Nepal Parbat

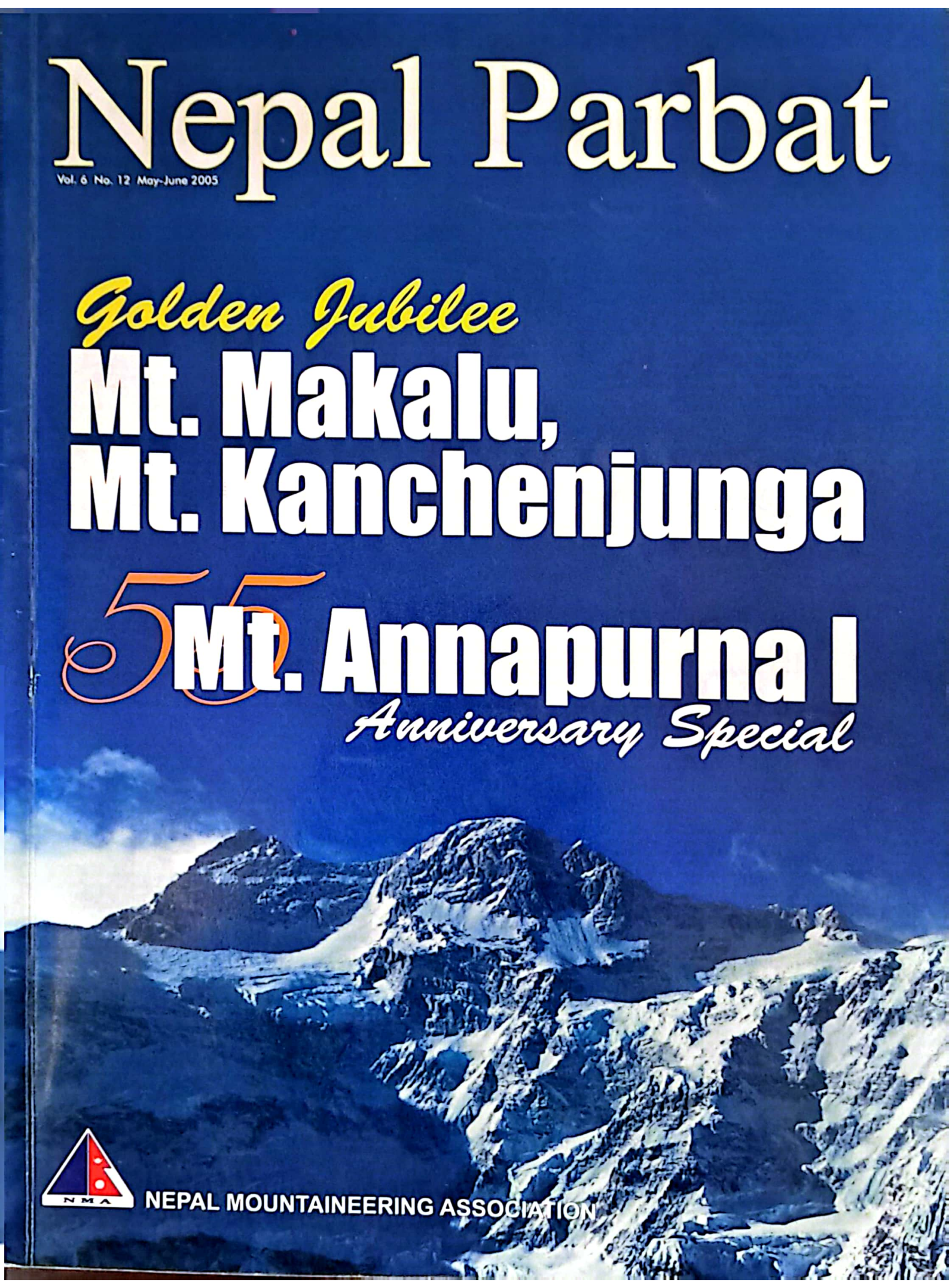
Vol. 6 No. 12 May-June 2005

Golden Jubilee

Mt. Makalu, Mt. Kanchenjunga

55 Mt. Annapurna I

Anniversary Special



NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of

Mt. Makalu and

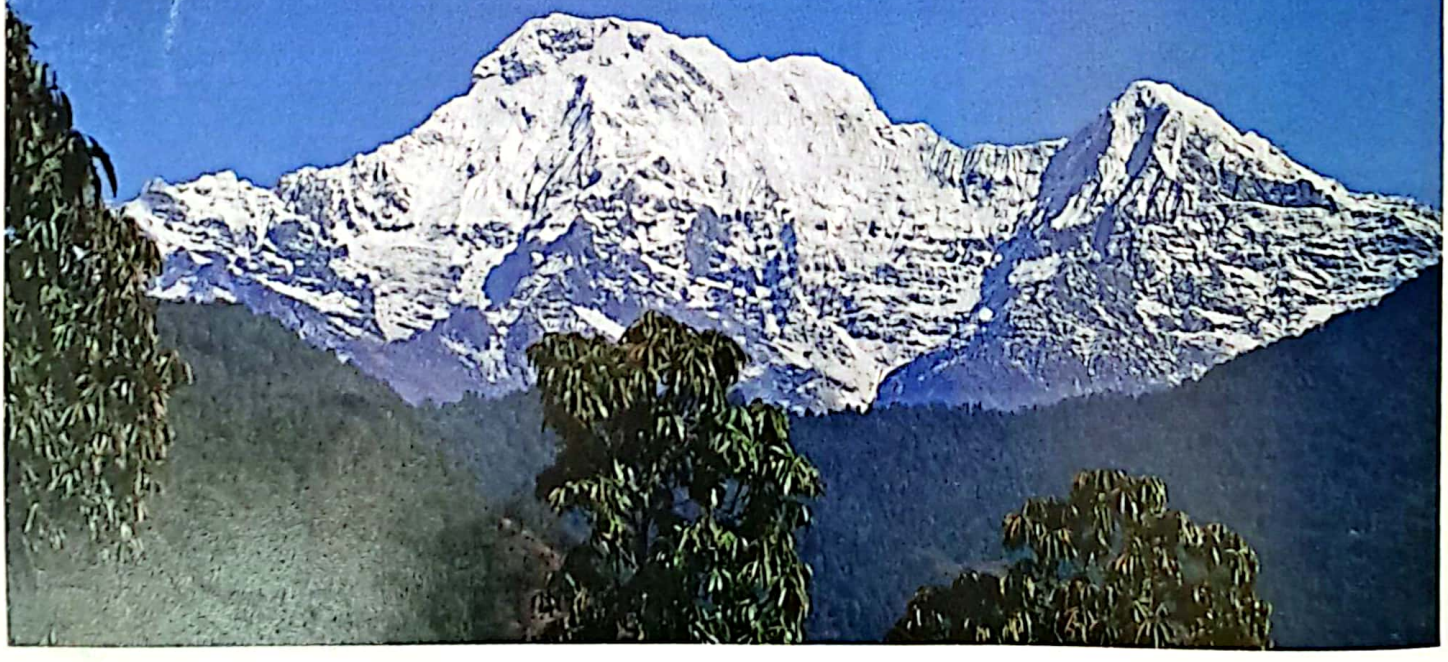
Mt. Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebrations

and 55th Anniversary of Mt. Annapurna 1

We heartily Welcome

all Summiteers from around the world

and distinguished guests, invitees and participants.



NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION



HIS MAJESTY KING GYANENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV



HER MAJESTY QUEEN KOMAL RAJYA LAXMI DEVI SHAH

Telephone No. 4-228187
4-228796

Ref No.:-

Royal Palace
Nepal

MESSAGE FROM
HIS MAJESTY GYANENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV
KING OF NEPAL
TO NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION TO COMMEMORATE THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST ASCENT OF MOUNT MAKALU & KANCHENJUNGA & 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT ANNAPURNA TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE WHICH IS BEING PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE NEPAL PARBAT
ON 25TH MAY 2005

We are happy to learn that the **Nepal Mountaineering Association** is bringing out a special issue of its magazine **Nepal Parbat** to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the first successful ascents of Mount Makalu and Kanchenjunga and the 55th anniversary of the ascent of Mount Annapurna. It is also a matter of satisfaction that the event is being celebrated in our country with a variety of programmes and the participation of prominent mountaineers from all over the world.

We hope that the Nepal Mountaineering Association, which has played a significant role in promoting sustainable mountain tourism in the country and paying due attention not to disrupt the fragile mountain environment of the region, will continue to promote mountaineering related activities in the best possible manner.

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

-***-

HON. BUDDHI RAJ BAJRACHARYA
Minister
Ministry of Culture,
Tourism & Civil Aviation

His Majesty's Government

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Ref. No.



Message

I am glad to learn that the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), designated as the implementing agency for the Mount Kanchenjunga and Makalu Golden Jubilee Celebration and 55th anniversary of the successful ascent of Annapurna, is publishing a Special Issue of **Nepal Parbat**, a publication of NMA, on the grand occasion.

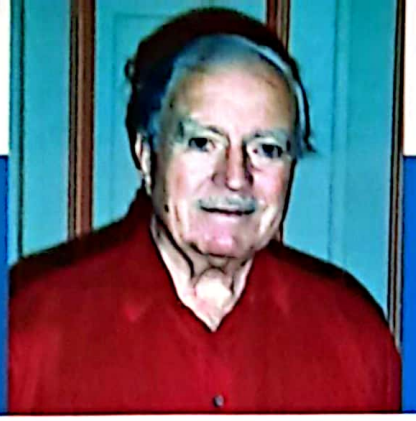
I feel that such Golden Jubilee Celebrations and anniversaries will give further impetus to the tourism sector especially mountain tourism. The successful golden jubilee celebrations of Mount Everest and Mount Cho Oyu gives reason to believe that such celebrations will not only enhance the image of Nepal abroad but will also be of help in increasing the attraction of the country as a tourist destination.

Nepal is blessed with both natural and cultural heritages that can satiate the appetite of visitors coming here. The development of the tourism sector offers great potential in not only generating foreign exchange but also employment opportunities, and, with eight of the over eight thousand meter high peaks in Nepal, the attraction for mountaineers and mountain lovers is immense.

NMA has done much to promote mountain tourism and also contributed considerably in making the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Mount Everest and Cho Oyu highly successful.

I also would like to congratulate NMA on bringing its Special Issue of **Nepal Parbat.**

Buddhi Raj Bajracharya
Minister



MESSAGE FROM MAURICE HERZOG

After my dramatic adventures on Annapurna I in 1950, my life changed. Overall, my nature, my personality became different. It was a very deep and hard experience. In fact, I felt that I was different. I was born again. Entering Nepal, I had an entity but after returning home I was another.

It is easy to understand that my new life started in Nepal. So, this magic country became my second homeland.

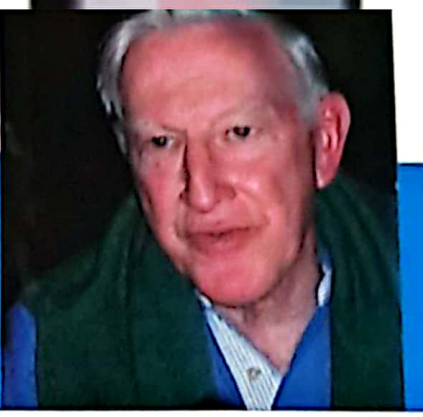
An old legend recalls that the sacred Kailash mountain was the starting point of humanity. For me, Annapurna the Goddess is now my parent.

I am glad that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is doing all the work for organising the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the first successful ascents of Makalu and Kanchenjunga and the 55th Anniversary of Annapurna I. I wish NMA all the best in making the celebrations a grand success. I would also like to congratulate NMA for bringing out a Special Issue of its publication **Nepal Parbat** on the special occasion.

Maurice Herzog

Maurice Herzog

MESSAGE FROM GEORGE BAND

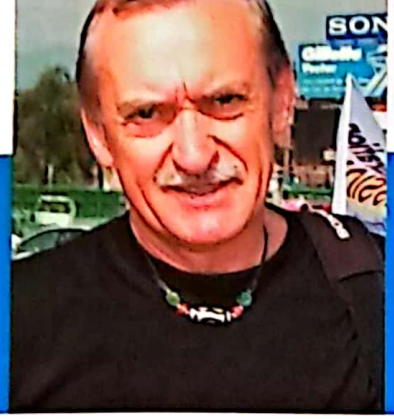


On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Mt. Kanchenjunga I would like to thank Nepal Mountaineering Association and Nepal Tourism Board for inviting me and my colleagues Norman Hardie and Tony Streathear to this celebration on 25 May 2005 which was the day Joe Brown and I reached near the summit on the expedition led by Charles Evans. We were pleased to be able to respect the feeling of the people of the Sikkim who regard Kanchenjunga as a sacred mountain by stopping short of the summit which we left undefiled.

I wish the Government and the people of Nepal peaceful future and that they may contribute to extend a warm welcome to all visitors to the beautiful country.

I am glad that the special issue of **Nepal Parbat** is being published by Nepal Mountaineering Association to mark the occasion.

George Band



MESSAGE FROM KRZYSZTOF WIELICKI

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchenjunga and the 55th Anniversary of Annapurna I, I would like to offer good wishes to all mountaineers and mountain lovers.

I hope the mountaineers will climb high, take care be happy and come back home safely.

I congratulate Nepal Mountaineering Association for doing its best for the golden jubilee celebrations and also publishing the special issue of **Nepal Parbat.**

Krzysztof Wielicki



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERS ASSOCIATION

IMA

It is my pleasure to congratulate all mountaineers of the world on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Mt. Makalu and Kangchenjunga and 55th successful summitry of Mt. Annapurna. I would also like to congratulate all summiteers of all the 3 peaks.

I hope that the such Golden Jubilee Celebrations and Anniversaries will be able to provide Nepal and the Himalayas great publicity and exposure. All climbers of the world thank Nepal Mountaineering Association for taking the lead role for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

I am glad that the special issue of **Nepal Parbat** is being published to mark the occasion.

G. Tortladze

Gia Tortladze
President
International Mountaineers Association



MESSAGE FROM THE NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

On the occasion to mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the first successful ascents of Mt. Kanchenjunga and Mt. Makalu and 55 years of the first ascent of Mt. Annapurna, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) feels proud that it has been entrusted by His Majesty's Government as the implementing agency for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Kanchenjunga and Makalu. Earlier, NMA had also been able to do its role in the successful Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Mount Everest and Cho Oyu.

Fifty years have elapsed since the first successful ascents of Kanchenjunga and Makalu. And 55 years of Annapurna The first summiteers testified that human courage and endurance is immeasurable. It has been human nature to always strive for the extreme whether in the physical domain or otherwise. Like in every sphere there are successes and failures. But failures are often the steps to success. However, the trailblazers have to be given due credit for their indomitable spirit and achievement. The other successful summiteers too must receive mention. Though all do not achieve success yet perseverance and patience are the hallmarks behind every mountaineering expedition. Like in every field, the mountaineers are specially imbued with courage, endurance and determination.

The grand success of the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebrations (MEGJC) in 2003, the decision was taken to celebrate the golden jubilee celebrations of all the peaks over 8,000 meters. In October, 2004, as a continuation, the golden jubilee celebration of the first successful ascent of Mount Cho Oyu was marked. And, this time the golden jubilee celebrations of Kanchenjunga and Makalu and 55th anniversary of the first successful summitting of Annapurna are being observed. It is a matter of pride not only for NMA, the implementing agency, but also for the fraternity of mountaineers and mountain lovers.

It is my belief that the mountains must receive due reverence and all efforts must be directed for the conservation of mountains, the mountain people and their culture. The realization has dawned on all, especially mountaineers and the related agencies, on a global scale. It was for this very reason that the United Nations declared 2002 as the Year of the Mountains to raise awareness regarding the urgent steps that needed to be taken for the preservation of the fragile mountains and their ecology.

Like the golden jubilee celebrations of Mount Everest and Mount Cho Oyu, the Annapurna, Kanchenjunga and Makalu summiteers, mountaineers and mountain lovers will gather in Kathmandu for the grand occasion.

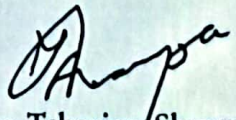
NMA has always been active in promoting and developing mountain tourism in Nepal which is home to the vast Himalayan range with eight of the peaks that are over 8,000 meters, and among the world's fourteen. This makes Nepal a fertile ground for adventure seekers with the unparalleled thrill of mountaineering activities. As a part of its activities, NMA has been actively engaged in the conservation of the mountain environment, honoring mountaineers, assisting the families of those who have lost their lives during mountaineering expeditions, conducting mountaineering training programmes, organizing mountain related awareness programmes among others.

NMA has a number of programmes to promote mountain tourism. The Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum (IMM), in Pokhara, the scenic lake city, took place on February 5, 2004. It is the first museum of its kind in the world. It is a tourism heritage on which the country itself can take pride. The construction was made possible through the immense response for financial and moral support from all the well-wishers, friends, and association from Nepal as well as abroad. Everyone has appreciated the efforts made by NMA and on behalf of the Association and personally would like to offer my gratitude. Work is also continuing on the construction Mountaineers' Memorial Park at Kakani. It is dedicated to those mountaineers who unfortunately have lost their lives in the high Himalayas. This is a small tribute to those courageous mountaineers.

The mountains have always remained venerated as human life is dictated by them. Hence, renewed efforts must be made for the conservation of the mountains especially the Himalayas. The mountain environment must not be allowed to further deteriorate as this will put the very survival of human kind in danger.

NMA would like to thank all who have lent it support and offered cooperation and that has made the Association committed to its objectives without relenting. I have full belief it will continue in the future as well.

I would also like to thank the Publication and Publicity Committee for bringing out the Special Issue of **Nepal Parbat** on this grand occasion.



Ang Tshering Sherpa
President
Nepal Mountaineering Association

Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee

His Majesty's Government has constituted a committee to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Celebration of all the peaks above 8000 meters including Makalu, Kanchenjunga, Lhotse, Manaslu and Dhaulagiri. The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Mt. Everest and Mt. Cho Oyu were marked in 2003 and 2004 respectively.

The Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee 2005 is headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA). The committee constitutes the various working associations related with the travel trade industry.

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has been designated by the government as the implementing agency for all the Golden Jubilee Celebrations including the Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration. NMA has been organising all the programmes for the grand celebration.

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Nepal Parbat
A JOURNAL OF NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION
Vol. 6 No. 12 May-June 2005

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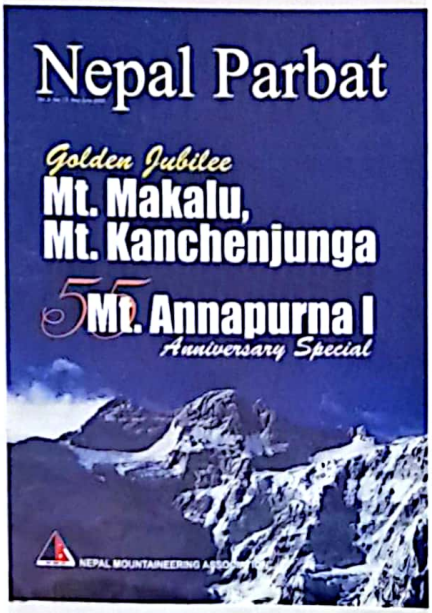
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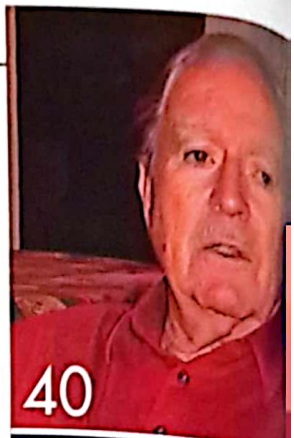
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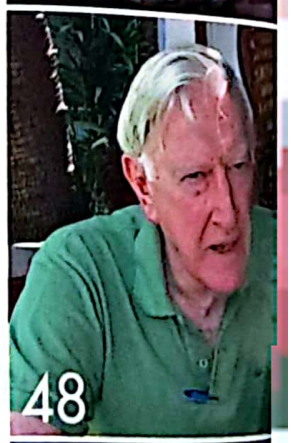
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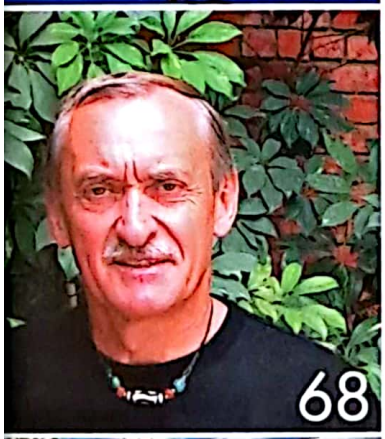
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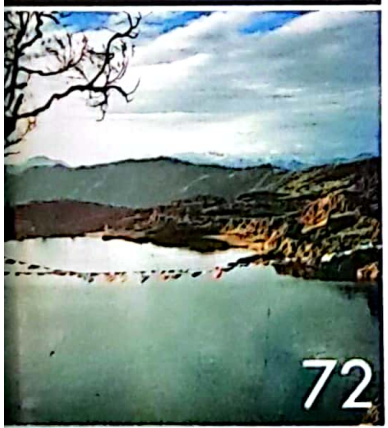
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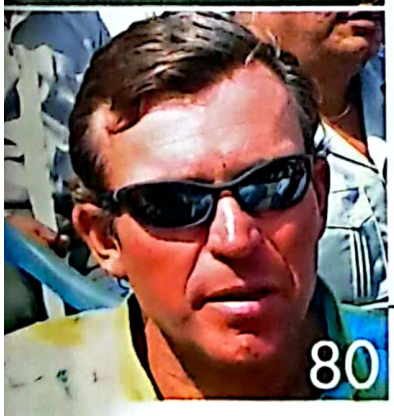
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LOOKING AHEAD

It gives us immense privilege to come up with the Special Issue of ***Nepal Parbat***, a publication of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) to mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the first successful human ascents of Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,586m) and Mt. Makalu (8,463m) and the 55th anniversary of the first successful ascent of Annapurna I (8,091).

The first in the series of golden jubilee celebrations was that of the highest peak in the world Sagarmatha or Mount Everest. The grand success of the event, with the gathering of eminent Everest summiteers including Sir Edmund Hillary, one of the first among the two to scale Everest, other distinguished mountaineers and renowned personalities and enthusiastic guests. Nepal Mountaineering Association was designated by His Majesty's Government as the implementing agency for the Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Celebrations which was spread from May 2002 culminating on May 29, 2003. Immediately after the celebrations, preparations were begun for Mt. Cho Oyu (8,201m) Golden Jubilee Celebrations marking its first successful human ascent. To celebrate the occasion, once again NMA was the implementing. This time too NMA is the implementing agency for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Kanchenjunga and Makalu and the 55th anniversary of Annapurna I.

Nepal Mountaineering Association since its establishment on November 1, 1973 has been actively engaged, as a prime institution, in the promotion of mountain tourism and conservation of mountain environment in the country.

The International Mountain Museum (IMM), a dream project of NMA, is unique in every respect and the financial and other assistance from those in Nepal and abroad is highly appreciated. The IMM is such a 'mega project' that the work just does not seem to finish. There is one thing or the other that has to be maintained, added or repaired. It gives a glimpse of mountains, mountain culture and mountain people not only of Nepal but the world over. Mountaineers and others have been kind to offer items that are kept on display.

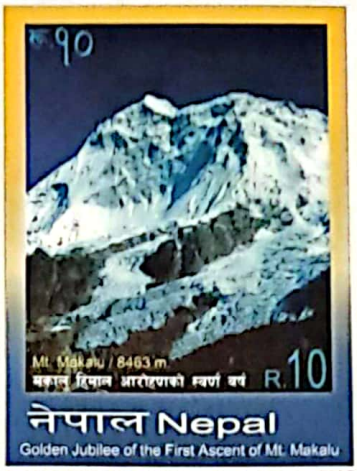
Another project of NMA is the International Mountaineers' Memorial Museum (IMMM) at Kakani. It is a memorial to honour and pay homage to those mountaineers who lost their lives on the high mountains.

As for other NMA activities, among others, the assistance it provides to families of mountaineers who died on the mountains, the mountaineering training it conducts, honouring the mountaineers, preservation of the mountain environment through the clean up campaigns it conducts, the publication of ***Nepal Parbat*** every issue of which provides valuable mountain-related information, interviews with mountaineers and experts in the field. This has made ***Nepal Parbat*** popular among mountaineers and mountain lovers. It presents a true picture of the mountains and mountaineering in Nepal to the outside world. There is always an



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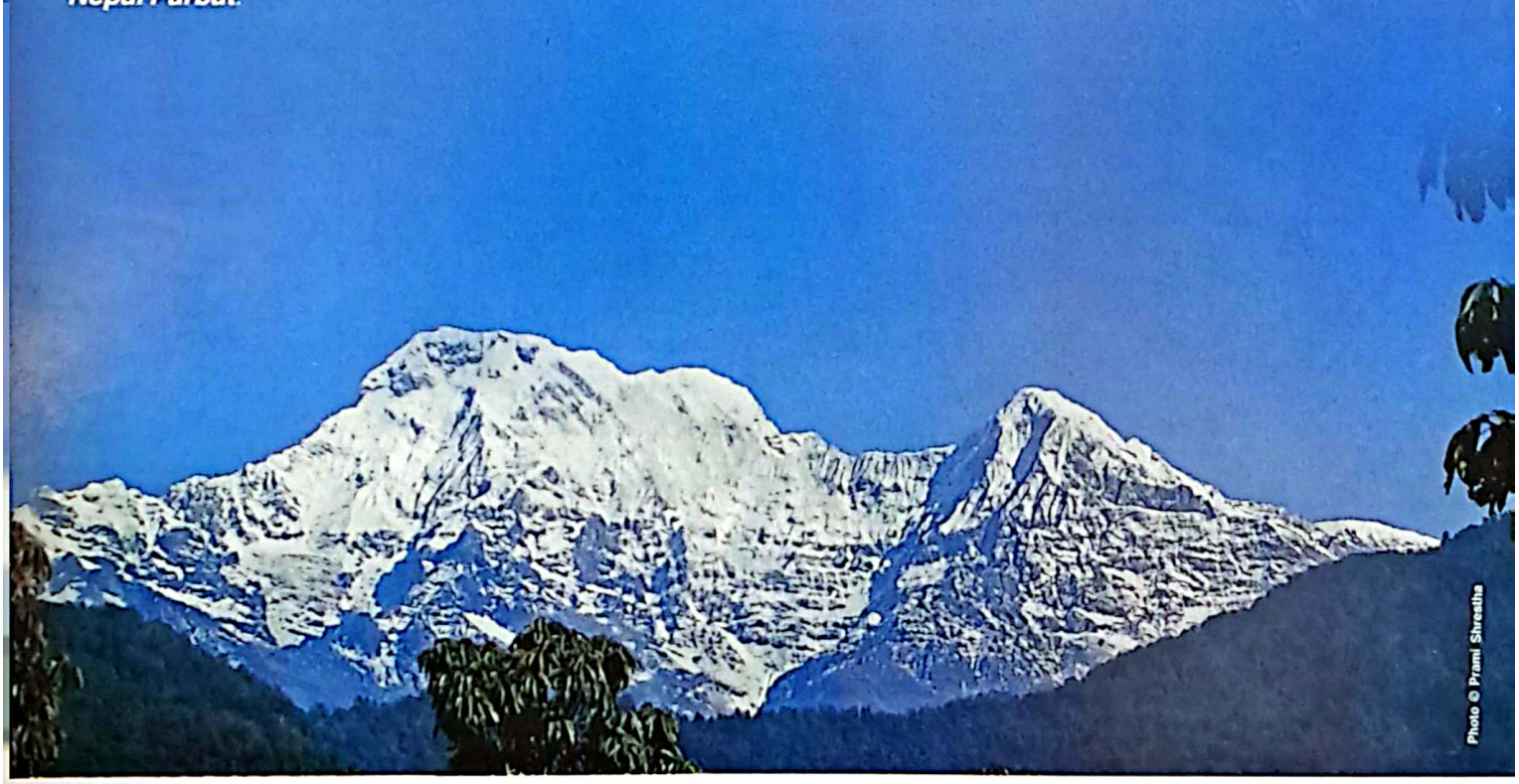


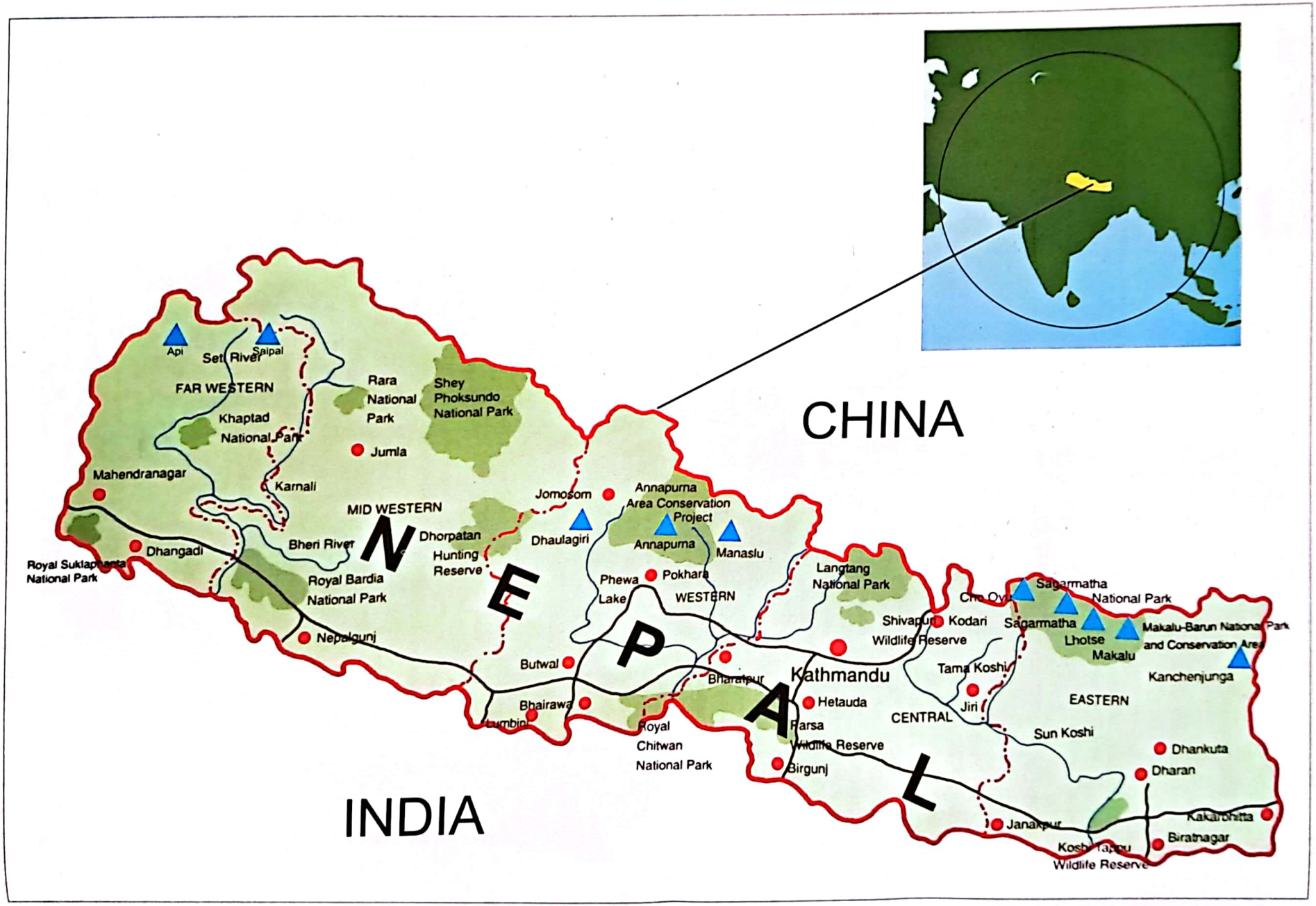
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attempt to be truthful and not distort facts. The point is to include thought provoking articles, information and educative materials on Kanchenjunga, Makalu and Annapurna. They will provide the much needed insight into the mountains so that it will be of benefit to all including mountaineers and mountain lovers. This is an opportune time to bring out the Special Issue of ***Nepal Parbat***.

The commemoration of the golden jubilee of the first successful ascents of Kanchenjunga and Makalu and the 55th anniversary of the first successful ascent of Annapurna I is a time also to reflect on the endurance, endeavour and courage of the summiteers who justify the human spirit for adventure. There are other golden jubilees lined up: Manaslu (8,163m) on May 9, 2006, Lhotse (8,516m) on May 18, 2006 and Dhaulagiri (8,167m) on May 13, 2010. It is our firm conviction that they will also receive similar support and cooperation as had been the case with the other golden jubilee celebrations

The ***Nepal Parbat*** family extends its greetings to all its well-wishers and friends on the occasion of the grand celebration.




CHINA
INDIA
NEPAL
Api
Saipal
Set River
FAR WESTERN
Rara National Park
Shey Phoksundo National Park
Khaptad National Park
Jumla
Mahendranagar
Karnali
MID WESTERN
Bheri River
Dhangadi
Royal Suklaphanta National Park
Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve
Royal Bardia National Park
Nepalgunj
Jomosom
Annapurna Area Conservation Project
Dhaulagiri
Annapurna
Manaslu
Phewa Lake
Pokhara
WESTERN
Langtang National Park
Butwal
Bharatpur
Kathmandu
Hetauda
Parsa Wildlife Reserve
Bhairawa
Lumbini
Royal Chitwan National Park
Birgunj
Shivapuri Wildlife Reserve
Kodari
Sagarmatha National Park
Sagarmatha
Lhotse
Makalu
Makalu-Barun National Park and Conservation Area
Kanchenjunga
Tama Koshi
Jiri
CENTRAL
EASTERN
Sun Koshi
Dhankuta
Dharan
Janakpur
Biratnagar
Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve



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 :	Rhododendron - 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 NRs. 70.15 in May 2005)

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 2003, total foreign currency earnings from tourism was US$ 193.0 m. and the contribution of tourism to the GDP of the nation was 2.6 percent.

