I did not work with 'mountaineers of different types'. We knew each other since climbing in the Alps and were friends when we started the expedition and came back also as friends. Of course, mountaineers are individualists but with a certain sense of feeling, humour and strength you can handle this.

Any reminiscences of your successful ascent of Mount Everest.

Nairz: Of course a lot of reminiscences..... The contact with the people of Nepal, especially the Sherpas and the unforgettable Ang Phu, who reached together with me to the summit.

You return to Nepal quite often, what difference have you found in mountaineering activities in 1978 and now?

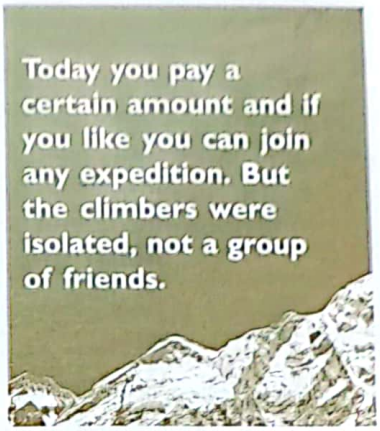
Nairz: Mountaineering activities have changed a lot- especially on Mt. Everest. In 1978 and also later there were no commercial expeditions. Expeditions were something really special and to join an expedition was an experience of life for every alpinist. Today you pay a certain amount and if you like you can join any expedition. But the climbers were isolated, not a group of friend. Their key to success on the mountains is to work as a team and not as individuals.

Your most memorable moment while undertaking mountaineering activities in Nepal?

Nairz: It was the rescue of Peter Hillary on Ama Dablam in 1979, my ascent of Everest and also the climb of Ama Dablam in 1985 (in a very small team) in Alpine style- without fixed ropes! I have also sad memories, when I lost friends in the Himalayas- 1972 on Manaslu (Andi Schlick and Franz Jaeger) and Reinhard Karl on Cho Oyu South Face in 1982.

Could you give some suggestions for promoting mountaineering in Nepal?

Nairz: An event like the Golden Everest Jubilee is the best promotion Nepal had last year. Go on with such festivals! The foreign press should also report good things- not only of political problems in Nepal!



Does celebrations like Mount Everest Golden Jubilee prove fruitful?

Nairz: Of course.

How do you evaluate the role to be played by the International Mountain Museum in every related field?

Nairz: The International Mountain Museum in Pokhara should first in line as a reflection of the history of the Himalayas, of mountaineering, expeditions, of culture, National Parks' activities and so on. Beside this, it could be also a centre for information about Himalayan mountains, mountaineers. Also the Museum should have a good library on the Himalayas. To give it an international touch, the museum could also make an exhibition about the Seven Summits- the highest mountains on the continents.

What are the 8000 meter above mountains you have successfully scaled ?

Nairz: Of all my expeditions, I 'only' reached the summit of Everest. On Dhaulagiri, I returned from 7.800 m also on Makalu I only reached a height of around 8.000 m. ▲

IMM
A VISION AND THE FUTURE PERSPECTIVE



Bhumi Lal Lama is General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association.

The first successful ascent on Mt. Annapurna I by Maurice Herzog and Luis Lachnell in the year 1950 opened the door for Mountaineering Expedition activities in and around Nepal Himalaya. This was the first successful attempt made by human beings for the first time in one of the eight thousander out of the fourteen. After this historic success, several more historic ascents were made to all the eight thousanders including Everest within a short span of 1950~1960. The last being on Mt. Dhaulagiri.

With these historic successes made by those climbers many more expedition teams followed suit to attempt those Himalayan Giants in different seasons, different faces and difficult routes and more experiments were made to test the human endurance and taking up more challenges posed by these mountains.

In the year 1993 Mr. Dawa Norbu Sherpa was elected as the President of NMA. The Executive Board decided to work on this long awaited project with a meager sum of 8 million Rupees in hand.

With the growing activities in mountaineering and expedition it was felt by NMA to establish a mountaineering museum. For this purpose in the year .... 100 ropanis of land in Pokhara was acquired with the help of Ministry of Tourism. But due to lack of adequate fund the museum establishment target could not be achieved then, instead NMA planted trees around all the four boundaries and a guard was appointed to take care of the land.

In the year 1993 Mr. Dawa Norbu Sherpa was elected as a President of NMA. The Executive Board decided to work on this long awaited project with a meager sum of 8 million rupees in hand. A master plan submitted by John Sandy's and NPA was accepted and formed a consortium for the design of the present building.

The whole project was divided into three phases namely :-

I Phase - Exhibition Hall (the present hall)
II Phase - Restaurant, Library & Conference Hall
III Phase - Youth hostel, staff quarter and curator's residence.

The estimated cost of all three phases in 1994 was 23 crore. Therefore, NMA decided to start the first phase. Before the ground breaking took place in 1996, series of meetings were held with JMA president Mr. Saito and Mr. Kanzaki and NMA President Mr. Dawa Norbu Sherpa and myself about raising the adequate fund. It was Mr. Saito and Mr. Kanzaki who seemed very enthusist to help this project and on their assurance, finally the project took off. The site was lying idle for almost 10 years. After the advent of multi party democracy, people with high hopes had suggested the Chief District Officer to construct the Jail house on this site and some politicians were in favour of settling down the homeless people on this very site as we were told on our visit. Therefore, NMA felt some kind of moral pressure to start something here to avoid such untoward things and save the property.

In 1994, I led the NMA delegation to Cape Town for the UIAA general assembly where they accepted it as a very good proposal and moral support was extended. Some of the members in the assembly raised a question of HMG/Nepal support to this project, I felt it was necessary to have the government support before we ask from others. Hence, on NMA's request, to show government approval to this project, HMG/Nepal allocated half a million of rupees every year in the year 1994/95, 1995/96 and 1996/97.

In the year 1996/97 Japanese friends also formed a consortium called SANPAKU which was led by JMA and members were JAC, HAT/J, JWAF, HAJ and Japan Nepal Society. Besides those associations CMA, KAF, CAC, IMF and individuals like Mr. Riyotaro Hashimoto, Ex-Prime Minister of Japan and Senor Reinhold Messner, to name a few, were very generous to support this project. Nepalese individuals and companies also came forward in support of the project.

In the year 2000 the then Treasurer of NMA Mr. Girdhari Sharma and myself in the capacity of General Secretary of NMA, together we went to JICA and requested their bilateral support to establish IMM. Readily, being convinced about the importance of the project as new Tourism Product in the country, they showed their interest to help us out. As a result they deputed one JICA Sr. Volunteer Professor Hisao Ando on 1st April 2002. JICA have agreed to continue this type of support by deputing another Sr. Volunteer to replace him in April 2004.

In terms of goods and machines JICA have donated big photocopier machine, audio visual and sound system for the A/V room, computer and a video camera. Tateyame Foundation from Japan have donated big screen TV and a VCR. Hopefully this kind of donations would be coming through in the days ahead.

The galleries in Museum are:-

a) In the mountain people gallery the art and artifacts related with the mountain people of the world will be displayed. This will give an ample opportunity to the visitors to know the mountain people, their dresses, ornaments, rituals and other tools they use and compare them when they visit the Gallery of the Mountain People of the World.
b) The exhibition of the world mountain system, their orgination, the mountain habitat & vignettes, geological information, minerals etc. in the Mountain Gallery will be is educative & informative for the visitors.
c) The World Mountain Activities will include all greatest expeditions, achievements in the past, sking, hunting, paragliding and other activities that has been carried out till today and in the days ahead.
d) Guest Exhibit Gallery will display the private collections of the individuals & institutions for a certain time. This will be another attraction for the visitors.
e) Associates' Exhibition Gallery, for example IUCN, ICIMOD, WWF's exhibits will be displayed here.

It is said that Museum is a continuous process in itself. IMM needs to collect many more artifacts, display materials and documents related with the Man, Mountain & Mountain activities of the world. The task is challenging but interesting too. Since NMA has shouldered this huge burden we are hopeful to fulfill the responsibilities in the days ahead and of course with the help of one and all.

The future perspective of IMM is much broader, and higher. In future, this will be an unique product in the world and a center of attraction to the visitors, a must visit place in Pokhara. IMM plans to make it as the one and only research center of its kind in the field of World Mountain People, World Mountain System and World Mountain Activities.

IMM will be another identity of Nepal which will bring pride and glory to the people involved and a heritage site for the posterity as a glorious legacy from this generation to the coming generation.▲

Tirtha Shrestha is an eminent poet.

पोखरा

मेरै हिमाल जस्तो हेरिरहूँ पोखरा
मेरै ताल जस्तो बगिरहूँ मेरै पोखरा

तालको छाल हो कि हिमालको घाम हो
शरदको सयपत्री कि बसन्तको याम हो
साँझै मुस्काइरहने आमा जस्ती पोखरा
मेरै सारङकोट जस्तो ठमिरहूँ पोखरा

सेतीको गुनगुन हो कि रूपाको रंग हो
बेगनासको गीत हो कि फेवाको तरंग हो
मेरै माछापुच्छ्रे जस्तो स्वाभिमानी पोखरा
मेरै काहुँ जस्तो हेरिरहूँ पोखरा

सोरठीको स्वर हो कि बालुनको कथा हो
मादलको ताल हो कि सारंगीको व्यथा हो
आफ्नै संस्कृतिको प्रतिबिम्ब मेरो पोखरा
मेरै सारंगी जस्तो बजिरहूँ पोखरा ॥

Pokhara

Keep on gazing at Pokhara, like my own Himalayas
Keep on flowing Pokhara, like my own lakes

Waves over the lake or the sun rays of the Himalayas
The autumn's marigold or the spring season
Always smiling like a mother, that's my Pokhara
Always standing Pokhara, like my own Sarangkot

The humming of Seti or the hue of Rupa
The song of Begnas or the ripples of Fewa
Self-confident Pokhara, like my own Machhapuchhre
Keep on looking at Pokhara, like my own Kahun

The sorati's voice or the presentation of the baaloon story
The madal's beat or the tune on the sarangi
A reflection of its own culture is my own Pokhara
Do keep on playing Pokhara like my own sarangi

NOTE

Sarangkot: A place near Pokhara where people go for short treks and from where the panoramic view of the Himalayas can be seen.

Seti: The white-foaming river that passes through Pokhara.

Rupa, Begnas and Fewa: They are lakes in the Pokhara Valley. The most famous among them is Fewa.

Machhapuchhre: The famous Fish Tail Mountain that overlooks Pokhara Valley.

Kahun: A hill overlooking Pokhara in the north-east.

Sorati: A singer

Baaloon story: An opera based on the life story of Lord Krishna.

Madal: A Nepali style drum.

Sarangi: A typical Nepali musical instrument.

(Translated from the Nepali by Prem N. Kakkar)

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31st NMA Day Marked



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) marked its 31st anniversary on November 1, 2003 with various programmes.

In the morning, lawmaker Hon'ble Mrs. Yankila Sherpa, at a programme to mark the occasion, hoisted the flag of NMA at the NMA Secretariat. She also highlighted the role of NMA in the promotion of mountain tourism in the country.

Speaking on the same occasion NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa and General Secretary Bhumi Lal Lama dwelt on the progress made by NMA in the last three decades.

NMA Awards Presented

On the occasion of the 31st NMA Day, NMA announced two awards honouring individuals or organisations for invaluable contribution to mountain tourism. The two awards are Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah Yogadan Award and Dawa Norbu Mountain Tourism Journalism Award. The first award carries a gold medal and a certificate while the latter carries a purse of Rs. 25,000 and a certificate.



Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Sarbendra Nath Shukla, at a function organised to mark the 31st NMA Day presented the prestigious Dawa Norbu Mountain Tourism journalism Award to Ramesh Tiwari, the executive editor of the Gorkhapatra daily, for his contribution in promoting mountain tourism.

Similarly, Brigadier General Gunjaman Lama, of the Royal Nepalese Army, was presented the Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah Yogadan Award, who has been rendering invaluable humanitarian service by operating thousands of rescue operations in the Himalayas, since 1973.



Speaking on the occasion, Minister Shukla said that the government has given top priority to the promotion of tourism industry, particularly adventure tourism. He mentioned that government was effortful to revitalise the tourism industry by introducing a new policy on granting visa, opening new peaks and forming a crisis management cell. He also said that the government was planning to upgrade the tourism master plan to make it more relevant and effective. The government's decision to celebrate the golden jubilee celebration of all peaks over 8,000 metres was also referred to.

Letters of Appreciation were also conferred on individuals who have made contributions to the mountaineering sector and the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebrations last year.

Prof. Peter Habeler, the famous Austrian mountaineer, was also honoured on the occasion. Habeler has been involved with mountaineering in Nepal for the past 28 years. Appreciating him, Minister Shukla said that the world-renowned climber would continue to work as Nepal's goodwill ambassador not only to Austria but also in other parts of the world.

NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa, highlighting the role of NMA, said that the grand opening of the International Mountain Museum (IMM) in Pokhara was slated for February 5, 2004. He considered the occasion to be memorable one as the 'dream project' was nearing completion. He also mentioned that NMA was progressing on its another important project namely the International Mountaineers' Memorial Park (IMMP) in Kakani. "IMMP will be a place to pay tributes to the departed souls of the mountaineers who have died on the mountains," he added.

Referring to the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration last year, he said that the event was instrumental in making Nepal known to the outside world. He also said that the golden jubilee celebration of the first ascent of other peaks is necessary to further promote Nepal's mountain tourism.

General Secretary of NMA Bhumi Lal Lama spoke of the significant contributions of late Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah and late Dawa Norbu Sherpa for bringing NMA to the present position. Speaking about NMA activities, he said that NMA has so far trained 1,200 mountaineers. He also said that NMA has been providing financial assistance to the families of the mountaineers who have met tragedies during their activities. NMA is also offering scholarships to children of the deceased mountaineers.

Appointment



NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa has been appointed Honorary Consul of Belgium to Nepal.

Female Mountaineers Felicitated

NMA organised a felicitation programme on October 18, 2003 in honour of the successful mountaineers' team of the First Asian Women's Joint Expedition that scaled Mount Nirekha (6159 m).

The team had made the successful ascent of Mount Nirekha at 9 A.M. on October 13, 2003. The 14 member team consisted of 3 from South Korea, 3 from Mongolia, 6 from Iran and two Nepalese.



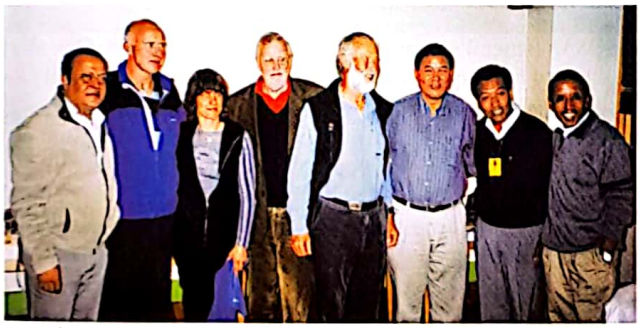
At the call of the Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA), in its meeting in Abbottabad, Pakistan in November, 2002, NMA had organised the Asian Women's Joint Expedition to Nirekha.

The members of the successful team were presented letters of appreciation at the specially organised function.

NMA Team Visits UK



A Nepalese team led by NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa attended Royal Nepal Embassy function on November 12, 2003 and UK's Kendal Festival on November16, 2003 for the distribution of the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Awards to the Everest summiteers.



The other members of the team consisted of Appa Sherpa, the 13 time veteran Everest summiteer, Bikrum Pandey, Second Vice President of NMA and Ang Phurba Sherpa Central Executive Member and Convener of the Welfare Committee.

Speaking at the function Mr. Ang tshering Sherpa said that Nepal will be celebrating Cho Oyu Golden Jubilee in 2004 coinciding with the Himalayan Film Festival of international standard. Most of the film producers present gave assurance and pledged support for the Himalayan Film Festival to be held in Nepal in 2004.