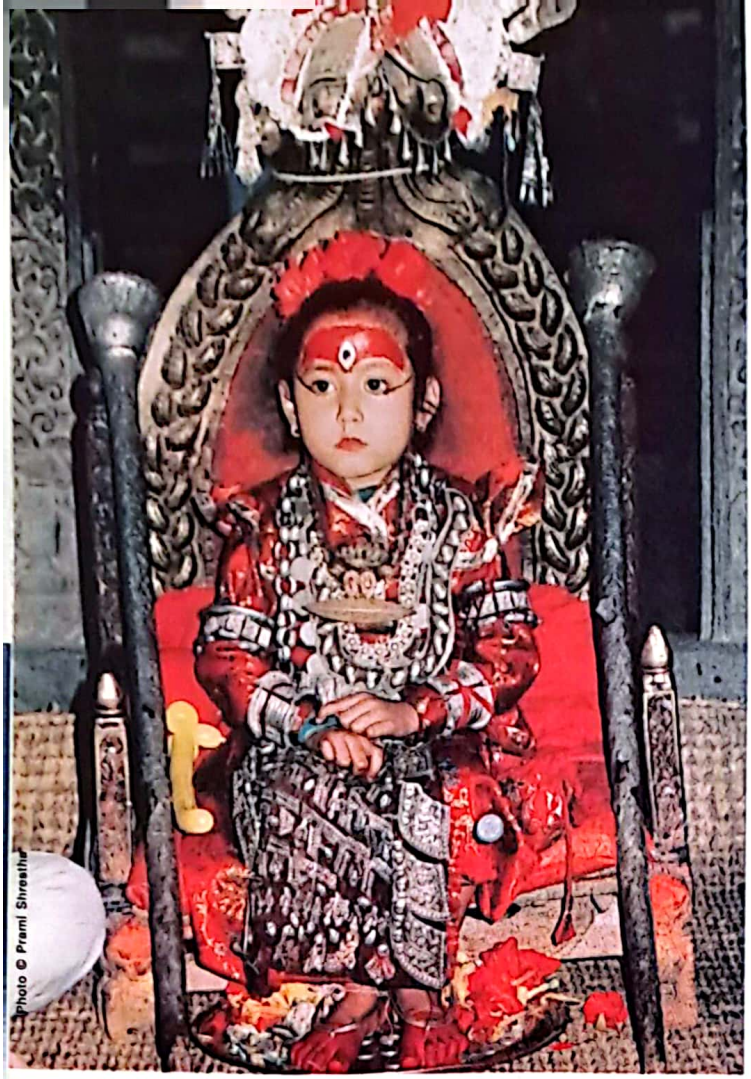


Photo © Pramil Shrestha

A total number of 338132 tourists visited Nepal during the year 2003 representing increase of 22.7percent 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 2003, tourists entering Nepal by air constituted 81.4 percent whereas 18.5 percent entered by land. The average length of stay of tourist was recorded as 9.6 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 were attracted to 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 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. There are 1310 peaks above 6,000 m. 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 19.4 percent and 21.5 percent respectively in the years 2001 and 2003. Trekking/mountaineering is also one of the major factors to increase the average length of stay of the tourists in the country.

In the year 2003 a total 152 expedition teams were granted permission to scale different peaks and out of which 90 teams were successful. The total number of mountaineers were 1080 in 2003.

Text : **Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha**

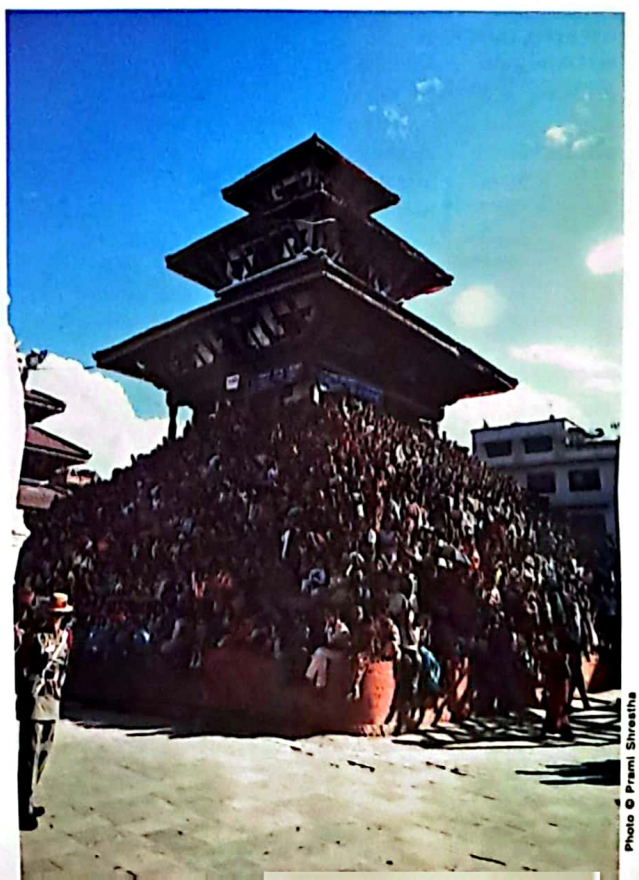
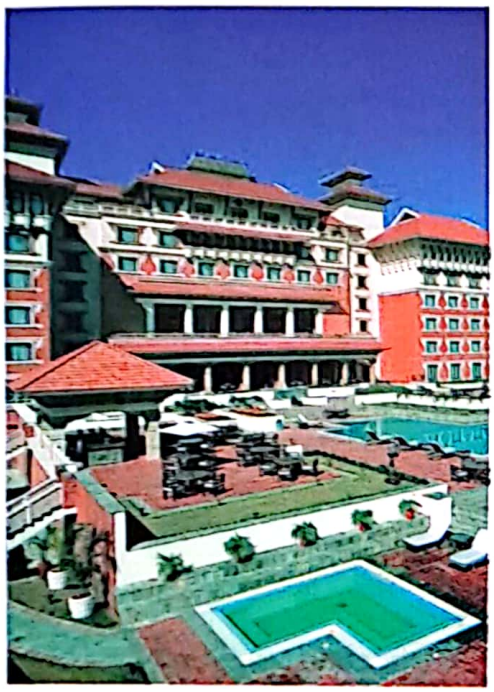
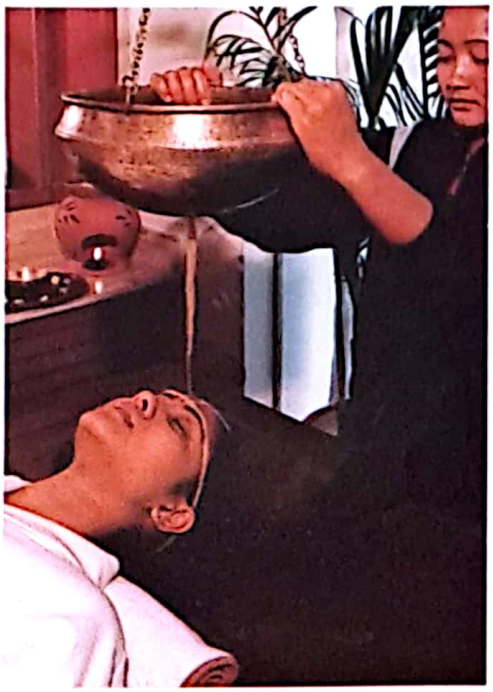


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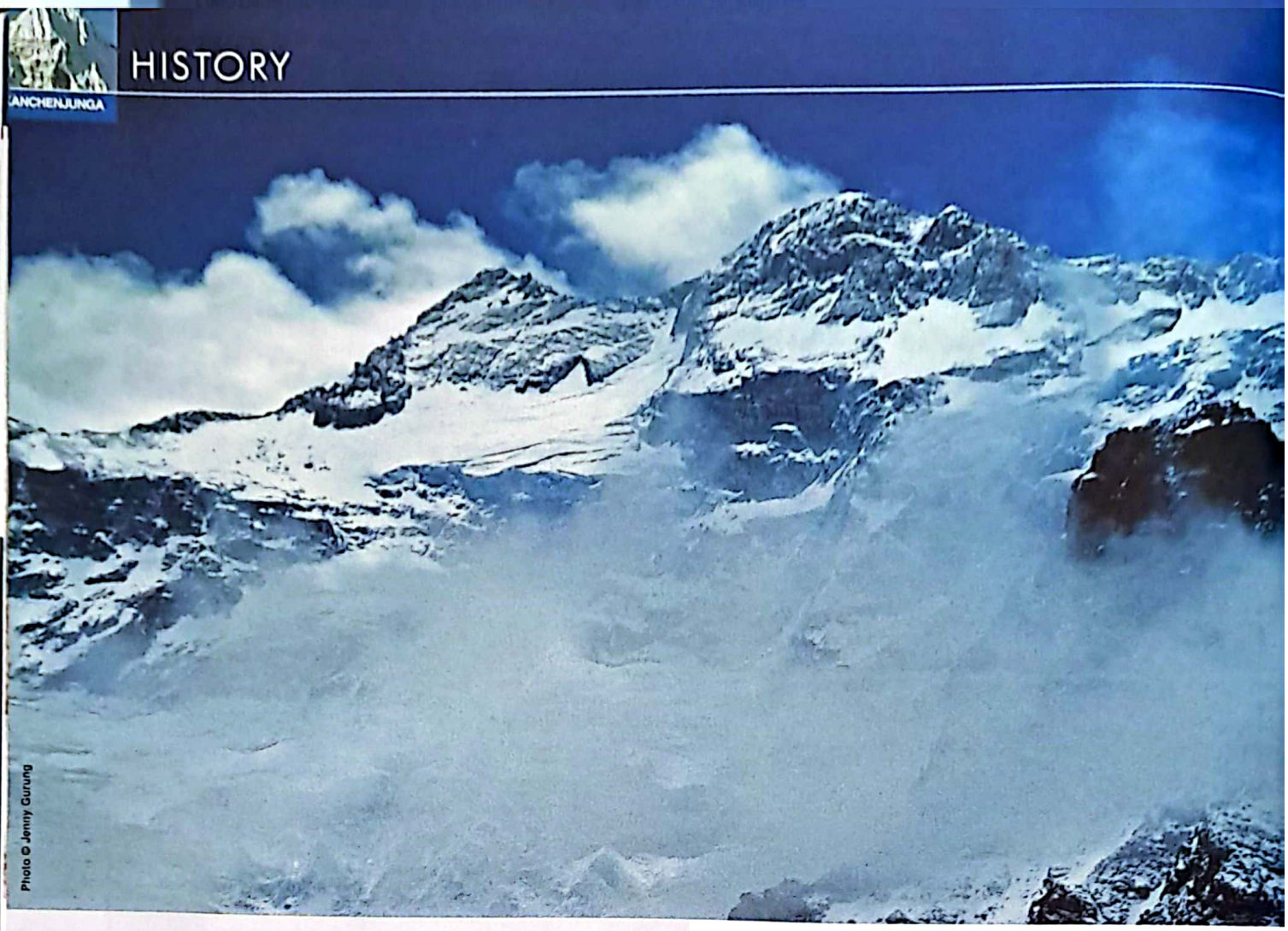


Photo © Jenny Gurung

A TALE UNFOLDS

BY VICTOR KLENOV
An explorer, writer, climber and freelance journalist from Ukraine.

> "Without risk there would not be adventure"
> - Maurice Herzog

ON the great peaks, the era of first ascents took a decade 1950-1960. "I remember looking out over the Himalayas and not thinking that I'd closed the door on exploration but rather just opposite. God, the possibilities are endless."



1955 was the year of the historic ascents of Makalu and Kanchenjunga. Kanchenjunga, Peak IX of the Indian survey, is standing on the border between Nepal and Sikkim. From almost any direction the peak looks a vast tent. The panoramic view of Kanchenjunga from Darjeeling is one of the greatest in the world. Floating above the clouds, halfway up the sky, the peak stands the third tallest on earth at 8,586 meters.

Kanchenjunga's name is something of a mystery, but the actual meaning in Tibetan is "snow-big-treasure-five", which would make a peak the "Five Treasures of the Great Snow."

The power and immutability, the solitude and beauty that is Kanchenjunga, have drawn adventurers since the 1890s. Up until 1865, Kanchenjunga was believed to be the highest in the world. K2 might be known as the "killer mountain", but climbers acknowledge that Kanchenjunga is the most "technically challenging" of all Himalayan peaks, more difficult than Everest and more dangerous than K2. Kanchenjunga is unique with its own glacier system and its own weather.

Frank Smythe wrote: "Weather on Kanchenjunga is incalculated both in cause and effect." A self-respecting pundit would lose his following were he/she to try and earn his fortune by foretelling the weather conditions on Kanchenjunga!

In 1899 famous Douglas Freshfield and a small team including renowned mountain photographer Vittorio Sella made a complete circuit of the Kanchenjunga massif. Freshfield's book "***Around Kanchenjunga***" illustrated with Sella's photographs gave a detailed break-down of the possible routes to the main summit.

American humorist Mark Twain, in 1896, wrote that tourists could compare the greatness of Kanchenjunga "only with greatness of their hotel's bills in Darjeeling".

Inspired by Freshfield's book, Aleister Crowley, well known for his adventures in spirituality, sexuality, alchemy and black magic, arrived with his small Swiss team in Sikkim in1905. He was, nevertheless, a skilled and fearless mountaineer. After a row of successes and failures, the team achieved 6500m, but then four people were buried in an avalanche and the attempt was abandoned.

In 1929, Paul Bauer, with the pick of the best German climbers, reached 22,500 feet, when blizzard started and the frostbite led to snow-blind; and their descent was a miracle without the loss of even a single life. Paul Bauer returned in 1931. Climbing from 21,800 to 22,800 feet, which can be covered in just a few hours under normal conditions, took them 13 days tunneling through ice towers and hacking away the snow mushrooms. They climbed down from 25,200 feet, so near the summit.

In Dyhrenfurt's expedition, avalanche swept off Sherpa Chettan, the first Tiger of Everest. In 1937 a small British team, including John Hunt, later the leader of the British Everest-53 expedition, and his wife failed to reach the North Col.

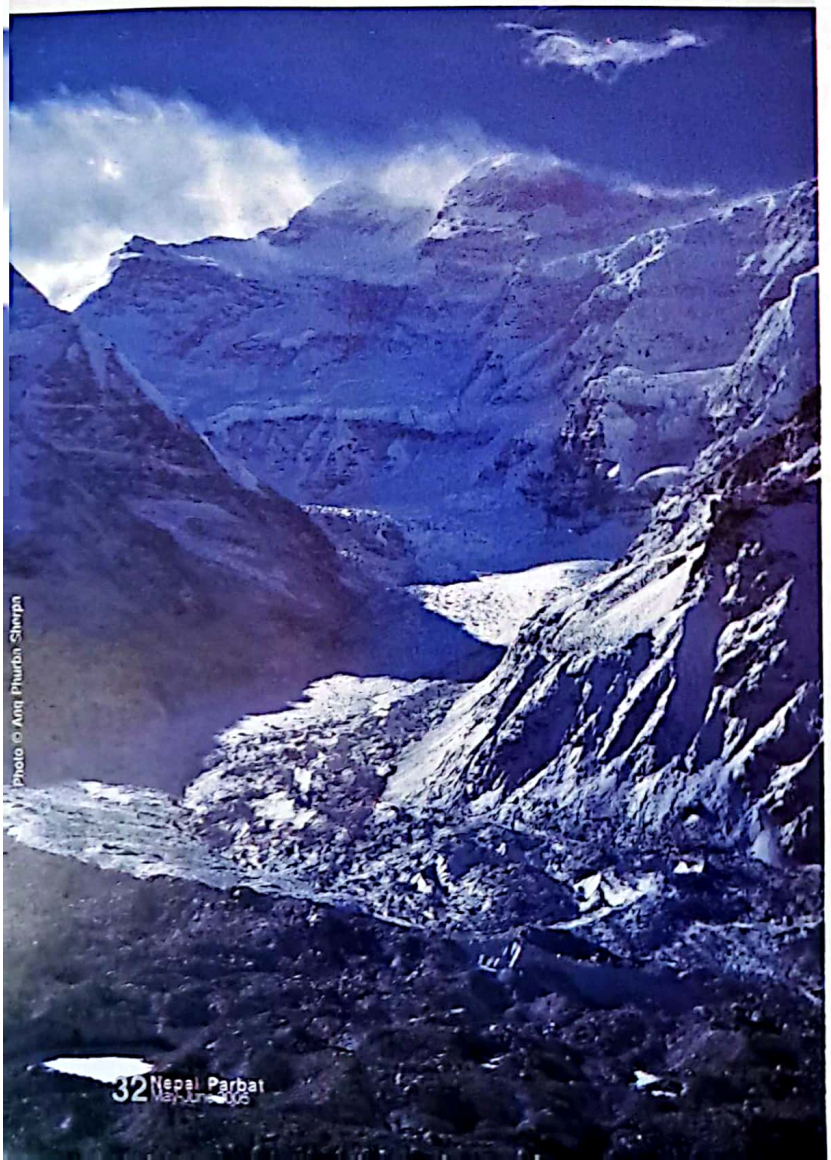
The loss of a route through Sikkim, together with Nepal's opening of its borders, necessitated an enthusiasm for exploring Kanchenjunga's western and southern flanks.

"I remember looking out over the Himalayas and not thinking that I'd closed the door on exploration but rather just the opposite. I remember thinking: "God, the possibilities are

endless," wrote Hillary in 1953. And it looks like Hillary was right. In 1954 British reconnaissance team reported that the upper face was clearly climbable. British sent a full strength team in 1955, officially termed a reconnaissance, but it was clear the organizers hoped for greater things. Lord Hunt wrote: "There is no doubt that those who climb Kanchenjunga first will achieve the greatest feat of mountaineering as the peak involves climbing problems and objective dangers of an order even higher than found on Everest. "It should be pointed out that the then King of Sikkim allowed the team to proceed only after the British gave a "personal undertaking in deference to the religious significance attached to the peak, the highest point on it would remain untrodden."

The 1955 British expedition was led by Charles Evans, a surgeon, who had been Hunt's deputy on 1953 Everest team. He was the first summit group with Bourdillon and only 300 vertical feet from the top, but unwilling to risk one-way ticket to the summit, the pair left the honours for Hillary and Tenzing. In the team were George Band, 53, also an Everester, and Joe Brown, one of the best British rock climbers.

Though heavily crevassed, it was relatively safe from the avalanches which fell from high on the face. They avoided the huge lower icefall, climbing to the west of the prominent buttress, and set Camp IV at a Great Shelf. Snow perfect on the romp called Gangway - broad snow slope. That allowed them to pass a carved cliff known as the Sickle, and a Camp VI was established at about 8,200m. Here, Band and Brown, who had been following the lead pair Evans and Mather and two Sherpas, stayed using bottled oxygen to aid their sleep. Evans received a weather forecast stating that the monsoon would arrive in 5 days. With the monsoon approaching fast he must have had his fingers firmly crossed. Band and Brown left camp at 8.15 am, climbing to the ridge where they rested and enjoyed a magnificent view. The ridge was straightforward until a rock tower barred the way. Joe Brown climbed this on his trademark handjams – the pair had removed their crampons on the ramp and so preferred the rock to a detour on steep snow. Brown led his famous crack, with his oxygen turned up to 6 liter a minute, leading Very Severe 5,7-5,8 rock climbing – and was astonished to discover that he was virtually at the summit, the rock tower ending just a few meters below a snow hump. It was 2.45pm, just 15 minutes from the pair's self-imposed deadline for reaching the top. The summit was won in a photo-finish with the monsoon on their heels. The summit had been reached ten days after the French ascent of Makalu. As promised, in deference to the local belief that the summit was the home of a god, climbers did not set foot on the actual summit, a shallow snow dome. The climbers halted within a stone's throw of the summit; the Sherpas buried offerings to their god, and the group went down. The lack of footprints on the summit snow led Charles Evans to call the expedition book "Kanchenjunga – Untrodden Peak" and has persuaded many to agree with George Band's view that it was better that the summit was left unsullied. Later ascents of the peak also left untrodden at first, but at some stage the promise was broken.


Photo © Ang Phurba Sherpa

At about 3 p.m., Band and Brown began descent, reaching Camp VI in the darkness. On May 26, Hardie and Streather repeated the climb, bypassing the final rock tower by following a snow ramp which led to the south ridge (".an easy walk around the back"), which they then followed to the summit, reaching it at 12:15pm. Streather jokingly said: "Brown has never forgiven him!"

History of climbing is sometime very intriguing and dramatic, and who knows who could be first on Kanchenjunga before 1955. In 1948, famous climber and traveler Heinrich Harrer and Tenzing Norgay agreed jointly to climb Kanchenjunga, also inviting Peter Aufschnaiter, who took part in Paul Bauer's expeditions in 1929 and 1931!

In 1951, Harrer requested the King of Sikkim about permission, but the King told him: "You of all, Heinrig, should understand that we don't wish anyone to go up there, because, as you well know, our guardian God resides there, and the consent would be granted in consultation with Nepal." After 1955, Harrer asked King, why he and Tenzing had been forgotten. Answer was that the British had promised the Nepalese to leave the summit untouched.

In 1979, the main summit was climbed again in fine style by Britons Doug Scott, Boardman and Tusker without oxygen.

In 1982, Reinhold Messner and Ang Dorje Sherpa climbed through another new route on the North-West Face. This was Messners's seventh 8000m peak, but not without incident - he escaped only by an effort of will.

The price of the summit is high - strong climbers Frenchman Benoit Shamoux and Polish Wanda Rutkewicz perished on its treacherous slopes.

Peter Habeler also climbed the mountain alpine style in 1985. Next year a big Soviet team succeeded in traversing the four summits. G. Harrison is the first and only woman to summit the peak in 1988.



Makalu (main) seen from Makalu La (7400m)

Photo © Boychin Hasiev/Bulgaria

MAKALU – Peak XIII of the Indian Survey is Maha Kala in Tibetan for "Great Bleak" or "The Giant" - (and is a name for Shiva) – is an excellent description of the huge rock pyramid, beautiful and elegant mountain. The peak was seen and photographed by Howard-Bury's Everest reconnaissance which explored the Kharta valley and the Kangshung glacier in 1921. Howard-Bury climbed on the ridge below Pethangtse and had a good view of Makalu's north face. The French team has negotiated permission for an attempt on Makalu from Tibet as early as 1934 but the Tibetans had changed their minds. When the British climbed Everest in 1953, the French, who had permission for an attempt in 1954, again turned their attention to the Makalu. To their surprise they discovered Nepal has already given permits to two other teams one American, the other from New Zealand under Hillary. "I can clearly remember standing on top of the Everest and looking across the deep Barun valley to the great-unclimbed summit of Mt. Makalu. Even while on the top of Everest I mentally picked out a possible route to the top of that formidable peak," wrote Hillary. The French therefore applied for permission for 1955, but also accepted an offer to reconnoiter the peak post-monsoon in 1954. Bad weather prevented Americans climb above 7,200m, and the New Zealand team failed when Hillary became seriously ill. French team arrived in September and climbing in style Kangchungtse, 7,150 and Chomo Lonzo, 7,800, identified the route which would be taken on the first ascent.

Jean Franco, leader of the team, brought to Makalu Lionel Terray and Jean Couzy, veterans of Annapurna, Serge Coupe,Pierre Leroux, Jean Bouvier, Guido Magnone (who climbed with Terray Fitzroy in Patagonia) and Andre Vialatte. The team had 23 Sherpas with Sirdar Gyalzen Norbu. The team's equipment showed a step change from that of previous expeditions. They improved oxygen sets, lighter than the British, and the vast number of oxygen bottles that allowed them to use oxygen from low on the mountain and at high flow rates, and to sleep on bottled gas too, what doubtless contributed to the final success. And, of course, the excellent weather also played great part in the event. At first the climb was pushed in unfavorable conditions but the days of the summit attempts were near perfect, cloudless and still. Snow was also good for cramponing. Climbing up hard route to the Col, the French used, in part, ropes they had placed in 1954, and roped all the way to the Camp V. The Sherpas established the well-equipped camp at the base of the north-west ridge. From here, a rising traverse being made across the north face to a last camp, Camp VI at 7,800m. On 15 May, at 7 a.m., Terray and Couzy started and relatively easy crossed ground to the base of a spur which led up to the East Ridge. The spur though was looking formidable from a distance, was straightforward. The climbers reached the summit at 11a.m., having taken only four hours over the mountain's final stretch of 660m. The summit – three almost symmetrical ridges meeting at a pencil-sharp point where man could not stand (so on the summit photo Couzy put his foot near the top!).

On May16, Franco, Magnone and Norbu summited before noon, and on the 17 May, again before noon, Coupe, Leroux, Bouiver and Vialatte reached the summit. It was the first time that an entire climbing team had reached the summit of the 8000m peak! It is interesting that when the French team arrived in Kathmandu, the legendary Boris Lissanevitch, whose Royal Hotel was the inner sanctum of the Himalayan mountaineering, rendered the invaluable services to an expedition. Jean Franco and Boris became the great friends, and Franco brought to Boris the rock from the summit!

It was a great achievement in the Himalayan climbing. The French ascent of Annapurna was the more sensational for the sufferings and ordeals. After Annapurna's almost tragedy final, with Herzog and Lachenal barely recovered from injuries, the team was suffering from the guilt that survivors often experience after major disaster. They had wanted to succeed, but were embarrassed by the ease of the success. Terray wrote "victory must be bought at a price of suffering and effort, and the clemency of the weather combined with the progress of technique had sold us this one too cheapy for us to appreciate it at this value." These seem remarkable sentiments. True, the French had good fortune with the weather – no wind and perfect conditions on the climb, on the knife-sharp summit ridge there was astonishingly little snow or verglass, and almost no sickness





among the team members. But they also had a strong team and excellent organization. In aftermath the world could see in 1961 when Hillary attempted to climb Makalu he suffered a stroke, almost all members became ill and finally it was complete disaster.

In 1971 the French team, led by Parago, climbed the extremely difficult West Ridge. It should be pointed out that great Messner reached the top of Makalu only at his forth attempt on the mountain...And on the treacherous slopes of the mountain Marcel Ruedi, who was in the race for all 14 of 8000m peaks found his fate.

In the shadow of Everest their supreme performances have never be granted a great coverage, as public to a large extent thinks that Everest is the Himalaya. If Everest is a mountain that can personify the highest level of human achievement – then Kangchenjunga and Makalu are the mountains that embodies the supreme level of human purity and clarity. Each Himalayan expedition is unique, but I want to point out what united two expeditions. They were the lucky ones - they had to pioneer the routes and tackle the problems.. They were a strong good teams...they showed selfless teamwork to achieve their common goal.. There is no doubt that tragedy or injury enhances the impact of such adventures in the public mind – the French first ascent of Annapurna was the more sensational for the ufferings and ordeals. And from aside there were the undramatic expeditions – nobody was killed, maimed or ever frostbitten; no food for press or cheap sensations. The accolade of achievement should have been accorded to these teams of splendid men. The combination of individual skill, courage and endurance with cohesion enabled them to strive in unity and harmony against all the odds. They did what they liked doing, and did best. They succeeded without loss of life. That's fairly good recommendation. It was a great achievement in the history of climbing and the history of Himalayism. These peaks are simply not an amateur's mountains.

Kangchenjunga and Makalu thanks to the formidable size and difficulty are the dangerous mountains, "not easy day for a lady" climbing. But despite these odds, the lure of the world's highest mountains will continue to attract the world leading climbers in the future. Life and death, courage and fear, highs and lows are all on up there.

FACTS ABOUT MT. MAKALU

- Makalu is the 5th highest mountain in the world which is located in East Nepal, 22 km east of Mt. Everest.
- Makalu was first climbed by Jean Couzy and Lionel Terray, on 15 may 1955.
- Catherine Calhoun (USA) becomes the first woman to summit Makalu when she climbed Makalu on 18 May 1990.
- Marjan Manfreda of former Yugoslavia is the first person to reach the summit without using oxygen, on 6 October 1975.
- Labert Schaver, an Austrain, is the first to solo ascent on 25 April 1981.
- The first attempt on Makalu was made by an American team in 1954 but they returned back from a height of 7,100 m.
- Ang Chepal Sherpa was the first Nepalese to climb Mt. Makalu on May 1978.



Ang Chepal Sherpa



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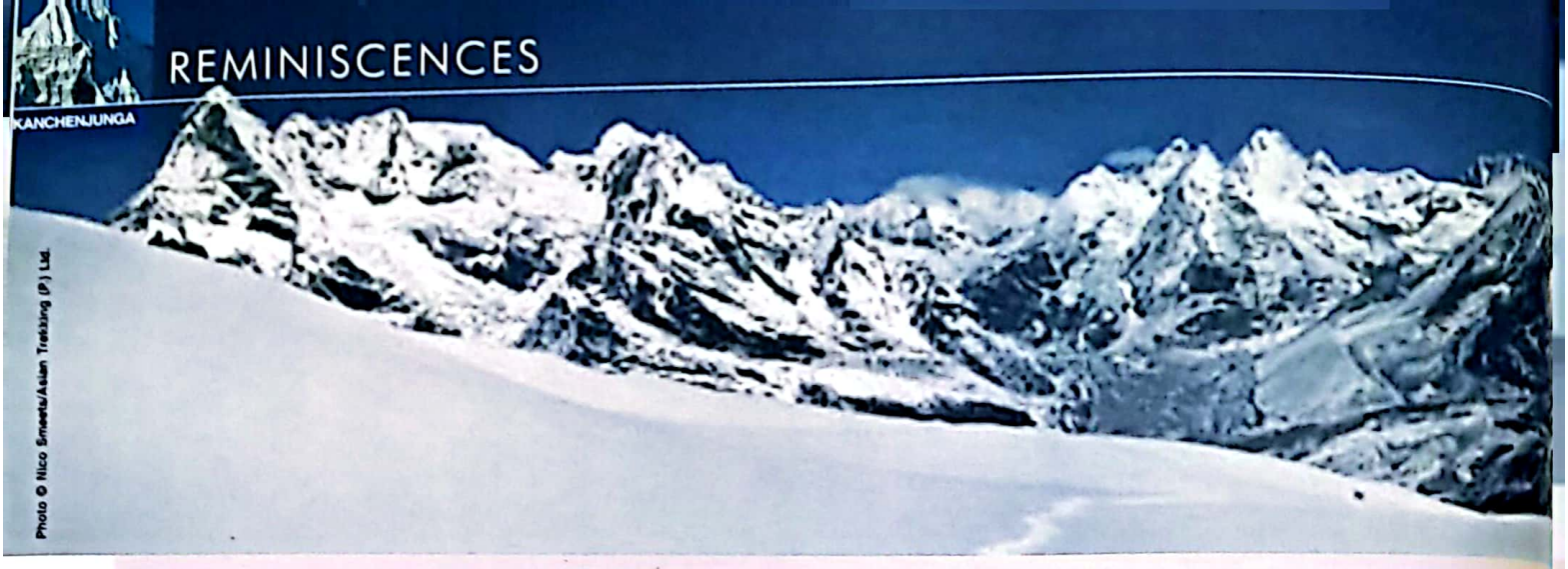


Photo © Nico Smeets/Asian Trekking (P) Ltd.

KANGCHENJUNGA CLIMBED

This is a personal account of George Band's first successful ascent of Mt Kangchenjunga (8,586m). This will provide readers an insight into his experiences while making the successful ascent 50 years back.

BY GEORGE BAND
Renowned Mountaineer and
first person to summit Mt. Kangchenjunga (8,586m).

WHILE I got the sleeping oxygen ready, Joe Brown lit the primus and began melting ice for drinks. We were determined not to let ourselves get dehydrated. We made lemonade from crystals and then a mug of tea for each and with lots of sugar. Supper consisted of asparagus soup from a packet, a tin of lambs' tongues with mashed potatoes, and a nightcap of drinking chocolate. I think that's better meal than most summit parties have had. Then we crawled into our sleeping-bags, keeping on every scrap of clothing - even cur boots. We didn't want to risk ourselves getting frozen hard like Hillary's on Everest. I wore my boots solidly for three days and nights during the assault.

We shared a yellow 1,600-litre cylinder of oxygen between us. Being not quite full, it gave us nine hours' supply at one litre per minute each. I didn't sleep as well with it as usual. Perhaps, it was the excitement. As we lay side by side, fragments of snow kept skittering down the slope and hitting the tent. Sometimes I thought it was a snowfall beginning, at others I wondered what might happen if a really large lump or a stone came. We had stayed roped up just in case and tied the middle of it round a spike of rock close to the tent. I prayed for fine weather the next day, otherwise we would not stand a chance. The others had done their utmost to get us as high as possible, so we must not let them down. An awful responsibility lay upon our shoulders. I cursed myself for working with my bare fingers just a moment too long that morning for now they were slightly frostbitten: the tips all blistered. I hoped they wouldn't handicap me next day.

The God of Kangchenjunga was kind to us, for May 25 dawned fine. We woke automatically when the oxygen was exhausted at five o'clock. We breakfasted on a couple of pints of tea and a biscuit or two and made off up the Gangway at 8.15, swerving out left to meet the sunshine. Near the top of the Gangway, we had planned to turn off right at a string of snow patches and climb across the face, because we had seen earlier through binoculars that the West Ridge itself was extremely broken and difficult.

Unfortunately, we had very little idea as to how far up the Gangway we really were and we turned off too early at the wrong snow patch. By the time we had realized our mistake and turned back, an hour and a half of precious time was lost. So, we hurried on up the Gangway as fast as possible to try and make up time. Apart from the snow of the Gangway, most of the climbing would be on rock, so we had left our canvas overboots behind, and now, when we reached the first rocks, we took our crampons off.

We were aiming for a little subsidiary snow-ridge which would lead us back to the main West Ridge beyond its worst difficulties. The approach to this snow-ridge was steep and we had to climb pitch by pitch for about three hundred feet. There was one tricky section where you had to swing round a corner on your hands. It might have ranked as 'difficult' at sea level', and Joe safeguarded it with a piton since I had a poor belay. Just above was an impressive ice-slope, sixty degrees in places, which required two pitches. There was a sensational rocky eyrie halfway; one seemed to be poised in mid-air thousands of feet above the Shelf and the glacier below.



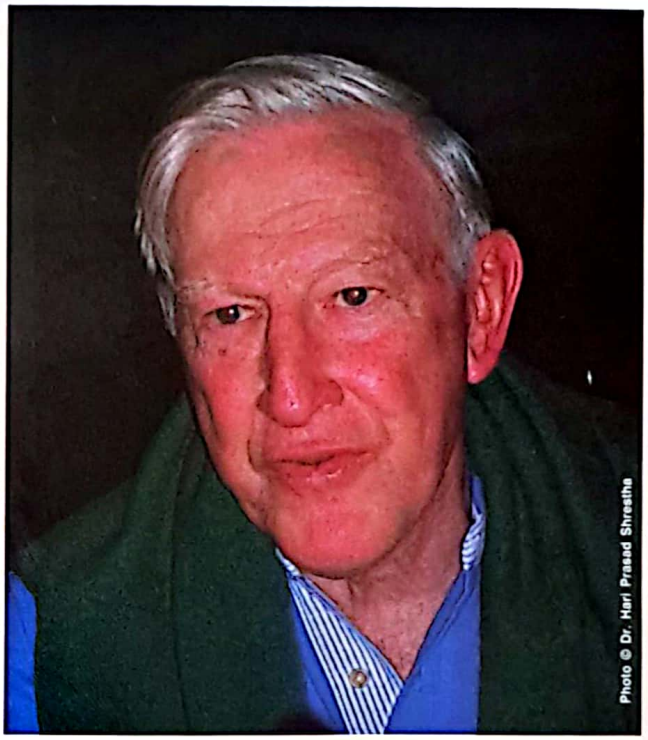
Because of the time we were taking, every breath of oxygen was vital, so we cut down our supply to the minimum rate of two litres per minute, only increasing the flow when wrestling with some difficulty. This low rate seemed hardly sufficient for a person of my size and weight, and may have accounted partly for the fact that Joe was now definitely going better than I was. I had led at first, then we had a period leading through, and now Joe was in front. He offered to stay in the lead, and I was happy to agree.

We came out on to the crest of the snow-ridge and the summit pyramid was at last visible, culminating about 400 feet above. We had been climbing for over five hours without a rest, such was our feeling of urgency, so after cutting up the snow-ridge, we joined the West Ridge and sand down in a little hollow behind and above the cluster of pinnacles. My throat was parched. We took off our oxygen masks and had a quick snack of lemonade, toffee and mint cake.

A strong breeze was blowing up the North-west face, carrying flurries of snow over our heads. I looked over at the North Ridge and then photographed our route ahead. The ridge was easier at first, and by keeping a little down on the right we would avoid the wind. But at the last a nose of rock reared up, sheer and smooth. We could have no idea what it held in store for us. It was 2 p.m. We only had a couple of hours' oxygen left.
'We ought to turn back by three o'clock, Joe,' I said, 'or we may have to spend the night out.'
'We've just got to reach the top before then,' he replied.

We carried on. The West and South peaks of Kachenjunga were now well below us. We skirted below the rock nose, round a corner, and up a little gully. There above us the wall was broken by several vertical cracks about twenty feet high, with a slight overhang to finish. Joe was keen to try one. As he said later: 'I knew that at sea-level I could climb it quite easily, but at that height you don't know just how long your strength's going to last you if you hang by your arms for any length of time. You might just fall off in sheer exhaustion.' Turning his oxygen to the full six litres a minute and safeguarding his lead with a couple of running belays, he struggled and forced his way up. It was the hardest part of the whole climb; perhaps 'very difficult' had it been at normal altitudes. From the top, I remember him shouting, 'George, we're there!'

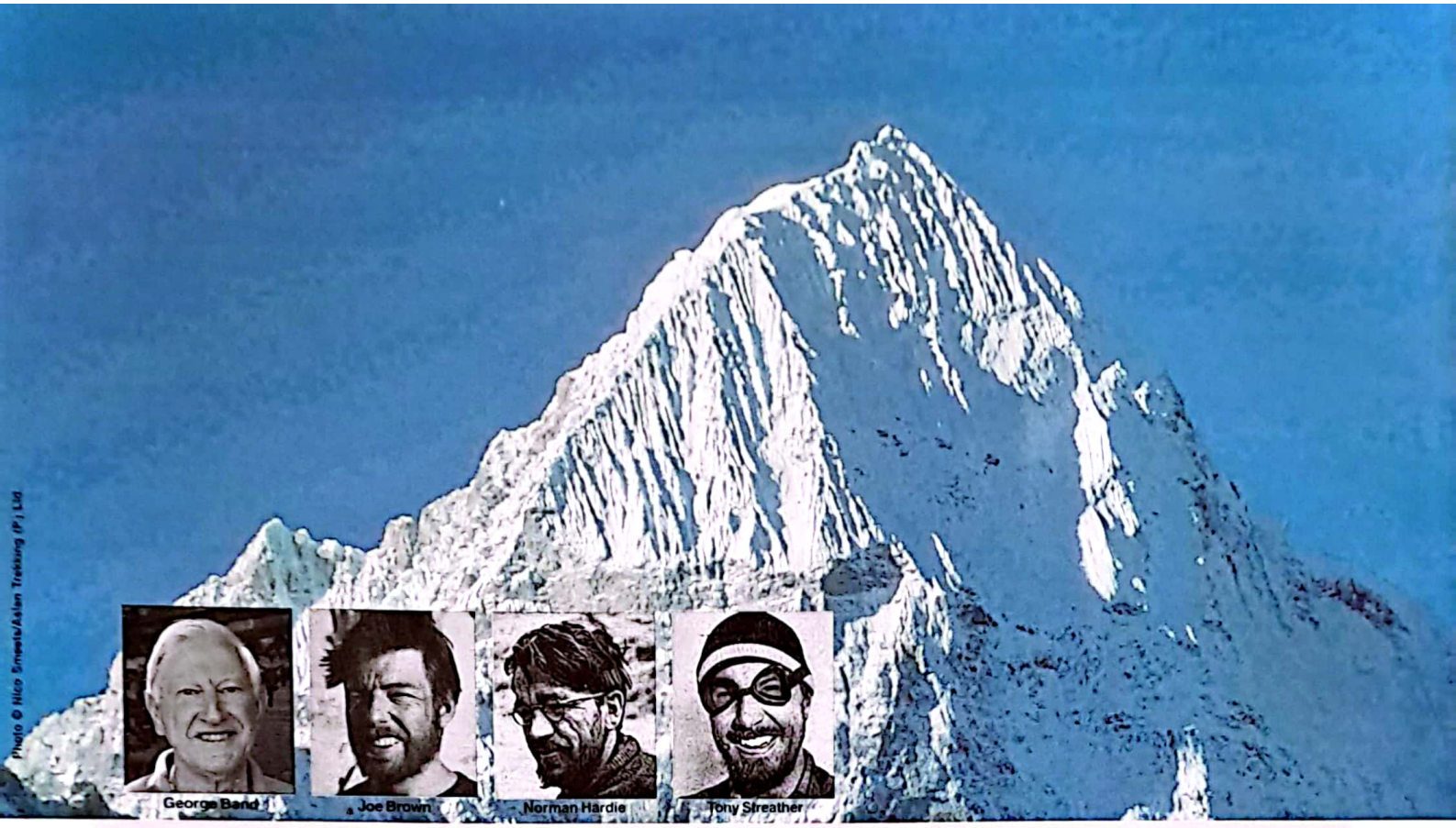
I joined him, with no more than a tight rope I'm glad to say, and there before us, some twenty feet away and five feet higher



than the ground on which we stood, was the very top, formed by a gently sloping cone of snow. It was a quarter to three. We had come as far as we were allowed.

We took photographs of each other and of the view round about. There was a great sea of cloud at 20,000 feet, so only the highest mountains stood out like rocky islands with the waves lapping round about them. To the west, beyond the sharp ridge of Kangbachem, were the giants, Makalu, Lhotse and Everest, eighty miles away, silhouetted deep blue against the faint horizon. Sikkim was hidden by both cloud and the concealing curve of the summit, but over to the north were the snow-streaked, drumlin-like hills of Tibet. Close at hand, we could just see the summit of the Bavarians' north-east spur and, through rents in the cloud, the grey snake of the Kangchenjunga Glacier beneath us, where Dyhrenfurth's party had tried in vain.

We turned to descend. After an hour, the oxygen finished and we discarded the sets and carried on down, feeling very weary. Once, when crossing a patch of unstable snow, a foothold suddenly broke. I slipped, rolled over on to my stomach and dug my axe-point into the snow to arrest myself. In a split second it was all over, but I had to lie there panting while Joe said: 'It makes me breathless just to watch you do that.'



Guided by shouts, we reached out tent as darkness fell. As planned, Hardie and Streather had arrived there ready for a second attempt in case we had failed. They had been waiting anxiously, as we should really have gone on down to sleep at Camp V, but now, in the dark, it was too dangerous. So the four of us squeezed into that tiny two-man tent, overlapping the narrow ledge, and they plied us generously with tea and soup, and more tea and more soup. I'd never felt so thirsty in my life before. There was no tossing up for the outside position this time; they reckoned I knew all about it, so there I went. The sewing of the canvas would creak beneath me, and each time I thought: 'Supposing the stitching goes ?'

Somehow we managed to pass the night. We insisted that Hardie and Streather used the two sleeping-bags and some oxygen because they still wanted to have a crack at the top. Joe was in agony through snow-blindness-again caused by removing fogged-up goggles - but fortunately we were still able to see ourselves down early next day while the other two repeated our ascent. It was May 26, the day of the General Election at home.

Hardie and Streather had brought plenty of oxygen, as they felt that shortage of it would be the first reason for failure on our part. So when they left Camp VI at 8.30 a.m., they carried a yellow (1,600 litres) and a blue (800 litres) cylinder each. They followed our route and, being able to use traces of our old steps in places, they made good speed. Incidentally, unlike us, they wore their crampons the whole time. But, as Streather says, they didn't have everything their own way :

'Hardie was leading and I shouted to him to stop, for I noticed that the windproof jacket on his frame was loose. He stopped, and swung the frame off his back. As he did so, his large oxygen cylinder slid out of its straps and went sliding down the mountain. The valve was knocked open, and I can still remember the cylinder hissing as it rushed down the face and out of sight.' So they had to share the remaining oxygen, Hardie, carrying the yellow cylinder and leading, and Streather the two blue cylinders on a special one litre per minute flow rate.

At last they came to our vertical crack near the top. Joe and I had left a sling halfway up for them and were wondering how they would like it. They didn't, so they went on a few yards round the wall and there was a perfect little snow-ridge running easily up to the summit! They arrived at 12.15 pm. and spent an hour there. Streather changed his cylinders round and left the exhausted one behind. Unfortunately, a misconnection rendered the second one useless, so he had to make the whole of the descent without oxygen, and they, too, ended by spending the night at Camp VI.

Charles and Dawa Tensing were waiting at Camp V when they came down. When Charles shouted, 'Have you been to the top ?' there was now answer. It seemed a silly question; where else could they have been all that time ? A little closer, Norman shouted back, 'Who won the Election ?' Charles didn't' think that one worth answering either.

By May 28 everyone was off the mountain. But our great jubilation over the double success of our Kangchenjunga Reconnaissance was marred by some very sad news on our return to Base Camp. One Sherpa, Pemi Dorje, had returned exhausted from the high carry. Three days later he seemed recovered, but suddenly developed the symptoms of cerebral thrombosis and, despite all that John Clegg could do, he had dies on May 26 - within the very hour that Hardie and Streather had reached the near-summit. So, to the Sherpas, it seemed that, after all, the God of Kangchenjunga had demanded the sacrifice of one of the keenest and most likeable of their number. We buried him near the site of Pache's grave, under a rock carved by the other Sherpas with his name and the eternal Buddhist prayer, **Om mane padme hum** - 'Hail to the Jewel in the Lotus.'

(From **'Kangchenjunga Climbed'** by George Band. Vol. LX.)



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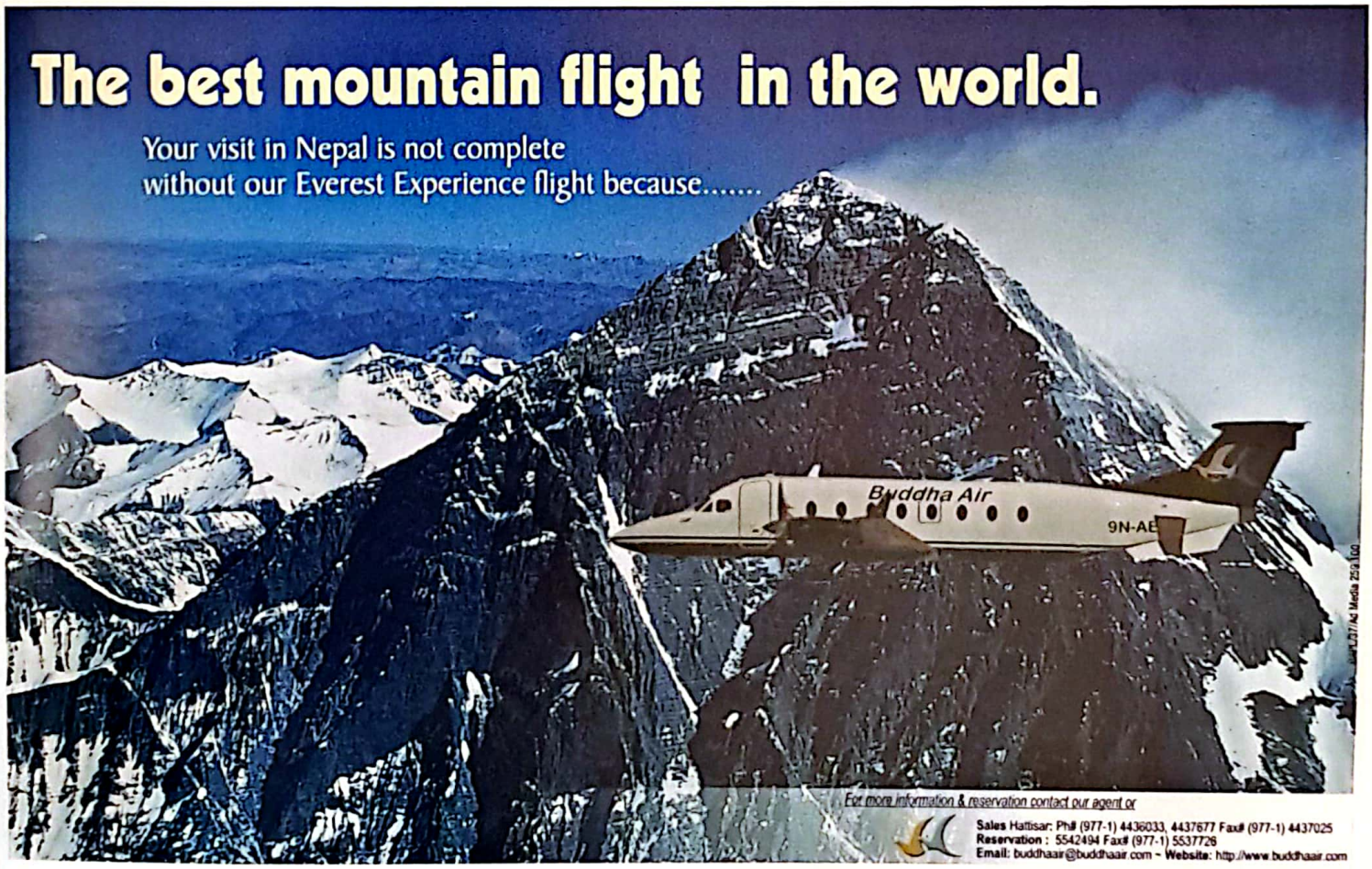
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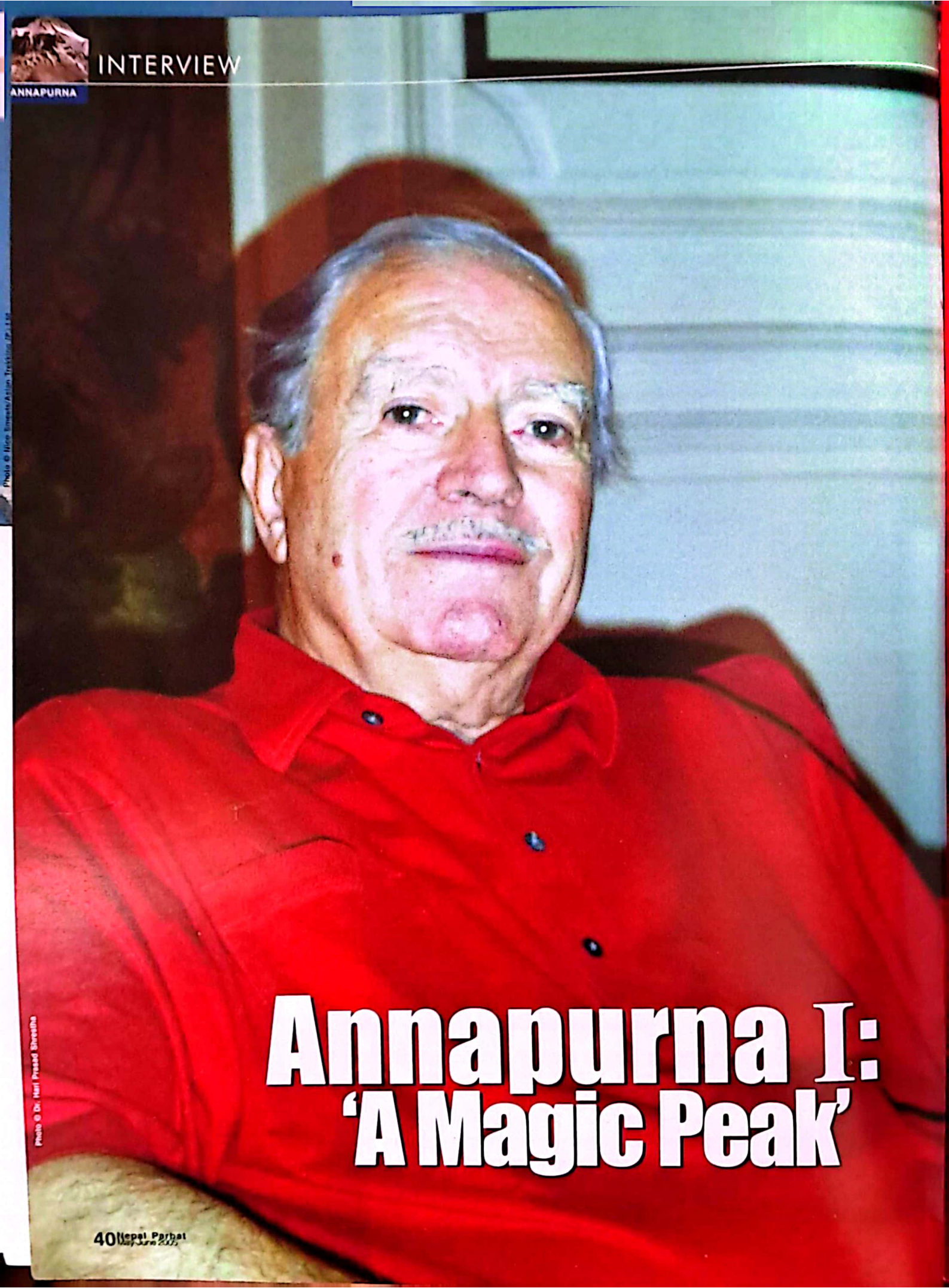
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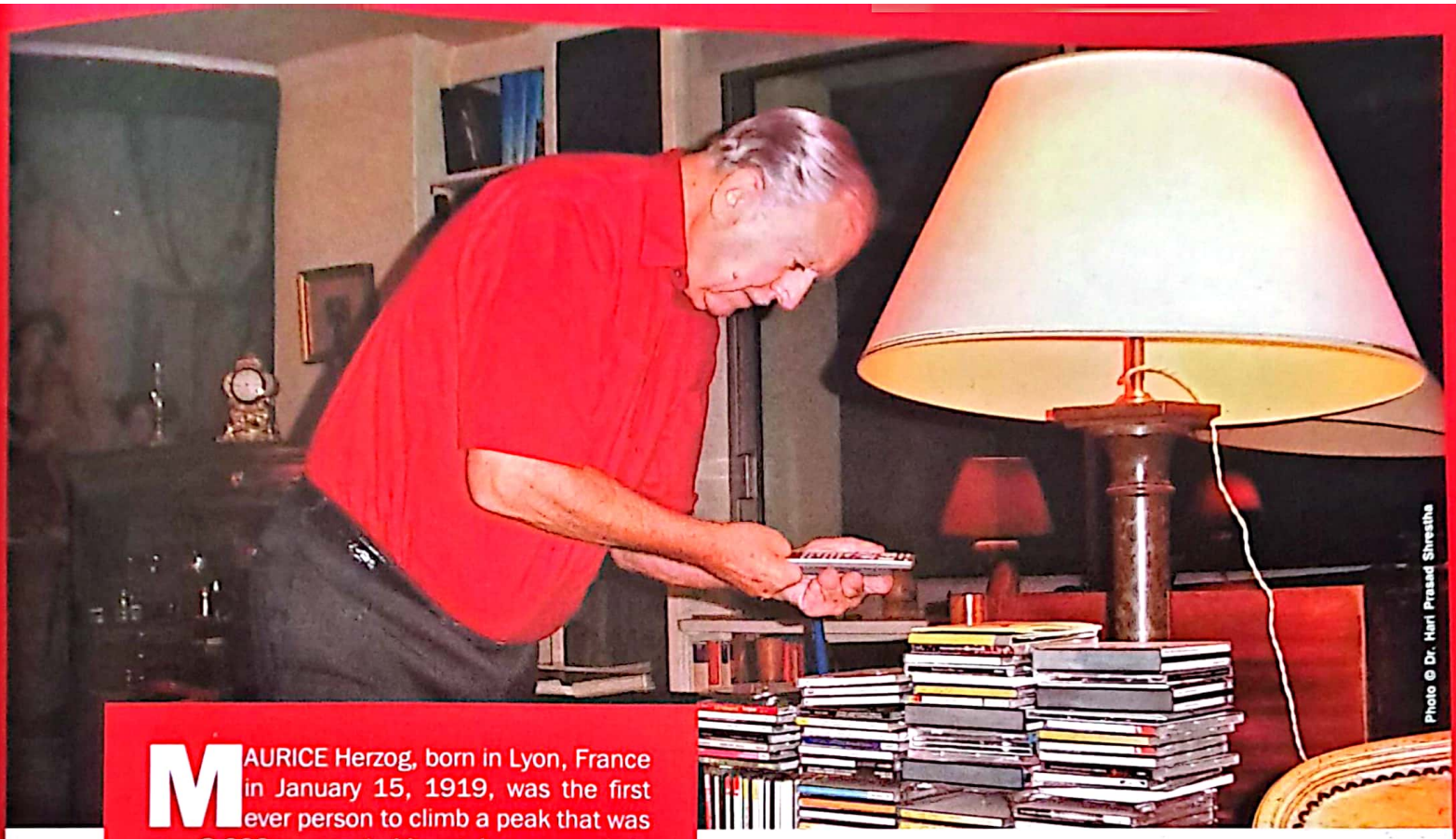
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Annapurna I: 'A Magic Peak'

Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha



MAURICE Herzog, born in Lyon, France in January 15, 1919, was the first ever person to climb a peak that was over 8,000m namely Mount Annapurna I, in 1950. It was a feat that later inspired many to follow the footsteps and, interestingly, it was only three years later that the highest peak Mount Everest was conquered. An avid mountaineer, he has a excellent academic record including a 'Baccalaureat' in Mathematics (with distinction) and Philosophy and MBA in Business Administration. He was also the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports in the government of Charles de Gaulle. He also was the President of the French Alpine Club from 1952 to 1955. The service in the military gave him the much needed training, endurance and courage to become a successful mountaineer. As a writer, his 'Annapurna Premier 1950' (about his conquest of Annapurna) sold more that 20 million copies and translated into 50 languages and from the royalties earned he has donated $50 million to the Himalayan Committee to support further French exploration and conquests in the Himalayas. Besides, he has written many books on the Himalayas including Annapurna and the Alps. He has been decorated with the Gurkha Military Cross from Nepal and many other decorations from his home country as well as other countries. Herzog is a man with various facets including one that of an eminent mountaineer, the first to conquer an over eight thousand meter peak. In a conversation with **Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha, Mr. Maurice Herzog** in his Paris residence had some interesting experience to share. Excerpts:

Q Being the first person to climb an over 8000 meter peak Annapurna I, how do you feel?

I feel myself quite well. After 54 years, more than half a century, I feel myself younger as ever !

Q What was your fascination for Mt. Annapurna I?

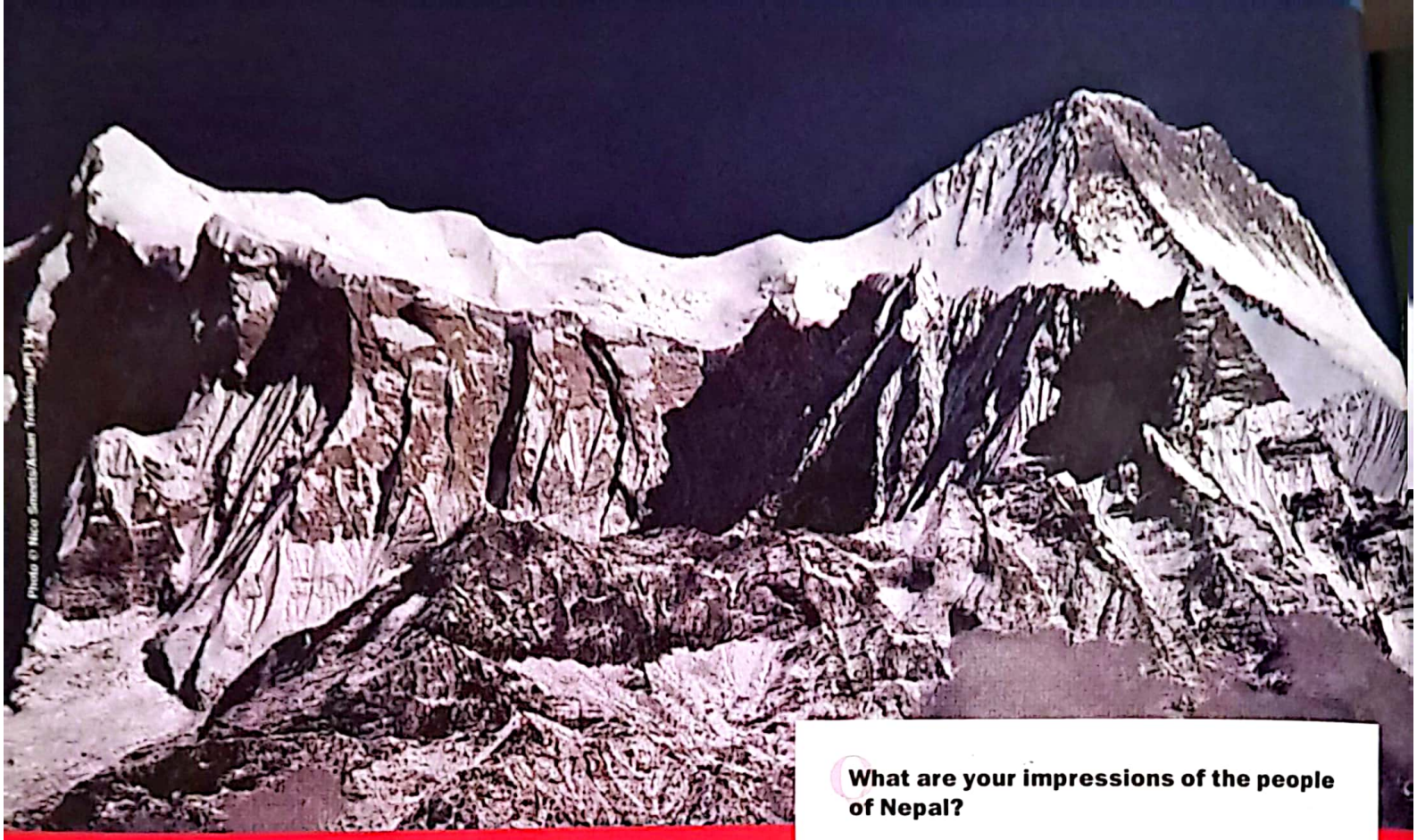
Annapurna I is a summit of more than 8000 m high. For me, at that time, it was a magic peak.

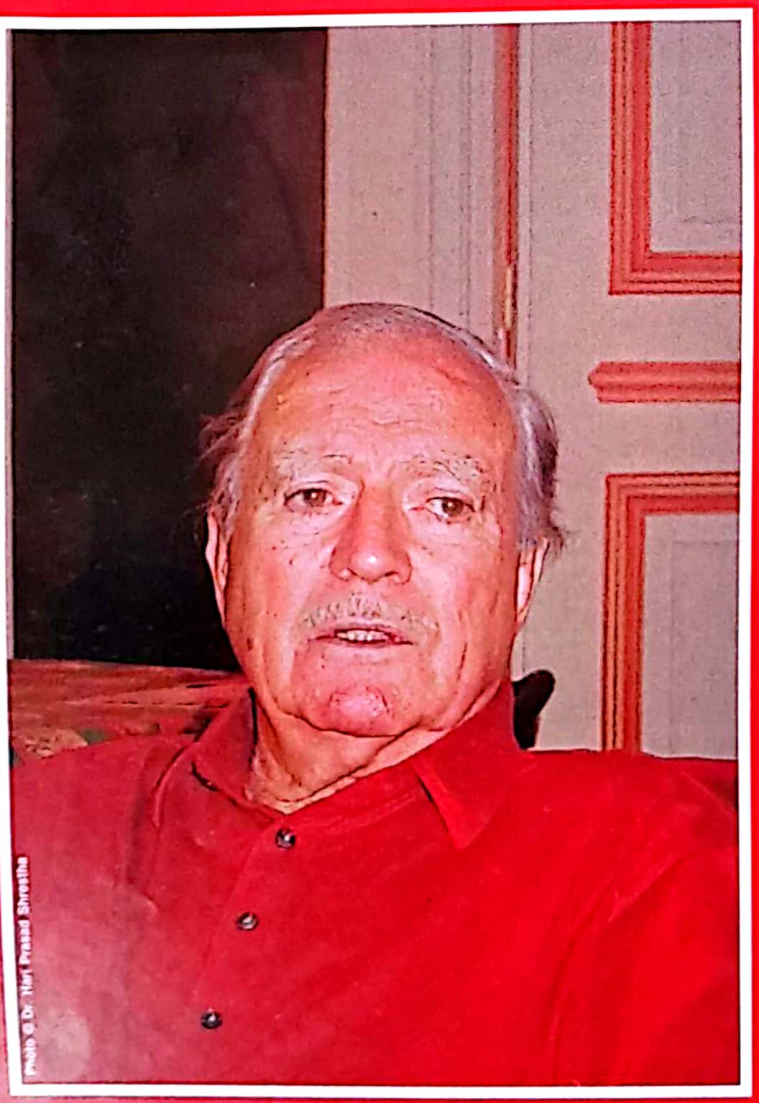
Q Was climbing it difficult?

Yes, Annapurna I was technically difficult. More than Chomolungma. But at that time we were not aware about it.

Q Can you recall some moments of happiness and sadness while climbing Mt. Annapurna ?

Of course. My best moment, the most important in my life, was to reach the top of this "goddess". The worst when I came back because by the early monsoon I was taken by hard wind, hailstorm and extreme cold (-50°C to 60°C). During the night I was blocked in a crevasse.....





What are your impressions of the people of Nepal?

It was one of my best souvenirs. The Buddhist people in the north were spontaneous, warm and enthusiastic. In the south of Nepal the people were more reserved but sincerely admiring. We were the first white people, I think, that they had met and they were a little bit afraid.

In your opinion, how can the Nepalese mountains can be protected?

The Nepalese mountains are up to now clean except for the south pass of Chomolungma and the base camp of the world's highest summit.

What is your opinion about the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara, Nepal, which was inaugurated on February 5, 2004?

It is a remarkable idea. We must applaud it very warmly.

Recently, the Golden Jubilee (50 years) of 4 eight thousanders, Mt Everest and Mt. Cho Oyu in Nepal and Mt. Nanga Parbat and K2 in Pakistan was celebrated. But the Golden Jubilee of Mt. Annapurna I could not be celebrated. As a first summiter of Annapurna, how do you feel?

I am sorry that the 50th anniversary was not organised. But it is never too late to undertake !



Mohan Shumshere J. B. Rana, Prime Minister of Nepal, with Maurice Herzog (right seated) and French Ambassador Levy (left) in 1950 after Herzog's return from the successful ascent of Annapurna I.

Photo Courtesy © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha

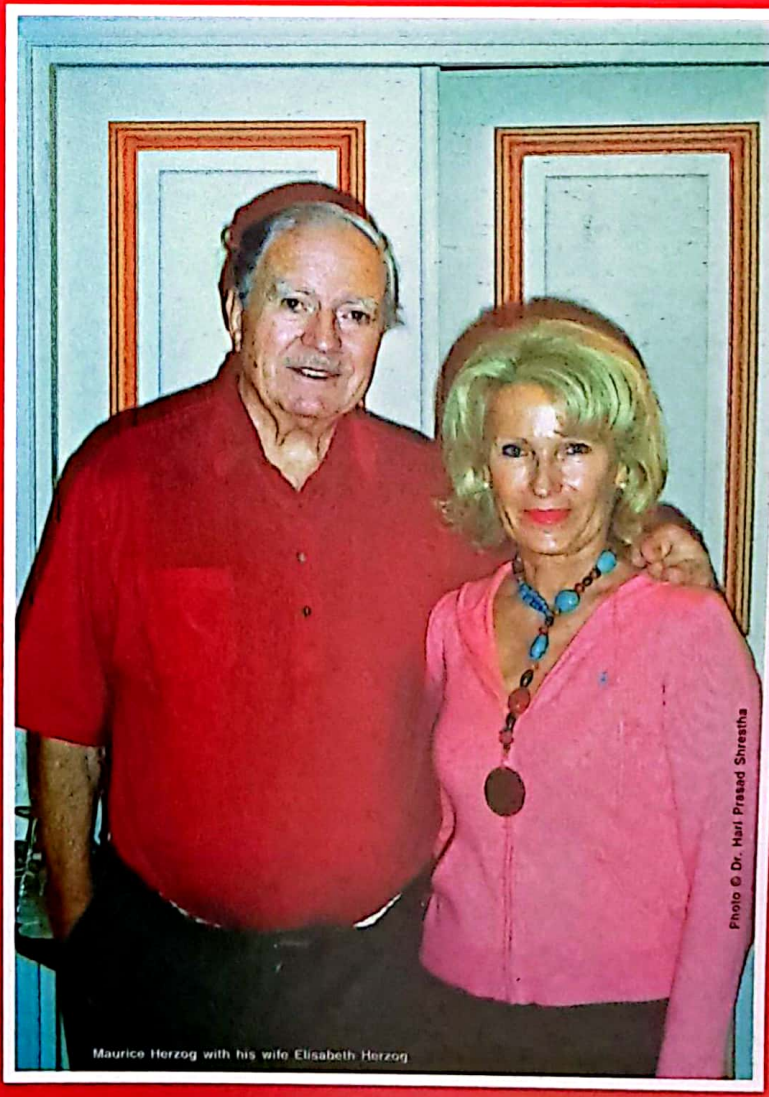
In what ways do you think such Golden Jubilee activities will be beneficial?