Pandey Attends UIAA ExCom Meet

Bikrum Pandey, Second Vice President of Nepal, attended the UIAA Expedition Committee (ExCom)meeting held in Rome on 4th and 5th October, 2003.

The agenda presented at the meeting included holding the ExCom meeting in Nepal and to encourage ExCom to write to the Nepalese government to give more concession on 7000m peaks to attract more mountaineers.

The house thanked Nepal for being the only country to send them suggestions supporting the relevance of ExCom.

Cultural Evening of Nepal

NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa attended the inaugural function of the Royal Nepalese Consulate established in Slovenia on October 9, 2003. A special programme "Cultural Evening of Nepal" was organised on the occasion. The cultural programme



was attended by 200 guests including government officials of Slovenia, representatives of diplomatic missions, Royal Nepalese Ambassador to Germany His Excellency Balaram Singh Malla, chiefs of various alpine clubs, Everest summiteers from Slovenia and mountaineering trainers.

Nepalese songs and music and Asian food items were presented on the occasion.

His Excellency presented the Golden Jubilee medals to the Everest summiteers of Slovenia who could not attend the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration in Nepal last year.

The programme was organised by Royal Nepalese Consul to Slovenia Ashwin Shrestha.

During the visit, NMA President found the rising popularity of the *NMA Newsletter* among the interested readers.

UIAA General Meeting

NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa attended the annual general meting of UIAA held in Berchtesgaden, Germany from October 2-11, 2003.

The conference was attended by 300 participants from 87 countries. New memberships were given to 11 alpine clubs.

On behalf of NMA, Ang Tshering Sherpa informed the house about the successfully concluded Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration. He also thanked all the alpine clubs and Everest

summiteers for their participation and support for making the Golden Jubilee Celebration a grand success.

Mr. Sherpa also informed that the golden jubilee celebration of the first ascent of all the over 8000m peaks would be held. He also invited all the participants of the UIAA conference to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the first ascent of Mount Cho Oyu (8,201m) to be held in October, 2004.

NMA President also requested Reinhold Messner to be the Honorary President of Cho Oyu Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee. Messner has given positive indications and offered in whatever way possible to make the event a success.

Mr. Sherpa also informed the house that the Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum, in Pokhara, was to be held on February 5, 2004 and all those present assured their participation at the inaugural function and also of assistance.

He also elaborated that Nepal was a safe destination for tourists, trekkers, mountaineers and mountain lovers.

Blood Donation Programme

On the 33rd Auspicious Birthday of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev, under the convenership of the First Vice president of NMA Zangbu Sherpa a blood donation programme was organised at the NMA Secretariat on January 4, 2004.



Including the President of NMA, altogether 30 people were participants in the blood donation programme.

With the chief guest and advisor of the Association and lawmaker Hon'ble Yankila Sherpa, Dr. Ratna kamal Vaidya, Thakur Prasad Mainali, Radheyshyam Thapa, NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa and other NMA members offered garland to the portraits of His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince wishing Crown Prince all the best wishes and long life.

Ang Tshering Sherpa, President of NMA, mentioned that His Majesty the King and the Royal Family had always encouraged mountaineering and the tourism industry.

On the same occasion, Appa Sherpa, the veteran 13 time climber of Everst was adorned with the Tri Shaktipatta decoration awarded on the occasion of His Majesty the King's auspicious birthday, by the chief guest Hon'ble Yankila Sherpa.

Regional NMA Chapter Inaugurated

The first regional chapter of NMA was installed in Pokhara. The formation of the chapter is in accordance with the amended constitution of NMA.

The NMA chapter is named Annapurna branch and is the first NMA chapter in Nepal.

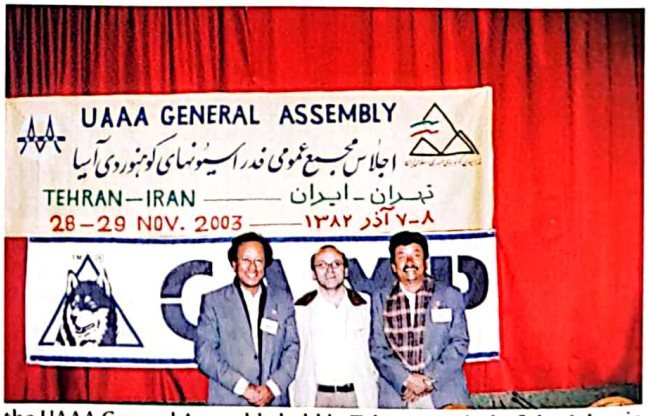
The first general meeting of the chapter was organised on January 7, 2004. Prior to this the ad hoc committee was headed by Padma Bahadur K.C. In the general assembly of NMA Pokhara Branch, Haridhwoj Tulachan, Ram Bahadur Shrestha, Khadga Bahadur Ranabhat and Basudev Parajuli were unanimously elected President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Similarly, Ganesh Bahadur Bhattarai, Basudev Tripathi, Lakki Karki Chhetri, Ram Prasad Gurung, Laxmi Bahadur Bhattarai, Kripa Kumar Gurung and Bina Bamsan were unanimously elected members.

On the occasion, NMA President Ang tshering Sherpa said that preparations are afoot to mark the Mount Cho Oyu Golden Jubilee Celebration scheduled this year.

The meeting held under the chairmanship of the convener of the ad hoc committee, the General Secretay of NMA Bhumi Lal Lama, Second Vice President Bikrum Pandey, Chief District Officer of Kaski District Narayan Gopal expressed their views.

UAAA General Assembly

Bhumi Lal Lama, General Secretary, and Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha, Central Executive Board Member of NMA, attended



the UAAA General Assembly held in Tehran, capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran from November 27 – 30, 2003. UAAA General Assembly is held every year at various venues. During the general assembly, UAAA activity plans of 2004 were discussed and various resolutions were passed. With the proposal made by South Korea, it was decided to hold the next UAAA General Assembly in South Korea. General Secretary Bhumi Lal Lama had presented the mountaineering progress report of Nepal. Similarly, Mr Sadegh Aghajani was elected as the President of UAAA unanimously for the term 2004 – 2005, during the general assembly.

French Ambassador Gives Away Certificates

The French Ambassador to Nepal, Mr. Claude Ambrosini gave away certificates to the participants of the Advanced Mountaineering Training—2004, held in Langtang, on January 26.

2004. The training was organised by Nepal Mountaineering Association with the support of Ecole Nationale de Ski et d' Alpinisma (ENSA) of France. Altogether 21 trainees including three women participated in the training.



Speaking at the programme, Mr. Claude Ambrosini expressed his happiness over the high mountain training provided by the French organization ENSA to Nepalese trainees. He also congratulated the participants for completing their training successfully.

Speaking on the occasion, NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa thanked the participants, instructors, coordinator and all the concerned people for successfully completing the training programme.



Krishna Kumar Aryal, acting general secretary, said that Kirtipur Municipality has agreed recently, in principle, to provide a huge plot of land for the establishment of the climbing wall and school. He further added that the school would be helpful for young mountaineers to develop their skills and also promote tourism in Kirtipur.

Training Coordinator Da Gombu Sherpa, French Instructor Andre Braesch and trainee Miss Sushmita Maskey also expressed their views about the training on the occasion.

Don't Forget Nepal, Says Messner

Ang Tshering Sherpa, President of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), at a function organised in Germany by Nepal German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NGCCI), awarded medals to German Everest summiteers who had missed the Mount Everest Golden jubilee Celebration last year in Nepal. The programme also coincided with Nepal's participation in the Caravan Motor Tourism in 2004, held in Stuttgart, Germany till Jan 25.

Speaking at the function, Reinhold Messner, the famous Everest summiteer, pointed out the need not to forget Nepal when it is going through difficult times. He also said that Nepali mountains should not be avoided but rather they should be explored more while preserving their wilderness. He was of the opinion that Nepali mountain tourism holds great potential.

Presentation of MEGJ Medals

President Ang Tshering Sherpa and General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) vsited Japan from December 5-7, 2003. The purpose of the visit to brief about the progress of International Mountain Museum (IMM), to present Mount Everest Golden Jubilee (MEGJ) Medals to Japanese Everest summiteers, to discuss the possibility of establishing sister association status between NMA and Nagano Mountaineering Association Japan, to extend hearty thanks for all the Japanese support for IMM and to extend cordial



invitations to all the Japanese supporters and officials of SANKAPU for the Grand Opening Ceremony of IMM, Pokhara.

The delegation also attended the Japanese Alpine Club (JAC) annual dinner on December 6, 2003. The dinner programme was graced by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Japan, former prime minister of Japan Mr. Hashimoto, Japan Mountaineering Association President Fumio Tanaka, Mr. Nakamura and Mr. Z. Hirayama





His Royal Highness the Crown Prince acquiring information from NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa at the NMA stall in the tourism exhibition, at Nepal Tourism Board, organised on the occasion of the 33rd auspicious birthday of HRH the Crown Prince.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince keenly observing the stall of Nepal Mountaineering Association at the exhibition organised on the occasion of the International Mountain Day on December 11, 2003.



Hon'ble Yankila Sherpa presenting *Tri Shaktipatta* decoration and certificate to Appa Sherpa on the occasion of His Majesty the King's auspicious birthday.

Dinesh Gurung is
Convener of International Mountain
Museum (IMM) Committee

It is my pleasure to express my views not only as Convener of the International Mountain Museum, but also as a friend and colleague of those involved with the museum both today, as well as in the past.

About twenty years ago, Nepal Mountaineering Association purchased 100 ropanies of land at Rato Pairo in Pokhara for a sum of ten lakh rupees (Rs. 10,00,000). The funds were provided by His Majesty's Government of Nepal with the help of the then NMA President Late Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, Dr Harka Gurung, Haridhoj Tulachan, and the support of Mr D.B. Thapa, Under-secretary at the Ministry of Tourism. Set against a backdrop of a spectacular Himalayan view of snow-capped mountains to the north, and amid the tranquil and beautiful city of Pokhara, the vision was to build a mountain museum of international standards.

For many years, however, there was no progress in achieving this vision. Firstly, we did not have adequate funds to initiate the project. Then, there was even a proposition by some French delegates to build an international mountain museum not in Pokhara, but in Kakani – nearer to Kathmandu. However, we stood by our position that the museum was to be built in Pokhara without having everything centralized in Kathmandu.

> "We have only eight million rupees with us, but once we finish the building, artifacts will surely come"

In the early years, when we were unable to begin construction of the museum, we planted trees instead. Both NMA members, as well as our international guests including those from UIAA and UAAA participated during these

IMM: An Overview



plantation events. During one of these early years, I was sitting with the late Dawa Norbu Sherpa (then President of NMA) at the museum site when a local woman passed by and commented that there were plans to build a jail at the site. At that time, Mr. Dawa felt the urgency to begin constructing the museum. He commented: "We have only eight million rupees with us, but once we finish the building, artifacts will surely come." So we consulted with an architect in Kathmandu, who estimated the first phase of the building at Rs. 100 million.

With these humble beginnings, we started construction of the museum in 1996. The museum as it stands today requires the acknowledgement of the following individuals/groups: the Late Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, Dr Harka Gurung and the team who helped purchase the land at Pokhara; the Late Dawa Norbu Sherpa and his committee members for initiating construction of the museum; our Japanese friends who provided significant financial assistance (more than one and a half crore rupees); Korean, Taiwanese, Chinese and Indian Alpine Clubs; Mr. Reinhold Messner; and all our Nepali friends.

> In the early years, when we were unable to begin construction of the museum, we planted trees instead.

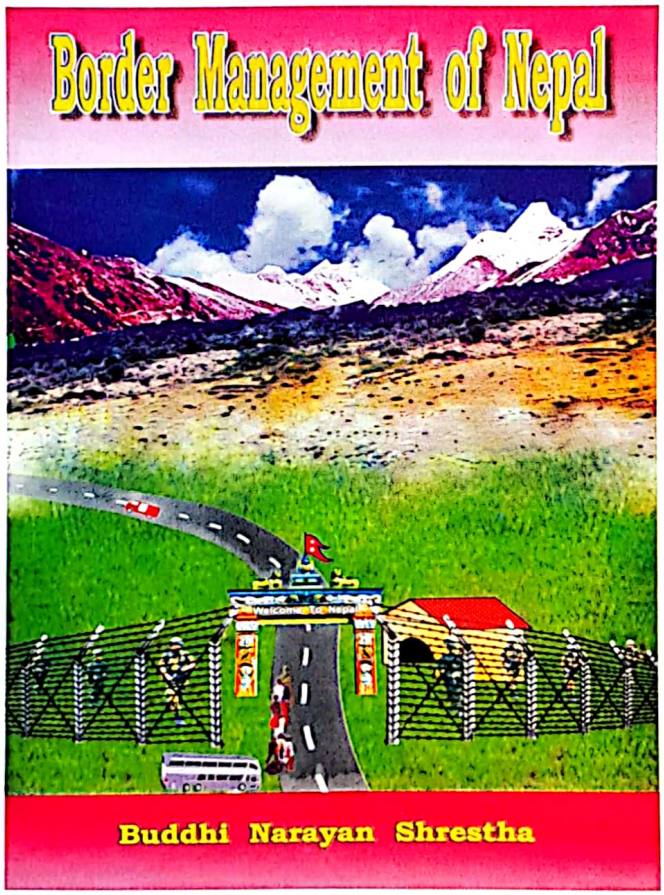
For more recent support, I would like to acknowledge Pokhara Sub-Municipality for providing funds (six lakh rupees) to black-top the car-park which can now accommodate 100 cars inside the museum property. The Japanese Alpine Club is also financing (approximately fourteen lakh rupees) the model of Mount Manaslu that will be exhibited in the museum. And finally, the Living Museum within the museum compound will complement the Mountain Museum by allowing our guests to "experience" mountain cultures.

I and the Museum Committee members are also grateful to former NMA members, donors, locals, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, architects John Sandy and Narendra Pradhan and contractor Global Construction. Special thanks to former and present NMA central committee members for bringing the museum to this stage.

As members of the International Mountain Museum Committee and NMA, we are proud to be associated with this initiative to promote Nepal's and international mountains in the world.

Border Management of Nepal;
Written by: Buddhi Narayan Shrestha;
Published by: Bhumichitra Co. P. Ltd., Kathmandu;
No. of Pages: 360;
Price: Rs. 500 (US$ 20)

PROPER BORDER Management



Border management works are not as easy as it seems. It is not as simple as it seems on paper. There are various areas that need care. This is all the more true when he border and its management is sensitive. The reason is that the sovereignty of the people is invariably linked with its political boundaries.

Nepal is flanked in the south by India and the Autonomous Region of Tibet, China to the north. The border with India is open which allows the movement of people and goods without the need for any document like the passport or visa requirements. This type of open border also has led to many benefits but problems are also there. The cross border of criminals and other anti-social elements has created certain challenges.

When talking of the border, it seems relevant to point out that every aspect of the country has a bearing on the boundary. The fixed border too has its significance in maintaining the peace and security in the country. To make it practical and in the country's interest effective border management must b in place to avoid any untoward event which can lead to differences with the neighbouring countries. It is for this reason that scientific means and methods must be used to demarcate the border as well as its management.

The issues relating to border management must be given proper attention as there are many elements that affect it. It must not be taken very lightly. Pragmatic policies must be basis for proper border management. Unlike at present, in the past that is before the advent of democracy, the political boundaries kept on changing but it is different now. The swift means of transportation and the incrasing trade and commerce between neighbours and other countries the border management will need greater focus.

Mr. Buddhi Narayan Shrestha, former Director General o the Survey Departmentof Nepal, spent many years in land survey and mapping activities and this obviously means that he is well-versed in border management related issues.

Border Management of Nepal, by Mr. Shrestha, has focused on the basic issues of border management in the country. The border issues include both the historical and geographical facets.