For the reputation of Nepal, it is very important. That's my opinion. Annapurna's first successful ascent in 1950 was the first step of conquest of high mountains in the world. It was the starting point of conquests of highest summits of the earth. A new period of adventures began with Annapurna's conquest.

When you climbed the Annapurna I, the context of climbing was totally different from today. How did it differ from today? Being a pioneer, what would be your message to the mountaineers of today?

Of course, conditions were totally different. We had, at that time, no maps and men with no experience. Very high altitudes, with rarefied atmosphere was a problem. My plan as chief of the expedition team, was to acclimatise my companions and myself step by step and each time higher and higher. Day after day, our blood became richer in erythrocytes (red blood corpuscles) so we did not need oxygen tubes, because our blood was progressively richer.

The best chances for mountaineers, now, is to meet adventures, human adventures.



Maurice Herzog with his wife Elisabeth Herzog

Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha



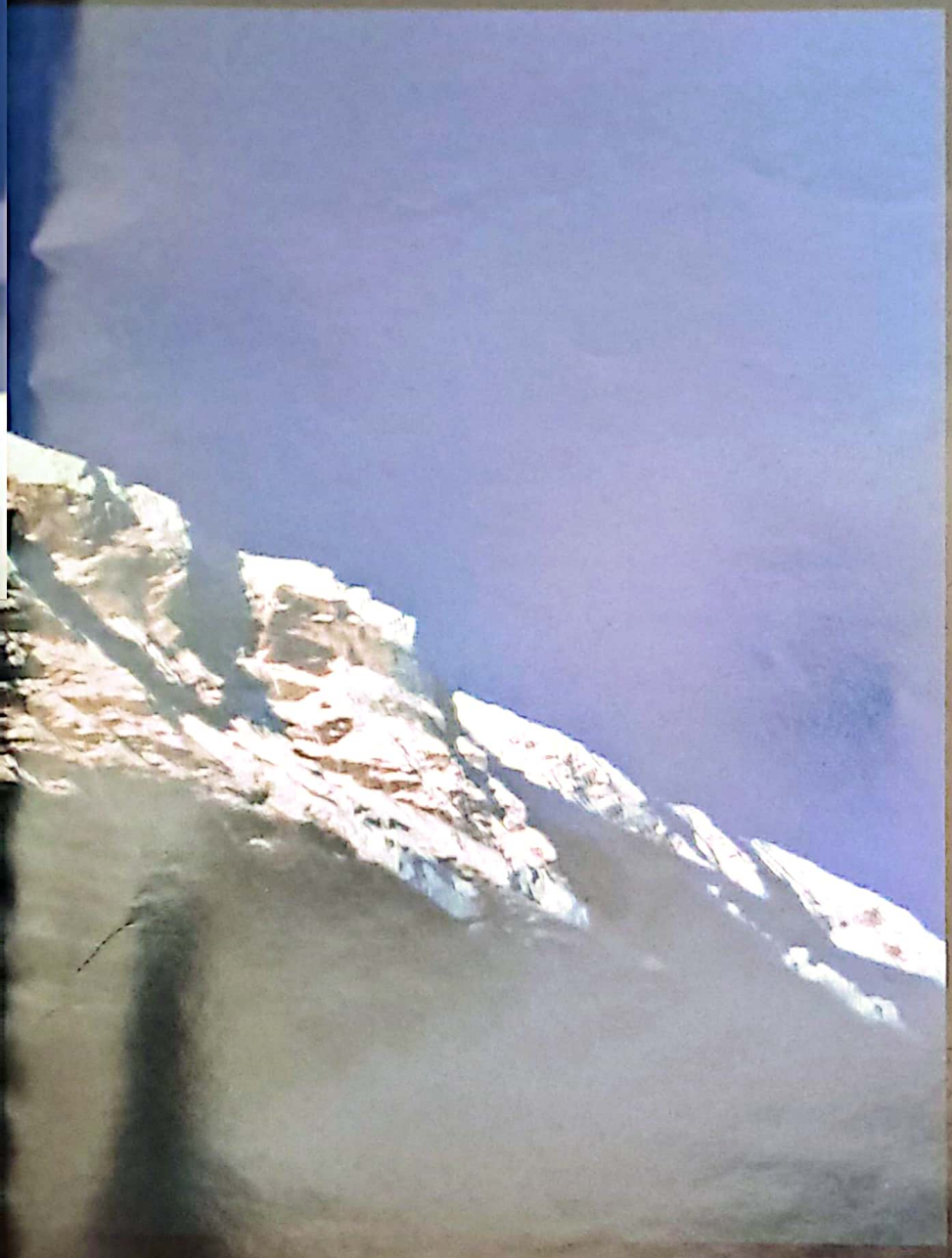
Photo © Ang Rita Sherpa

MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM

The Case Studies of Makalu-Barun National Park and Buffer Zone, Nepal

BY ANG RITA SHERPA
Senior Program Manager,
Tourism Culture and Information,
The Mountain Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal

NEPAL'S natural beauty, extraordinary cultural and artistic heritage, rich ethnic diversity and in particular Mt. Everest and the Nepal Himalayas have made Nepal a popular tourist destination, attracting large number of travelers each year. Tourism has become a major source of income for the country and a major force in the Nepalese economy. In Makalu-Barun National Park, like in most of the country, tourism is the largest source of income after agriculture.



Makalu-Barun National Park was established in 1991. The Mountain Institute (TMI) has been operating in the Makalu-Barun National Park and Buffer Zone since 1988. TMI helped establish and gazette the national park and currently has programs to strengthen community based conservation and development in the buffer zone communities adjacent to the park. It is Nepal's first integrated national park and buffer zone covering a total area of 2,330 sq. km.

TMI faces the challenge of motivating people to maintain their natural environment while their most immediate problem is food shortage and the struggle for livelihoods puts pressure on natural resources. To improve the livelihoods of the local people, the project encourages household enterprises such as producing handicrafts or cash crops, collecting medicinal herbs and providing eco-tourism services.

The Mountain Institute initiated programs in community based tourism in Makalu Barun in 1993 and handed over the programs to the community in 1998. By managing community-based tourism, TMI aims to provide economic opportunities to the community while minimizing disturbances to the environment. About fifteen hundred trekkers a year visit the Makalu-Barun area, although due to the country's political situation those numbers have been decreasing. Tourism has greatly helped the local economy by improving living standards - with better health care, education, and building structure.

The number of visitors over the decades to this region has resulted in increased environmental degradation of these fragile mountain areas. There is a widespread agreement that excessive levels of unmanaged tourism are having a detrimental impact on Nepal's protected areas, especially in the mountain regions. There is a tremendous pressure on forest resources as a result of the demand to meet the energy needs, such as fuel for cooking and heating while trekking. Similarly, the environmental pollution along trekking routes has been another problem associated with tourism. In the past, congestion became inescapable with tourist traffic, disturbance and crowding in mountain regions. Tourism also has resulted in changing values, such as loss of aesthetic sense in building infrastructure and degeneration of traditional social custom. Keeping these problems in mind, TMI aims to provide economic opportunities to the community while minimizing disturbances to the environment.

TMI has promoted community-based eco-tourism in Makalu-Barun area. The program has sought to create a direct economic link for conservation by encouraging sustainable nature based tourism in the area. TMI's eco-tourism activities focus on four aspects: promoting sustainable mountain tourism; minimizing the negative environmental impacts; ensuring that local communities receive direct economic benefits from these activities; and creating local capacity for on-going management.

The project provided information for tourists, mostly through displays and brochures that promote tourism in the area and describe a code of conduct for environmentally and culturally sensitive trekking. The project supported lodge owners' associations and provided

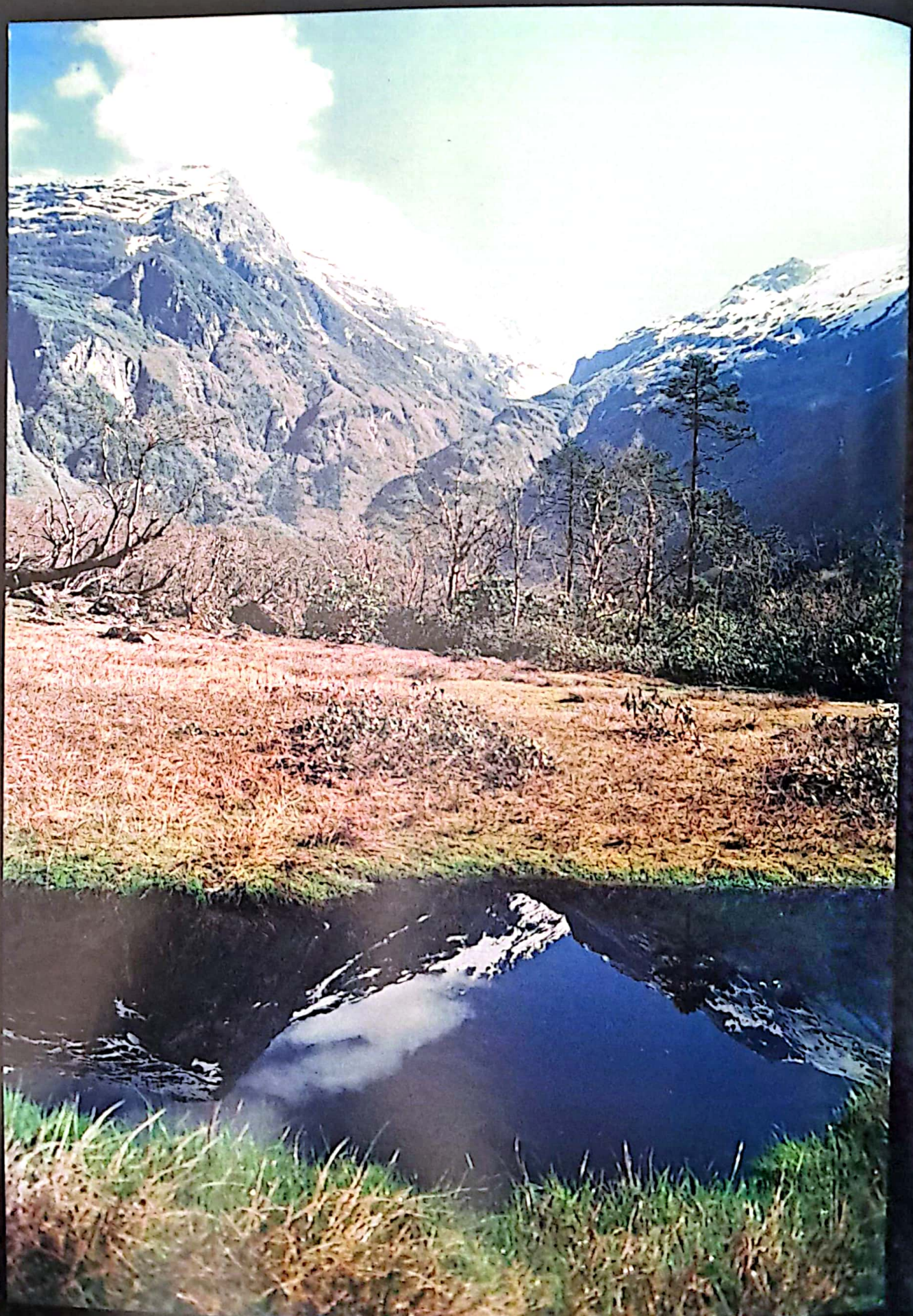


Photo © Ang Rita Sherpa

training in management, cooking, and stove repair to help local entrepreneurs operate their facilities better with less impact on the environment. Because of this, the lodges are cleaner and more pleasant than before. Less firewood is used due to the introduction of back boilers and solar water heating devices. A depot on the trekking route supplies stoves, kerosene and blankets for porters to reduce the need for firewood.

The Porters' Association provides a good example of TMI's working approach and philosophy. In 1998, at the request of local people TMI organized a general meeting of porters who serve the Makalu Base Camp trekking route. The meeting was called to address two main issues: to protect porters from abuse or unfair treatment from tourists and to develop strategies to prevent misunderstanding and disputes between tourists and porters who speak limited or no English. About 400 porters attended the meeting, much more than initially anticipated. As a result of this meeting, the participants recommended forming a Porters' Association. This Porters' Association would develop a code of conduct for porters and tourists standardize pricing for different routes and design a membership card to identify members of the association. In exchange for these benefits, members of the Porters' Association would pay a nominal fee to allow the association to have funds for additional meetings. The newly formed Porters' Association asked TMI's assistance in developing porter identification cards and it to provide Rs10,000 to establish the association. Now, four years after the formation of the association, membership has increased, the management board has revolved according to their constitution, the funds available have increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 37,000 (Dec 1999 figures), all from local contributions, and they have developed plans to use these funds to support community projects.

Based on the successful experience in Makalu, TMI has replicated the porters' association experience in Langtang National Park, and has built awareness about the experience within Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, Sagarmatha National Park and in the Annapurna circuit - as they begin to



Photo © Ang Rita Sherpa

replicate this approach. The porters association demonstrates several key TMI operating principles in action. First, local people through their active participation identified the problem and suggested the solution. TMI acted only as facilitator for the meeting. Second, TMI provided initial support and technical guidance, but local people set up the structure to continue the activities after initiation. The locally managed Porters' Association, managed under rules and regulations designed by themselves, acts independently of TMI. Third, TMI provided initial seed money and initial start up costs, but the local people actively contribute to the fund, making future activities independent of TMI financial contributions. More detailed reports are available from TMI Asian Regional Office in Kathmandu.

The experience of The Mountain Institute provides some lessons in the sustainable management of tourism. It shows there are ways through which the dual aim of resource conservation and the maximization of the economic benefits of tourism in affected areas and communities can be fulfilled simultaneously.

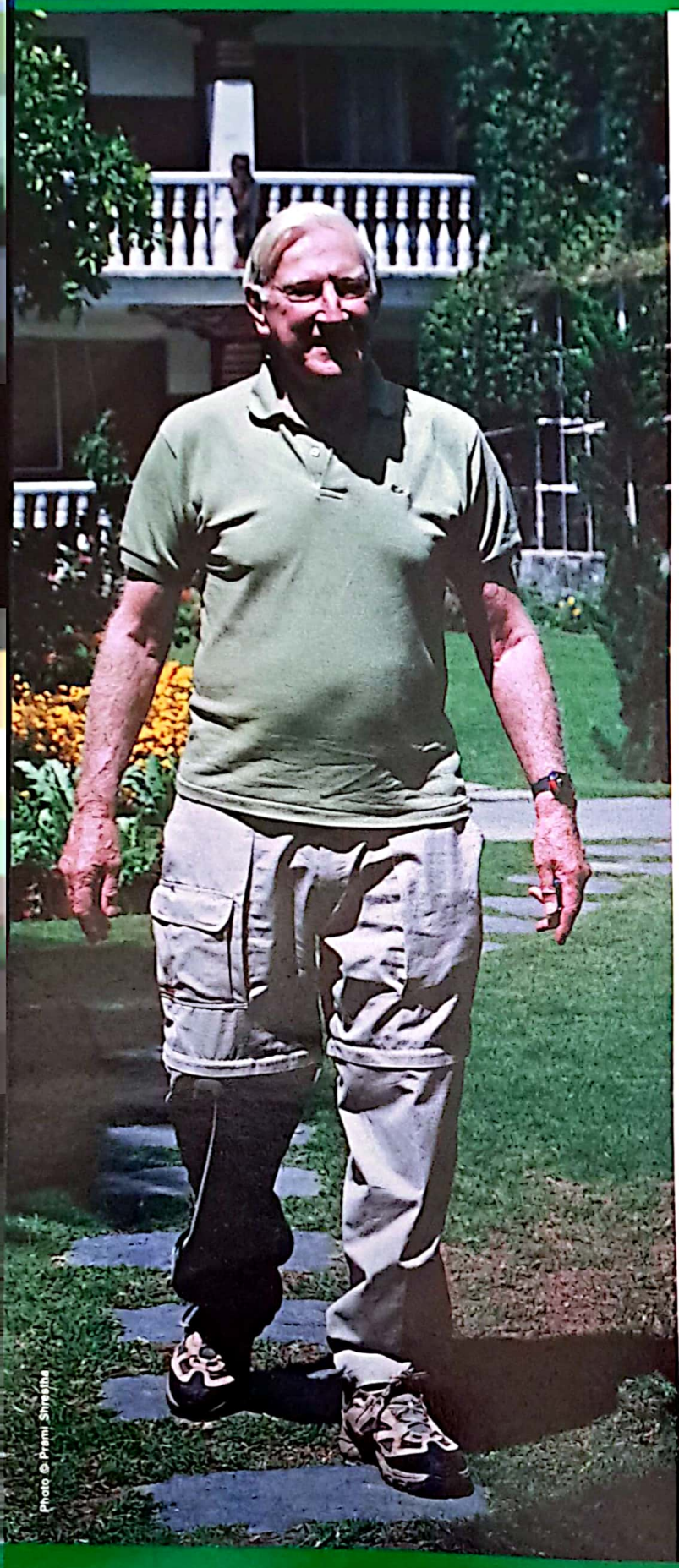


Photo © Prami Shrestha

Kanchenjunga: 'A Challenging Peak'

George Band, one of the first two people to successfully summit Mt. Kanchenjunga on May 25, 1955, was born in Taiwan in 1929. He was educated at Eltham College, Cambridge and London Universities.

At the age of 23, he became the youngest member of the first successful expedition of Everest led by Col. John Hunt (later Lord Hunt). It was two years later with Joe Brown on Charles Evans' expedition that he reached the summit of Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest peak. The respect for the sentiments of the Sikkimese considering the top as sacred, the first climbers left the summit untrodden.

Mr. Band has also climbed the Alps, Karakoram, peaks in Peru and the Caucasus in the 1950s.

He began his international career with the Royal Dutch/Shell Group in 1957. After retiring, he has been able to return to his earlier love for trekking, photography and talking about his experiences.

He is a former President of the British Alpine Club and the British Mountaineering Council and is currently Chairman of the Sir Edmund Hillary's Himalayan Trust.

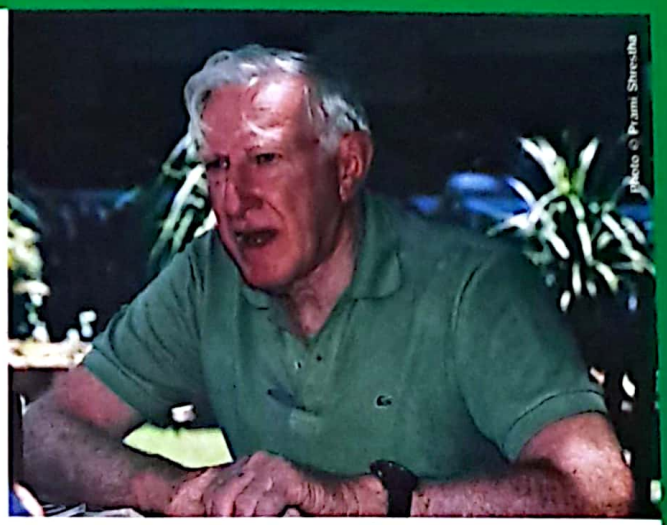
In a talk with Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha and Prem N. Kakkar, he had some interesting facts and experiences to share. Excerpts:

What are the highest peaks you have climbed successfully?

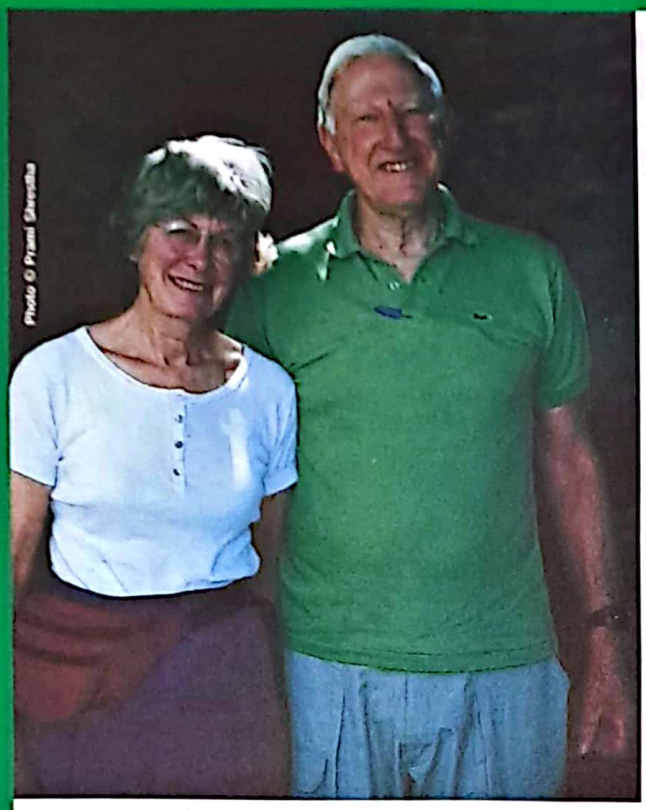
I reached the Everest Camp VII (24,000ft.) in 1953 in the team led by Col. John Hunt. That was the team that put Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Sherpa atop the highest peak in the world on May 29, 1953. If it had not succeeded the whole thing would have been reorganized and may be Hunt would have included himself for the next attempt. But, there was no need.
I summited Mt. Kanchenjunga on 25th May, 1955 together with Joe Brown in the expedition led by Charles Evans, who was the deputy leader of the first successful expedition team on Everest.
In the fifties, I also climbed the Alps (three seasons). In 1954, may attempt of ascending Rikapoche (25,550 ft) in Pakistan was not successful. It was two more expeditions before it was successfully climbed.
In 1956, I made a couple of new ascents in peru, South America, including Huagaruncho (18,797 ft).
In 1958, I was one of the first Britishers in the Caucasus in Asia. I climbed two of the highests peaks Shkara and Dych-tan.
After that, climbing became my hobby as I joined the Shell oil group with my training in geology and petroleum engineering. I was posted in different countries during my service. Only on vacations or weekends, I would do some climbing.
I have also been engaged in trekking in Nepal, which continues even today.
In 1993, the 40the anniversary of the first successful ascent of Everest, we came to Nepal to trek and we attempted Island Peak and also to oversee the repair works of the fire-ravaged Tengboche Monastery.

Could you please tell us about your most difficult moments while climbing Kanchenjunga?

Kanchenjunga had been climbed up to a height of 20,000 ft only before 1955. We received the permission from Nepal to climb it. Charles Heavens, the deputy leader of the 1953 Everest expedition, was our leader of the Kanchenjunga attempt. We attempted the SW face which had not been tried before. It was tricky climbing till the last minute.
The last day was quite interesting and exciting, more than Everest.



We were 20 feet away and six vertical feet from the actual summit.
For the people of the region, Goddess resided on the summit so it was a sacrilege to step on the top. Therefore, we stopped short of the summit keeping the agreement with the Rajkumar of Sikkim. A lot of people have said why we didn't go on. But we didn't as then I'd have to live my whole life with my conscience for breaking the trust. We respected the agreement and left the summit untouched.
The frightful and exciting moment. We were going to the final camp site. There was a steep ice slip and no flat space for pitching our tent. There was hard rock. We had to hack with an ice axe to make a kind of ledge. It was hard work as we had finished our oxygen in the cylinders for that day. Luckily, one of the Sherpas still had oxygen.
Now, it had to be decided who would sleep towards the edge. We drew lots and I lost, So I had to sleep on the outside edge. As anything might fall in the night we tied the rope to a spike in the rock.
The next day we started our ascent and then we came face to face with this steep rock wall and we were running out of oxygen. The rock wall had some cracks in it. Joe Brown, my companion, was in the lead at that time. He was one of the best rock climbers in the world. He was very good at jamming his hands at cracks even though there were no visible holes. And he climbed the rock wall. Once on the top, he shouted to me "George, we're there". I had to follow the climb. Then, there was the little mound of snow. That was the biggest moment of excitement.
We had a successful climb down. That is very important because reaching the top is only half the way, you've to get down safely.



What are the challenges that face a mountaineer while making climbing the Himalayas?

A mountaineer has to be physically fit, technically capable and be prepared to carry on if conditions are normal.
It's also important that a mountaineer must realize when to turn back because you don't want to risk your life. Some margin of safety must be kept. This is gained through experience over the years.
You must be tolerant with your companions and build up a team (as regards big mountains).
Even if the leader does not choose you to make the final attempt, you ought to do the role allocated to you in the team to the very best of your ability. It's like a football team where not everyone scores a goal but the goal scorer still needs the other members of the team to participate in the event otherwise he can't do much on his own.
Particularly, a lot of good mountaineers are strong individualistic in a way because they have taken up this sport. They also have to be prepared to work as a team as far as big mountains are concerned.

What attracted you towards mountaineering?

There was no tradition of climbing mountains in my family. But we went on occasional trips in North Wales. Snowden was the highest mountain there standing at 4000 ft.

As a boy of seven, it was just a walk which was adventure for me.
At the age of 17, I used to go 'hill-walking' and I used to see people using ropes on the rock cracks which looked exciting and I used to wonder if I could take that up.
I had no formal training at all.
In those days we all had to do National Services in the forces for two years. I served in Yorkshire in the north of England. There, someone had started a little mountaineering club with four or five individuals.
While serving, we were allowed to drive a truck over to the Lake Districts, a lovely area for climbing in England. We could do rock climbing which gave me an opportunity to learn and I took to it very readily.
After the national services, I went to Cambridge University that had a very active mountaineering club which I joined. I became the secretary and later president of the club. From there, we arranged climbing in the Alps in the long summer vacations.
In 1952, I had a lucky break. At that time, there was severe restrictions on taking currency abroad. By chance, I heard about an American, who was an amateur glaciologist. He wanted to do some research works by digging a tunnel through a glacier in Monti Rosa (4000m) one of the highest Alpine peaks. We stayed on for nine weeks and I had the opportunity to do a lot of climbing.
In the autumn of that year, Col. John Hunt was appointed the leader of the 1953 Everest Expedition. He wrote to all the secretaries of the mountaineering clubs asking if they had people who were well-qualified to join the expedition.I went through all the related process and was very lucky to be chosen I was 24 years old then
And that was the big break for me.

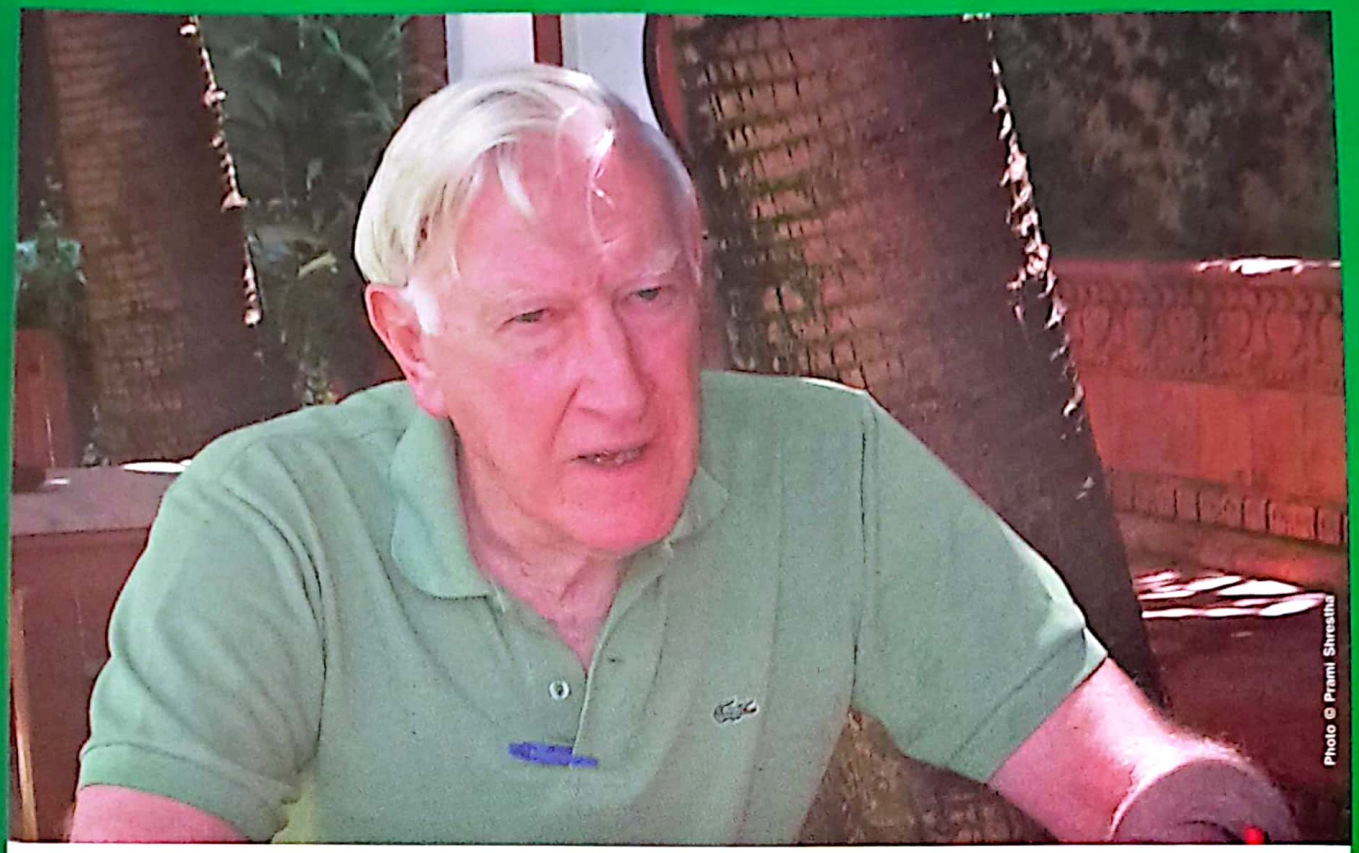
Among the peaks that you have successfully climbed, which one has been the most satisfying?

Obviously, Kanchenjunga.

How do you compare Kanchenjunga with other peaks in terms of challenges?

Most people have said Kanchenjunga is definitely harder than Everest. But, K2 is considered to be probably the most difficult.

Being one of the first persons to have climbed an over eight thousand peak,



namely Kanchenjunga, what advice would you like to give to upcoming mountaineers?

Good Luck! I would advise beginners to start with the low altitude mountains (4000/5000/6000m) before graduating to bigger peaks. This allows them better preparation for the big mountains.
In fact, you can have a lot more fun and enjoyment on smaller peaks. No worry about permits or having to get acclimatized or such. Of course, the ultimate challenge is Everest which requires a lot of hard work, preparation and stress.

What are your suggestions for the preservation of the Himalayan environment?

Respect the mountains. In the early days, people threw a lot of rubbish but now I see it is changing. I'm glad about the clean-up campaigns to keep the mountain environment clean. The rule to bring back everything taken up is good for keeping the mountains clean. We must leave the mountains in good condition for the generations to come.

Could you give suggestions for mountain tourism development in Nepal?

Simplify the rules and regulations as far as possible so that more and more people come to Nepal.
'Don't spoil the environment' must be the message to all.

How do you feel about the marking of the Mt. Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration?

It's very good for projecting the image of Nepal as a good destination for mountaineering, trekking and tourism in general.
It also sends the message that Nepal is a **safe country** to visit. There is nothing to worry, as I have seen and experienced.

What has been your other works in Nepal?

I am the Chairman of the UK branch of the Himalayan Trust, founded by Sir Edmund Hillary. We help raise funds for education, health, plantation of pine seedlings to counteract deforestation. In addition, it also provides disaster relief during monsoon rains and landslides in the Everest area. Funds have been collected and utilized for the repair and maintenance of some monasteries in the Everest region. Hillary also helped in raising funds for the reconstruction of Tengboche Monastery which was devastated by fire. The 1993 trip to Nepal had the main objective of overseeing the reconstruction works of the monastery.

MOUNTAINS: SOURCE OF SUSTAINABLE NEPALESE TOURISM

BY DIPENDRA PURUSH DHAKAL
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Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, HMG/Nepal.

MOUNTAINS are the pioneer products of Nepalese tourism. The high as well as small mountains have become known as the source of visitor's attraction for both hard and soft adventures. Starting from the attempts to climb the high Himalayas, the nation also gradually developed the simple mode of adventurous tourism activity in the hills in the form of trekking. Both of these activities continued to extend in the newer areas offering variety of tourism products congregating the nature based, environmental as well as cultural activities.

Utilization of such blended activities of unique natural and age-old traditional Nepali customs not only offered distinctive packages to the travelers but also helped the rural population, who are normally excluded from the main stream of the development. As a result, Nepal has now established an esteemed image of attractive exotic destination of preferred choices of the international visitors. Nevertheless, the country is not projected solely as an adventurous destination but has also earned respect as a holiday and pleasure spot availing several other tourism products.

Mountains embody most of the watersheds in the country that are also the sources of hydropower. Exotic landscapes, scenic beauty, treasure of culture and religion and the home of brave people symbolize the nature of these areas. Mountains decoy soft as well as hard adventure and thus a prime tourist destination.

The Nepali mountains harbor abundant endemic plants and animals, several of them being the endangered species. Low vegetation and a very slow pace of the regenerating capacity is the common characteristic of the high and middle mountains. The impact of rampant deforestation, overuse or improper management of natural resources have had greater negative impacts than similar causes in other parts of the country. Thus, the activities related to ecology are pretty sensitive and highly unstable in the mountains, which demands for only responsible actions. In terms of the prevailing economic conditions, the mountains can be characterized as least developed areas of the country offering shelters to majority of the poor population.