The book under review consists of nine chapters including the Appendices and Maps as separate chapters.

The First Chapter deals with the Historical Boundary of Nepal. The writer goes on to stress the fact that "Nationality, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security are of primary and inevitable concern to each nation and its citizens." The description of Nepal's boundary is explained in detail before moving on to the historical boundary of Nepal. The fact is mentioned that 60 big and small rivers and rivulets demarcate the boundary between Nepal and India. The land use, the development regions, ethnic communities also receive mention.

The history of the birth of Nepal with the unification drive by King Prithvi

Narayan Shah the Great is described because it all involved the expansion of the boundaries. The unification drive continued to the east and west even after his death. For some years Kumaon and Garhwal also came under Nepalese fold. Soon the Anglo-Nepali War and other related events led to the end of the unification drive.

Discussion also revolve around the northern border with China.

Border after Betrawati Treaty and the Thapathali Treaty and greater insight. After the Sugauli Treaty of 1816 A.D, Nepal lost one-third of the territory that it had occupied prior to it. The territory from Koshi to Rapti and Kali to Rapti too was returned to Nepal. he new territories referred to included Banke, Bardiya, Kalaili and Kanchanpur. It also talks of the border after Nepal-China Border Agrement –1961. The border treaty was signed on October 5, 1961 and dete3rmined the border that had remained undetermined for hundreds of years.

Another part of the chapter deals with the international border management.

Chapter Two deals wit Nepal-China Border Management. The writer also talks about the reason why there was no hassles on Nepal-China border demarcation as geography and the attitude of the people and their way of thinking. The various events that led to the resolution of the issue of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) is also presented in detail.

Chapter Three, titled Nepal-India Border Management, looks at the border issues with India and its demarcation. The origin of the open border between Nepal and India also comes in for scrutiny. The motive of the British Government to keep the border open is also mentioned. Dwelling on the implications of the open border system, the author has to say that there are both negative and positive aspects. And they are both elaborated in point-wise form. Mr. Shrestha also argues for changes in the open border system like enforcing passport or ID card, fencing the border, guarding the border among others.

Chapter Four discusses the various border issues of Nepal including Kalapani/ Limpiyadhura, the western border (River Mahakali), status of masonry Junge pillar, Mechi border dispute, debate on Susta area,violation of Nepal-India at many places, etc.

The dispute over Mount Everest is also discussed. The problem was resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both Nepal and China in 1963.

Chapter Five includes the relevant articles published by the author at various times. Six of them have been included

Chapter Six includes the saying of various people on the issue of the open border including His Majesty the King.

It is very informative book with enough details and data to quench the thirst of every aware Nepalese citizen. The various issues related to border management and the relations with the immediate neighbours makes it book worth reading. Understanding the issues should make every Nepali feel that boundaries do not materialize out of nothing. Much goes into the making and demarcation of the issues.

A well-written book backed up by the author's painstaking effort and time shows us that the border management needs efforts and receive priority in the scheme of things. ▲

Reviewed by Prem N. Kakkar

HIGHEST PEAKS OF THE CONTINENETS

Continent	Mountain/Range Location	Height meter	Height feet	First to Summit	Date/Nationality
Asia	Mount Everest Himalaya/ Nepal	8,848	29,028	Edmund Hillary Tenzing Norgay	May 29, 1953 Nepal/New Zealand
South America	Mount Aconcaua Andes/ Argentina	6,960	22,834	Matthies Zurbriggen	1897
North America	Mount Kinley Alaska Range/	6,194	20,320	Harry Karstens Walter Harper Robert Tatum Hudson Stuck	1913
Africa	Mount Kilimanjaro Tanzania	5,895	19,340	Hans Meyer Ludwig Purtscheller	1889
Europe	Mount Elbrus Kabardino-Balkaria Caucasus/Russia	5,642	18,510	F Crauford Grove F Gardiner H Walker A Sottajer P Knubel	1874
Antarctica	Mt. Vinson Massif Santinal	4,897	16,066	Barry Carbet John Evans Bill Long Pete Schoening	1966
Australia	Mt. Jaya (Carstensz Pyramid)	4,884	16,024	Heinrich Harrer Philip Temple Russel Kippax Albert Huizenga	1962

IMM & Tourism Promotion

Narayan Karki is the Editor-in-chief with Samadhan national daily, published from Pokhara.

The International Mountain Museum is a plan initiated with a long-term vision. The plan has specific goals and objectives. It is apparent by its name that this program expects and needs high amount of intellect, skill, fund, local and international participation and stimulating effort.

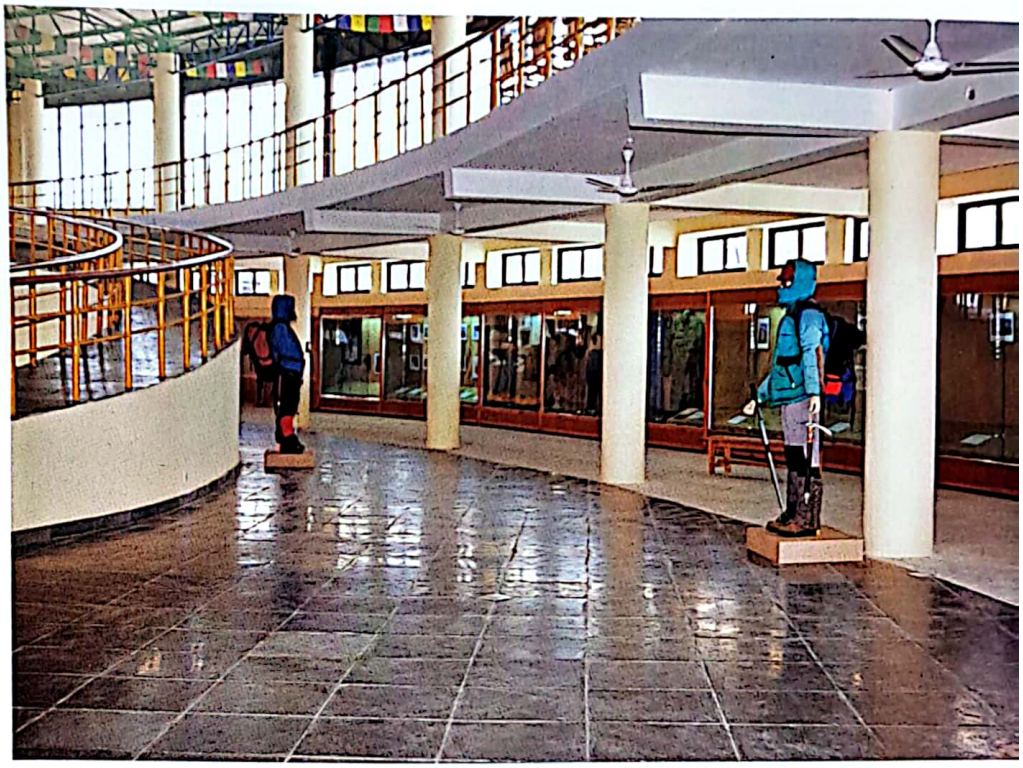
Nepal is a country with a long stretch of the Himalayas and mountains, so the establishment of International Mountain Museum is meaningful in this context. Himalayas, the largest and longest range of mountains in the world extends for almost 1,500 miles from the Brahmaputra river in the east to Sindhu in the west, and most of which lie in Nepal. Among the 14 peaks which are more than 8,000 meters high, including Mount Everest, eight are in Nepal, which is why Nepal is gloriously known as the Himalayan Kingdom in the world. Taking all these into consideration, the establishment of the International Mountain Museum in Nepal, seems pertinent and a step taken with foresight. For this, Nepal Mountaineering Association has received unfailing support from many institutions and people who are worthy of respect.



The International Mountain Museum is not only a plan but a project as well. It is a project that never ends but continual endeavor. The physical setting of the scheme may be comparatively easier, but the difficulty lies in its completion in the real sense of the word. For the success of this mission, we have to feel and win those hearts who have sacrificed their lives in the Himalayas. Even unsuccessful climbs are as difficult. We cannot win the heart of the people by wealth, but by heart, belief and confidence.

Scrutiny of Objectives of International Mountain Museum:

1. To establish it at the international level as high Himalayan zone, and set it up as the place of mountaineering and other alpine activities.
2. To demonstrate the instruments, tools, and equipment used in the different mountaineering expedition since early times to the present and provide the necessary information.
3. To collect data, notices and information regarding mountaineering and make it available for those interested in mountaineering, especially youths, students, national and international researchers and organizations.
4. To establish a mountaineering training center and produce skilled manpower by providing proper training to those who are interested.



5. To reveal and demonstrate the various activities of mountaineering together with the various aspects related to the environment, culture, rites and rituals of ethnic groups.

6. To increase the respect and appreciation for the nature's gift, the Himalayas, and contribute to the tourism development of the nation by advertising the mountaineering activities of Nepal at the international level.

7. To expand local tourism of Pokhara by focusing on the surrounding Himalayas like Annapurna range with the famous Machhapuchhre and natural resources as well.

8. To establish and develop the museum as the source of education and recreation.

Activities So Far:

The International Mountain Museum has earned its own 100 ropani land in Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City-17 at Rato Paira. This land was purchased by the Nepal Mountaineering Association with the assistance of His Majesty's Government. The then tourism minister Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola had laid the foundation stone for the museum on November 1, 1995.

Nearly sixty million rupees have been spent in the first phase until soft opening of the museum. The work of first phase is yet to be completed. In the second phase, the administrative building, conference hall, library building are to be constructed. In Phase III, staff quarter, restaurant and leveling of the field will be done. Nepal Mountaineering Association has made up its mind to initiate the works of Phase II after the completion of the work of Phase I. According to the primary survey, for the completion of the work of all three phases approximately 320 million rupees will have to be spent.

As I have already mentioned above, the collection and management of the materials is more challenging than constructing the building. For this work, the NMA has already taken various steps like maintaining correspondence and contacts with various national and international associations and also with individuals who are linked with mountaineering. The local, national and international assistance play a vital role for the completion of the physical setting of the museum and also to provide all the information of the Himalayas, mountaineering and the life-style of mountain people under a single roof.

Pokhara is the place blessed by nature but spoilt by political leaders and the public. I am very strictly speaking as I am also from Pokhara. I myself might have been responsible for the deteriorating condition of Pokhara. The International Mountain Museum, which we are talking about now, was supposed to be established at Kakani in Nuwakot district because the feasibility study and necessary design and preparations were done accordingly. But with the concept of balance in regional development, Pokhara was selected for the same. For the establishment of this museum in Pokhara, the credit goes to those who love Pokhara not the inhabitants of Pokhara, namely late Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, late Dawa Norbu Sherpa and outstanding personalities of Pokhara Mr. Jhalak Thapa and Mr. Haridhwoj Tulachan are memorable. There were some people who assured of handsome assistance if the museum were established in the neighbouring periphery of Mt. Everest. The reason why I am raising this point in this connection is just to specify that it is a matter of pride and glory for Pokhara. Since the establishment of the International Mountain Museum plays a significant role in the promotion of tourism in Pokhara, so the economic and moral support of the inhabitants of Pokhara is crucial.

The Grand Opening of the museum will mean the tourists' length of stay in Pokhara will be increased by a day. At the moment, the length of stay of a tourist in Pokhara is just two days.

It will not only increase the length of stay but also the number of visitors from home and abroad. It is because this will be the world's biggest and an outstanding mountain museum. The attraction of tourists for the mountain museum and the increase in the length of stay will really be wonderful during seasons like now when the number of visitors to Nepal is low. It is not an imagination but a reality.

Although the number of tourists visiting Nepal has decreased since 1999, the number of mountaineers has not. This fact is justified by the statistic report - 2002. Last year, 134 mountaineering expedition teams have climbed various Himalayan peaks and Rs.13 million as royalty was collected from them. There were only 55 expedition teams that came to Nepal in 2001. That is why mountaineering and the development of



mountain museum are obvious for the enhancement of the tourism industry. We should not forget that 25 to 35 per cent of tourists visit Nepal for trekking and mountaineering purposes.

In this connection, here I would like to borrow some ideas from the paper named 'International Mountain Museum, Pokhara' presented by an experienced tourism professional Mr. Jhalak Thapa on December 11, 2000. "Himalayas are our resource for sustainable development of Nepal in the future, it can be the next basis for each individual of Nepal to achieve international standard. That is why it is not necessary to specify the role of our Himalayan range to lead Nepal to achieve world standard and to familiarize it to the world."

The Himalayas is really a sustainable resource not only for tourism development but also for the development of agriculture and electricity in Nepal.

Do we not understand the importance of this bright, shining, peaceful and holy Himalayas though we are very close to it? We should not forget the fact that many tourists come Pokhara to see and enjoy the Himalayan beauty.

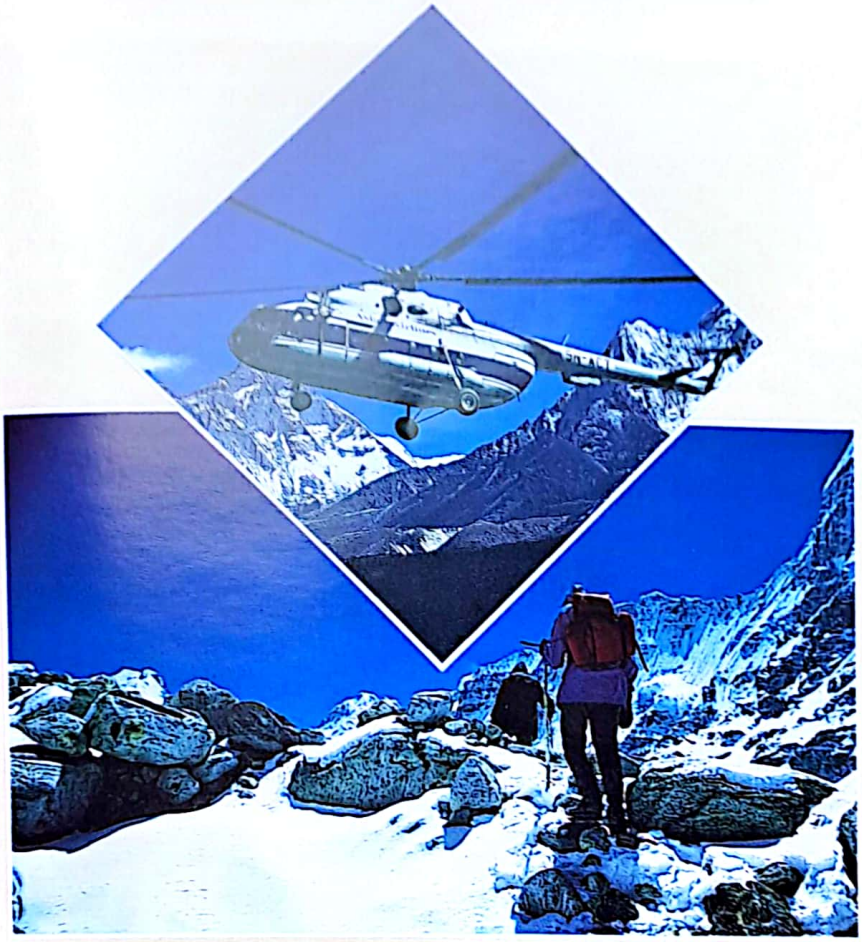
International Mountain Museum includes the images or pictures of those Himalayas and the cultural heritage of those ethnic groups who live in the lap of Himalayas. We should not forget that it is an International Mountain Museum, so it will include not only the information of Nepal but also of the international Alps and Himalayan ranges. That is why, several alpine clubs of the world are taking interest in the development of the museum. The handsome assistance of SANPAKU a fund raising consortium of various associations and clubs of Japan, which is an organization of six different clubs, is responsible to bring the museum to this state today.

It also means that the International Mountain Museum can assist for the sustainable development of tourism of Nepal and not only of Pokhara.

We cannot forget "Virgin Machhapuchhre Peak', which was in dispute two years back, while talking about Pokhara and International Mountain Museum. The matter was whether to give permission to climb it or keep its virginity by not allowing anyone to climb it. As there are more than 1,300 suitable Himalayan peaks for mountaineering, the government decided in keeping it a virgin peak. In this context, my appeal is that it should not be brought into dispute in future and keeps its virginity forever. I would again like to quote Mr. Jhalak Thapa's words - "What Nepal has achieved in the world by providing chance to thousands of mountaineers to climb the highest peak of the world?"

Finally, the continual support of the government is indispensable for the development of International Mountain Museum. It achieves completeness if and only if it gets economic, moral and physical support of Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City, District Development Committee and other organizations, tourism organizations and all the inhabitants of Pokhara as well. In this context, we hope, considering propriety, dignity and sustainable support for International Mountain Museum for the development of Pokhara, the Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City will not only waive all the so-called taxes but also provide budgetary support for the development of the museum. The future of tourism of Pokhara will be highly secure after the completion of this project. ▲

(Paper presented at the Interaction Programme on "The Role of International Mountain Museum for Promotion of Tourism of Pokhara" on 13 January 2003, organized by Nepal Mountaineering Association.)



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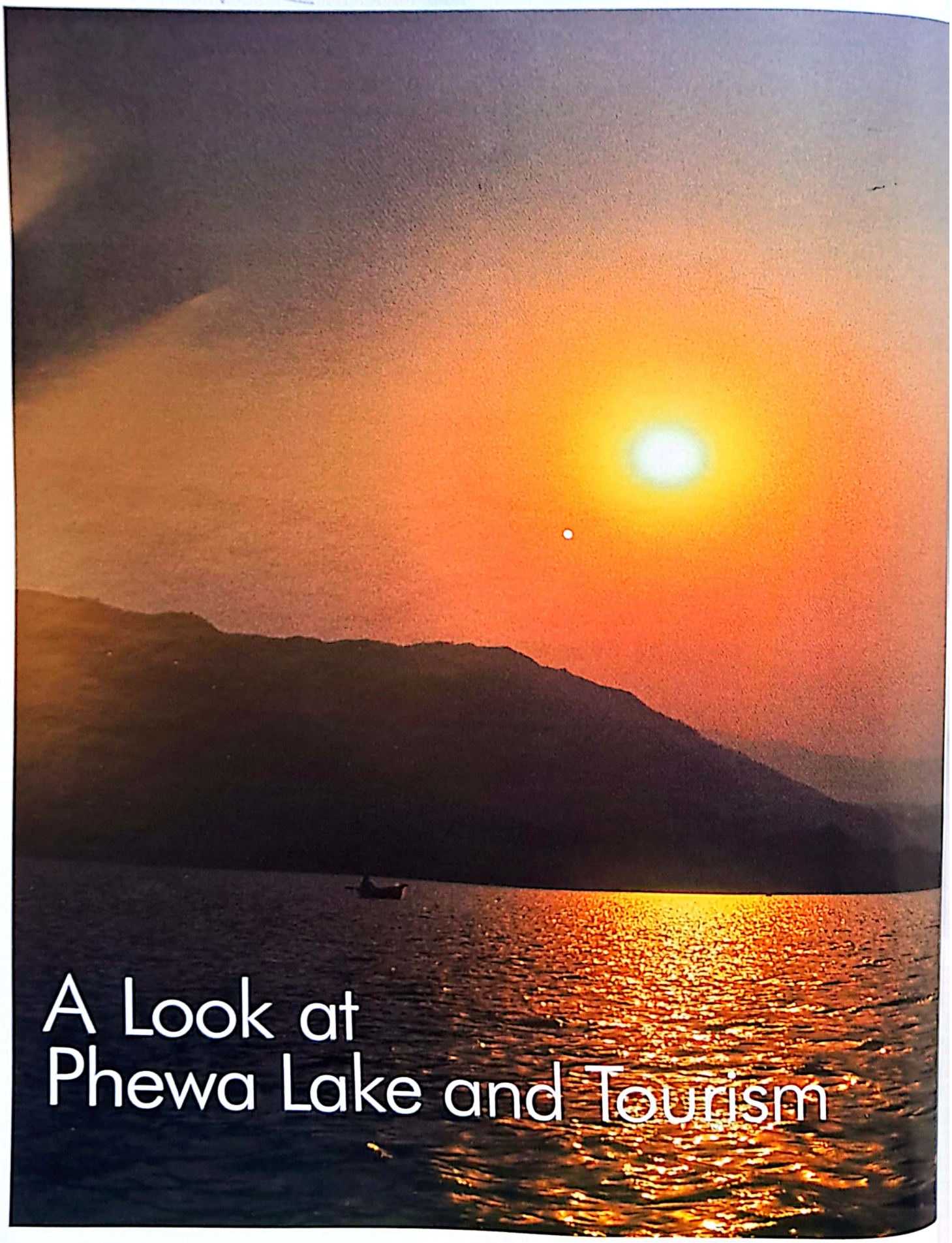
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A Look at Phewa Lake and Tourism

I am an unfortunate Poet
Who will be told one day
that there was a
famous Phewa lake.

– Saru Bhakta

Ganesh Gurung is a Sociologist and currently is Vice Chairman of Social Welfare Council, HMG, Nepal.

Pokhara is famous for the Himalayan (Annapurna) range and Lakes. Even though there are other lakes in Pokhara valley, due to bigger size and beauty, Phewa Lake is more popular than others. In a way, Annapurna range and Phewa Lake are synonymous to Pokhara. The tourism industry of Pokhara is very much related to Phewa Lake. All the shops related to tourism are situated on the bank of Phewa Lake. If Phewa Lake was not there, the tourism related shops would have been located on the North side of Pokhara namely *BAGAR or SUNNIKHET* from where trekking for Annapurna starts.

Phewa Lake plays a vital role to sustain tourism in Nepal. It attracts a large number of tourists to Nepal. Furthermore, Phewa Lake attracts larger number of domestic tourists as well. Instead of the conservation of Phewa Lake, it is being environmentally raped everyday by the local population. The environmental situation of Phewa Lake is degrading day by day.

The humane factor seems to be the main contributing factor for the environmental degradation of Phewa Lake.

Based on the sedimentation survey of Phewa Lake from March 1990 to February 1998, the average annual sedimentation rate in Phewa Lake is about 180,000 m^3 and in the silt trap area of the Lake is 94,000 m^3. Rapid sedimentation in the Lake started the formation of delta at the source of Harpan Khola. Through the comparison of aerial photographs of 1973, 1989, 1991, 1994 and 1996, it was observed that about 25.5 hectare of delta has been formed between 1973-90, an additional 12.9 hectare of delta between1990-94 and

4-6 hectare between1994-96. Thus the delta formation has continued at the rate of about 2 hectare annually since 1973. Meanwhile, the Harpan Khola is also shifting its course within the deltas. It drained the upstream part of the silt trap area during 1989-91, the down stream part during 1991-94 and the main stream reservoir area near the end part of the silt trap area at present.

Washing clothes is one of the major sources of pollution in Phewa Lake. An estimated 100 kg of washing soap and detergent is used every day for washing clothes in the Lake water and with the continuation of the present rate of sedimentation (175,000 – 225,000 m^3 / year).

Another source of pollution is from drainage. The recent household survey conducted suggested that 94% of people located in service area have private septic tanks and soak-pits. However, 77% of these are bottomless, unsanitary and non-standard. 6% of population does not have septic tank or even toilets, and they use open space for defecation. The liquid in the soak-pits are allowed to percolate freely from the bottomless septic tanks. Also, during heavy rain, the households discharge their sewage and septic tanks overflow on street drains which are carried by rainwater into the Lake. Thus, ultimately the septic tank overflow and sewage find their way into the Phewa Lake. Out of the total waste generation, inorganic recyclables (which include metal, paper/carton, glass, plastics, textile/jute and rubber/leather) consist of 17.3 tons/day. Organic recyclables (bamboo, wood, bones etc.) consists of 2 tons/day. Biodegradable organic waste consist of 27.1 ton/day.

Unhealthy agricultural practice is also responsible for the environmental degradation of Phewa Lake. The flood prone wetland habitat of Harpan Khola is

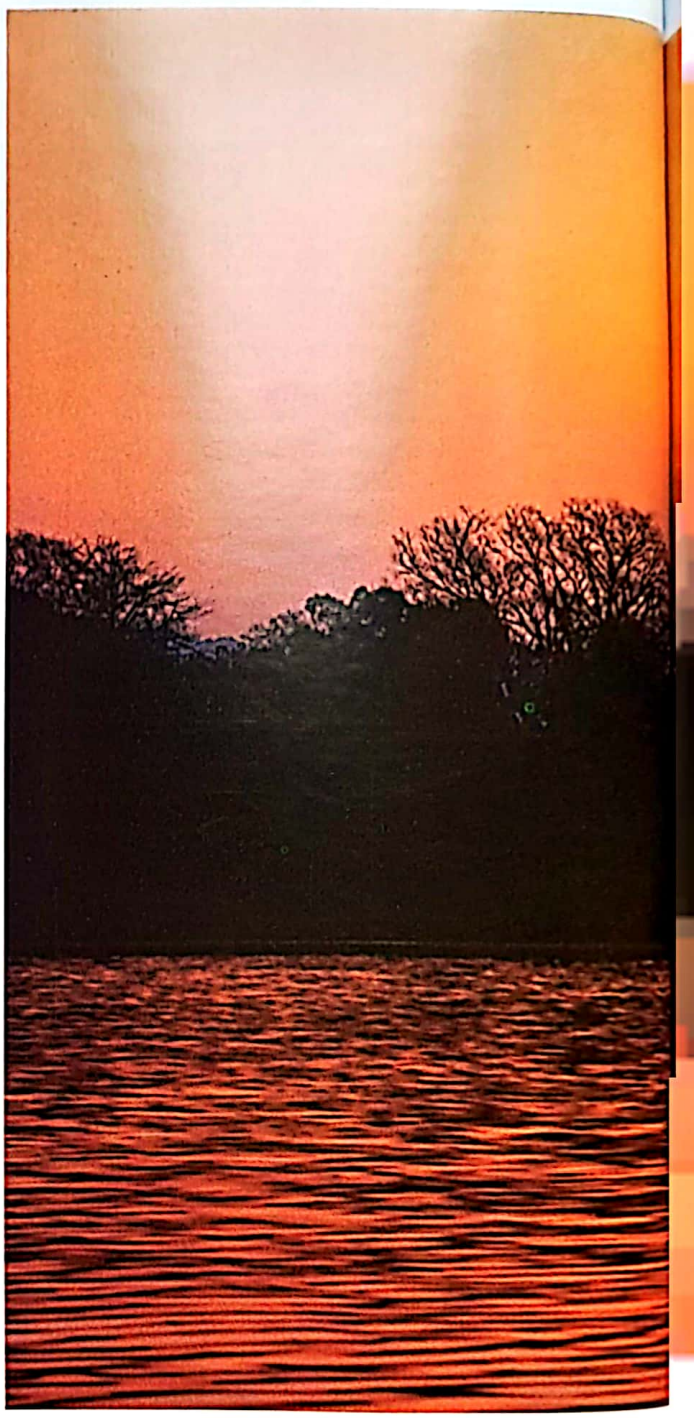
subjected to unsustainable use such as intensive farming of rice along with ploughing activity right up to the Lakeshore margin without buffer zoning. It is reported that 3000 ropanies (150 ha) of land has been even registered illegally, mostly during the collapse of Phewa dam in early 1970s. Such practice has threatened the ecosystem of the Lake. Apart from such unhealthy practices, the uncontrolled growth of water hyacinth due to nutrition from agriculture land, deposits of solid wastes and cases of extensive algal growth has reduced aquatic biodiversity of both flora and fauna of the Lake. The abundance of zooplankton or microscopic aquatic animals in Phewa Lake follows the pattern of eutropic or polluted lakes. In Phewa Lake the population of native species like Sahar (Himalayan Trout), Bam (Eel) and Asla (Snow Trout) are becoming low while the population of fishes like Silver Crap and Big Head Crap has increased significantly. The decreasing biomass of native fish is also recorded in the yield of the year 2000/2001. If the pollution level continues economically important and excellent game fish like Sahar, Katle and Asla will disappear from the Lake.

Due to shortage of water in Pokhara valley, there is pressure on Phewa Lake. The per capita consumption of water in Pokhara city currently is estimated to be 130 liter per day per person. The statistics suggests that total demand of water supply in Pokhara city is about 25.3 million liter per day against the maximum supply capacity of 23.4 million liter per day. The loss estimated in conveyance system is about 45 per cent. Thus, the supply of water is far less than demand. The people, hotels and restaurants near the Lakeshore are using Phewa Lake water for cleaning and other purposes.

The decreasing number of species of birds is another example of impact of environmental degradation. It is recorded that in 1998, seventy-one species of birds in Phewa watershed area whereas the previous studies noted more than 350 species of birds from the same area during the summer and winter seasons of 1972. Thus, diversity and population of birds appear to be sharply decreasing. Long distance seasonal migratory and globally significant rare birds such as demoiselle crane and wild duck, which used to visit Phewa Lake from Siberia, have stopped to visit it any longer as the environment of the area is becoming unfavorable to many species.

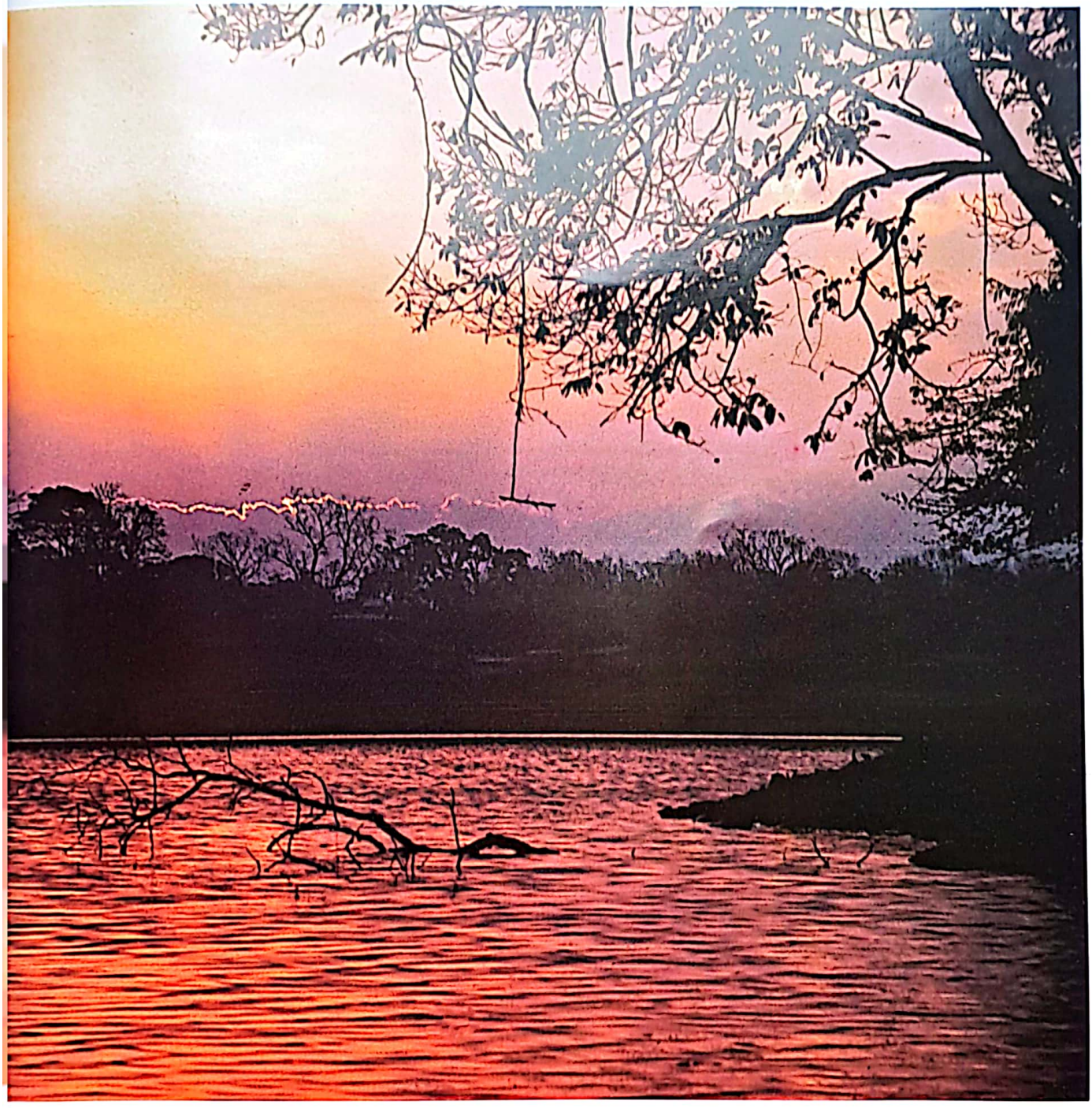
The man made disasters apart, the watershed area of Phewa Lake suffers from severe natural conditions. 9 per cent of the watershed area is too steep (above 60 per cent slope) needing perennial vegetation and 55 per cent of the area having 30-60 per cent slope need intensive care for human use. The average slope of Harpan Khola and its tributaries range from 5 per cent in the Harpan Khola to 25 per cent in Marse Khola. Such conditions are major forces that induce watershed degradation. The maximum annual soil erosion amounts to near 23.5 tons/ha/year in Sasurke Khola sub-watershed in Chapakot VDC on annual average of 12.2 tons/ha/year on the entire watershed.