Nepal is a dreamland for the high altitude climbers as it houses eight out of fourteen high Himalayas ranging over 8,000 meters. Among the rest, Pakistan has five and one is situated in China.

In terms of ranking based on the individual heights of the mountains Nepal has all highest Himalayas on the list of top tens except the second and the ninth. We have the jewel in the crown, Mount Everest, the world's highest Himalaya peaks, along with Kangchenjunga, Lhotse, Makalu, Cho Oyu, Dhaulagiri, Manaslu and Annapurna respectively. Yet the experts claim that there are altogether 17 peaks or additional nine more unnamed peaks of over 8000m in Nepal. Similarly, there are 22 out of 31 peaks with the height above 7,600 meters.

The first three summits to the Nepali eight thousanders were to the Annapurna one in 1950, Everest in 1953 and Cho Oyu in 1954. Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay from Nepal were the first conquerors of Everest. Before succeeding the Everest summit, Hillary and Eric Shepton of the British Reconnaissance Team had made a first attempt to scale Cho Oyu in 1951, with an aim also to get familiarized with the climbing techniques applicable in similar Himalayas but without success. However, the second attempt made on the Cho Oyu mountain, which is 25 miles south of Mount Everest, by an Austrian team comprising of Herbert Tichy, Sepp Jochler, Pasang Dawa Lama was successful in 1954. Dr Helmut Heuberger was also in the team but had stopped at the base camp. Cho Oyu has also made a history of the first-ever success in climbing of eight thousanders by a disabled. A British nationalist, Norman Groucher in 1995, did it.

MOUNTAIN TOURISM: TREND & REVENUE

The arrival of mountaineers in the country does not seem to tally with the trend of the national level statistics. The analyses reveal inconsistent trend in the mountaineers segment e.g. in 2000 the decline of mountaineers is double than the national average while in 2001 and 2002 it has increased despite the continued severe declines in the total tourist arrival in the kingdom. The corresponding figures of employment generated by mountaineering also do not demonstrate direct relationship with the flow of the climbers.

THE BREAKDOWN OF THE MOUNTAINEERING STATISTICS IS STATED HEREUNDER:

YEAR	TOURIST ARRIVAL		MOUNTAINEERS		EMPLOYMENT	
	NO	% CHANGE	NO	% CHANGE	NO	% CHANGE
1999	491,504		857		9,690	
2000	463,646	-5.7	773	-10.1	11,587	19.6
2001	361,237	-22.1	836	8.1	6,203	-46.5
2002	275,468	-23.7	913	9.2	9,928	60.1
2003	338,132	22.7	1,080	18.3	14,838	49.5

The above data also demonstrate minimal impact of botheration on the mountaineers' trend by the complicated and uncomfortable safety and security situation in the country.

Similarly, mountains are becoming higher earner in the tourism sector compared to others in the country. The Mountains used to contribute only 2% in 1989/90 in the total tourism earning of the nation, which has now increased by five fold to 10% in 2003/04. It is also worth noting that a mountaineer, on the average, spends sixteen times higher than the ordinary tourist in Nepal. The following table states the total as well as per capita earning from tourism in the country and the corresponding figures related with individual mountaineers during the last six years:



YEAR	TOTAL TOURISM EARNING			MOUNTAINEERS EXPENSES		
	TOURIST	RS (ML)	PER CAPITA (000)	MOUNTAINEER	RS (ML)	PER CAPITA (000)
1988	320,455	10,024.50	31.3	974	382.4	392.6
1989	350,843	11,421.10	32.6	857	344.6	402.1
2000	367,731	11,827.40	32.2	773	498.5	644.9
2001	296,917	10,468.20	35.3	806	552	660.3
2002	208,691	8,300.50	39.8	913	600	657.2
2003		14,508.40		1080		
	Average		34.2			551.4

Total earning from mountaineering for the last twelve years is represented in the table below. The figures are grouped into three segments of four years since 1989/90 to 2003/04 and the earning is found to be increasing during all succeeding years. The data also reveal that around fourteen percent of such revenue is collected by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), a non-governmental organization. The income shown under NMA also includes the fee charged to climb the additional fifteen peaks, whose management is rendered to it by the government since 2002/03.



Rs in Million

YEARS	HMG	NMA	TOTAL
1989/90 - 1993/94	108.5	25	133.5
1994/95 - 1998/99	436.1	53.5	489.6
1999/00 - 2003/04	641.7	108.4	750.1
Total	1,186.30	186.9	1,373.20
Percentage share	86.4	13.6	100

Different schools of thought are prevailing among the intellectuals regarding the handling of royalties by the NMA. The conservative thinkers, small in number, are demanding for the withdrawal of this authority of NMA and initiate depositing such royalties in the government's treasury. But, the majority of the people favor the pragmatic approach and support the exemplary model of NMA, which avails less cumbersome management procedures for the use of fund. As the board of directors of NMA also includes government representative, it does not enjoy acting in isolation without the knowledge of the government on its plans and programmes. Thus, simple modifications in the operational procedures by honoring government's concurrences on conservation and developmental activities will ease the ever-existing complex procedures of disbursement of government fund, which otherwise becomes essential if the royalty is deposited in the government treasury.

Having discussed about the royalties as above, there is a need to review the present structure in view of the prevailing practices in the neighboring countries. As China and Pakistan both have high Himalayas and Nepali mountains are also eligible to be scaled from the Tibetan side there needs to be at least some similarity maintained in the ranges of the climbing fees charged by individual countries. Otherwise, it is obvious that the climbers may choose different routes to climb the same mountain from Tibet if it is cheaper or may even choose to climb any of the other five eight thousanders situated in Pakistan. In this context, the fees charged in Nepal seem somewhat expensive as compared to the neighbors. We have levied US$ 10,000 for a group of 7 and US$ 1,500 for each additional member up to 12 for granting permit to attempt the Everest peak while China has fixed only US$ 3,300 for the peaks of over 8000m. Pakistan has reduced 50% of the prevailing royalty for most of the mountains during the golden jubilee of Nanga Parbat in 2003. The eligible number of climbers in the expedition team to K2 is also increased from 7 to 28 during its golden jubilee in 2004 in Pakistan. Similarly, no royalty is charged in India for the mountains below 6000m. The fee to climb Trishul and Nanda Devi is also nominal.

APPRECIABLE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has taken some commendable actions in recent years to help develop tourism in the country. In this regard, some of these new ventures support the promotion of mountaineering while others have indirect linkages with this product. Abolishment of the compulsion of accompanying liaison officers with the expedition team for mountains below 6500m and environment officers in the special trekking routes are major improvements in this respect. Opening of 175 peaks for climbing, awarding management responsibility and collection of royalty for five years of 15 new peaks to NMA, Opening of all restricted areas for the visitation of the foreigners, lifting the trekking fees from most of the routes, opening of new rivers for rafting and establishment of Nepal Mountaineering Training Academy on priority basis in Solukhumbu are also notable achievements which will help promote the adventure tourism in the country. Few other appreciable actions of HMG include the granting of gratis visa to all SAARC and Chinese nationals and also to all other foreigners staying in Nepal for three days, abolishment of the double entry category as well as reduction in the applicable fee for the multiple entry visas.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

While devising any new model in the mountain tourism, one should be confident that these new actions would not turn out to be a burden but benefit to the environment and the mountain economy. It should also be realized that tourism plays only a supplementing role as a favored actor in the overall mountain development. Mountain tourism should thus remain within the management capacity of the community and the environment. By all means, Nepal is underutilized in terms of tourist arrivals. In any given time, there are 228 tourists per square kilometer in Austria while there are only 2 tourists per square kilometer in Nepal. Thus, in order to improve the tourism related managerial capability and developing mountain tourism as the sustainable mode of Nepalese tourism these additional actions also demand serious considerations of the government and other stakeholders:

- Bilateral settlement of mountaineering permit issues for bordering peaks
- Completion and implementation of the Royalty Structure Review Committee's report and reconsideration of Royalty fees
- Updating of the Tourism Policy and amendment of Acts and Regulations to address issues of mountain, poor and disadvantaged group and the environment
- Provision of international standard training for mountain guides
- Abolishment of the provisions of liaison officers in mountains except for 8000ers
- Completion of the Nepalese mountain profile
- Ensuring retention of tourism earning and equitable distribution of tourism income
- Engagement of local bodies and institutions, institutionalization of the community participation and establishment of linkages with the local economy
- Counter response to the negative publicity in the international press
- Strengthening of information sharing and communication



SOME FACTS ABOUT THE OVER-8000M PEAKS



- First over-8000m peak climbed—Annapurna I by Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal.



- Highest peak climbed—Mt. Everest (8848m) by Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Edmund Hillary on May 29, 1953.



- First person to climb all the fourteen over-8000m peaks—Reinhold Messner.
- Most popular peak among mountaineers—Mt. Everest.
- Country with the most number of over 8000m peaks—Nepal has eight of the fourteen over 8000m peaks (Everest 8848m, Kanchenjunga 8586m, Lhotse 8516m, Makalu 8467m, Cho Oyu 8201m, Dhaulagiri 8167m, Manaslu 8163m and Annapurna I 8091m).
- Smallest among the over 8000m peaks—Shishapangma (8027m) of China. It was first successfully summitted by H. Ching and nine other members from China.
- First women to climb an over 8000m peak—M. Mori, N. Nakasoko and M. Vichida climbed Mt. Manaslu (8163m) on May 4, 1974.

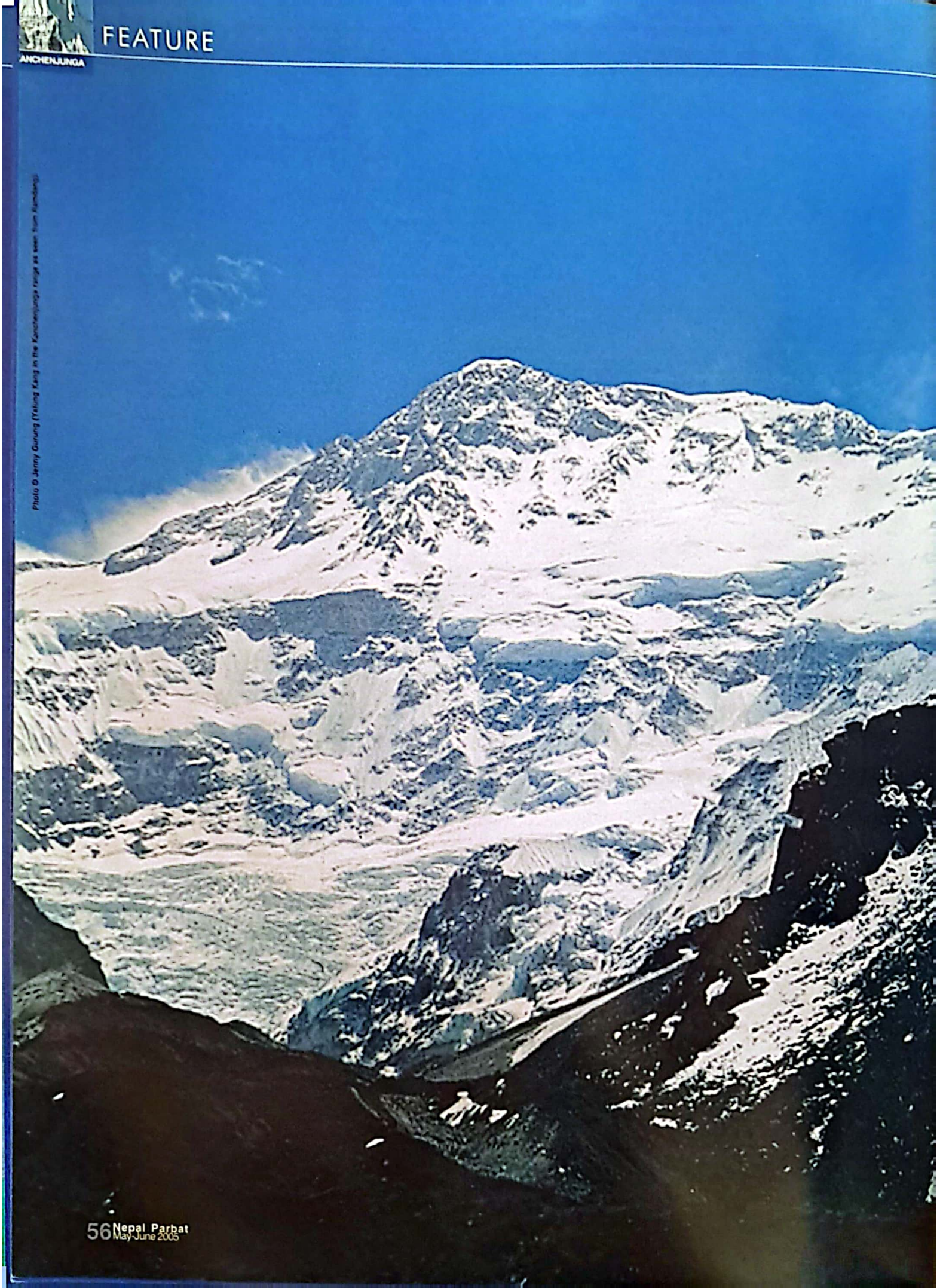


Photo © Jenny Gurung (Yalung Kang in the Kanchenjunga range as seen from Pandanglo)

KANCHENJUNGA: FIVE TREASURES OF THE SNOW

BY BUDDHI NARAYAN SHRESTHA
A researcher on the border issues of Nepal. He is the former Director General of Land Survey Department, HMG/Nepal and presently Managing Director of Bhumichitra Mapping Co. Pvt. Ltd.

NEPAL Himalaya has been the center of attraction to the whole world for mountaineering adventure, expedition and high altitude research. It is not just the height that give mountain peaks their grandeur, but they have fascinating and peculiar shapes and sizes. Some of them are conical and sharp edged. The others are bald, blunt, dome-shaped, twin-peak and dwarf. But Kanchenjunga has five consecutive peaks in a short span of Kumbhakarna Himal range. And five summits of Kanchenjunga chain is the glorious mountain known as "Five Treasures of the Snow."

There are hundreds of mountains peaks from west to east opened for mountaineering expeditions in Nepal. Api West (7,100 meter) is the westernmost mountain of Nepal Himalaya and Kanchenjunga is the easternmost peak above 8,000 meter opened for foreign expeditions only when they have been climbed by Nepalese and foreign joint expedition (HMG Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation, 1999). Besides, Kanchenjunga is located at the most southern part of the major Himalayan peaks whereas Nala Kankar is the northernmost mountain peak of Nepal.

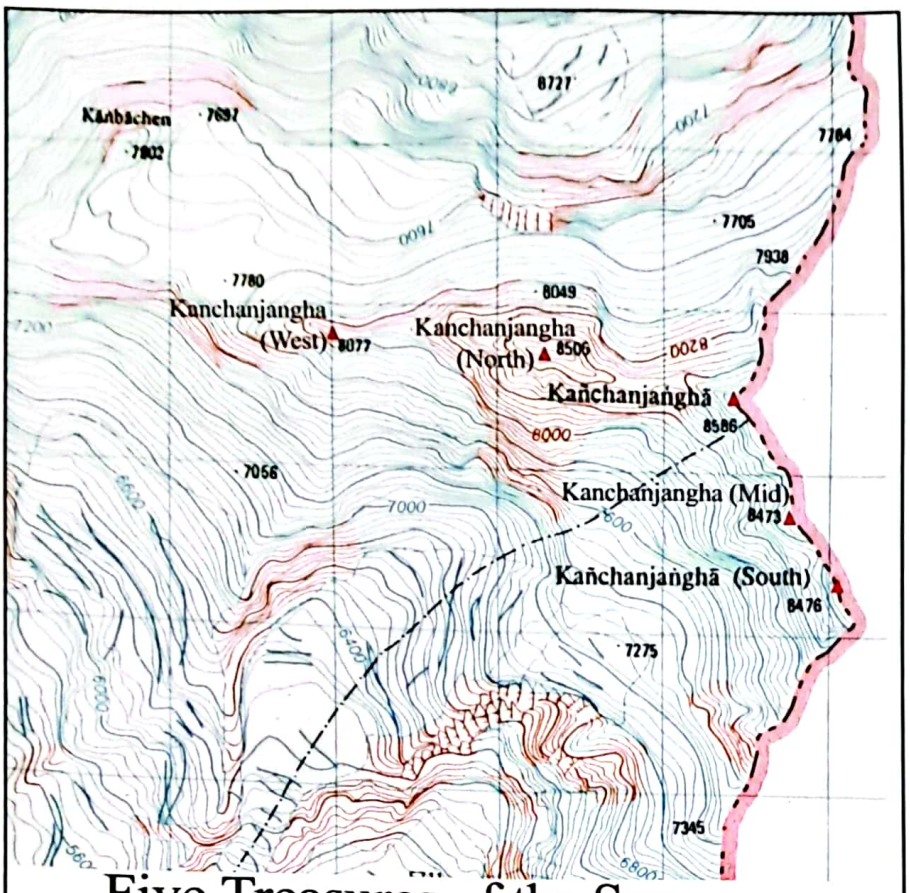
GLORIOUS KANCHENJUNGA

Kanchenjunga is the only one that displays its charming glories to the world at large, because it is seen easily by anyone in the lower foot-hills. Kanchenjunga boasts of some of the most magnificent snowy and icy scenery in the world. It is because of the fact that it has an annual precipitation of snow probably greater than that of any other peak in the Himalayas. Secondly, the avalanches that Kanchenjunga throws down are said to be the largest anywhere else in the world.

Kanchenjunga Himal has infinite variety of landscape cultures and panoramic view. If some one observes from the lower hills, they are colourful village settlements, rich vegetation with variety of rhododendrons, green forests, river valleys, splendid glacier and then finally gorgeous view of Kanchenjunga ridge.

Majestic panoramic view of Kanchenjunga can be seen from the southern foot-hills, such as Sandakpur (3,336 m), Phalelung (3,602 m), Tiger Hill (2,590 m), Gangtok (1,574 m) etc.

If we have a look at Kanchenjunga at early dawn from Sandakpur (Queen of the East), it is really an unforgettable majestic sight. At first the dark dawn will start to turn slowly into twilight. The dark clouds flying into clear sky would start to turn into somewhat glowish. Then the sun would start to rise from the horizon via Bay of Bengal as a red iron lump. Within some moments the red lump of sun starts to climb above the high mountain. And the light early rays of the sun splash onto Kanchenjunga, so that the peak can be seen in marvelous pink colour. After some time, the golden rays of the rising sun splashes to the right shoulder of the snowy Kanchenjunga, so that the view of the mountain can be visualised as golden and silver rays in striking contrast. And this is the glorious view of Kanchenjunga seen from far off.



Five Treasures of the Snow

Source: Department of Survey, HMG/Nepal, **Topographical Map Series,** Kanchenjunga (First Edition 1997).

FIVE TREASURES OF THE SNOW

Kanchenjunga is translated along the lines of "Five Treasures of the Snow" as it contains five peaks over 8,000 meters. Kanchenjunga is also called Kangchen Dzonga / Kangchenjunga / Khangchendzonga / Kanchenjanga / Kachendzonga or Kangchanfanga. In Tibetan dialect, Kng-chen means 'snow-great' and Dzo-nga is 'treasures-five' that denotes Mount Kanchenjunga in other words (P. V. Angus-Leppan, 1982).

The word Kanchenjunga is regarded as the abode of gods who bestow prosperity and benevolence to the inhabitants and their lands. To the local people, its five summits are the five treasures of the snow as the throne of all powerful gods rest on them. Their well-being and even their lives depend on the blessings of five snow treasures. If the 'five treasures' get angry, Kanchenjunga is able to blast their crops with the storm or may destroy their village with avalanches and floods. The citizens of Sikkim and surrounding Nepal believe the summit sacred and they worship Mount Kanchenjunga as a deity. To respect this local religious beliefs and to honour the sentiment of the Nepalese and Sikkimese people, the expeditioners would stop a few meter short of the actual summit, before climbing on the top of the mountain. The stopping for a few minutes has two underlying meaning. The first would mean that the summit will remain inviolate instantly. The other is for the summiteers to get a rest for some time before stepping on the highest portion of the mountain. Most of the successful summit parties have followed this tradition till this date.

THIRD HIGHEST PEAK

Kanchenjunga (Main) is the third highest peak in the world and the second highest in Nepal. It is situated on the western frontier between Nepal and India borderline, twenty kilometers south of the Chinese (Tibetan) frontier. It is located 90 kilometer east of Everest, at 27° 42' 09" north latitude and 88° 09' 10" east longitude from Greenwich meridian. Up until 1852, Kanchenjunga was believed to be the highest mountain in the world. But calculations made by the 1849 British Great Trigonometrical Survey of India made Mount Everest the highest of all and Kanchenjunga as third highest in the world.

TOPOGRAPHY

If we make a study of the topographical map of Kanchenjunga area (Survey Department of Nepal, 1997) there are five consecutive mountain peaks in the Kanchenjunga chain, as "Five Treasures of the Snow." Kanchenjunga or K-Main (8,586 m) is situated at approximately the central area of the chain. And K-Mid (8,473 m) is located in between K-Main and K-South (8,476 m). In the same way, K-North (8,505 m) as Yalung Kang is positioned in between K-Main and K-West (8,077 m). Geographical position of this Five Treasures has been tabulated below:

The five peaks of Kanchenjunga are in a regular chain, within a distance of approximately 3.75 kilometer, that really qualifies the meaning of "Five Great Treasures of the Snow." The five-peak range is elongated westward and south-eastward from Kanchenjunga Main.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF KANCHENJUNGA MAIN

The world knows that Kanchenjunga lies in Nepal. But there may be a curiosity as to how Kanchenjunga belongs to Nepal, since the mountain is located on the border between Nepal and India. If we make a study of various maps prepared and published by different agencies and organizations, it may reveal the fact. The topographical feature is that the base of the mountain has been spread on both the countries. Even the contour line that denotes 8,560m runs on both sides. But the summit of Kanchenjunga Main (8,586m) is located on the Nepalese frontier of Taplejung district (Survey Department of Nepal, 1997). With this geographical fact, people of the world recognize that Kanchenjunga belongs to Nepal.

EXPLORATION HISTORY

The first European to undertake serious exploration of Kanchenjunga was the famous British Botanist and Explorer Sir Joseph D. Hooker. He trekked the area in 1848-49. Before that, Kanchenjunga was unknown and unexplored. In 1848, Hooker traversed the Tamor valley, Wolangchung Gola and Yangma passes, which led from

NAME OF THE PEAKS	HEIGHT (IN METER)	LONGITUDE (° ' " E)	LATITUDE (° ' " N)
Kanchanjunga West	8,077	88 07 27	27 42 20
Kanchanjunga North	8,505	88 08 25	27 42 15
Kanchanjunga Main	8,586	88 09 10	27 42 09
Kanchanjunga Mid	8,473	88 09 17	27 41 45
Kanchanjunga South	8,476	88 09 25	27 41 31

north-eastern Nepal into Tibet. He then passed through Kanbachen to Darjeeling via Yalung valley and Singalila ridge. In 1849, he ascended the Tista valley to Lachen, Tumbachen, Lachung valley and Kanchenjunga area.

In the course of the exploration of Kanchenjunga, Lieutenant Carter made a reconnaissance survey, in 1861, between Darjeeling and Tumlong. In 1878, the survey of Sikkim and periphery was made by Captain H.J. Harman of the Survey of India. He tried to reach the foot of Kanchenjunga but he was forced to return back due to his health condition. Then Colonel H.C.V. Tanner undertook the continuance of the survey. He offered survey training to three Indians. They are known as ' Pundits'. They are Sarat Chandra Das, Urgen Gyatso and Rinzin Namgyal (Rajeswar Thapa et. al., 1998).

The Triangulation Survey work of Kanchenjunga area was undertaken by Tanner and his assistant Robert, whilst the three Pundits added topographical details of the area.

In 1879, S.C. Das crossed the Kang La (4,990m) from Sikkim into Nepal and passed up the valley of Kangbachen (6,160 m) and onward. In 1883, Lama Urgen Gyatso travelled to Tista and Lachung valleys and made valuable route sketches of Kanchenjunga area. The same year Robert and his assistant Rinzin Namgyal completed the survey of more accessible parts of Kanchenjunga and Sikkim area. Rinzin explored several side-valleys in Sikkim and crossed the Kang La into Nepal, where he sketched the Yalung glacier and followed S. C. Das footsteps to the Jongpong La. He was the first Surveyor to map the circuit of Kanchenjunga (Survey of India, 1990).

Exploration of Kanchenjunga from Sikkim side continued with both British and Pundit explorers. They prepared maps and took photographs in 1899. The same year Douglas Freshfield carried out valuable exploration. He made a circuit of Kanchenjunga and produced what is still one of the most authoritative maps of the region. Freshfield was the first mountaineer ever to examine the great western face of Kanchenjunga rising from the Yalung glacier (Rajeswar Thapa et. al., 1999).

One of the major contributors to knowledge about Kanchenjunga region was Dr. A. M. Kellas. He was the mountaineering pioneer in the Kanchenjunga area. It is to be mentioned that he ascended immediate neighborhood of Kanchenjunga up to 7,000m in 1911.

After this, a German expedition team attacked the peak of Kanchenjunga. Dr. Paul Bauer attempted to conquer the peak between 1929 to 1931. But they were not successful. Nevertheless, several expedition teams attempted to summit Kanchenjunga Main between 1931 and 1954. But, they were unable to overcome Kanchenjunga; however, they climbed only peripheral peaks.

FACTS ABOUT
MT. KANCHENJUNGA (8586 m)

- Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world and the second highest in Nepal. It is in Taplejung district of Eastern Nepal.
- Its first attempt was headed by Aleister Crowley in 1905 and the team had to return back from around 21,300 feet as 4 members were killed in an avalanche.
- Kanchenjunga was first successfully submitted by Geaorge Band and Joe Brown of the British Expedition on 25 May 1955.
- Mt. Kanchenjunga has 5 peaks over 8,000 mts. Namely Kanchenjunga (8586 m), Yalung Kang (8505 m), Kanchenjunga South (8476 m), Kanchenjunga Central (8473 m), and Kanchenjunga West (8077 m).
- Peter David Boardman (UK) was first person to summit Kangchenjunga without using oxygen on 16 may 1979.
- French citizen Pierre Beghin made the first solo ascent on 17 October 1983.
- Ginette Lesley Harrison (UK) was the first and only woman to summit Kangchenjunga until now (1905). She had sumitted Kanchenjunga on 18 May 1998 and later she died in an avalanche while attempting Mt. Dhaulagiri in 1999.
- The highest number of mountaineers (40) reached the summit of Kanchenjunga in the year 1989
- Ang Phurba Sherpa of Khumjung was the first Nepalese to ascent Mt. Kanchenjunga on May 14, 1980.

FIRST SUCCESSFUL ASCENT

There was always a lure among mountaineers and expeditioners to summit the virgin Kanchenjunga. Ultimately, a British team led by Dr. Charles Evan approached the peak via Yalung glacier. Two groups were successful to climb on the peak stopping just short of the summit for a few minutes to confirm to a moral agreement with the religious belief to honour the traditional and sentimental value of the Nepalese and Sikkimese, not to violate the summit instantly. The first mountaineers to summit the virgin peak of Mount Kanchenjunga (Main) were George Band and Joe Brown on 25 May 1955. The next day, Tony Streather and Norman Hardie climbed on the top as the second group of the same team. The route they followed was south-west face of the mountain. Till date, 195 mountaineers have obtained victory over the summit of the glorious Kanchenjunga. The last successful expeditioner is a team of ten mountaineers including Ashok Kumar Chauhan and Pemba Rinzi, who reached the summit on 10 October 2004.

CONCLUSION

Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world and second highest peak in Nepal, has its glorious views due to its magnificent scenic beauty. It has an extraordinary variation of scenery and ecology within a small area and short distance. At the same time, Kanchenjunga range is regarded as 'Five Treasures of the Snow.' It is the easternmost peak of Nepal above 8,000m.

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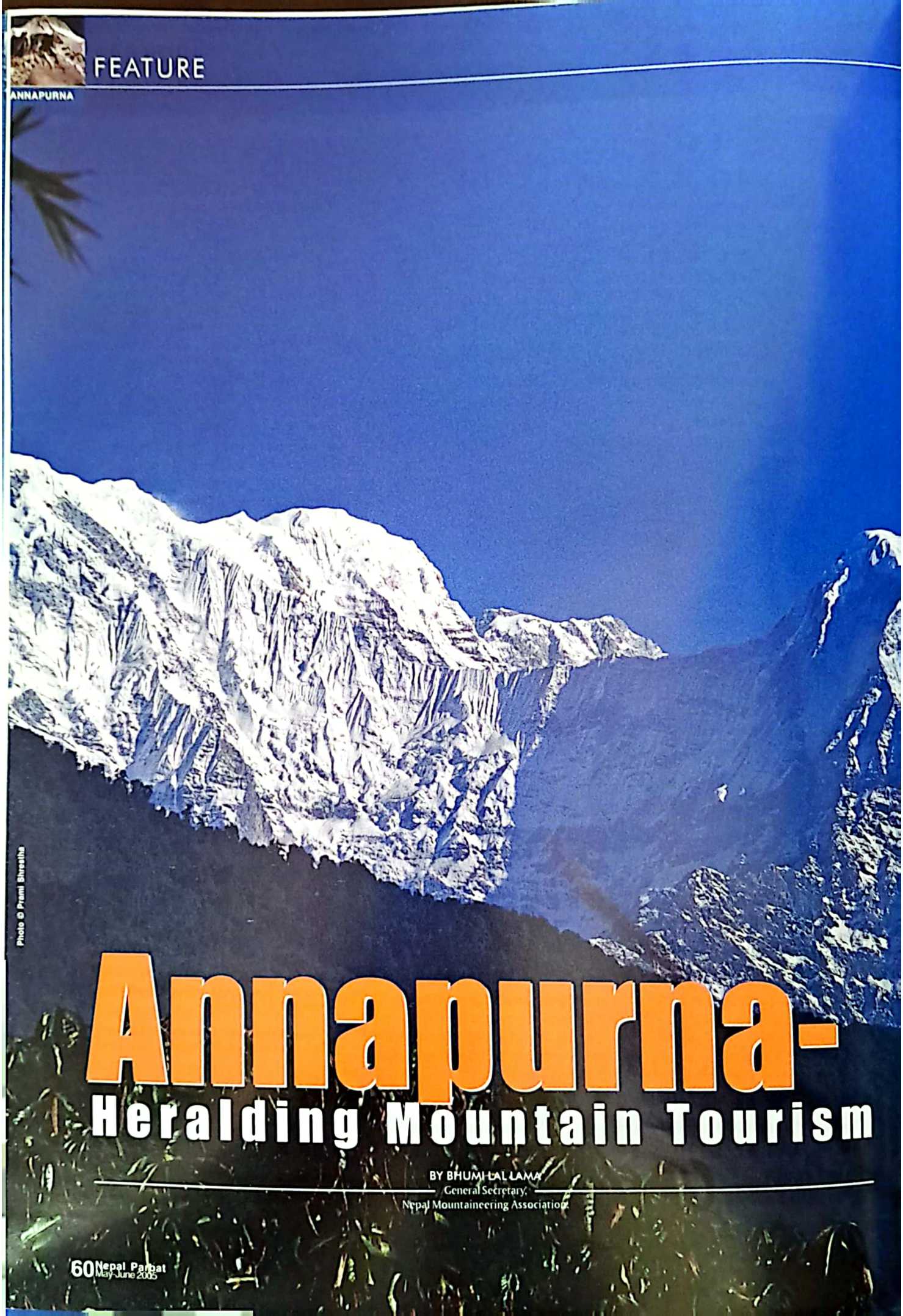
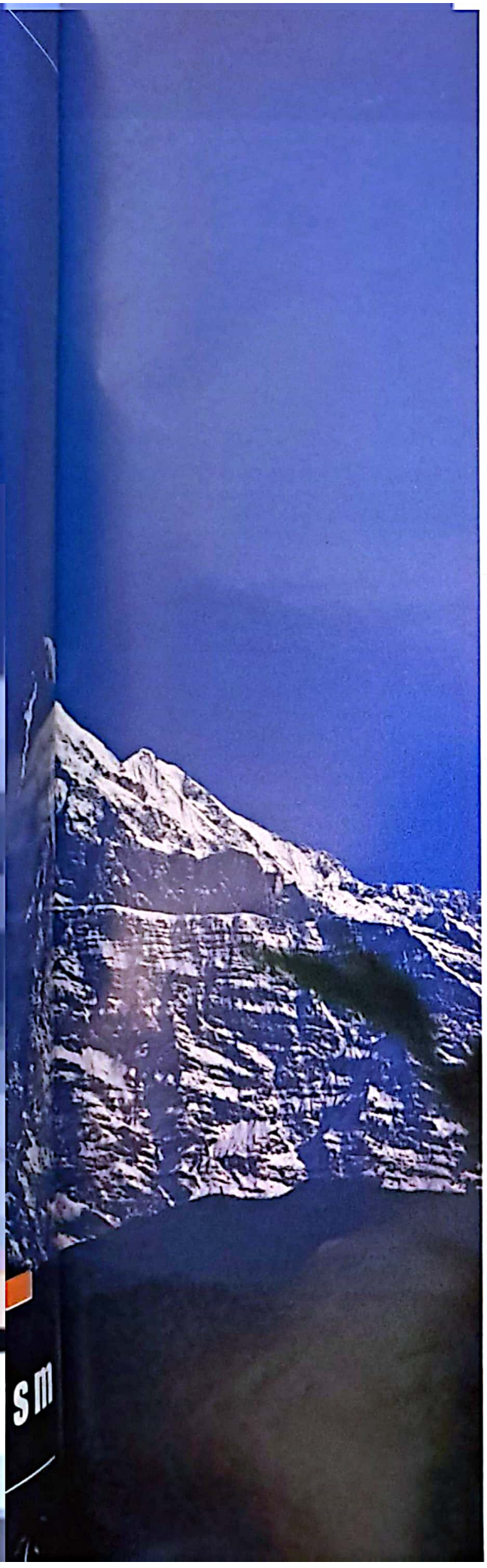


Photo © Prami Shrestha

Annapurna- Heralding Mountain Tourism

BY BHUMI LAL LAMA
General Secretary,
Nepal Mountaineering Association



THE successful summit made by French duo, Mr. Maurice Herzog and Mr. Louis Lachenal on June 3, 1950 was the first record ever made by human being on a above eight thousand meter high Himalayan Peak. This was a historic ascent, and, therefore, a matter of pride not only for the French but also for everyone around the world. After their successful story in the annals of mountaineering history, many daring and thrilling ascents on other eight thousanders were made within the span of a decade taking into account the last ascent of Dhaulagiri on May13, 1960.

Those historic ascents opened the door of mountaineering and climbing on the high Himalayas. Since 1950, Nepal became the hub of adventure as regards climbing the Himalayan peaks irrespective of their heights and technical difficulties.

It was only after 1950 that Nepal had opened its door to tourists. The same year Annapurna I was summited by French nationals. All the over eight thousanders in Nepal were climbed beginning June 3 in 1950 on Annapurna I and the last being on May 13th,1960 on Dhaulagiri. The successful ascents brought huge publicity for Nepal as one of the best adventure tourism destinations which still holds true at present and will continue in the future as well.



GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE

All the Expedition Permits were issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To enhance expedition activities within the country and to provide logistic support the "Himalayan Society" was established during 1955/56 under the Chairperson Mr. Tshering Tenzing Lama who was assisted by Mr. Nazarman Singh Pradhan, Mr. D.B. Bista and others. It was the Himalayan Society which stopped the practice of issuing **identity cards** to the Nepalese from **HMI** to climb the Nepal Himalayas. The Himalayan Society did also serve the nation for quite a long time in the interest of the Nepalese mountaineers, help regularize the wages and creating job opportunities for the mountain people. Then came the Department of Tourism in 1959 and the Ministry of Tourism in the year 1977 to shoulder the responsibility of policy making, monitoring, regularizing the licenses and permit, evaluating the performance of the industry and thereby help promote Nepal as the most sought after tourism destination in the world.

BEGINNING OF TREKKING

During the fifties, the caravan routes up to base camp were made for all the over 8000m peaks. The same caravan routes are still in use today and are known as the trekking routes. The expedition teams were followed by support teams of friends and relatives to encourage and wish them success for their ascents. During early sixties, the British Army team was the first foreign group to trek in the remote villages of the Gorkha soldiers. To organize this type of visit for the British Army personnel and other interested foreigners, Col. James Robert pioneered the first trekking company by registering "Mountain Travel" on 15th June, 1965. At present, the number of trekking companies exceeds 480 out of which 444 are Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) associate members.

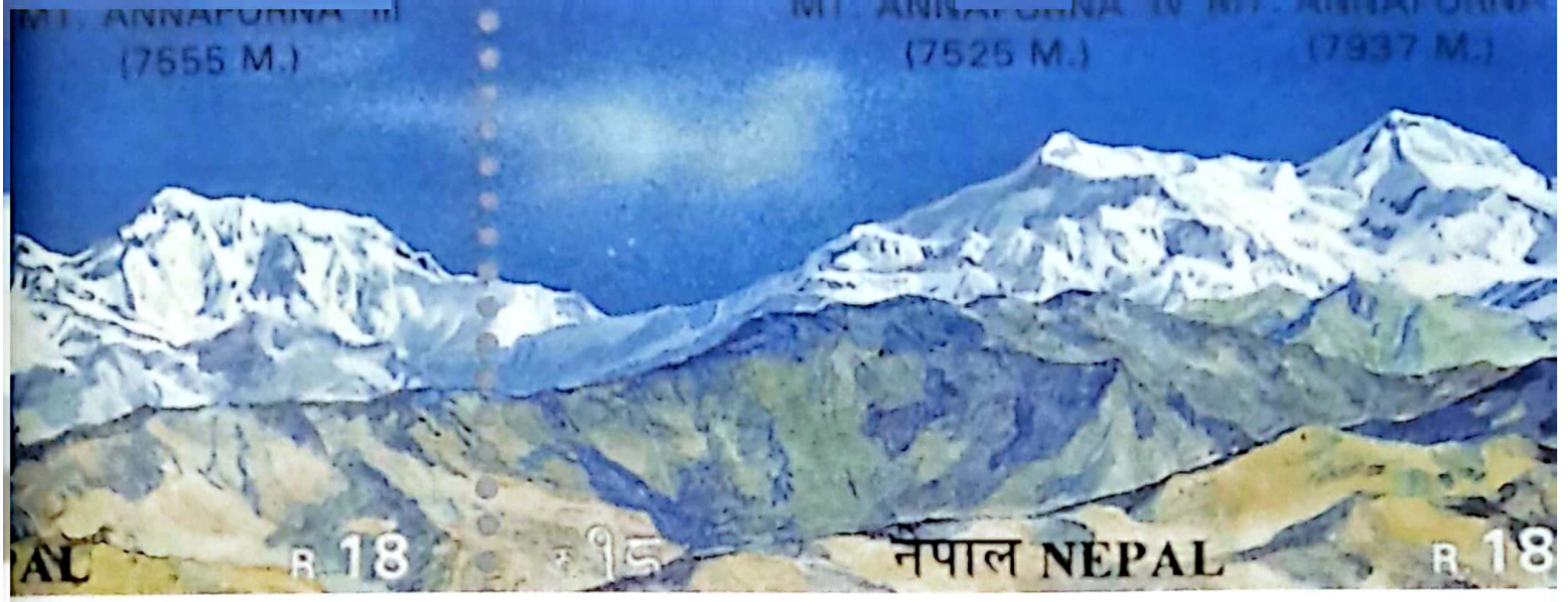
The establishment of more trekking companies led to the exploration of newer routes and areas suitable for and in the interest of the trekkers. This trend of exploration and the charm of being the first still drives many companies to unexplored areas.

NMA: RESPONSIBLE ALPINE CLUB

NMA was formed as an Alpine association, club, federation, identical as in other countries. To make itself self sustainable and carry out its activities for attaining its goals and objectives it needed some perennial resource to generate revenue.

By the year 1973, trekking was gaining popularity gradually and trekking business was becoming vibrant. Trekkers used to climb the small mountains which came across their way as they were free of charge and was a bonus to their trips. So the need was felt to bring those popular trekking peaks under NMA and levy





nominal fees to the climbers and thus generate funds for NMA. This idea materialised after vigorous dialogue and homework in 5.10. 2034 B.S. (i.e. 1977). His Majesty's Government (HMG/Nepal) authorised NMA to issue climbing permits to 18 more smaller peaks in its inventory on 31.5. 2059 B.S. i.e. Sept. 14, 2002. Now, NMA has a total of 33 peaks under its jurisdiction.

It has been identified that there are 1310 peaks in the Nepal Himalayan range out of which 326 peaks have been opened for climbing till date. Out of the 326 peaks opened for climbing, there are 33 NMA peaks popularly known as trekking peaks.

The philosophy of Trekking Peaks in Nepal was driven by the motive to encourage and attract amateur climbers to climb higher mountains after having successfully climbed these peaks of lower altitude. The number of trekking peak climbers is increasing steadily. This is because it is easier for the trekking companies to convince their clients to climb these peaks because it is cheaper and safer compared to the other bigger mountains. There is also no hassle whatsoever in getting the climbing permit and one does not need to bear the cost and burden of liaison officer which are applicable in the mountains under the jurisdiction of HMG/N. It is widely accepted that trekking peaks have also become a proven tool for promoting higher mountains. Therefore, it seems that there is a co-relationship between Nepalese mountaineering and the Trekking Peaks.

Nepal Mountaineering Association when established had a lofty goal to establish a Mountain Museum. After the successful ascent of Mt. Annapurna, door of mountain tourism was opened to all, thus, Nepal became the focal point for the mountaineering and climbing, setting various kinds of records and different types of research on high mountains were carried out and the process is still on even today. Therefore, a need of museum was felt urgently to document, record chronicles of the development of mountaineering, preserve them, exhibit and explain them and develop it as a study centre. To show the Nepalese sentiments that how grateful we feel about Mt. Annapurna and its maiden climbers, to help balanced development of different regions, to help Pokhara in its stride to become the most popular tourism destination as a gateway city to the mountains with a new man made tourism product, NMA has built an International Mountain Museum in Pokhara which is under operation since fifth February, 2004. IMM is a symbolic tribute to the mountains, the climbers, nature lovers, mountain people around the world and a deep sense of respect to all the mountain activities carried out in and around the mountains of the world.

MOUNTAIN TOURISM

In the light of above facts, the combination of expedition, climbing and trekking makes Mountain Tourism which is vital for the development of the mountain region, an instrument for poverty alleviation, balancing regional development and infrastructural support through the development of such tourism.

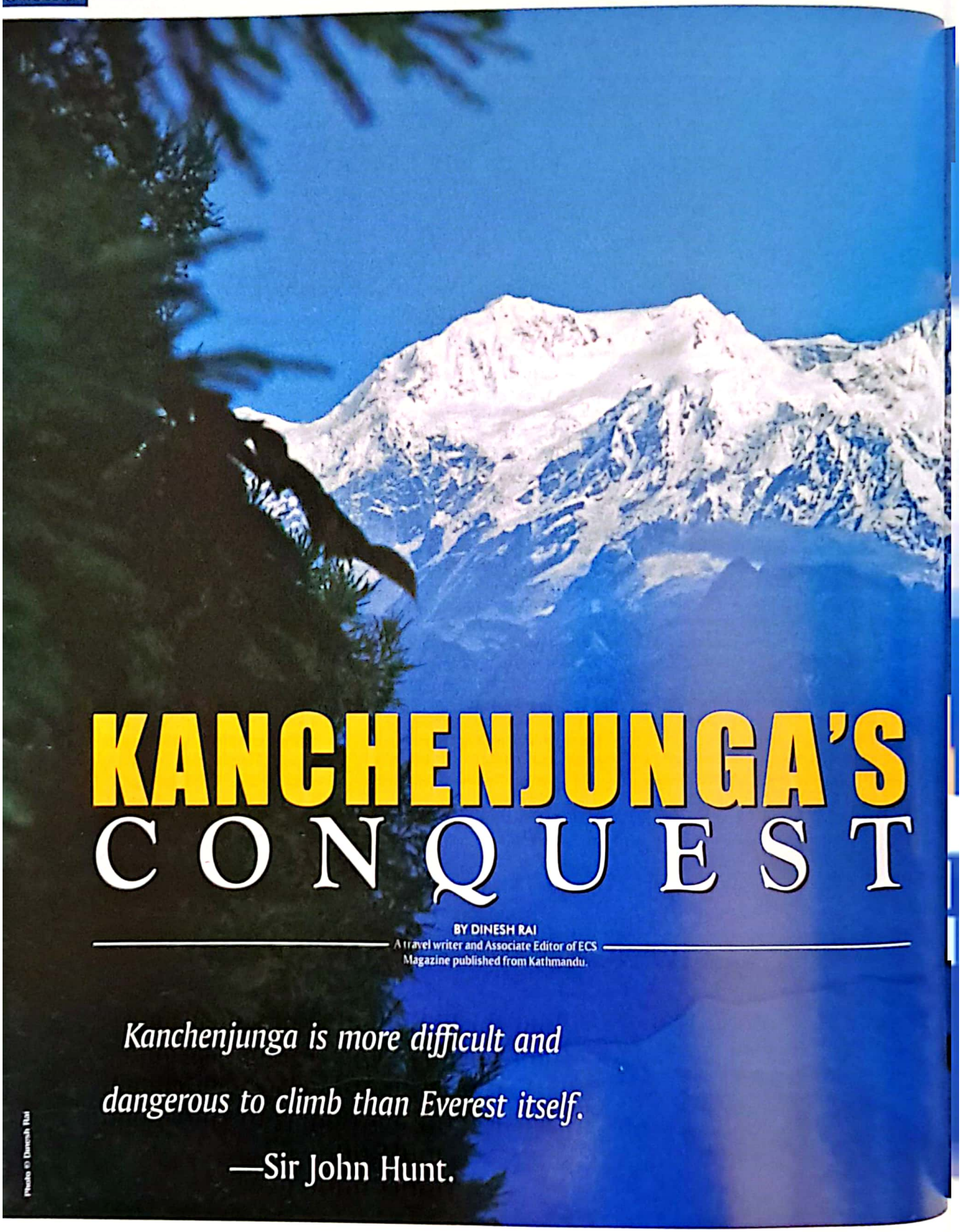
The publicity brought by mountaineering activities has played a major role for the development of the present Nepalese Tourism Industry. Mountaineering has helped the whole tourism industry help gain the present status.

Whether one sees the Himalayas from the window of Everest View Hotel or a hotel in Nagarkot or Fulbari Resort or Daman Resort or one takes the mountain flight, what matters is that the tourists have come to Nepal to feel the majestic mountains and treasure the memories forever. Therefore, I have been repeatedly saying that **"Mountain Tourism is the Mother of Nepalese Tourism Industry".**

BEGINNING OF MOUNTAIN TOURISM

Annapurna set the trend of following the expedition route upto the Base Camp, the trend which is still followed to reach the Base Camp of Everest, Manaslu, Makalu, Kanchenjungha, Lhotse and Dhaulagiri and other mountains. They are still popular among the adventure lovers.

Annapurna can be viewed by taking the Annapurana Circuit Trek, starting from Benshi Sahar and ending at Jomosom and flying out from there to Pokhara or trekking down through the Gurung and Thakali villages upto Pokhara, a gateway city to mountains. Or one can take a Annapurna Sanctuary trek or trek upto Pune hill. Since its successful first ascent, Annapurna region has welcomed millions of visitors and will continue to do so in the days ahead. Annapurna means abundance of grains and that it never ceases to feed, has truly stood for its name. Annapurna, the Goddess, never ceases to feed the mankind by its beauty and splendor which cannot be described in words.



KANCHENJUNGA'S CONQUEST

BY DINESH RAI
A travel writer and Associate Editor of ECS Magazine published from Kathmandu.

Kanchenjunga is more difficult and dangerous to climb than Everest itself.

—Sir John Hunt.

Photo © Dinesh Rai



LONG before the discovery of Mt. Everest, Kanchenjunga (8586m), designated Peak IX, was believed to be the highest mountain in the world. But, after careful observation it dawned on the surveyors that the rather obscure looking black mountain in the distance was higher. After further investigation, it was concluded that Peak IX was only the third highest after Mt. Everest and K2.

Kanchenjunga is also one of the most beautiful snow covered rock faces in the world. The author of "Man of Everest", James Ramsey Ullman wrote, "Kanchenjunga is the showpiece of the Himalayas." When it slowly emerges out of its perennial covering of clouds, it is truly breathtaking. The best view as the British discovered in the early 1800s is from the little hill station called Darjeeling in India. Besides being beautiful it is also one of the most difficult and hazardous to climb".

80 miles east of Everest, 250 miles north of Calcutta, it lies at lattitude 27 deg.42' 09" and longitude 88 deg.09 25" in the Mechi zone at the eastern edge of Nepal. It serves as the boundary wall between Nepal and the state of Sikkim in India. Kanchenjunga



Photo © Premi Shrestha

in Sikkimese means "Five Treasures of the Great Snows" and the five treasures are the five peaks Kanchenjunga (main) (8586m), Yalung Kang, Kanchenjunga (west), and Twin Peaks. As a part of the Himalayan chain, this mountain is exceptional. While the other ranges lie east to west, this massif lies north to south and the Kanchenjunga glacier drains into the river Tamur, which is a tributary of the Kosi.

The first European to explore the surroundings was Joseph Hooker in 1848 and 1849, who described his findings in the "Himalayan Journal". But the first mountaineer to study the possibilities of climbing the mountain was Douglas Freshfield, who in 1899, made a circuit of it in seven weeks. He was awed by the great mountain and declared, "It is guarded by the Demon of Inaccessibility."

Though climbing the Kanchenjunga was suggested as early as 1882, no attempt was made until 1905. Alaister Crowley took up the challenge and went up the Yalung glacier, but the mountain showed its ugly nature. Lieutenant Pache and three porters perished in an avalanche. Avalanches seemed to be a common feature on this mountain. For the next fifteen years nobody dared to challenge the giant. Then in 1920, H. Raeburn and C.G. Crawford made an attempt but were too lightly equipped to achieve anything. In those early days, there were also some daring climbers determined to go it alone if necessary. While his porters turned back, Francis Farmer, an American from New Rochelle, New York, in May 1929, went up the Yalung glacier, south west face and was never seen again. The next assault was made in 1929 by a Bavarian Expedition under the leadership of Paul Bauer of Munich. He reached the altitude of 25,263 ft. Following on his foot steps, came Gunther Dyhrenfurth, a German geologist- mountaineer who set off from Darjeeling in 1930. It was a mixed team of Europeans including Frank Smythe, who was later to earn fame on the Everest. They were lucky to receive permission to enter Nepal and attempted to climb the north-east face. A massive avalanche claimed the life of a Sherpa, after which they unsuccessfully tried from the west ridge.

Bauer made a second attempt in mid July 1931. One of the climbers with Bauer was Peter Aufschnaiter who plays a major part in the book "Seven Years in Tibet ". Climbing above the Zemu glacier, they established camp X at 23,000 ft. after two months. Hans Hartman and Dr. Karl Wien reached 26,220 ft. before turning back. This time there were two casualties; Hermann Schaller and a porter died on the mountain.

The 1940s saw little climbing as a result of the Second Great War. Much later in 1951, Gilmour Lewis and George Frey headed towards the Yalung glacier. Until then, climbers were still searching for an easier route to the summit. Two years later Lewis returned with John Kempe. The Yalung looked promising and the Kempe- Lewis team came back once again in April 1954 with Trevor Braham, Ron Jackson, John Tucker and Dr. Stafford Matthews. By then Sir John Hunt's team had conquered Everest and having visited the Kanchenjunga in 1937, he turned his attention to the five peaks once again. With Sir John's recommendations, the next expedition was launched by the Alpine Club and sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society.

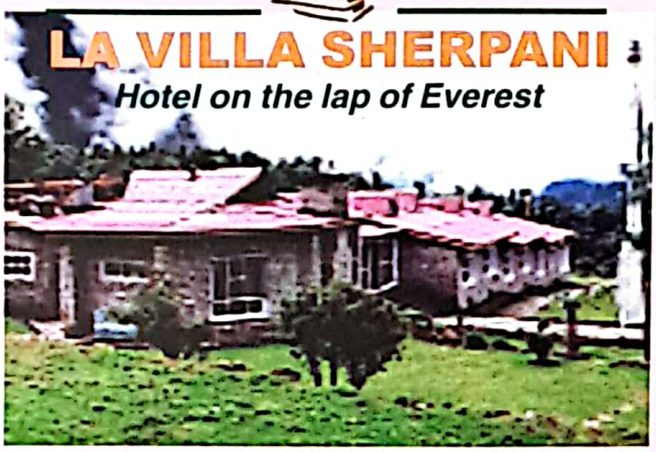
Finally, fifty years after the first attempt, two Britons George Band and Joe Brown led by Charles Evans (member of successful Everest expedition of 1953) finally reached the summit (less 5 vertical feet) of the main peak in 1955. They stopped short of stepping on the summit, which was within easy reach. The telegram sent to the Times read, "Summit of Kanchenjunga less five vertical feet reached on May 25. All well." The members of this British Expedition had agreed to respect the religious sentiments of the local Sikkimese to whom the mountain is sacred and had refrained from stepping on the very top. The next day on May 26, Norman Hardie and Tony Streather also reached the summit less five vertical feet.

Since then many have climbed the third highest mountain in the world, but each year only a handful of expeditions make the attempt while there are several teams climbing the Everest on a single day.

We wish the

Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebrations and 55th Celebration of Mt. Annapurna

Grand Success



P.O.Box 12670, Chabahil, Kutubahal, Ward No. 7, Kathmandu
Tel: 977-1-4487700, Fax: 977-1-4483661

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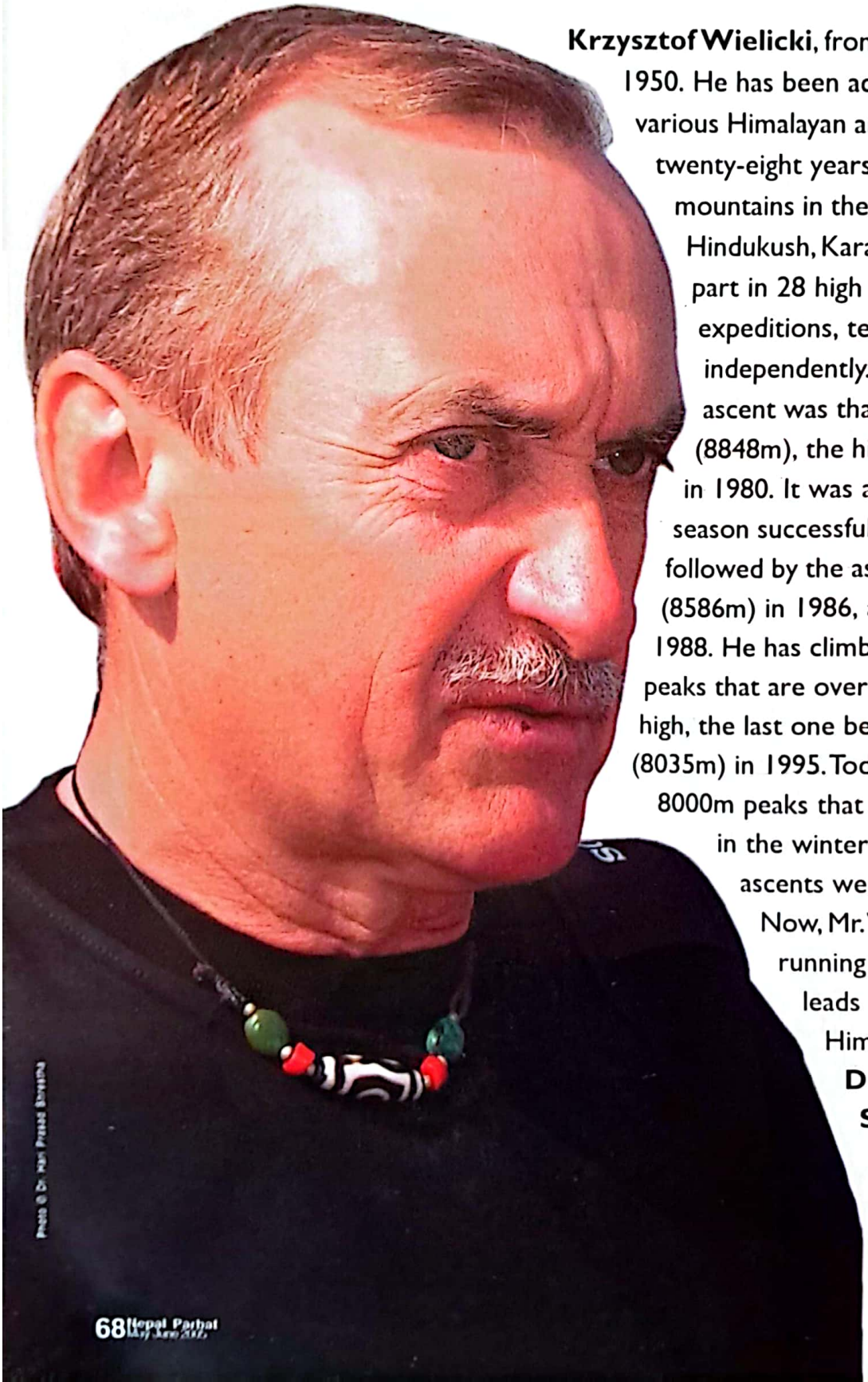
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'Access To Mountains Easier Now'



Krzysztof Wielicki, from Poland, was born in 1950. He has been active in climbing the various Himalayan and other peaks. He has twenty-eight years of climbing the highest mountains in the world (Himalayas, Pamir, Hindukush, Karakoram). He has taken part in 28 high mountain advanced expeditions, ten of them he led independently. His first successful ascent was that of Mount Everest (8848m), the highest peak in the world, in 1980. It was also the first winter season successful ascent of Everest followed by the ascent of Kanchenjunga (8586m) in 1986, and Lhotse (8511m) in 1988. He has climbed all the fourteen peaks that are over eight thousand metres high, the last one being Gasherbrum II (8035m) in 1995. Today there are seven over-8000m peaks that have been successfully in the winter season and all the first ascents were by Polish climbers. Now, Mr. Wielicki is engaged in running a travel agency and leads climbers to the Himalayas also. In a talk with **Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha** and **Prem N. Kakkar,** he had his experiences to share and offer some suggestions. Excerpts:

Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha

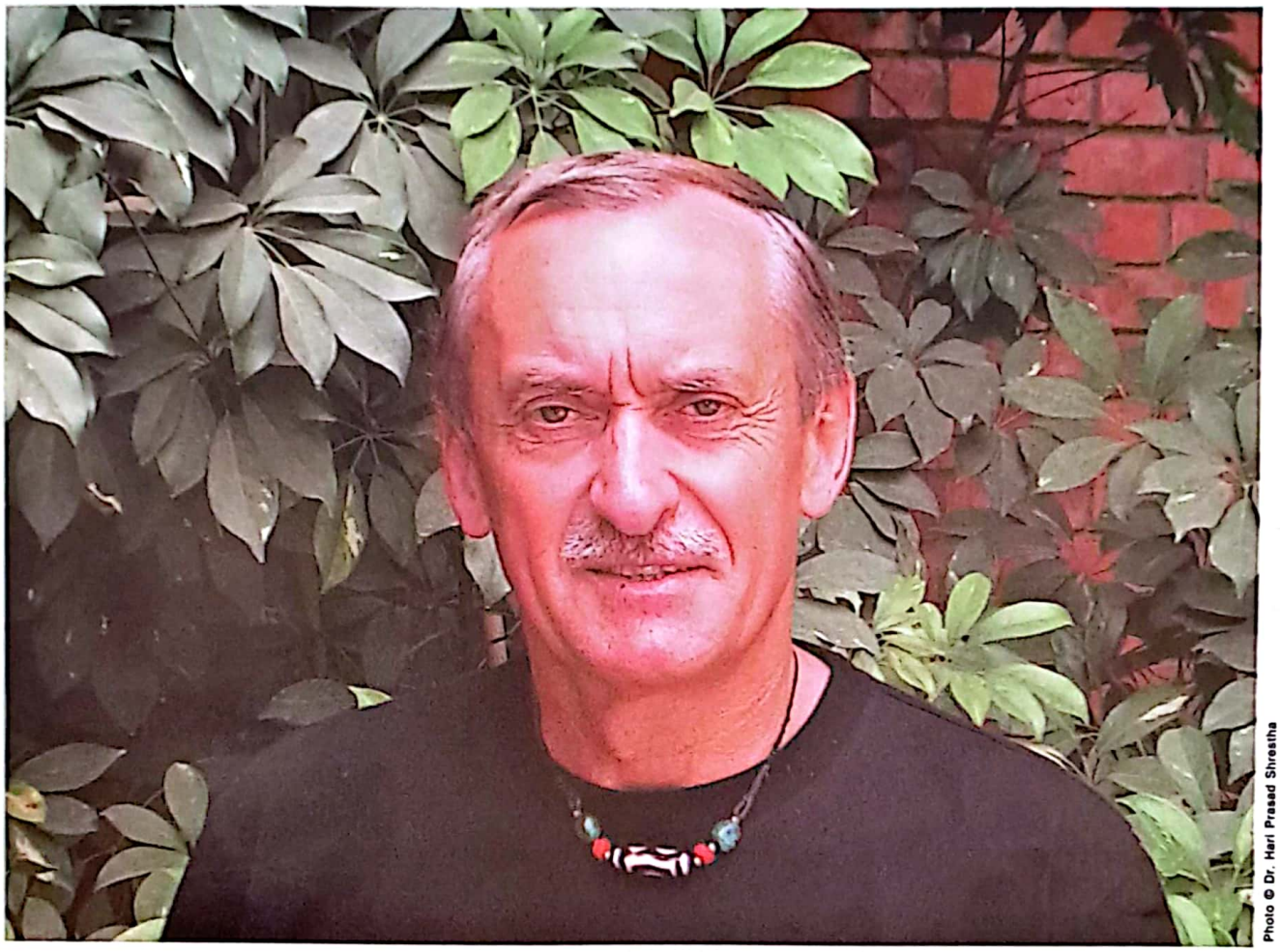


Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha

What had been your inspiration to take up mountaineering?

It was in a very classic way. But there was nothing as a child. It was not by family tradition. It was scouting and walking with tourists in the mountains. When I was 20, I met rock climbers. It was in 1970. Immediately I started the sports without ropes in the beginning. It also made me understand that everyone searches for something in life. And this was it for me.
As for training, I had no formal training. Going to the mountains was itself training. However, I think, training is necessary for a mountaineer.

What was the drive for climbing all the 14 highest peaks in the world?

I didn't think that I would do all the fourteen peaks over 8000m. The idea was not there in the beginning. While climbing I felt the need to keep changing the peaks to be attempted. It came to my mind when I did four peaks in fourteen months in 1995/96. That was the decision to finish the race. And my objective has been winter climbing.

Could you tell us something about your first ascent of an over-8000m peak?

It was very important for me as I had begun with the highest peak Everest. It was the best expedition of my life. There was great team work. The team worked like a machine. It was not important who summited. There was good cooperation from all in the team. There was no competition among the members of the team. We did a very good job because we reached the summit on the last day before our permit expired. We were lucky to do it.

In fact, I didn't know that I would be selected to make the final ascent as there were other older and experienced climbers. Finally, only two climbers including myself could do it.

Which is the most challenging peak among the over- eight thousanders, in your opinion?

Personally, for me, Nanga Parbat (8126m) was the most difficult as I was completely alone. It was a solo ascent and a bit risky. But, as a mountain K2 is the most difficult. It's the same with Dhaulagiri.

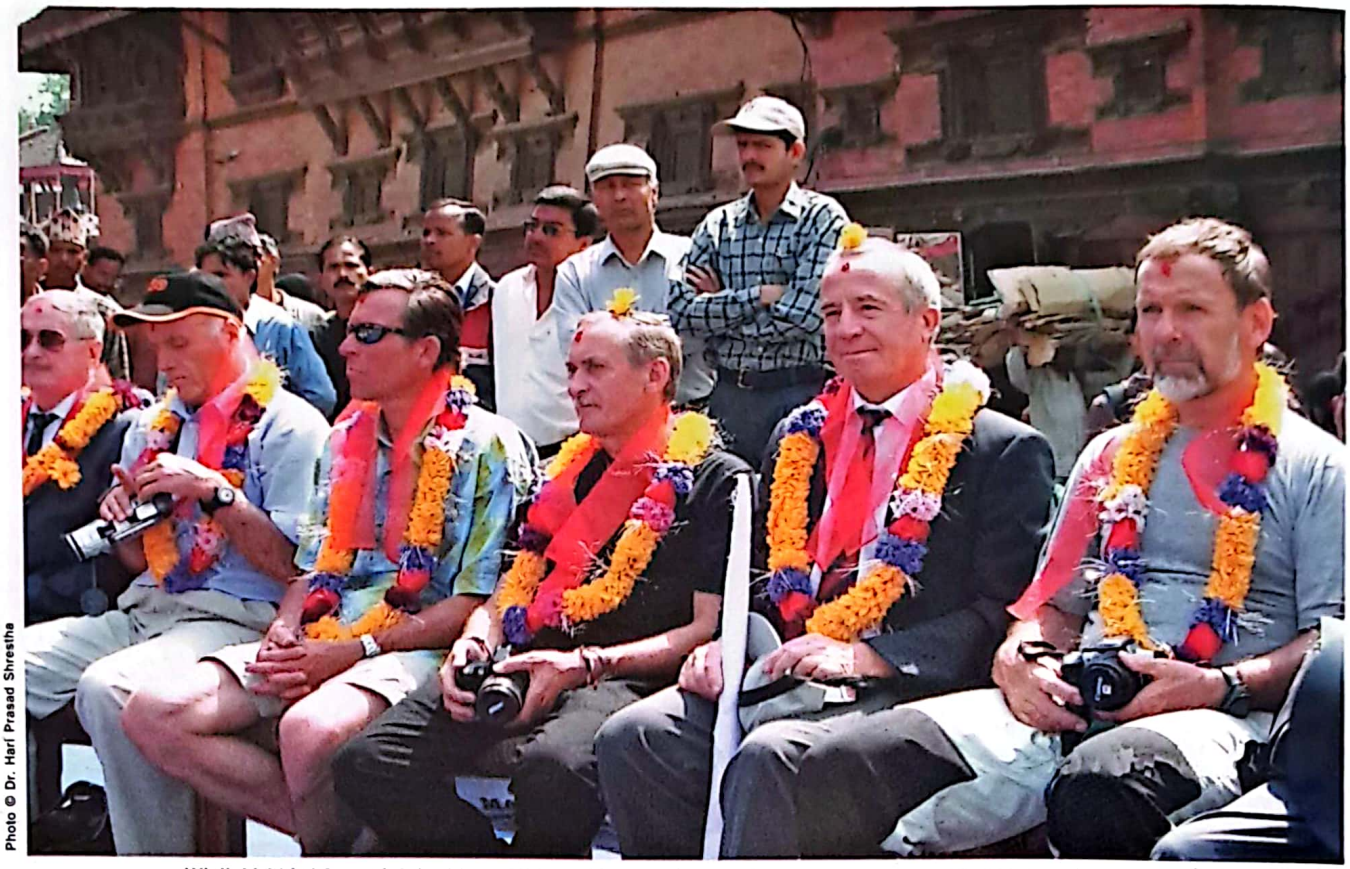


Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha

Wielicki (third from right) with other summiteers at the felicitation programme at Basantpur Area, organised by the municipalities of the Kathmandu Valley on May 15, 2005.

Your happy and sad moments while climbing peaks.

Reaching the top of Everest, on the last day of our permit, surprised me. I felt very lucky and happy to do it.

One of the very sad moments in my life was the loss of my friend Andrew Czok. It was the winter climbing of Kanchenjunga in 1986. He was to follow the next day after we two climbers reached the summit. When we returned from the peak, we found that he had fallen sick. Three days later on January 24, 1986 he died.

The second sad moment was when Kukuczka died when he fell down from Lhotse South Face. I was not with him then. The tragic news had to be conveyed to his wife as by the club people before the media arrived. This was entrusted to me. It was very sad. I just looked on.