Thus, environmental condition of Phewa Lake is degrading everyday. It is important to mention here that JICA study (1998) has warned that not only Phewa Lake is polluted, it has also estimated that the Lake will be completely silted up within the next 190 years assuming loss of 80 per cent to 100 per cent of water volume.



First of all, there is no awareness among the people that the lake is directly linked with the local economy. Due to absence of such awareness, Phewa Lake is being exploited by everyone and no one has taken any interest to protect the lake. However, recently some local NGOs have started to act to some extent. There are 571 NGOs registered in Kaski district CDO office. Out of that 18 NGOs are directly or indirectly linked with Phewa Lake.

Phewa Conservation (Bhattarai Group), HERALO, Phewa Beach Development, Community Development Centre, HELP Centre and so forth are some of the NGOs involved in the protection of the Phew lake environment.



Recently, JICA has planned to work with Pokhara Municipality in order to bring improvements in the environment of Phewa Lake. Let us hope that these NGOs will bring some changes along with JICA program.

In 2000, total tourist arrival to Nepal was 463,646. Out of them, 95,095 tourists visited Pokhara. Every year, out of the total, almost twenty per cent visit Pokhara and almost everyone visit Phewa Lake. It should be also noted here that out of the total income of Pokhara, 16 per cent is from tourism.

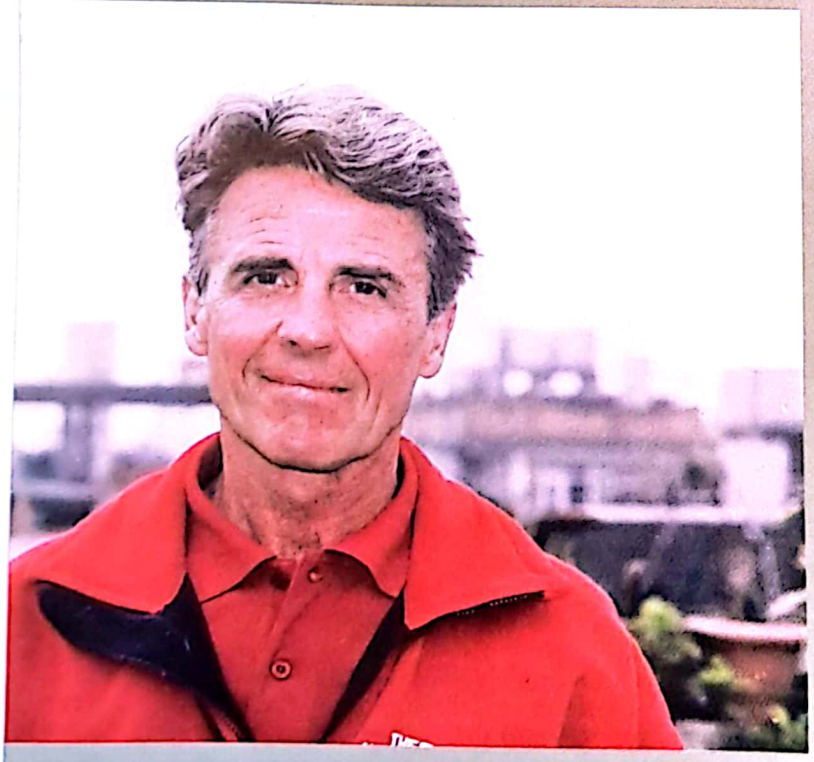
Its recreational value such as boating, swimming as well as fish production potential has gradually declined. All this has resulted in the decline of aesthetic beauty of the Lake and its surrounding areas. This will lead to decline in the interest of tourist to visit the Lake, which will ultimately cause significant adverse impact on the local economy.

In such scenario, if the Phewa Lake continues to be polluted and filled up by sediment at the present rate, thus resulting in it's diminished recreation and aesthetic value, the tourism industry will sharply decline and will have direct negative impact on the local as well as the national economy and livelihood of people of Pokhara. Pokhara will be no more beautiful lake city and not only foreign tourists will decrease, even domestic tourists will also.

Saru Bhakta, a poet from Pokhara, who was worried about the decreasing size of Phewa Lake due to sedimentation, wrote that if proper attention is not given to Phewa Lake, Phewa Lake will remain only in the history of Pokhara valley. ▲

LOVE FOR MOUNTAINS, People Bring Me BACK TO NEPAL

Peter Habeler



Prof. Peter Habeler, the world-renowned mountaineer, was born in 1942 in Maryhofen in the Austrian Tyrol. What started as a hobby as a child later became his profession? It was at the age of six that he started climbing with the inspiration provided by his grandfather who was a mountain guide. He became a certified mountain guide and skiing instructor by the age of 21. Beginning from the mid-1960s, he and his climbing partner Reinhold Messner made a series of impressive ascents. The ultimate challenge that he overcame was the ascent of Everest in May 1978 without the use of bottled oxygen. This time also his climbing partner was Reinhold Messner. Habbler tried to scale Everest in 2000 but fluid in his lungs prevented him from reaching the summit. He has also climbed Cho Oyu, Kanchenjunga and Nanga Parbal, all over 8000m. Mr. Habeler has been returning to Nepal almost every year to "recover from the sometimes stressful times back home". He enjoys company of the Nepalese people and finds the Sherpas "hard working, honest and solicitious people". Back home in Austria, he runs an alpine and ski school. In a chat with **Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha** and **Prem N. Kakkar** he had some interesting experiences and ideas to reveal. Excerpts:

You took up climbing at the age of six, what was your urge for this?

Habeler: First of all, I grew up in the mountains which have fascinated me from a very early age. Still being a child I could not think of anything better than becoming a mountain guide. But the great landscape was only one part of the attraction. There were also the people surrounding me as a child who had a major influence on my urge. Especially my grandfather, who was a mountain guide himself, left a lasting impression on me. After having lost my father very early, it was my grandfather who taught me everything about mountaineering. He



did not only pass on his love for the mountains to me, but he also taught me some practical wisdom of mountaineering which I have been taking to heart till today.

When did you meet Reinhold Messner and how did your partnership in high altitude climbing take shape?

Habeler: I first met Reinhold in 1965 while climbing in the Dolomites. The foundation of our partnership in high altitude climbing were laid with the 1969 Yerupaja Grande expedition (Andes) where we reached the summit at 6600 m in a very short time. This first expedition proved that we were ideal partners for a bigger challenge as we complemented each other excellently. We trusted each other and we both knew we could count on each other 100 Per cent.

How did you come to focus on Nepal and the world's highest peak Mt. Everest?

Habeler: After having climbed many of the then most difficult climbs in Europe, South America and elsewhere in the world, high altitude climbing seemed the logical continuation. Climbing Hidden Peak (8,068 m) in 1975 together with Reinhold Messner only confirmed our good physical and mental shape and gave us the self-confidence for an even greater challenge. In 1978, the greatest challenge in the mountaineering world was to climb Chomolungma (Mt. Everest) without the use of artificial oxygen. Through the hard and consequent training Reinhold and me had become extraordinarily fast on the mountain. We felt strong enough to try something no-one else had ever tried before. At the time, of course, it signified a special challenge for us to prove something no-one really believed could be done.

How did you find climbing Mt. Everest without using bottled oxygen?

Habeler: Although climbing Mt. Everest without bottled oxygen was a real challenge for body and soul, it definitely was a great experience. Despite our exhaustion and emaciation, I do not think we were pushed to our extremest limits.

Do you consider mountaineering very difficult?

Habeler: Besides technical skills and good physical and mental shape (classical), mountaineering most of all requires a lot of experience. Maybe, that is the most difficult part of it. Young people often easily acquire the necessary technical skills and build up an excellent physical shape but they lack experience. This is not really surprising as classical mountaineering often has a very arduous side to it (many hours of hiking till you reach your actual climbing goal, bad weather conditions, the need for an equal partner etc.). With today's possibilities of sports and indoor climbing there is no necessity for young people to chose the more inconvenient and arduous way.

How many peaks over 8,000m have you scaled so far?

Habeler: I scaled 8 peaks over 8,000 m, successfully: Hidden Peak, Mt. Everest, Kanchanjunga, Nanga Prabat and Cho Oyu; failed on: Dhalaugiri, Broad Peak and K2.

Which has been your most difficult moment while climbing mountains?

Habeler: The decent from the summit of Kanchanjunga because we got into a terrible storm.

and the happiest and saddest moments?

Habeler: The happiest moment was to reach base camp of Kanchanjunga after the difficult descent.

The saddest moment was after a rescue on Mount McKinley in Alaska where we could only get two people out of four safely back down from the mountain. Two had already died when we found them.



Peter Habeler with Apa Sherpa

You have been coming back to Nepal almost every year, what might be the reason?

Habeler: I keep on coming back to Nepal because I love this country and its people. I have had so many great experiences here and have also met so many extraordinary people. Nepal also gives me a chance to recover from the sometimes stressful times back home. While being in Nepal, I am able to build up my physical and mental strength.

What difference do you find between mountaineering in 1977 (your first time in Nepal) and today?

Habeler: In 1977 most of the expeditions were built up by a number of well trained and well experienced mountaineers who built a real team which worked closely together. Nowadays, many (none all, of course) expeditions result from the joining together of people from all over the world who either lack skills or experience or both and who are not used to each other.

In your opinion, what is the reason for your success?

Habeler: I believe there are many reasons for my – let us call it – well-doing. First of all mountaineering has always been the greatest passion in my life and thus has just become part of my life. If you love doing something you are much better in it. Secondly, I had the great luck of being able to climb mountains with the best mountaineers of my generation and therefore profited from their skills and experience. My training and work as mountain guide in Austria certainly added to the success. And last, but not least, excellent physical and mental shape as well as a good and thorough preparation constitute a prerequisite for any successful undertaking in the mountains.

What are your impressions of the Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration held in May 29, 2003 in Kathmandu?

Habeler: I found it fantastic! I was very impressed by the excellent organization and believe it was a very successful attempt to promote Nepal and its tradition of climbing not only within but also outside the mountain climbing world. Attention of people from all over the world was drawn on Nepal which hopefully will gain from the good promotion. The only thing I personally felt sorry about was that there were hardly any British and American climbers who have also always played an important role in the history of Himalayan mountain climbing.

As you are the Honorary Vice-Chairman of the Mt. Cho Oyu Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee, what do you think must be done to make it successful?

Habeler: The Mt. Cho-Oyu Golden Jubilee Celebration must be made public within Katmandu, the whole country and all those countries whose climbing history is somehow connected to Mt. Cho-Oyu. Lectures should be held about Cho-Oyu and the people who climbed it: Herbert Tichy, Sepp Jöchler and, of course, the Sherpas climbing with them. The presence of media from all over the world will definitely be important in order to spread information about the Mt. Cho-Oyu Golden Jubilee Celebration all over the place.

Could you provide some suggestions to upcoming young mountaineers?

Habeler: Besides acquiring the technical skills and building up

their physical shape they should try to get as much experience as possible. They should start in lower altitudes and slowly approach the higher altitudes after having gained experience and self-confidence on lower mountains. There exist many beautiful 6,000ers and 7,000ers in Nepal!

What do you think must be done to preserve the fragile mountain environment?

Habeler: The most important step towards the preservation of any fragile ecosystem is the building up of awareness. The latter can be achieved by passing on knowledge about the features, weaknesses, problems of and dangers for fragile ecosystems. Thus, much effort must be put onto environmental education, especially with children and young people. Only if the local people get to recognize the value of their immediate environment they will be willing to take care of it. By teaching people about the consequences the exploitation and misuse of their land might cause and by offering them alternative options they will be able to decide for measures to preserve their country.

With regard to mountaineering the existing regulations must be obeyed. In case of violation (or example littering) penalties should have to be paid.

How do you find the Sherpas in particular and the Nepalese people in general?

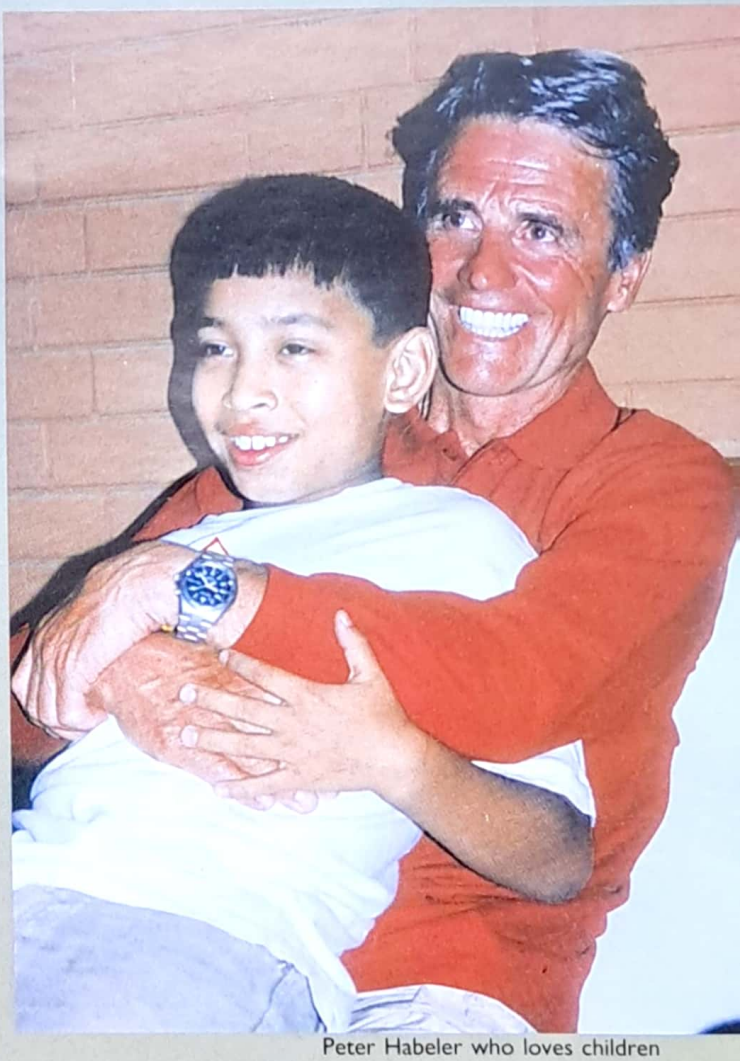
Habeler: I have always enjoyed the company of Nepalese people in general. My closest friends, however, have become the Sherpas as I have spent most of the time in the mountains with them. They are hard-working, honest and solicitous people and despite their fine sense for business they have remained very modest.