Since your first visit to Nepal, what changes have you observed as far as mountaineering is concerned?

Lots of changes have taken place in mountaineering. There are more facilities now. Easier communication facilities. Climbing has become safer because of more information from books, maps of routes, etc. This has made access to the mountains easier.

How can the mountain environment be preserved?

The most important is education for mountain environment preservation. We have to preserve it for future generations. Arrangements must be made for garbage disposal at the Everest Base Camp and other base camps that see lots of mountaineers. Help from the world community is also necessary.

I don't think there is a waste container at the Everest Base Camp or other crowded bases. I think, plastic containers could be put at such places to put the garbage. A helicopter can be used to take the containers to the garbage disposal site. I think the expeditions would be willing to pay say 1000 dollars each for the garbage disposal work.

We can't tell the mountain people, who live in hard conditions, to stop cutting trees because they need timber or building houses and wood as fuel. Some alternative fuel must be promoted.
Most important the mountaineers must follow the rules.

How do you think mountain tourism can be promoted?

Bureaucracy must come down. There is also a necessity for simplifying the mountain tourism related rules and regulations. In my opinion, the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation must take money for preserving the environment instead of taking it under the heading of permits for climbing the mountains. A change of philosophy is necessary to further promote mountain tourism in Nepal.

How do you view the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Makalu and Kanchenjunga?

The celebration of Golden Jubilees and anniversaries commemorating the first successful ascent of the over-8000ers is a very good idea to promote the country and mountain tourism. Nepal is a safe country so send more messages for promotion. Most important is media exposure and for this the golden jubilees are important. There should be more thrust on a global scale.

How do you feel Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is doing its job?

NMA is doing a very good job. It must work for opening up more 5000m and 6000m peaks for mountaineers. NMA has a big role in the promotion of mountain tourism in Nepal.

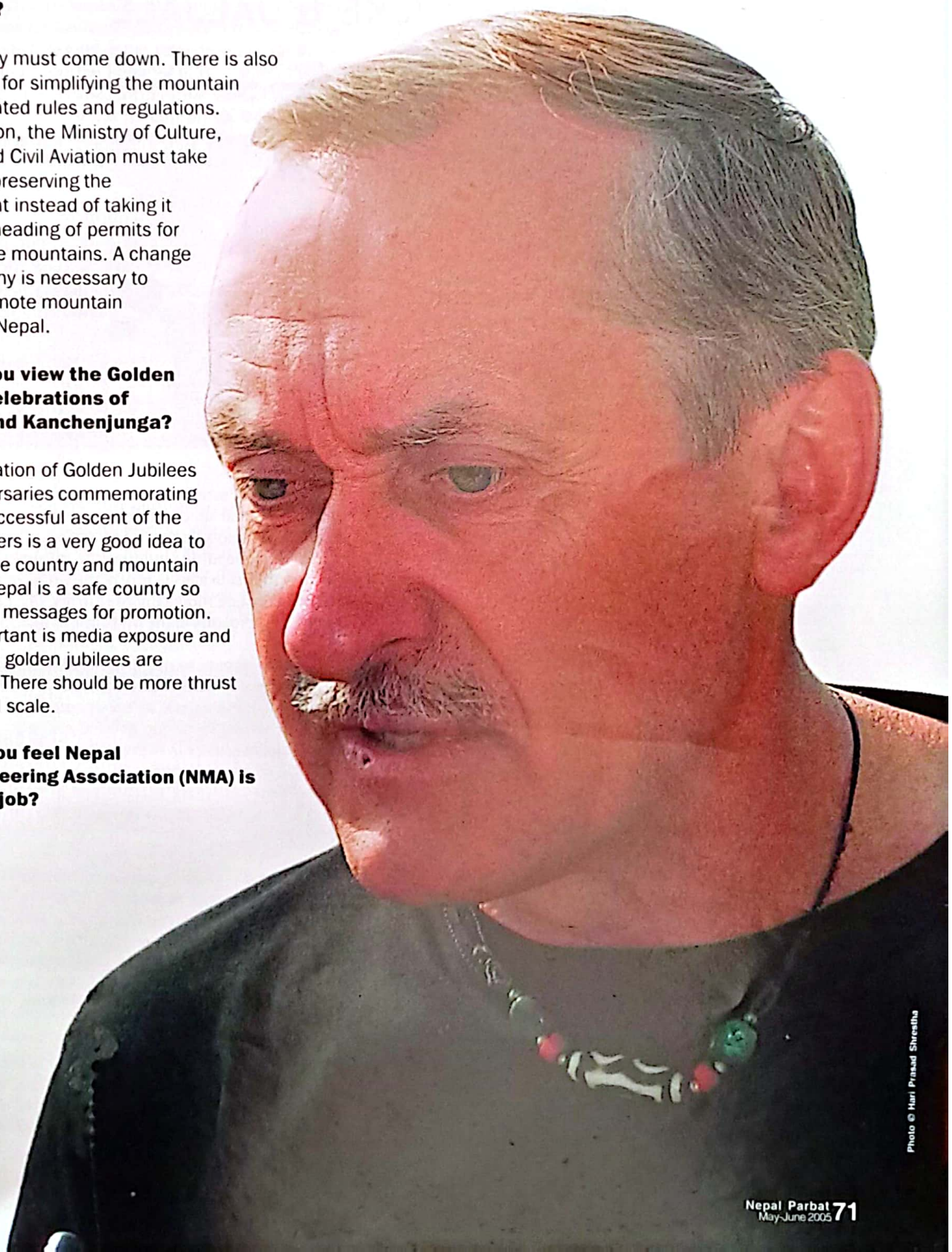


Photo © Hari Prasad Shrestha

East In Bloom

KALEIDOSCOPIC RHODODENDRON FORESTS OF TINJURE MILKE & JALJALE

BY DEEPENDRA JOSHI
Programme Officer, IUCN Nepal Country Office.

CHAUKI - a small village tucked away in a mountainside overlooking Kanchenjunga. A few dozen homes on piles, far away from everything. Every so often, in this wooden village of Chauki, much beyond Basantapur in Terhathum District, at the edge of a rhododendron forest that is dotted with yaks, a dozen elderly villagers gather. They sit cross-legged in a circle, sharing tea on the meadow carpet beneath an ancient pine tree.

Once a week, or sometimes as often as once daily, these senior citizens meet to weigh the most pressing matters of the day. They debate, they advocate, they argue, sometimes for hours on end. But by the end of the day, they have drawn up a list of the tasks they would like to see accomplished: a new campaign needs to be launched - all for the conservation of pristine rhododendron forest that marks the entire landscape.



Photo © Deependra Joshi



Photo © Deependra Joshi

THE ISSUE

This area of the Eastern Himalaya has a wide range of natural environments and unique diversity; a clear refuge of many biodiversity hotspots. In the words of Rene de Milleville (1994), a French rhododendron enthusiast, "It must not be forgotten that if any tourist in any country of the world wants to admire beautiful blooming rhododendron forests, s/he has to come to Nepal, the only country of the world able to fulfil his/her dream."

If Nepal is the place to see the diversity of rhododendrons, then surely the Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale (TMJ) area should be considered the rhododendron capital of the country. TMJ is a globally renowned natural niche for 28 rhododendron species, and probably the only place in Nepal with such diversity. One facet of Nepal's celebrated species diversity is its rhododendron forests. The conservation of these forests has been suggested since 1962 when *Rhododendron arboreum* was adopted as Nepal's national flower.

TMJ area provides a wildlife corridor for both Kanchenjunga and Makalu Barun Conservation Areas, and is home to different ethnic groups (over 50,000 population). During April and May, the rhododendron flowers blossom giving the impression of a large canvas of painting. Tourists visit to view the rhododendron landscape and spectacular view of Mt. Kanchenjunga, Makalu Range and the golden valleys for recreation, research and pilgrimage.

But these forests are fast disappearing in Nepal's mountain areas like *sal* forests in the plains. The major challenges facing conservation in the TMJ area include: increased use of the species for firewood in an area with a relatively high demand for

household energy, extensive and uninterrupted grazing, lack of alternate sources of energy and livelihood opportunities for a growing population, inadequate conservation awareness and also the management interventions to conserve the primeval rhododendron forest. Road construction, if not properly planned and executed, will also directly threaten these species.

ECOTOURISM

The TMJ ridge emerges at Bhedetar (1400 masl) and extends as far as Jaljale and Lumba Sumba Himal in a north-south direction. On it are perched intermittent settlements such as Chauki and Gupha Pokhari before joining the Tibet Autonomous Region. Therefore, it has been the home of multi-cultural Nepalese traditional society and habitat of immense biological diversity, including the largest natural rhododendron forest with the unique rhododendron species diversity probably not reported from anywhere elsewhere. This rhododendron forest has been the centre of attraction for many people since the opening of the country for tourism and botanical research, and offers a great "highway" of north-south travel for many centuries given its relatively easy path on the ridge top.

In TMJ, indigenous people have maintained local traditions and developed livelihood practices through the available natural resources. However, of late, these groups have become particularly vulnerable to the emerging impacts of tourism. In the search for untouched and authentic tourist destinations, many places in Nepal once considered "off the beaten track" have become populated with visitors, accelerating the pace of social and environmental degradation.

CULTURAL IMPACT

It is from this perspective that one can begin to comprehend the cultural impact of national tourism. When tourists arrive at their destination, they bring with them different beliefs and behaviours, which to some extent influence the host culture. At the same time, tourists are changed by their experiences. In short, tourism is an interactive phenomenon, affecting both the hosts and the visitors.

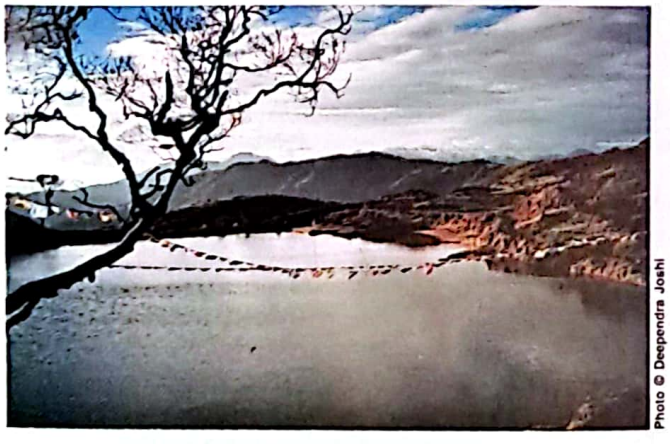


Photo © Deependra Joshi

But this effect is lopsided. The influence of tourists on the societies they visit is generally more pronounced than vice versa. The majority of tourists come from a few affluent countries (dominant cultures), which are relatively unaffected by visitors from smaller local cultures. On the other hand, tourism increases the risk of irreversible cultural and ecosystemic disruptions in smaller societies.

Places to see Rhododendrons

Rhodendrons can be found in the mountains above 2000 m almost all over Nepal and the only way to view these flowers growing in the wild is to walk to them. Trekking may not be the easiest way of going from one place to the other but it is certainly one of the most pleasant, and is something that should be undertaken for the sheer experience to see the beautiful rhododendrons in full bloom.

Milke Danda

The most extensive and beautiful rhododendron forest of Nepal is found on Milke Danda (2600-3000m), a 25 km-long ridge in eastern Nepal. Trekking in April from Dhorpani (2650m) to Gupha Pokhari (2850m), one has to walk for three days along the blooming trail of rhododendron arboreum. During April-end and early May, the mixed forest area around Milke Bhanjyang and the southern slope of Gupha Pokhari comes alive with rhododendrons.

According to Rene de Milleville, Milke Danda is truly a natural world heritage site. If preserved, it could provide Nepal with the only rhododendron national park of the world. Neighbouring countries have searched in vain for a similar place to establish their own rhododendron park but nothing has been done towards protecting this natural rhododendron forest in Milke Danda.

Visiting time: April to the south of Milke Bhanjyang and Gupha Pokhari, May to the north of it. The trek up to Milke Bhanjyang is very easy and involves no hard climbing, but try to stray away from the path. The ridge gains altitude as it extends to the north to reach the Topke Gola area.

Access by road from Dharan.

"Milke Danda is arguably the largest rhododendron forest in the world," Rene de Milleville

Facts about Rhododendron arboreum

Varying stature

Tallest species is R. arboreum (15m). Smallest species is R nivale (10cm to 30cm) which occurs at 4500-5500m. The word "nivale" refers to snow. It is the world's highest altitudinal record for woody plants.

The scarlet form of *Rhododendron arboreum* is the National Flower of Nepal since 1962. Colour gradation in flowers varies from scarlet to pink and also the white. Underface of leaves also varies from silvery white to cinnamon and also to rusty brown. The tree occurs from 1,500 to 3,600 m. all along the Himalaya from Kashmir to South East China and Burma. The plant starts blooming from February at lower elevation and finishes by May at higher altitudes. Best bloom is to be captured during March and April at altitudes between 2,299m-3,000m.

General uses

Aesthetic value in horticulture is well known. *R. arboreum* flowers are eaten raw by locals. Honey from rhododendron forest is intoxicating and can be poisonous.

Rhododendron wood burns easily and is sought for easy fuel wood. The wood is also good for making wooden utensils.

Flowers, fruits and seeds

A typical flower has 10 male organs (stamens) and one female organ (pistil). Rhododendron pollens are drawn into a sticky mass, which adhere easily on bees, butterflies, insects and birds.

At the base of the pistil there is an ovary which develops into a fruit. The fruit opens to shed seeds.

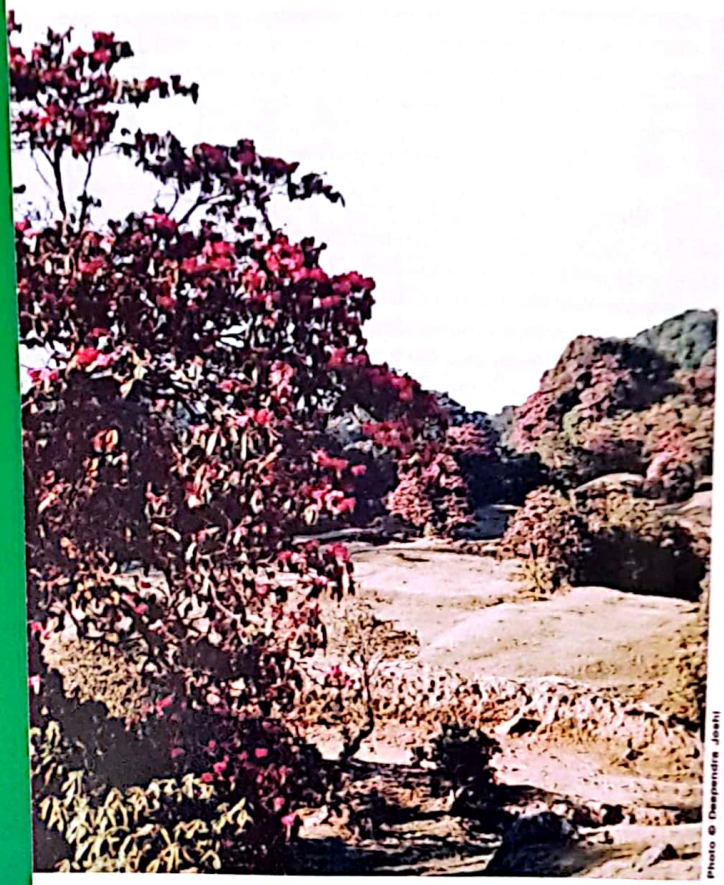


Photo © Deependra Joshi

In general, the more exotic the location, the more in demand as a tourist destination. This is why tourists tend to favour places with pristine environment as well as high biological and cultural diversity, such as TMJ as opposed to the Terai, which are relatively varied environments. The paradox is that tourism, which thrives in high diversity environments, can accelerate the degradation of such environments.

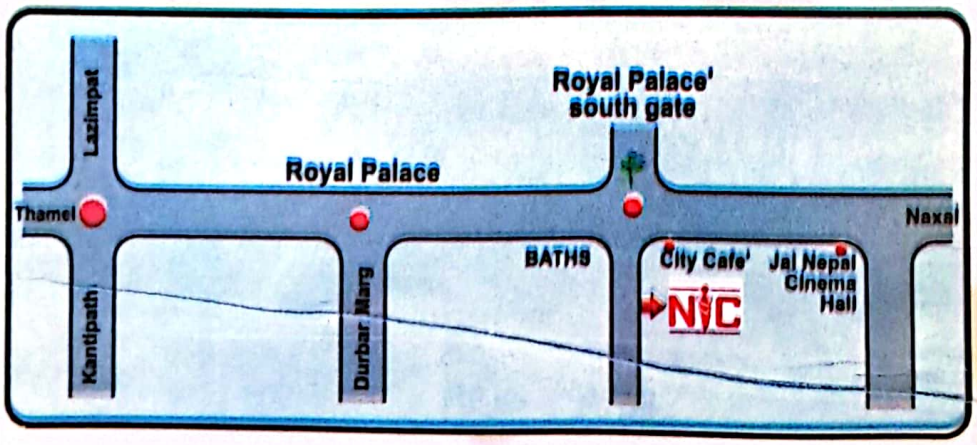
IUCN'S INITIATIVE

Realising the potential of tourism and the need for reducing the growing deforestation of rhododendron species in TMJ, IUCN Nepal has collaborated with local partners in promoting rhododendron conservation with the ultimate aim of establishing a community conservation area for rhododendrons here. IUCN Nepal has played a catalytic role in assisting local institutions in planning and managing natural resources and promoted greater recognition of the value of their natural and cultural environments. Alternative energy promotion, effective management of community forests, green income generation, skill development, institutional strengthening, etc have remained some of the major initiatives being implemented in the area so far.

Lessons emerging so far indicate that communities have gradually started looking at links between the rhododendron conservation and their sustainable livelihoods options. Pro-poor conservation, however, would need the continued support and cooperation from the tourists, tourism promoters and all of us if rhododendron is to be conserved sustainably. ▲

NEPAL INTERNATIONAL CLINIC

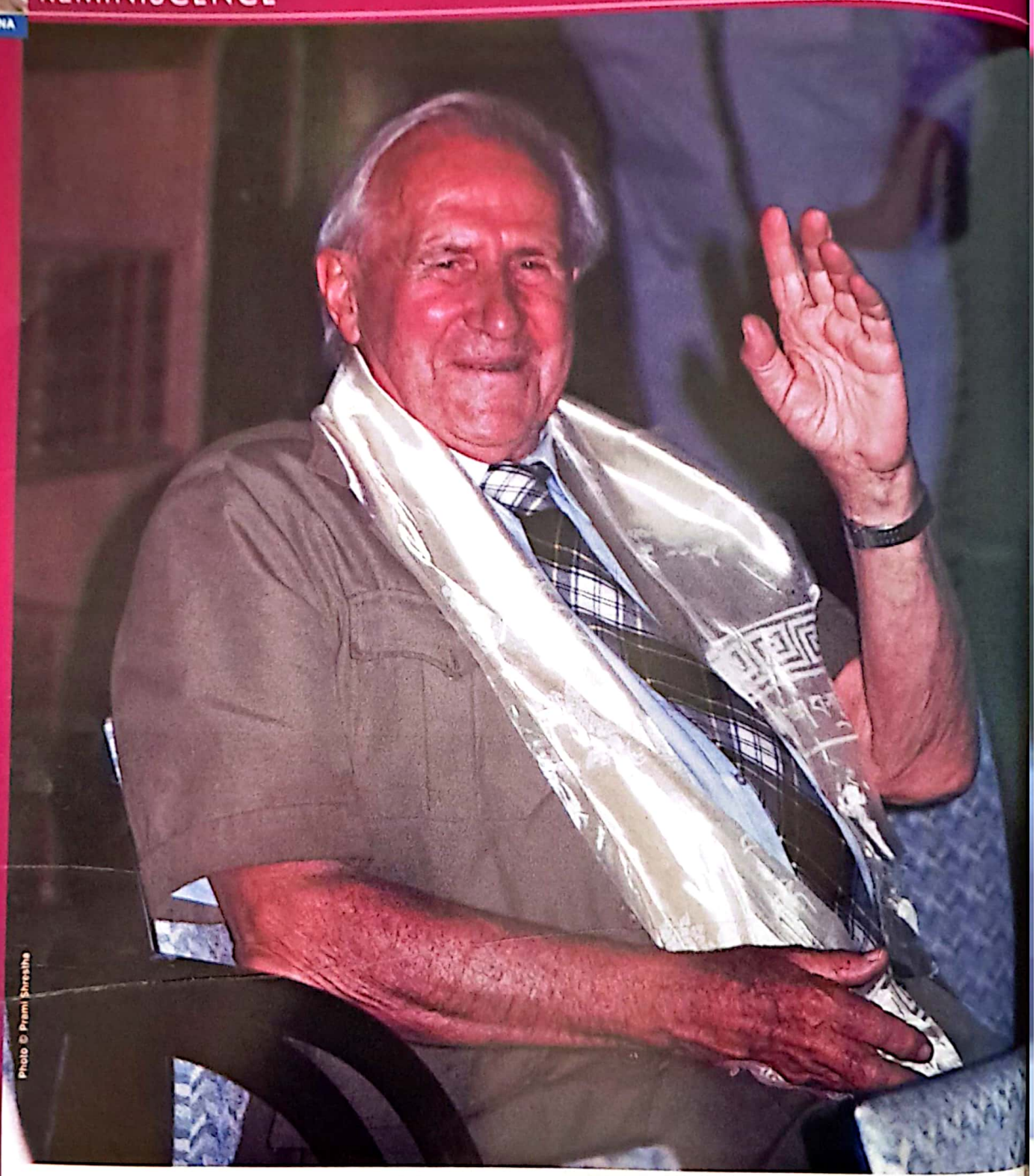
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DR. TONI HAGEN: THE MAN & HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

BY MADHUKAR SHUMSHERE J.B. RANA
Minister for Finance,
His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

DR. Katrin Hagen, daughter of Dr. Toni Hagen, and myself go back a long way. We lived together as children in family home, Ekanta Kuna, a once quiet corner of Jawalakhel, which, since first Dr.Toni Hagen shook hands with my father in 1950, has Swiss residents ever since.

The Hagen family then came in the early fifties to live at Ekanta Kuna when Dr. Toni Hagen returned to Nepal as part of a United Nations Technical assistance programme to carry out a survey of Nepal's mineral resources.

Dr.Toni Hagen, Mrs Gertrud Hagen, their three children and Miss Clara, their nurse. were the first Europeans we ever met, apart from our British school teachers.

The family treated Clara on equal terms and as children we couldn't help noticing the respect and love she was given and how the children looked up to her rather than 'ordering' her around.

That was, perhaps, our first lesson in how things should be and how people should value and respect all work and workers.

Katrin and her sister Monica and her brother Christopher are firmly embedded in the memories of childhood shared by my sisters, Raji and Bimla, and myself. I think it's true to say that on meeting time and again, the years roll back.

I remember the pleasure I felt as a teenager on receiving a signed copy of Dr.Hagen's photograph and narrative collection on Nepal. I was only a young boy when the Hagen family came to live in our house. It caused quite a lot of gossip as it was rather unorthodox in those days to rent one's home to anybody let alone ex patriates. But, my own father was nothing if not unorthodox and, if he liked people, they were family for him. It was this family feeling that gave Ekanta Kuna its special atmosphere in those days. I remember too the genuine grief Dr. Toni Hagen displayed when he returned to Nepal and came to call on 'the General', as he called my father, only to find that he was no more.

So, the man we are talking about today is more than just another human being who dedicated an appreciable period of his working life and his love for humanity to Nepal. Dr.Toni Hagen for scholars, climbers, thinkers and doers in our country, and his own became, a legend in his own right. This splendid international mountain museum, that has been erected with the help and dedication of so many people everywhere is, indeed, a fitting place to host a section in the memory of a true friend of Nepal.

For Dr. Toni Hagen work was worship. At a time when Nepal had little infrastructure and no mountain lodges, he travelled the length and breadth of this country in order to map and record the geology of our particular piece of the Himalayas.

Dr. Hagen and Ayla Sherpa, who invariably accompanied him, must have been a familiar sight to many in the villages of Nepal during the 1950s. In fact, for eight years they covered over 14,000 kilometres on foot and visited every major valley in the Himalayas of Nepal. Out of these travels came ideas that we take for granted today, but which we owe to Dr. Toni Hagen: suspension bridges and cheese making being among them.

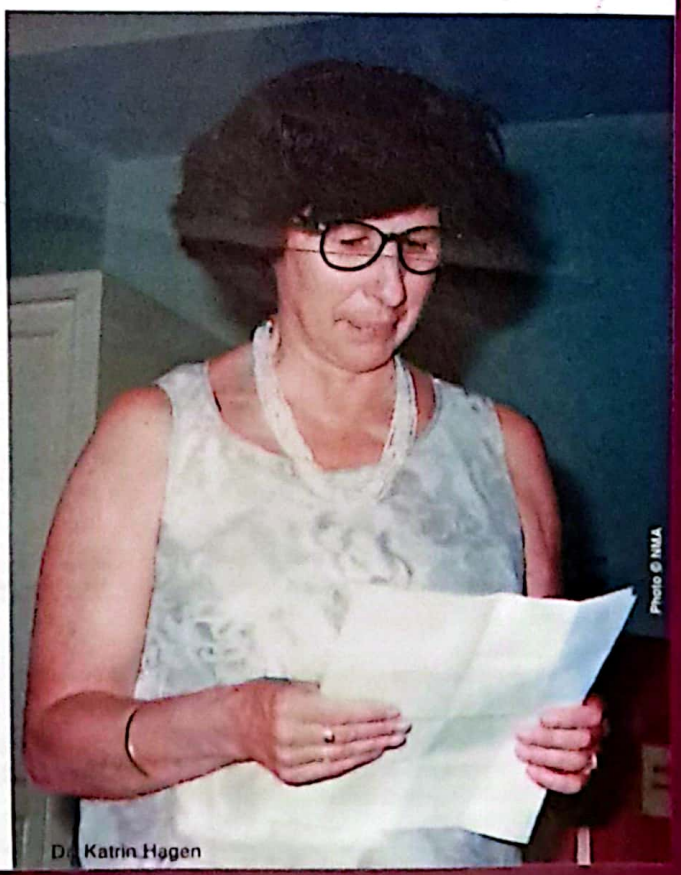
In my memory of Dr. Hagen and his family, he was what you saw, what he appeared to be; a man whose approach was direct. He took people as individuals, each on his/her merit; not within preconceived notions of race, caste or creed; and not even within preconceived notions of rich or poor. He saw richness in everyone and, himself, rewarded friendship with the richness of his friendship in return.

Later during his working life, Dr. Hagen was to break away from orthodox development -isms. He had too many close working relationships with the people at the grass roots level, as is the popular jargon today.

Dr. Toni Hagen saw people as the centre of work to improve and develop societies, and not as mere passive recipients of wisdoms fashioned for them on a drawing board thousands of miles away.

He believed fervently in decentralised planning and grass roots' participation. He had moved and lived for a long time in the mountains of Nepal and knew what people were capable of doing when given the chance. In those days it was very much an alternative formula for development. Perhaps, being a geologist, he saw the tiny cracks and flaws in those preconceived notions of development as clearly as he saw the cracks and flaws in the rocks he observed so studiously.

Later, too, Dr. Toni Hagen was instrumental in helping the Tibetan refugees settle in Jawalakhel and in making it possible for them to continue weaving the beautiful carpets that one sees in so many shopping arcades and markets all over the developed world.



Dr. Katrin Hagen



In turn, the skills were introduced among the host community and it brought viable living standards to people who had none before. His wisdom came from the many, many months during the early years that he spent with the mountain people of Nepal. People who, it cannot be denied, inhabit the harshest terrain on earth and yet have worked hard and built thriving societies in our astoundingly beautiful yet ruggedly obstinate environment.

For his honesty and sincerity, he wasn't always popular with the people who promoted methods of development that Dr.Hagen sometimes found facile and ill thought out. Perhaps he was sometimes like the shepherd David in the Bible story, who took on the Goliath of conventional wisdom.

Today, in retrospect, I think we can truly say that it was Dr.Toni Hagen who was a giant in the cause of the mountains and their people. Here, in Nepal, he has many admirers like myself and friends, and they all have rich memories of the Hagen family.

Today, I think that there can be no better tribute to Dr.Toni Hagen than the fact that he will have a niche in this international mountain museum, the world's largest mountain museum and a museum dedicated to the mountains and people to whom he devoted his working life.

That his dearly beloved daughter, Dr. Katrin Hagen, has undertaken to ensure that his legacy and the memory of the rich knowledge his work contributed are not forgotten is truly admirable. It speaks volumes for the love, respect and magnificent admiration she holds for her late father. She is an inspiration to all.

I recall vividly the pride with which I kept the book in my possession for all to see when I was studying at the Graduate School of International Studies, University of Geneva. It is a book that not only introduced Nepal to the world at large but, more so, to the people of Nepal themselves. He understood its geology like no one else did. Notwithstanding the controversy raised by the Russian geologist challenging the Hagen thesis that Nepal is a "desert for minerals" by describing it the opposite, namely a "museum for minerals".So far his hypothesis has proved to be true. Additionally, he discovered, and made known to the world at large through his masterful photographs the portrait of Nepal's incomparable natural beauty and biological, racial and cultural diversity.

In his portrayal, description and projection of the of the vast diversity that this Himalayan Kingdom comprises of, Dr Toni Hagen, I believe, came face to face with the very soul of Nepal and taught, as a true guru, that we must learn to cherish it, as well as to nourish and protect it, for the future of our Motherland as an independent, sovereign country.

I might add that in paying my humble tribute to Dr Toni Hagen I am equally in communion with the spirit of my own father for two reasons: one, for the fact that they were so friendly with each other; two, for the noble act of Dr Katrin who has chosen to immortalize her father and his love for Nepal and its people.

(Based on the speech given by Honourable Minister for Finance Madhukar Shumshere J.B. Rana on the occasion of the inauguration of the Dr. Toni Hagen Memorial Section in the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara, on April 23, 2005)



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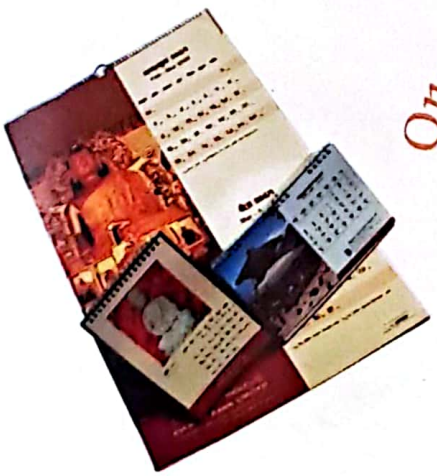
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'Nepal Is My Second Home'

Ed Viesturs is the first American citizen to scale all the fourteen over-eight thousand meter peaks between a period spanning from 1990 to 2001. The first was starting with Mount Everest (8848m), the highest peak in the world, which he has done six times. The successful ascents of Everest, K2, Kanchenjunga and Lhotse provided the stimuli for the conquest of the remaining other eight-thousanders. He feels contented and happy with having completed the ascents of all the fourteen peaks that tower over 8000m. As a veteran mountaineer of distinction, he had something to say about his achievements. In a talk with Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha and Prem N. Kakkar, he shared his experiences and feeling about mountaineering as he had done himself.