In your opinion, how can Nepalese Mountains be promoted?

Habeler: I think last year's Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration was the best way to promote Nepalese Mountains. Newspapers and TV stations from all over the world reported about the celebrations but also informed about the fantastic Nepalese Mountains. Famous names connected with mountaineering in Nepal always attract people's attention. Many people in the western world, however, are increasingly interested in the history of Sherpas climbing mountains. To attract more climbers Nepal should not only concentrate on its highest peaks but should also promote its many beautiful 6,000ers and 7,000ers.

Could you highlight some of your projects in Nepal?

Habeler: Besides supporting different educational institutions as well as the children's village of Nepalhilfe within Nepal I try to bring young Sherpas to Austria for 2 – 3 months (off-season in Nepal!) in order to give them a chance to improve their skills in tourism. They learn how mountain huts are run here in Austria and can take back this know-how to Nepal where they can better adapt to the tourists' needs and wishes back home. And, of course, they also earn some money during a time when there is no tourism season in Nepal.



Peter Habeler who loves children

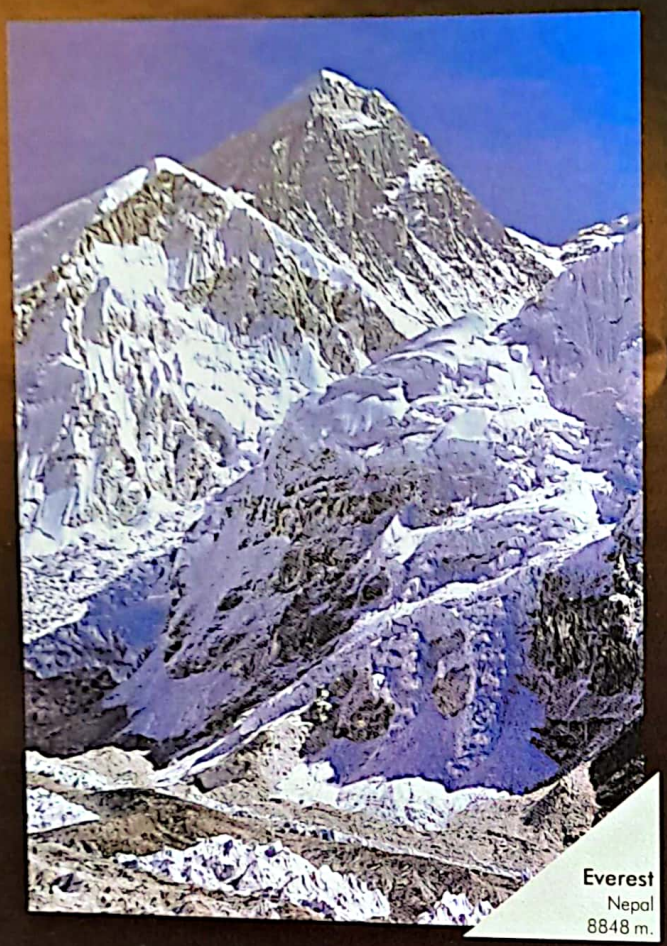
Do you hope to increase your social activities in Nepal?

Habeler: Yes, indeed, I would like to do more in the sector of education, maybe building another school and bringing more Nepalese students to Austria.

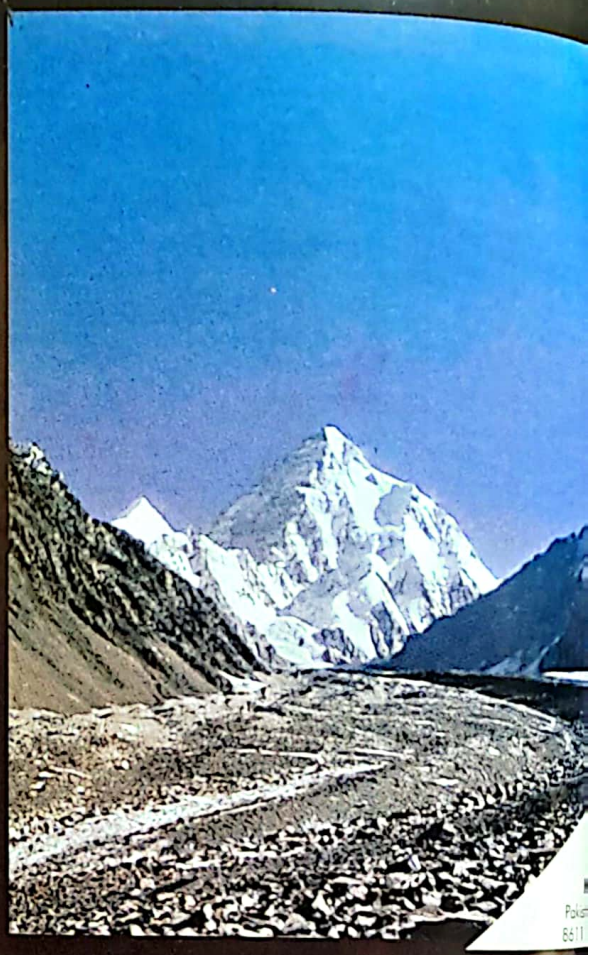
The International Mountain Museum is slated for the Grand Opening on February 5, 2004, how do you evaluate the contribution the museum can provide to mountaineers and the general people?

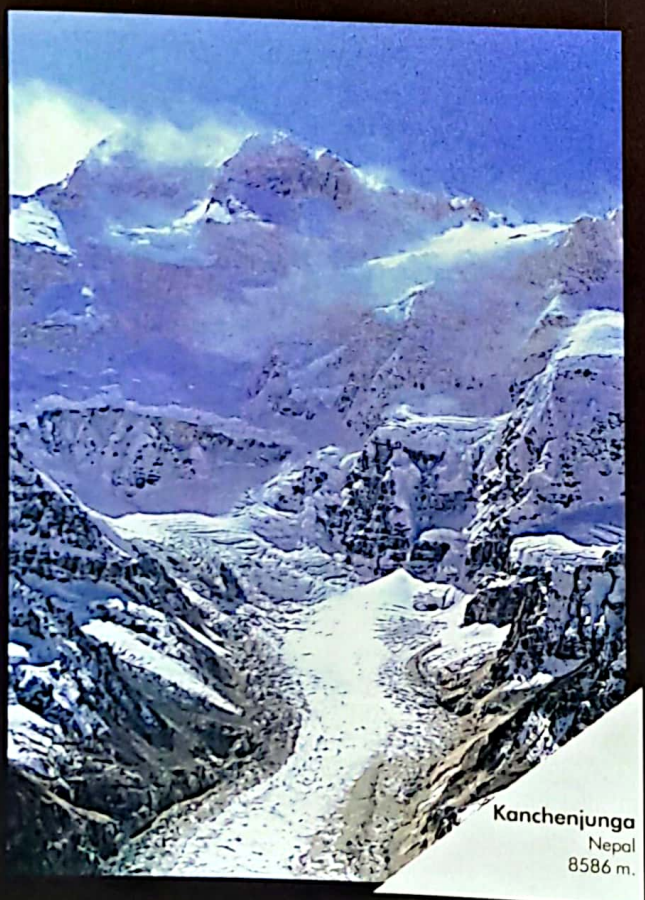
Habeler: Unfortunately, due to lack of time, I will not be able to go to Pokhara for the opening of the museum. The International Mountain Museum, as any other museum, holds the chance to inform people about mountaineering, its history, its protagonists, its expressions and everything that is interesting with regard to the mountains and the people living there. It gives people who have not grown up in the mountains, who have never lived or even been there, the opportunity to dip into a completely different world. For mountaineers in specific, the museum could function as a platform, where new developments are picked up and discussed and where new results can be displayed.

OVER 8000 METERS

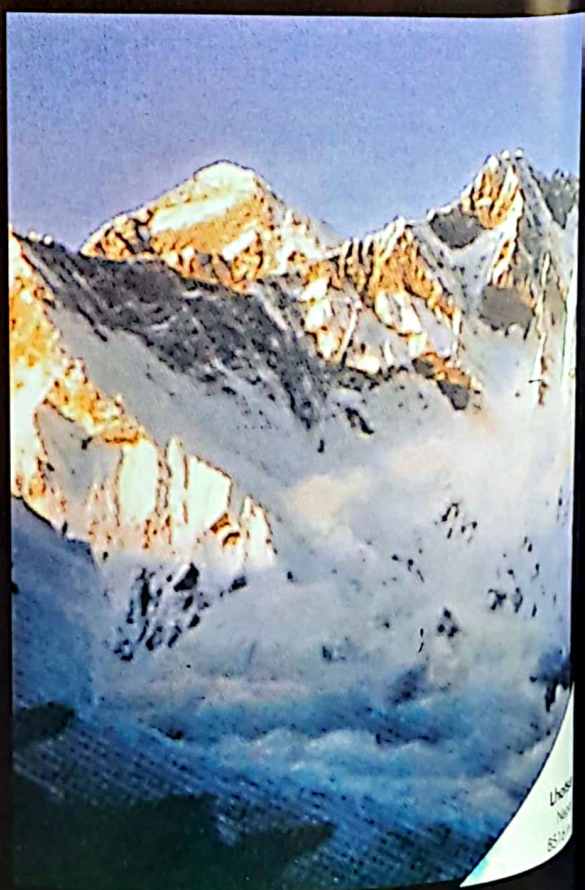


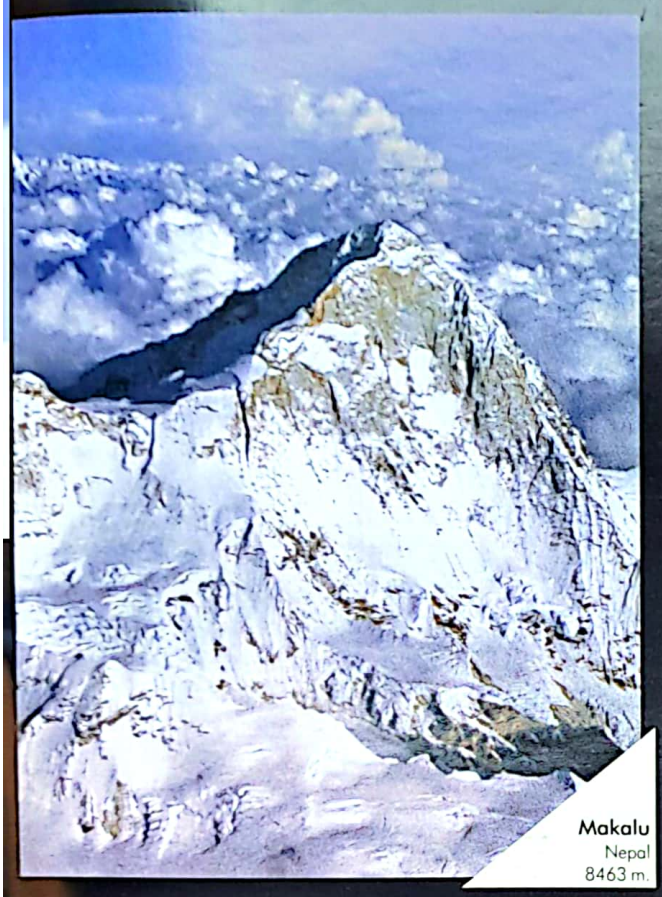
Everest
Nepal
8848 m.



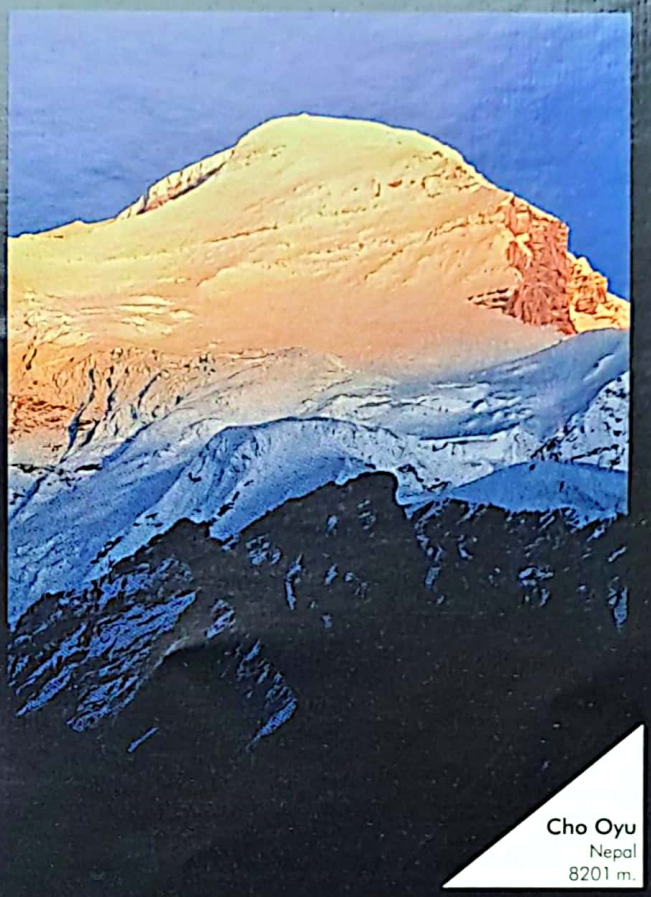


Kanchenjunga
Nepal
8586 m.

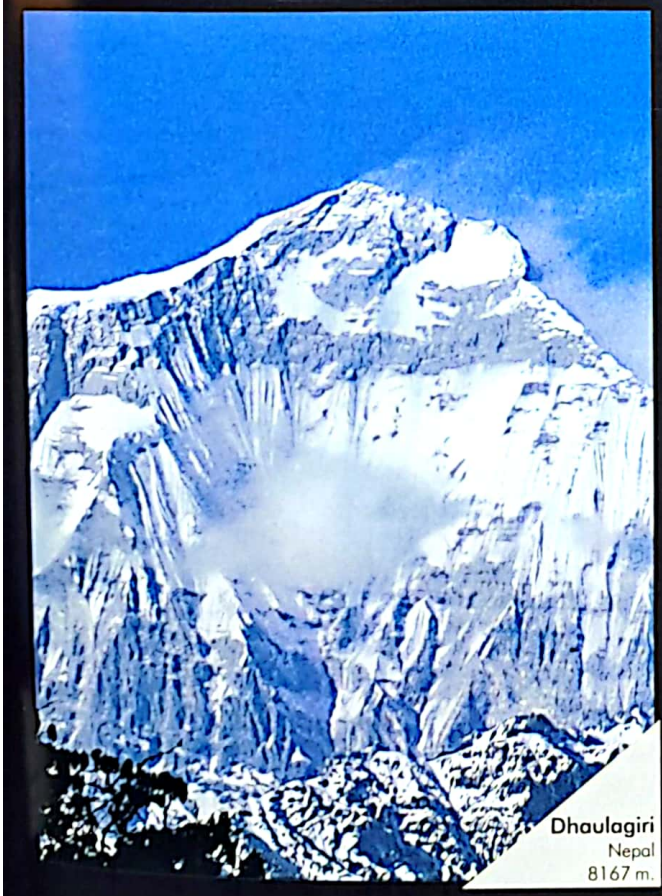




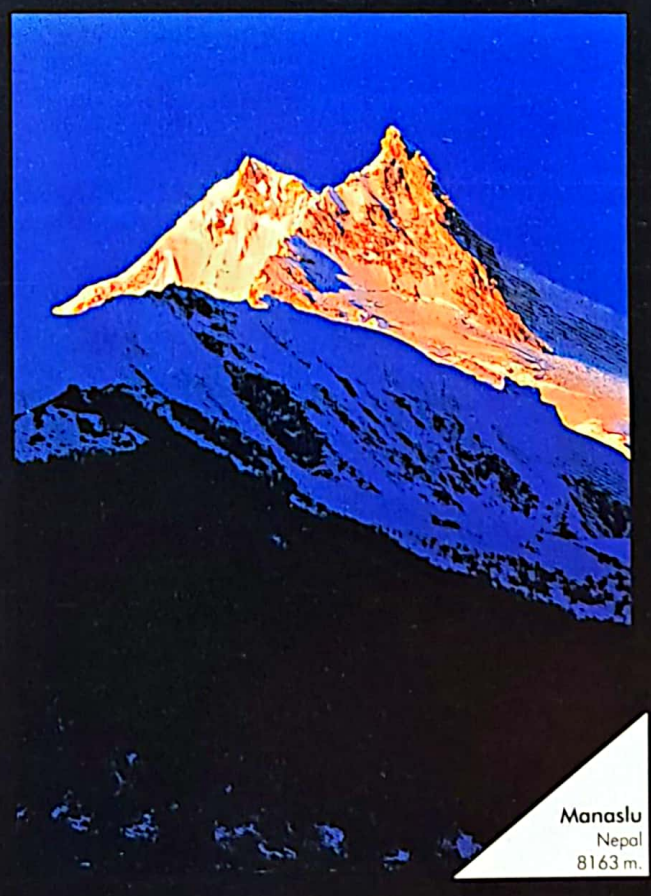
Makalu
Nepal
8463 m.



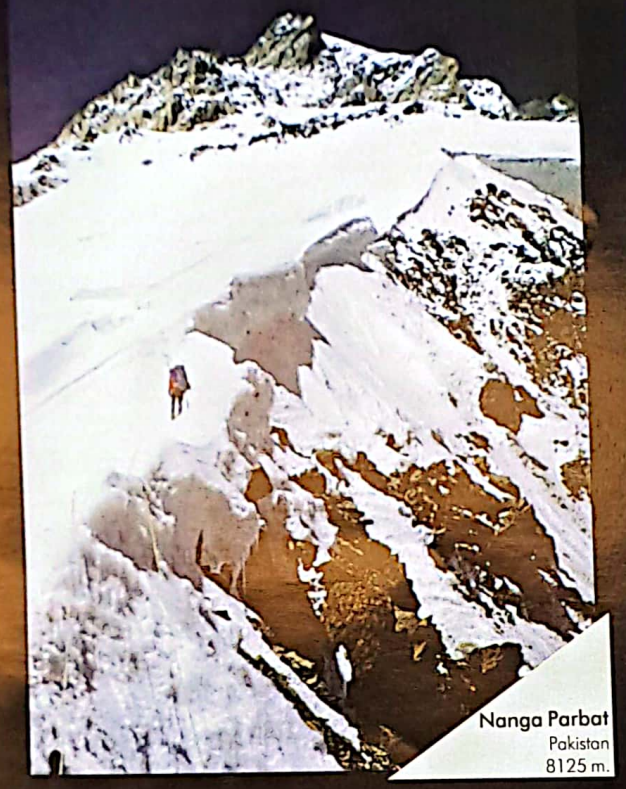
Cho Oyu
Nepal
8201 m.



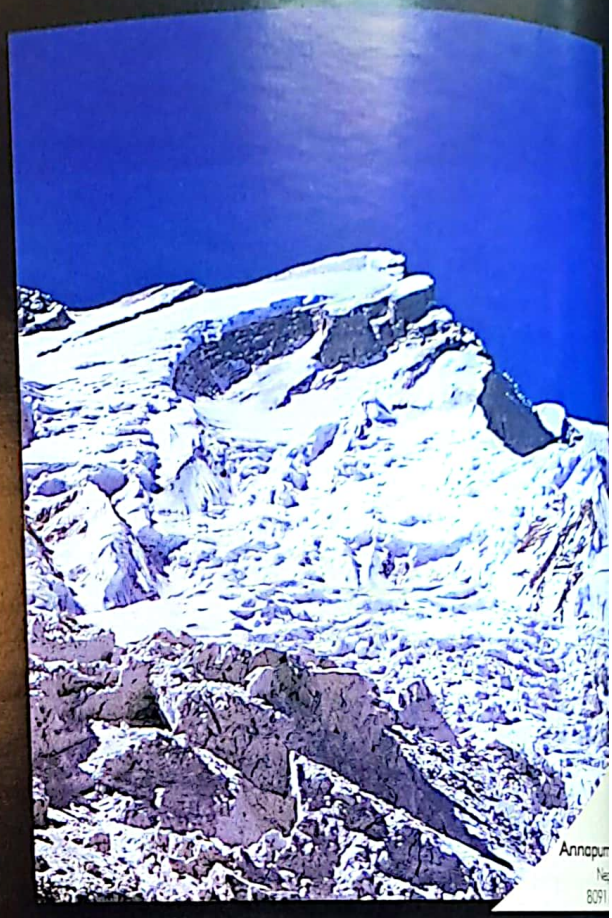
Dhaulagiri
Nepal
8167 m.



Manaslu
Nepal
8163 m.



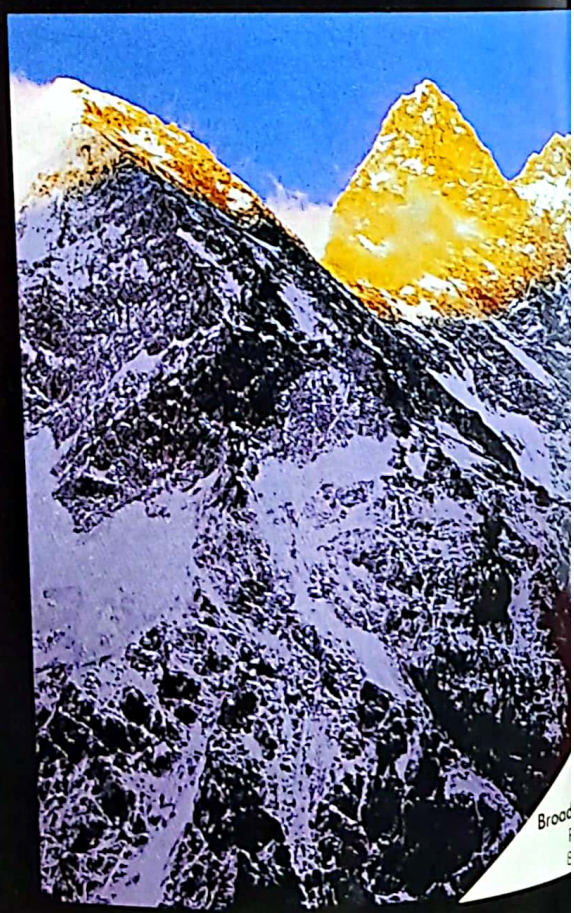
Nanga Parbat
Pakistan
8125 m.



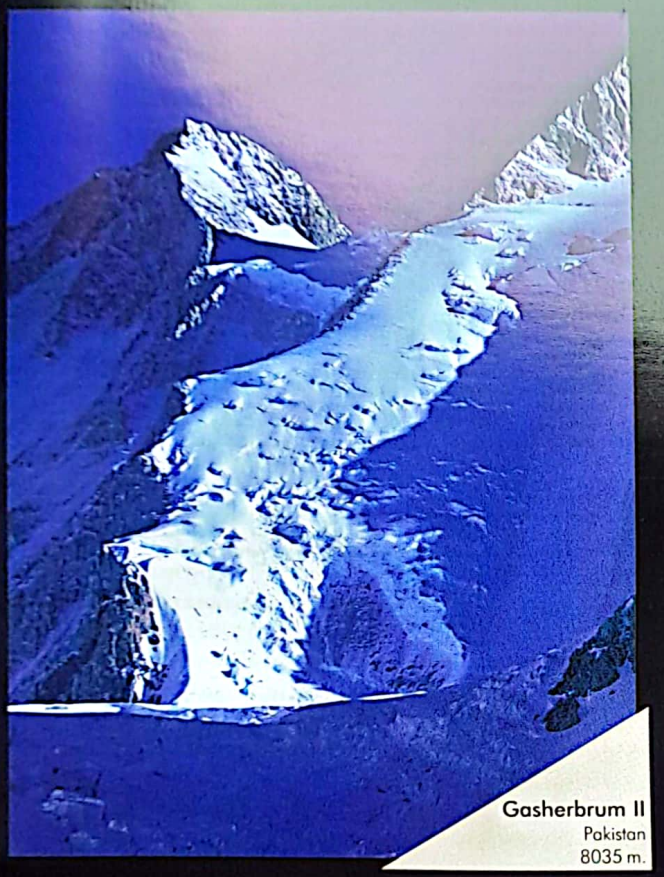
Annapur
Ne
8091



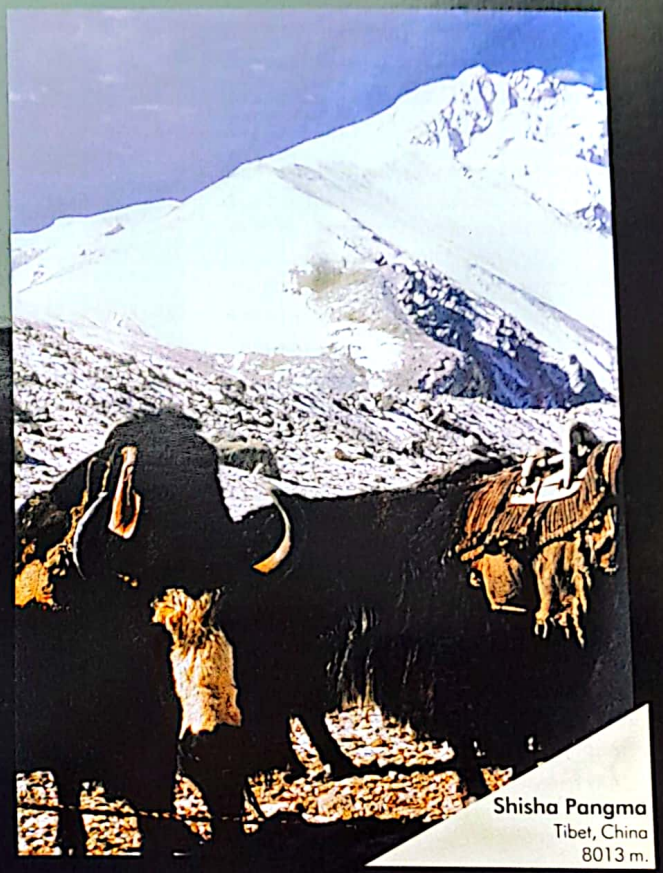
Gasherbrum I
Pakistan
8068 m.



Broad
P
8



Gasherbrum II
Pakistan
8035 m.



Shisha Pangma
Tibet, China
8013 m.

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Do you have a CLIMBING PERMIT ?

1. It is illegal to climb any mountain peak in Nepal without proper authorization.
2. The National Park staffs may ask for your permit to ensure you're not making an illegal ascent.
3. If you are found involved in an illegal climbing activity you can face prosecution as per the laws governing mountaineering regulation of Nepal.
4. It is also a moral and legal offence to leave your garbage in the mountain.
5. Please burn or bury your disposable garbage at the SPCC designated sites and carry back non-disposable garbage back to the country or origin.

Your support is appreciated.

Nepal Mountaineering Association
G.P.O.Box: 1435, Nagpokhari, Naxal, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel : 977-1-4434525, 4435442, Fax: 977-1-4434578
Email : office@nma.com.np, Website : www.nma.com.np

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Introduction

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 and International Mountaineers Memorial Park.
- to popularize mountaineering activities among Nepalese students and youths and so on.

Income Generation

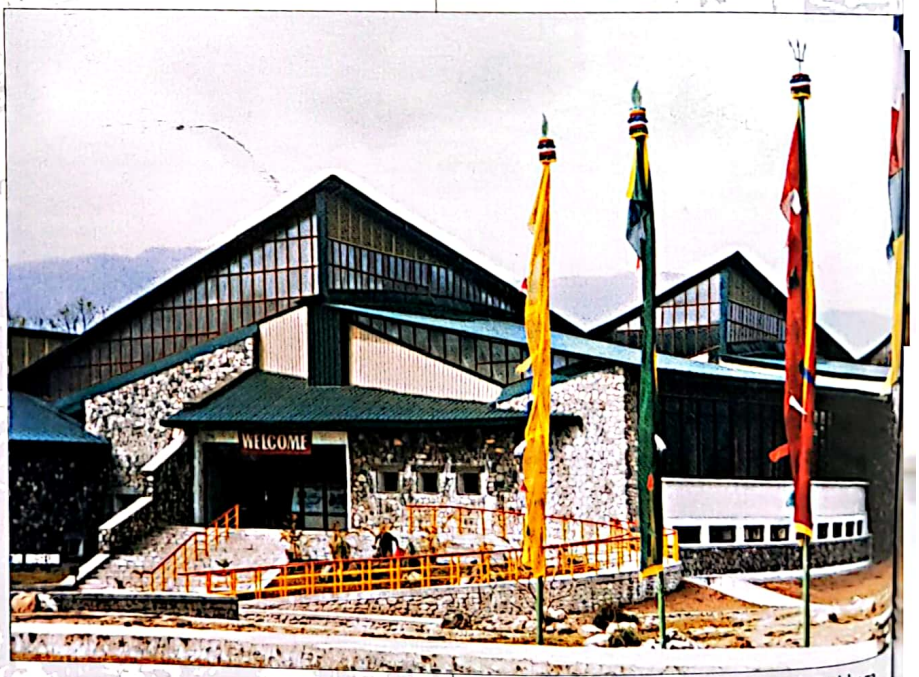
His Majesty's Government of Nepal has authorized NMA to issue permits for 18 peaks between 5,587 meter to 6,654 meter in the Manang, Annapurna, Langtang and Khumbu area since 1978. Mera Peak (6,654 m.) is the tallest amoung these 18 peaks while Mardi Himal (5,587m.) is the smallest in altitude. These 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 organization.

Plans and Programs

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:



International Mountainers Museum, Pokhara

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



NMA Office Kathmandu

scenic location, and first eight thousander Mt. Annapurna I summated 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 utilizing 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 grand opening of International Mountain Museum is February 5, 2004.

International Mountaineers Memorial Park, Kakani

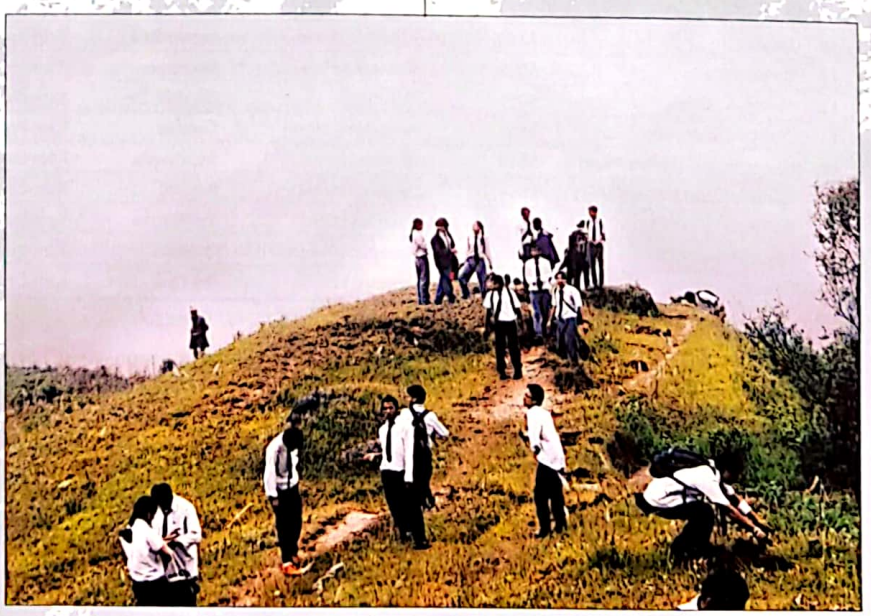
Nepal Mountaineering Association has always accorded deep respect and has kept its tradition of honouring mountaineers. However, the hazards of mountain climbing is always there. It needs no mention that tragedies do occur on the high mountains which sometimes is unavoidable.

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 nort 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. ▲



International Mountainers Memorial Park, Kakani.

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-Langshis- ABC
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.	Mt. Larkya Peak	6,249	Manaslu	Gorkha	Gorkha-Samagoun-Larnjung-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-Langtant-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.	Himchuli	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.
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
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-Hyangia-Dhiprang-Kharka-Mardi Base Camp
18.	Paldor	5896	Langtang Himal	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhading-Ankhu Khola-Rigaon-Jharlang-Sertung-Kharka-Somd

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.

The Himalayan Code of Conduct



Adopted by Union International Des Associations D' Alpinisme (U.I.A.A.)
By following these simple guidelines, you can help
preserve the unique environment and ancient cultures of the Himalayas

- Keep camp site clean : Remember that another party will be using the same camp site after you have vacated it. Therefore, leave the camp site cleaner than you found it.
- Limit deforestation : Make no open fires and discourage others from doing so on your behalf. Where water is heated by scarce firewood, use as little as possible. When possible, choose accommodation that uses kerosene or fuel-efficient firewood stoves. You will help the cause greatly by taking with you some saplings and planting these on your trail.
- Burn dry paper & packets in a safe place : Bury other waste paper and biodegradable material including food. Carry back all non-biodegradable litter. If you come across other people's rubbish, remove their rubbish as well.
- Keep local water clean and avoid using pollutants such as detergents in streams or spring : If no toilet facilities are available, make sure you are at least 30 metres away from water sources, and bury or cover wastes.
- Plants should be left to flourish in their natural environment : Taking cuttings, seeds and roots is illegal in many part of the Himalayas.
- Help your guides and porters to follow conservation measures : Do not allow the cooks or porters to throw garbage in the nearby stream or river.
- When taking photographs, respect privacy : Ask permission and use restraint.
- Respect holy places : Preserve what you have come to see, never touch or remove religious objects. Remove shoes when visiting temples and shrines.
- Refrain from giving money to children since it will encourage begging : A donation to a project, health center or schools is a more constructive way to help.
- Respect for local etiquette earns you respect : Loose, light clothes are preferable to revealing shorts, skimpy tops and tight fitting action wear. Hand holding or kissing in public are disapproved by the local people.

The Himalayas may change you, please do not change them.

Number of Permit and Climbers of NMA Climbing Peaks

1990/91-1995/96 (A)

Fiscal Year / Peak	2047/48 (1990/91)		2048/49(1991/92)		2049/50 (1992/93)		2050/51(1993/94)		2051/52(1994/95)		2052/53(1995/96)	
	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers
Mera	68	380	63	377	71	416	79	419	90	562	89	553
Chulu East	18	92	14	57	15	74	11	78	15	113	18	85
Singuchuli	9	35	8	39	12	57	9	27	15	68	12	69
Hiunchuli	8	45	3	9	2	7	6	28	4	16	4	28
Chulu West	4	20	9	41	3	14	6	20	9	40	2	17
Kusum Kangguru	7	26	11	32	2	11	7	16	8	35	8	27
Pharchemuche	25	110	33	185	30	124	49	302	45	234	45	243
Island	126	676	146	810	183	997	176	896	171	991	213	1050
Lobuje	21	129	30	177	18	91	28	105	36	207	29	151
Pisang	24	160	22	124	25	126	30	162	26	159	37	86
Kwangde	6	27	10	33	1	9	5	28	7	38	8	21
Ramdung	40	262	41	262	40	228	38	207	44	243	49	149
Paldor	7	45	5	24	10	65	12	58	8	37	10	55
Khongmatse	3	15	4	15	3	19	3	19	3	12	6	214
Ganjala Chuli	21	97	20	83	31	138	24	97	37	169	22	214
Pokhalde	7	44	11	78	15	95	9	55	16	114	24	166
Tharpu Chuli	23	120	24	140	20	86	21	79	20	107	21	41
Mardi Himal	1	2	3	20	4	4	4	19	2	5	2	5
Total	418	2285	457	2506	485	2561	517	2615	556	3150	599	3174

Number of Permit and Climbers of NMA Climbing Peaks

1996/97-2002/03 (B)

Fiscal Year / Peak	2053/54 (1996/97)		2054/55 (1997/98)		2055/56 (1998/99)		2056/57 (1999/2000)		2057/58 (2000/2001)		2058/59 (2001/2002)		2059/60 (2002/2003)	
	Permit	Climber	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers	Permit	Climbers
Mera	116	691	142	903	160	995	206	1164	186	1124	169	890	1	4
Chulu East	16	79	19	86	14	79	26	113	31	164	22	95	14	54
Singuchuli	8	22	14	46	17	92	21	90	16	60	17	72	135	727
Hiunchuli	3	14	3	18	4	11	5	24	0	0	4	10	0	0
Chulu West	10	59	11	46	14	85	11	52	14	74	20	90	8	30
Kusum Kangguru	3	4	6	29	2	4	6	26	4	16	7	22	15	46
Pharchemuche	56	253	53	330	69	404	72	390	78	449	78	410	17	71
Island	224	1220	265	1502	287	1526	333	1842	337	1815	317	1587	277	1325
Lobuje	20	111	30	178	45	277	57	276	53	268	55	229	46	243
Pisang	17	65	17	83	16	63	21	80	44	229	29	114	42	240
Kwangde	7	39	4	23	11	33	5	32	7	23	13	61	13	67
Ramdung	52	271	35	165	42	226	26	149	30	167	23	145	26	88
Paldor	11	103	9	47	9	58	10	63	11	47	6	23	11	79
Khongmatse	3	18	3	7	3	18	7	39	3	11	2	6	0	0
Ganjala Chuli	26	120	24	104	28	125	35	138	33	171	27	104	21	84
Pokhalde	18	115	20	113	27	201	34	255	22	162	25	148	21	146
Tharpu Chuli	30	116	22	94	35	134	29	126	35	151	16	65	4	20
Mardi Himal	3	19	3	11	3	7	4	16	5	12	10	36	5	14
New Peak														
Cholat-Se													5	9
Kyazo-Ri													4	14
Nirekha													2	4
Langsisa-Ri													3	5
Ombigaichen													2	17
Bokta													2	10
Lobuche West													1	4
Larkya													3	19
Yubra Himal													1	1
Yala													9	49
Total	623	3319	680	3785	786	4338	908	4875	909	4943	840	4107	688	3373

Source : Nepal Mountaineering Association

Data of Trainings Conducted by NMA with the help of ENSA (France) in Different Years (1979 TO 2003)

Year	Basic Mt. Training	Advance Mt. Training	Basic Rock Training	Advance Rock Training	Trek Tour Leader	Junior Basic Training	Mountain Rescue Training	Female Training
1979	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1981	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1982	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1983	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1984	30	7 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1985	24	11 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1986	31	9 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1987	30	15 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1989	31	22 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1990	30	17 (ENSA)	-	-	-	17	-	-
1991	29	13 (ENSA)	-	-	30	-	-	-
1992	33	17 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1994	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1995	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997	13	11 (NMA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	16	13 (ENSA)	29+34	-	-	-	-	-
1999	-	16	-	7	-	-	-	15
1999	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000	32	11	12	-	-	-	-	13
2000	15 (Singaporean Student)		-	-	-	-	-	- -
2000/01	-	17 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	15
2001	30	11	-	-	-	-	10	-
2002	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
2002	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003	-	20 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	17
2003	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	-	21 (ENSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**647**	**239**	**75**	**7**	**30**	**17**	**10**	**76**

Source: Nepal Mountaineering Association

Royalty Fees for Mountaineering Expeditions in Nepal

(A) For the Mount Everest (Sagarmatha)

1. The royalty for the mountaineering expedition team not exceeding seven in number from the route other than the general route (Southeast route) shall be fifty thousand U.S. dollar.
2. The royalty for the mountaineering expedition from general route (Southeast route) for the mountaineering expedition team shall be as follows:

Member of the mountaineering expedition team	**Royalty (U. S. Dollars)**
One Member	25,000
Two Member	40,000
Three Member	48,000
Four Member	56,000
Five Member	60,000
Six Member	66,000
Seven Member	70,000

3. Other not more than five members may be added in the mountaineering expedition team beyond the number as it is mentioned in clause (1) and (2).

(B) For other Mountains

1. The royalty for the other mountain shall be as follows:

Name of the Mountain	Royalty for up to seven members (U.S. Dollars)	Royalty for each additional member (U.S. Dollars)
Above 8000m (other than Mount Everest)	10,000	1,500
From 7,501m to 8,000m	4,000	500
From 7001m to 7500m	3,000	400
From 6501m to 7000m	2,000	300
Less than 6501m	1,000	200

2. Other not more than five members may be added in the mountaineering expedition team beside as prescribed in clause (1).

Note: If there is any change in the royalty amount before receiving the briefing from the Ministry even after one has already paid the royalty under this Regulation, the mountaineering expedition team shall pay the changed amount of the royalty.

Number of Tourist Arrival in Nepal 1962-2002

The statistics regarding tourist arrivals have been maintained on an official level since only 1962 A.D. in Nepal. The tourist arrival into Nepal from 1962 to 2002 has been produced below. This will provide the necessary information regarding the annual tourist arrivals, annual growth rate, number of trekkers and mountaineers and their percentage, growth rate and the average length of stay in Nepal. We hope the interested readers will find the data presented as useful. – Nepal Parbat

Year	Total Tourist Arrival No.	Annual Growth Rate in %	Index	Trekkers and Mountaineers Arrival No.	No. of Trekkers and Mountaineers on Total Tourist Arrival in %	Annual Growth Rate in %	Average Length of Stay
1962	6179		100				
1963	7275	17.7	118	71	1.0		
1964	9526	30.9	154	62	0.7	-12.7	
1965	9388	-1.4	152	40	0.4	-35.5	
1966	12567	33.9	203	8	0.1	-80.0	
1967	18093	44.0	293	3	0.0	-62.5	
1968	24209	33.8	392	61	0.3	1933.3	
1969	34901	44.2	565	293	0.8	380.3	
1970	45970	31.7	744	556	1.2	89.8	
1971	49914	8.6	808	590	1.2	6.1	
1972	52930	6.0	857	613	1.2	3.9	
1973	68047	28.6	1101	1565	2.3	155.3	
1974	89838	32.0	1454	11710	13.0	648.2	13.20
1975	92440	2.9	1496	12587	13.6	7.5	13.10
1976	105108	13.7	1701	11706	11.1	-7.0	12.40
1977	129329	23.0	2093	13382	10.4	14.3	11.60
1978	156123	20.7	2527	17304	11.1	29.3	11.84
1979	162276	3.9	2626	18270	11.3	5.6	12.02
1980	162897	0.4	2636	19302	11.8	5.6	11.18
1981	161669	-0.8	2616	21668	13.4	12.3	10.49
1982	175448	8.5	2839	23507	13.4	8.5	13.33
1983	179405	2.3	2903	24189	13.5	2.9	11.53
1984	176634	-1.5	2858	15010	8.5	-37.9	10.55
1985	180989	2.5	2929	28707	15.9	91.3	11.30
1986	223331	23.4	3614	33609	15.0	17.1	11.16
1987	248080	11.1	4014	36164	14.6	7.6	11.98
1988	265943	7.2	4303	36337	13.9	0.5	12.00
1989	239945	-9.8	3883	40093	16.7	10.3	12.00
1990	254885	6.2	4125	39999	15.7	-0.2	12.00
1991	292995	15.0	4742	42308	14.4	5.8	9.25
1992	334353	14.1	5411	35166	10.5	-16.9	10.14
1993	293567	-12.2	4751	69619	23.7	98.0	11.94
1994	326531	11.2	5285	76865	23.5	10.4	10.00
1995	363395	11.3	5881	84787	23.3	10.3	11.27
1996	393613	8.3	6370	88945	22.6	4.9	13.50
1997	421857	7.2	6827	91525	21.7	2.9	10.49
1998	463684	9.9	5704	112644	24.3	23.1	10.76
1999	491504	6.0	7954	107960	22.0	-4.2	12.28
2000	463646	-5.7	7504	118780	25.6	10.0	11.88
2001	361237	-22.9	5846	100828	27.9	-15.1	11.93
2002	275468	-23.7	44.58	59279	21.5	-41.2	7.9

Source — HMG/Nepal then Department of Tourism
— HMG/Nepal Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation
— Hari Prasad Shrestha, Tourism in Nepal : Marketing Challenges (2000), Nirala Publication, New Delhi 110002

Nepal Mountaineering Association

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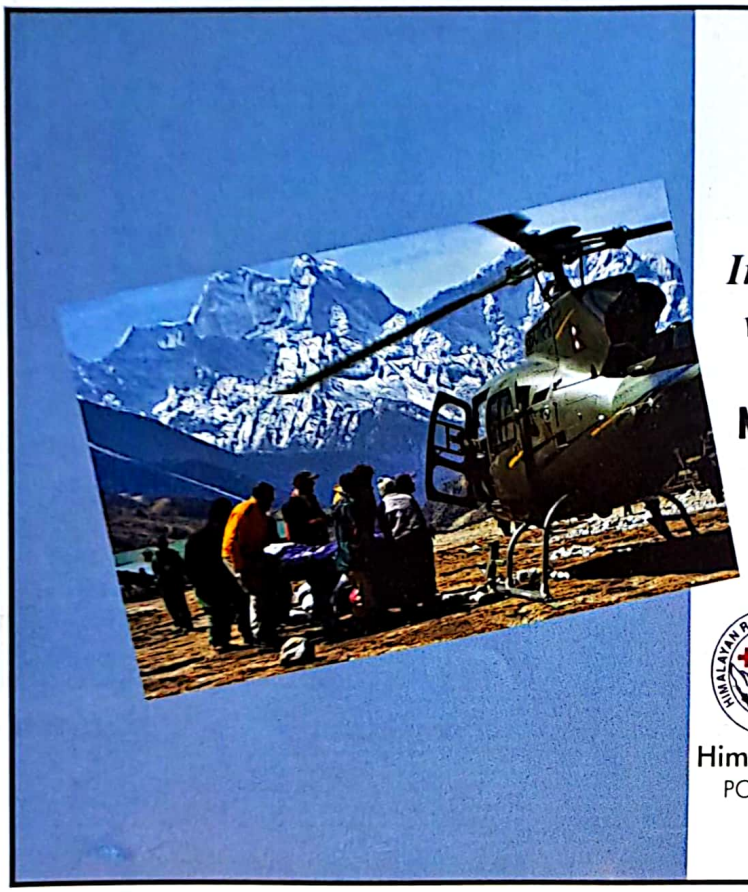
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On the auspicious occassion of
the Grand Opening
of
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we extend our hearty felicitation
to
Nepal Mountaineering Association.

Ang Kaji Sherpa
Chairman
Himalayan Rescue Association Nepal & Family
PO Box: 4944, Dhobi Chaur, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977 1 4440292, 4440293
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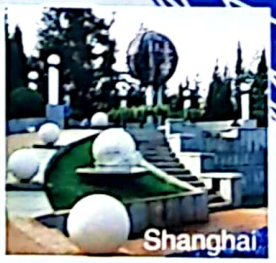














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