Excerpts:

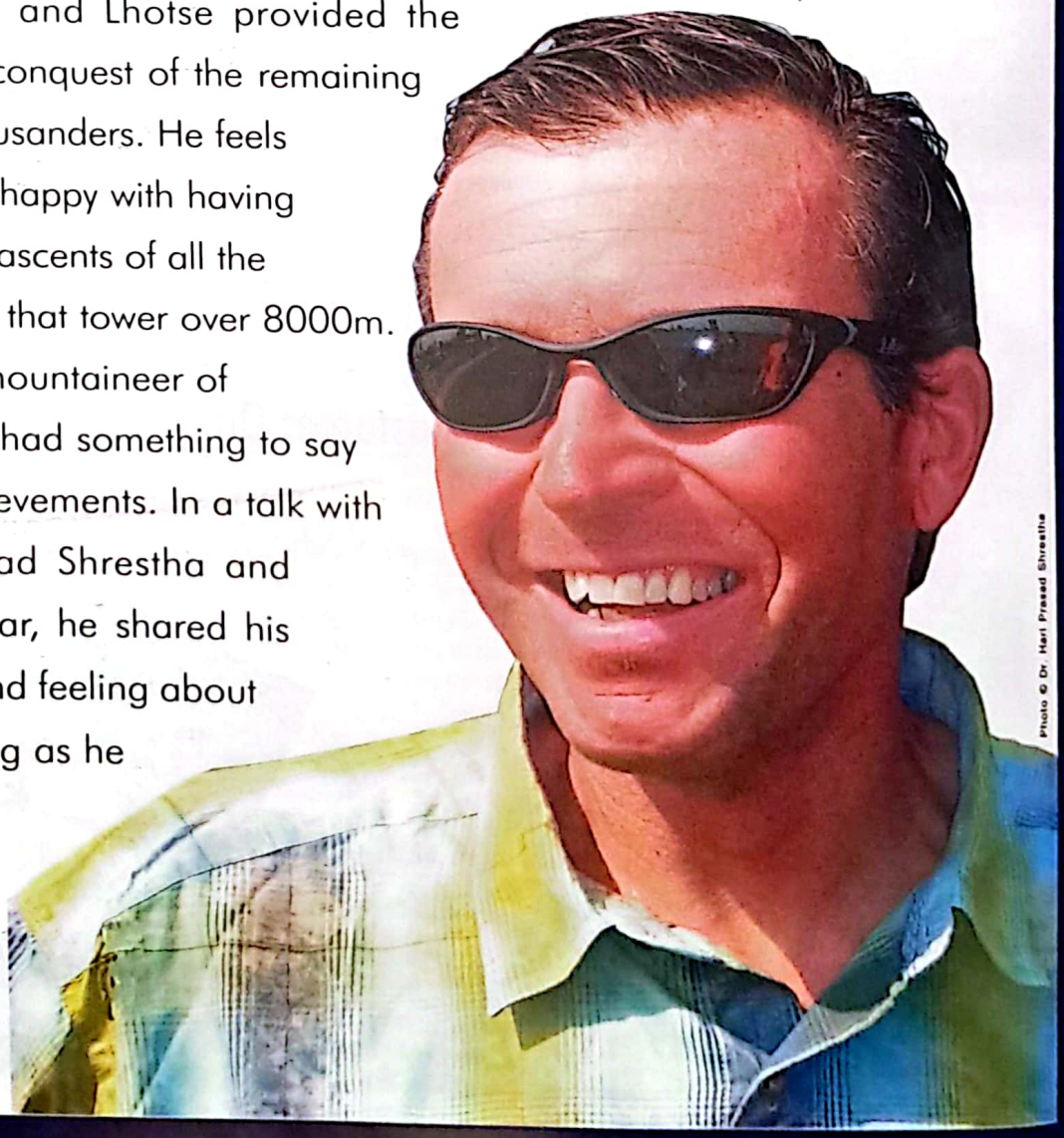


Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha

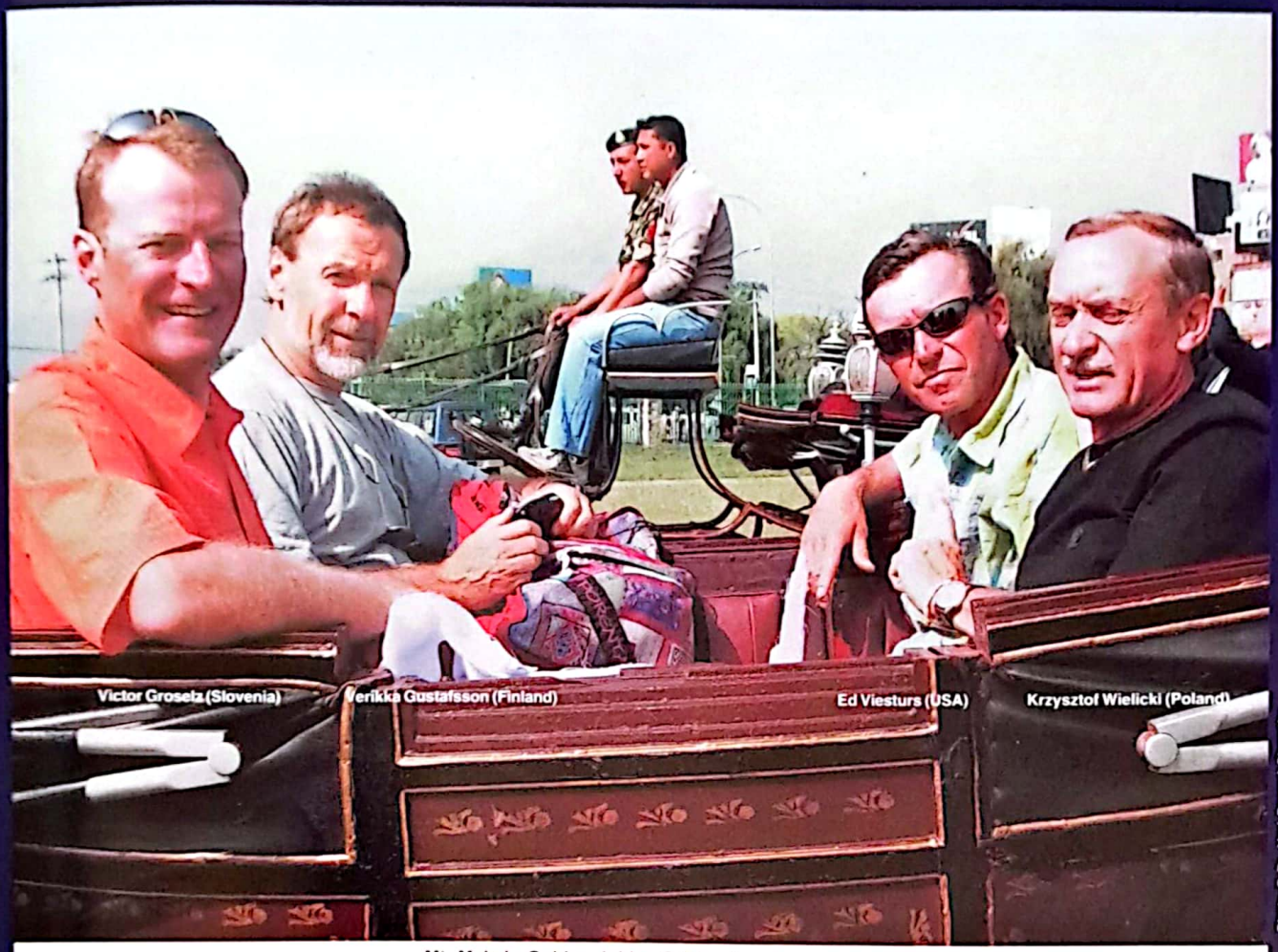


Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha

Mt. Makalu Golden Jublee Celebration Procession

You recently completed the ascent of all the fourteen over-8000m peaks. What inspired you to do that?

Once I had climbed four 8000m peaks (Everest, K2, Kanchenjunga and Lhotse), I felt it could be a reality for me to try the remaining 10 peaks. Reinhold Messner, of course, was also very inspirational.

Now you are in the elite group of mountaineers who have climbed all the fourteen over-8000m peaks, how do you feel?

I feel very happy and content with my accomplishment.

What has been your most memorable mountaineering moment?

My most memorable would be the ascent of Everest in 1990.



Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha



Photo © NMA

Ed Viesturs (third from right) with Makalu summiteers and NMA officials

....And your most difficult moment?

The most difficult would be my recent ascent of Annapurna. It was a long hard way going up and coming down.

Which of the highest peaks do you feel is the toughest to climb?

Annapurna is the 'trickiest'. K2 is the toughest because of technical climbing and bad weather. Annapurna is tricky because there is no **safe** way up.



Photo © Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha

Do you have any special goals now?

No goals right now. I am going to relax for a few months.

Can you suggest anything for the preservation of the fragile Himalayas?

Educate not only the tourists but locals as well. Everyone needs to understand conservation so that our children and grand children can enjoy our Earth as we do.

In your opinion, how can the Nepalese mountains be promoted in the world?

They already are being promoted via lectures, Internet, climbing dispatches. Give tourists and climbers a freer access to continue to do this. Remove SAT telephone restrictions so we can spread the word about this beautiful country.

What are your views about the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Makalu and Kanchenjunga and the 55th anniversary of Annapurna I?

The Jubilees are great events to commemorate the first successful ascents.

How do you find Nepal as a destination?

Nepal is still a great and **safe** destination. I've come here every year for the last 18 years. Now I feel it is my **second home.**



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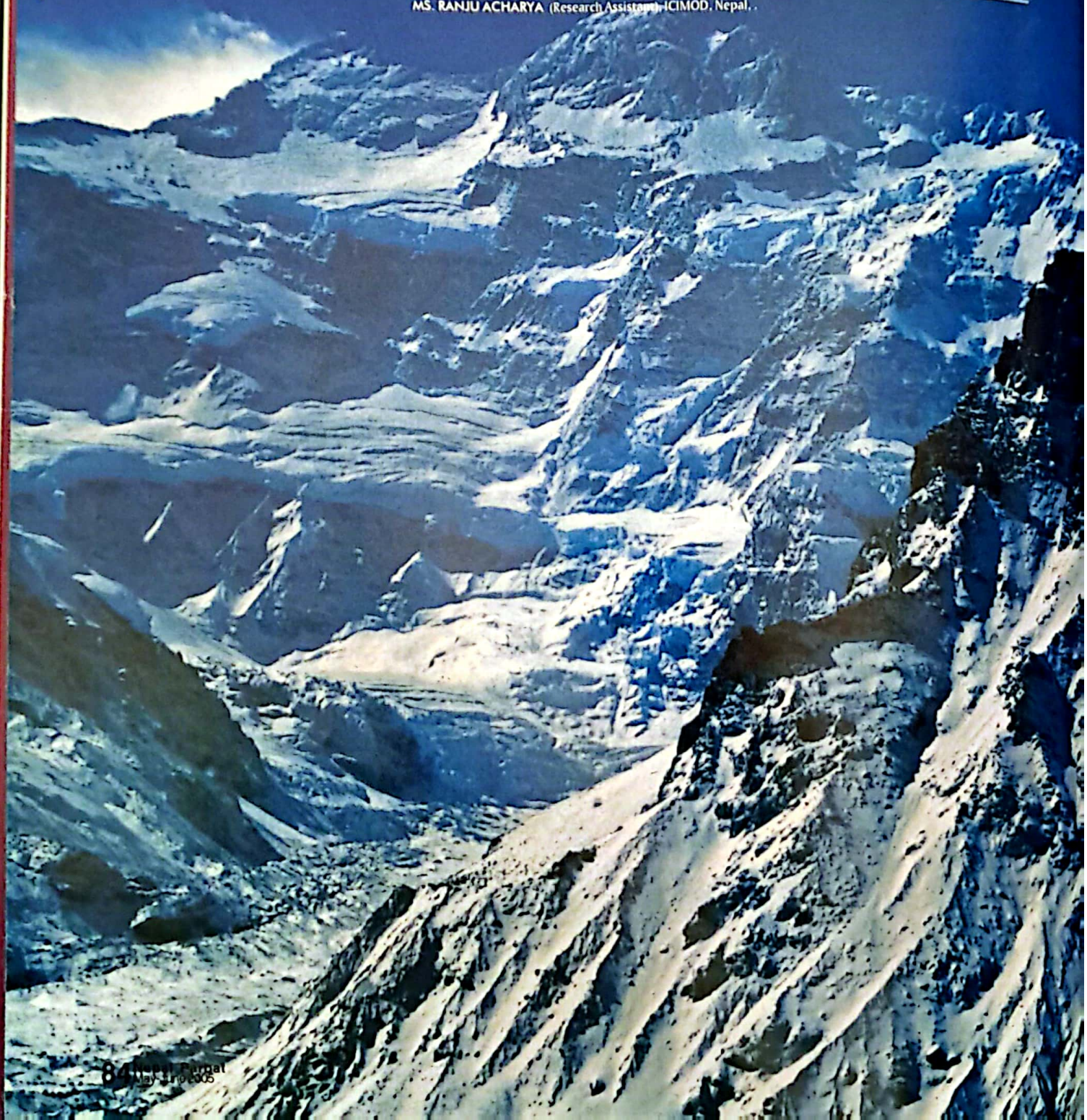
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KANCHENJUNGA LANDSCAPE: THE CONSERVATION ASPECT

BY DR. NAKUL CHETTRI (Action Immediate Coordination),
DR. EKLABYA SHARMA (National Resource Manager) and
MS. RANJU ACHARYA (Research Assistant), ICIMOD, Nepal, .

Photo © Ex Gratia Bhatia



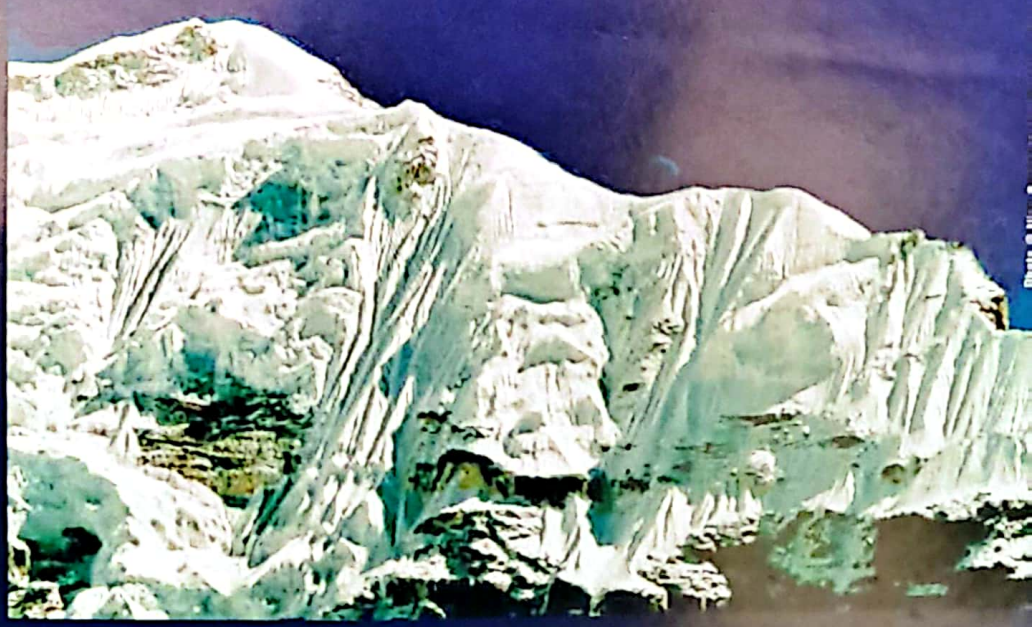
THE establishment of protected areas (PAs), which numbers over 100,000 with 12% of the global terrestrial area, has long been one of the main strategies for safeguarding the world's biodiversity. However, the growing evidances of global scale analysis suggest that efoorts for conservation of biodiversity is inadequate and insufficient if PAs are established and managed in isolation. In order to fully accomodate the range of biodiversity targets and ecological processes supported by ecosystems, as well as to safeguard against the potential vagaries of the global scale change, conservation priorities must be scaled up across larger landscape as they capture more biodiversity than the smaller sites because of the 'beta-diversity effect', especially since landscapes include more ecosystem, habitat, and land-management variability.

The popularity of Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Landscapes (TBCLs) in which two or more countries cooperate in management and conservation of ecologically important areas located in border regions, has increased substantially in recent years. Scaling up biodiversity conservation across larger landscape has been an important strategy for maintaining viable population of species and sustaining ecosystem processes. It has become evident that TBCL promotes biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources amongst the people across politically divided ecosystems. TBCL is an evolving process for international collaboration in management and sharing of experiences and information; and a powerful practice that help conservation of biodiversity, sustainability of resources, strengthen collaboration and collective conservation measures to harness the environmental services mutually by countries sharing such transboundary complexes.

However, working across boundaries demands multiple measures and strategies to ensure that the benefits of cooperation outweigh the costs. TBCL can embrace a range of conservation initiatives involving protected areas and intervening lands that establish appropriate ecological linkages and development opportunities in the local and national contexts. But, experiences have shown that TBCL is more likely to be successful in the long term if they meet social and economic as well as biodiversity objectives.

The landscape surrounding Mt Kanchenjunga spreads over a wide spectrum of ecological zones in eastern Nepal, Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya (India) and continues to western Bhutan. It has 14 important protected areas covering over 10,000 sq km. The area is considered as part of one of the 25 Global Biodiversity Hotspots of the world. It has a unique situation where within 100 km N-S stretch covers tropical to alpine vegetation and has a contiguity of habitat across the political boundaries for many umbrella species such as Snow Leopard, Takin, Tigers and Elephants which otherwise are restricted in the individual existing protected areas. While most efforts for biodiversity conservation have focused primarily on protected areas and reserves, the unprotected lands surrounding that areas- the "matrix" that provides connectivity to the existing PAs- are so far ignored. This connectivity is equally important to preserve large proportion of global biodiversity they maintain. There is a high potential for developing transboundary biological corridors to connect these Pas that can play an important role on both vertical (altitudinal) and horizontal coverage in conservation.

Natural Resource Management Programme of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is working on Kangchenjunga landscape since 1997 for the establishment of TBCL through developing biological corridors to connect the existing PAs. Starting with the regional inception meeting in 1997, ICIMOD has induced a strategic momentum to perceive the importance of Transboundary Conservation by member countries sharing the Kangchenjunga complex. Building on its past experience on TBCL works in Mt. Everest Ecosystem and Hkakaborazi National Park, in the year



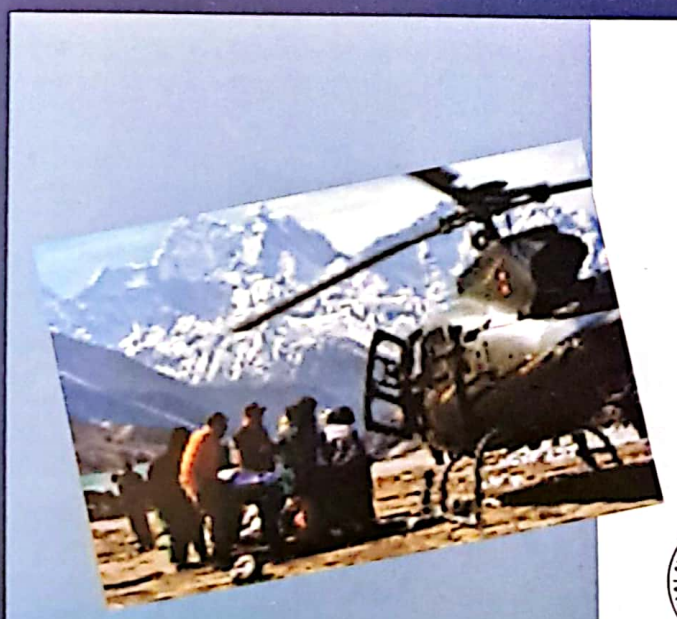
2002, ICIMOD, in collaboration with its partners from the three member countries, initiated a landscape approach for biodiversity conservation in the Kangchenjunga landscape. This initiative mainly focused on feasibility assessment on re-establishment of biological corridor connecting nine major protected areas in the landscape.

During the last two years, landscape conservation approach has steered through consensus building, collaborative efforts in feasibility assessment for biological corridor development and participatory planning at local (corridor), national and regional levels. Six corridors in the Kangchenjunga complex have been identified for re-establishing natural connectivity between the PAs. These area: the buffer area on the Nepal side to Kangchenjunga Biosphere Reserve and Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary of India; the buffer area on the Nepal side to Singhalila National Park of India; the corridor between Singhalila National Park and Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary in India; the corridor between Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary and Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary in India; the corridor between Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary and Neora Valley National Park in India; and the corridor between Neora Valley National Park in India Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve that links to Zigme Dorji National Park in Bhutan. The initiative also addressed transboundary biodiversity management issues by developing complementary plans by each of the cooperating member countries. Stakeholders, including government departments of participating countries, brought about a regional understanding and cooperation for conservation at this important transboundary landscape. The process covered local conservation initiative with policy implications addressed at local, sub-regional and regional levels.

ICIMOD is mandated to work in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH) and has prioritised to focus its biodiversity work on the transboundary landscapes of the Eastern Himalayas for meeting the challenges of conservation and sustainable livelihoods of the people. It is the only institution in HKH with a regional mandate to handle conservation and development of mountain ecosystems including transboundary landscapes. During its course of contribution on conservation and development, many critical transboundary biodiversity landscapes have been identified for corridor development covering parts of Nepal, India, Bhutan, China and Myanmar. The first model for process learning in livelihood-linked conservation in transboundary landscapes by establishing corridors was initiated in Kangchenjunga landscape. The initiative has broadly focussed on:

1. Identification of transboundary landscape, feasibility studies of implementing corridor concept, acceptance of the corridor concept by partners and government and partnership development.
2. Identification of corridors and specific challenges, capacity building of partners and government agencies, and development of corridor plans using participatory approaches.
3. Get legal support on the corridor plan by participating countries and implementation of plans.

In the Kangchenjunga landscape, ICIMOD has been successful in completing the first two initiatives with reasonable experience and lessons and the last part is under process. It was realized that corridor development in a landscape is a long-term process. Taking the example of Kangchenjunga, which took nearly five years to initiate a project in 2002 after 1997, regional inception meeting organized by ICIMOD envisaged expanding the Kangchenjunga experience to other potential complexes simultaneously, especially after successfully achieving goals in the Kangchenjunga landscape.



We wish the Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebrations and 55th Celebration of Mt. Annapurna I Grand Success

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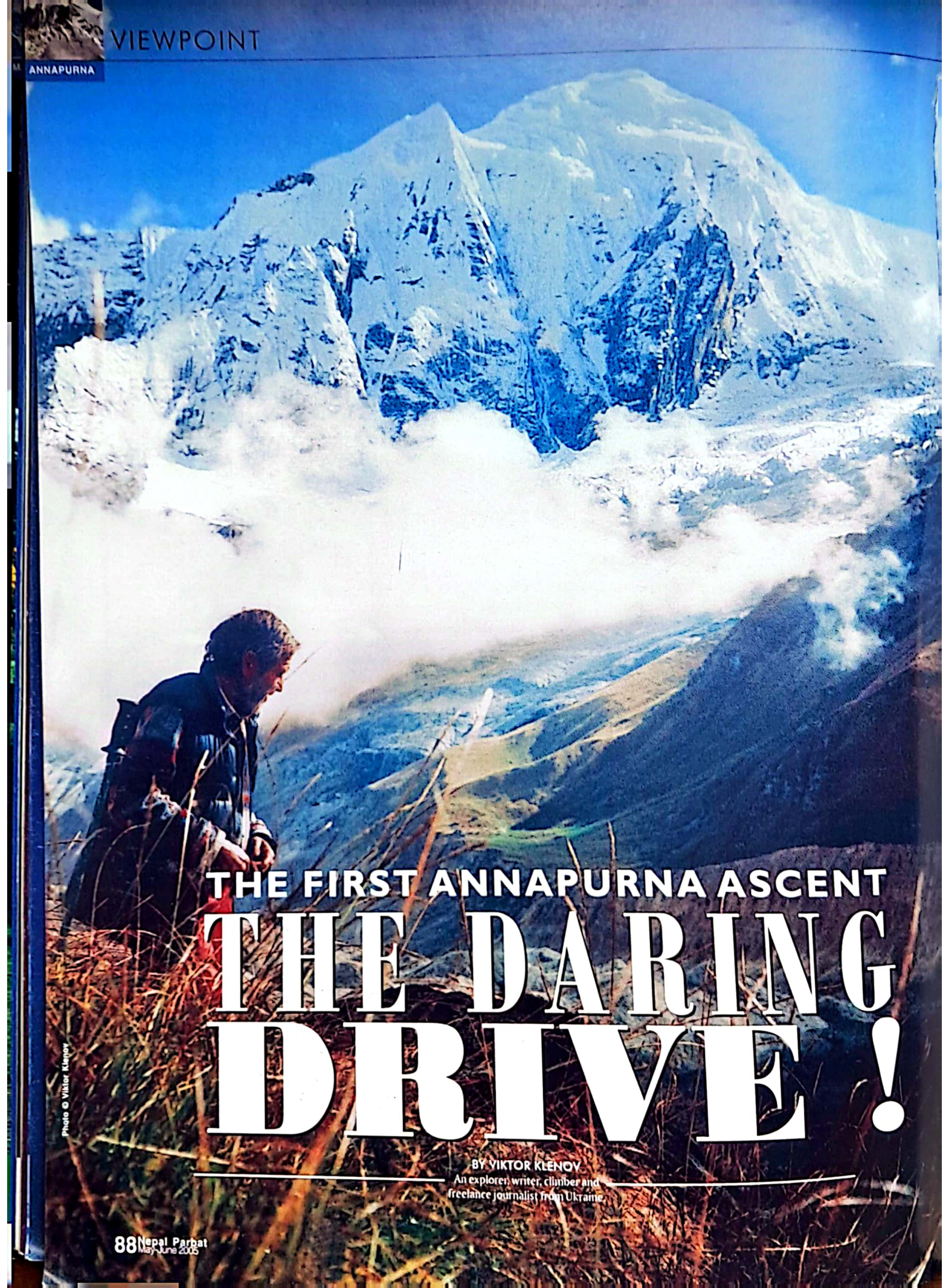
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THE FIRST ANNAPURNA ASCENT

THE DARING DRIVE!

BY VIKTOR KLENOV
An explorer, writer, climber and freelance journalist from Ukraine.

Photo © Viktor Klenov

SINCE discovery, the 8,000m giants remained unattainable targets. Many attempts by many experienced mountaineers failed on Everest, K2, Kangchenjunga, Nanga Parbat. Right in the middle of the last century, the attempts and conquests lay in the French Annapurna expedition of 1950. This expedition was a turning point, a kind of cutoffs between myth and banality.

After the WWII, all of a sudden the French mountaineers were seen to be active, creative and innovative. For French mountaineers, a Himalayan expedition was like a continuation of the war: "Fight against the mountains."

Nepal was then opening its frontiers to mountaineers for the first time in history. The then Prime Minister Mohan Shumsher Rana granted special permission to French to penetrate into the interior of the kingdom in accordance of the memory of very good personal relations between his father and Silvain Levi, the great French scholar of Sanskrit.

The French expedition was styled team philosophy: common effort for the great ideal: "Each of us knows that he owns nothing and that he should expect nothing upon his return." Of course, every French wanted "summit victory" – as, above all, did Maurice Herzog, the leader, who risked so much and almost died after the summit push.

After the war, when J.Cousteau set sail to explore the oceans while others were laying siege to the North and South Poles, a 30-year old engineer Herzog set on the non-climbed 8,000m peaks.

Maurice Herzog was the driving force of the expedition from the very start. There was a team – then the best alpinists in the world, a small team full of youthful enthusiasm for a great and distant goal. Lionel Terray – mountain guide, active strong and willing to take risks – was (and remains) one of the greatest mountaineers of the century. Gaston Rebuffa, Lois Lachenal, Jean Couzy, and Marcel Schatz were the elite of the French climbers, but without Himalayan experience (only cameramen Marcel Ichac was a Himalayan veteran). With six tons of equipment, the expedition journeyed via India to Nepal to meet the Sherpas, "men of character and with mind for great things," as Herzog wrote about them in *Annapurna*.

Expedition could end in typical Kafka's manner, when Indian Customs declared: "You do not have detailed list of equipment in English – there were 50,000 items.....so your equipment can all be held in customs for the duration of your expedition. You can proceed to Nepal, then pick up your stuff on the way back."
Daniel Levi, the French Ambassador in India, saved the expedition.

The French were faced by an unknown set of problems. Maps were useless – they marked passes where they saw 20,000 feet ice walls...They planned to climb either Dhaulagiri or Annapurna.

The lightning exploration of Dhaulagiri led to the realization that it was too hard for them, and that delayed the start on Annapurna. They reached the foot of the mountain using old trails and hunting paths. The team failed on the attempt on the Northwest Spur and turned their attention to the avalanche-prone North Face. The French spent a month for reconnaissance and established Base Camp only in mid-May. With Herzog's drive and leadership, in a race against time, they managed to equip five Camps. The monsoon was rapidly approaching.

It was very late in the year, May 31, when Herzog and Lachenal packed their rucksacks for the summit ascent. Their



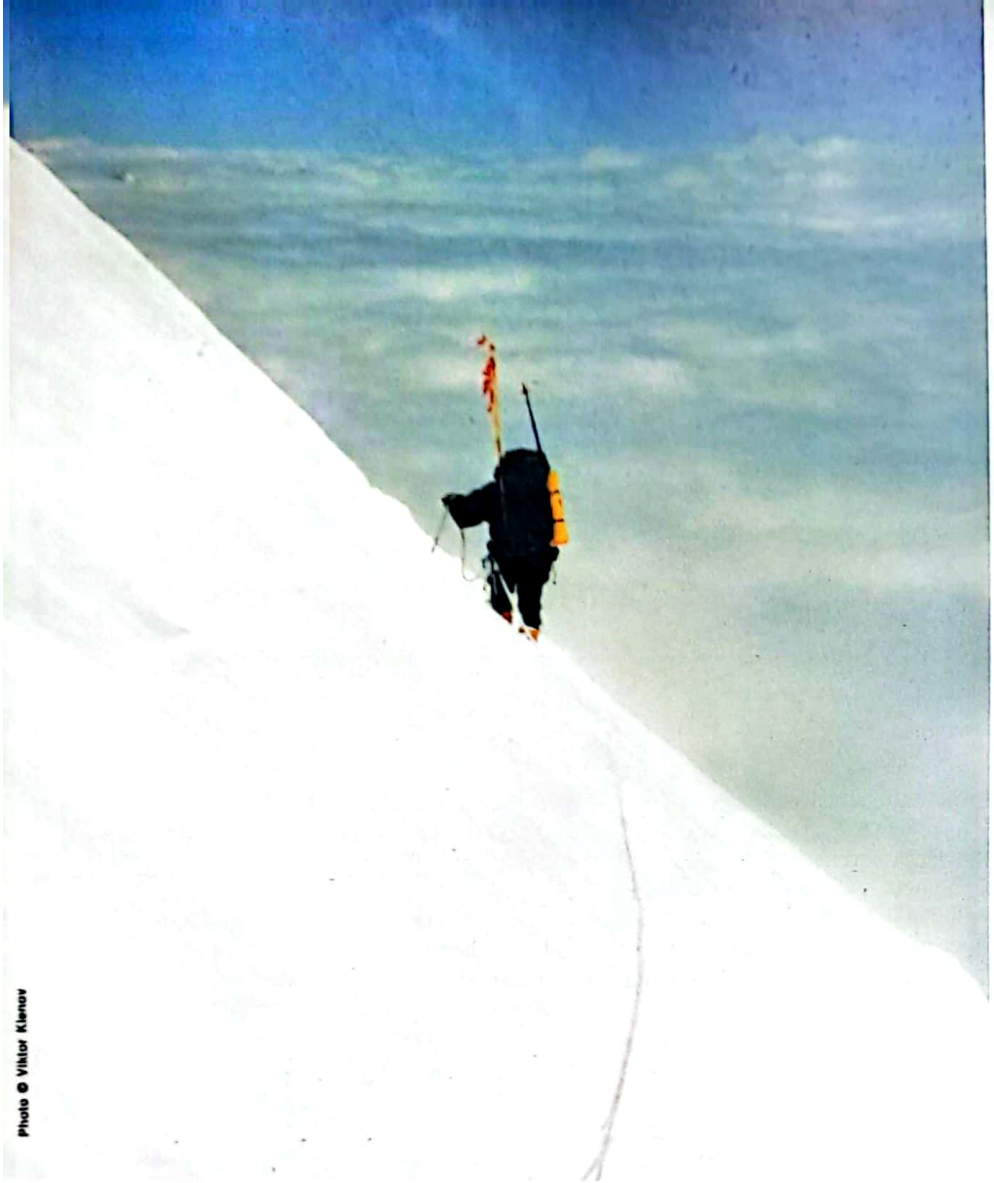


Photo © Viktor Klenov

partnership had just evolved. Herzog was at that moment the strongest man in the team and had great motivation. They complemented with each other ideally. Herzog would have been prepared to risk anything then. "We will climb up and only come down again when we have reached the summit," he said to one of his comrades. All or nothing was the name of the game, a game that he wanted to win and one that he would have lost in the end in spite of the interim victory on the summit had it not been for Terray, Couzy, Rebuffa and the Sherpas being there to lead the confused men back to the valley. The game of chance could begin.

This last ascent really had something fateful about it. Each team had its own job to do and they all took up they positions. It was June 1, 1950. Terray had worn himself out, yet he had been able to lead the second rope.

The morning of June 2 heralded a glorious day. Terray and Rebuffa climbed with the Sherpas Pansy and Aila to Camp III and then to Camp IV. Couzy and Shmatz were waiting for them at Camp IV.

The last night in the storm was a long and made it very horrendous for them. After a hard night on June 3, they moved at 6 a.m. but without rope: "It's really good weather but cold too." Each step was now an effort. Lachenal began to doubt success. But, Herzog just wanted to get to the top. Remarkably, the physical effort diminished. "Is it hope that now gives us wings?" Herzog asked himself. Suddenly, Lachenal asked: "If I turn back now – what will you do?" - "I will go alone", Herzog said. "I'm climbing to the summit." – "Then I will come with you." Lachenal had no other choice.

Only because of Herzog's desire did the two find strength to surmount the final hurdles. "Our hearts were pounding, fit to burst." At the top of the ridge, they did feel that they had almost reached their goal and there was anything that would hold them up. Then the wind beat towards them, fog billowed around in the south – **they were right on the top of Annapurna** – corniced crest of ice. Above them, just empty space.

"Our hearts overflowed with unspeakable happiness – **our mission was accomplished.** And at the same time something greater still had also been achieved. The others! If only they knew!" It was the fulfillment of an ideal he had dreamed about since he was a young boy.

"A joy without compare fills me. I am in another kingdom, deserted and barren, lifeless, frozen stiff in the cold. It a fantastic kingdom, where man does not belong."

Herzog took out the little French pennant and tied it to the shaft of his ice ax. Lachenal took photo of Herzog with the flag in his hands, which later be circulated the world-over. This photograph was to make Herzog famous – the first man on the summit of the first 8,000m peak! Then they began the descent – it was like escape. At 8,091m his "victory" was worth nothing. Many others before him reached the boldest possible of all goals and then died. Going for a hurrying Lachenal, Herzog took off his gloves and they slipped off. That was the start of a life of suffering, one that an outsider can hardly imagine. Herzog climbed down stumbling and half crazy – he forgot that he had the wool socks to put them on hands, he lost all sense of time.

When he reached Camp V, he was suffering from hypothermia, confused and exhausted. Herzog first threw his arms around Terray: "I was on the summit. I'm happy." One for all, all for one, and the summit as a symbol of this. "This victory is not the victory of an individual, a triumph of pride – and Terray was the first to realize this – it is a victory for us all, a victory of human fraternity," wrote Herzog.

Terray and Rebuffa had welcomed them in the camp and then led them down through the storm and looked after them. They had saved their lives, over and over again. It was dramatic descent. The four carried on in a whiteout. How quickly nature was able to make fools

of the best mountaineers in the world! Only a miracle would now save the four men – Terray and Rebuffa snow-blind, and Herzog and Lachenal with wounded feet.

Finally on June 5 Couzy and Schatz and Sherpas met them. Then two miracles followed – they spent the hard night in the crevasse cave and nobody had perished, when the party had been carried 150m by the avalanche. The re-trek was a disaster – villages in which there had been an outbreak of cholera had to be circumvented, streams and roads were rendered impassable by the monsoon rains.

Later, Lionel Terray in his book *Conquistadors of the Useless* wrote: "And so, as the dream faded, we returned to earth in a fearful mix – up of pain and joy, heroism and cowardice, sun and mud, grandeur and meanness."

His late Majesty Tribhuvan conferred upon Herzog the highest Gurkha Order in the country – the Gurkha Right Hand, for valor. "This order is for brave men, and you are brave man."

Frank Smythe declared in 30's that no expedition will ever succeed in climbing one of the highest Himalayas peaks at a first attempt. This, however, is exactly what the Annapurna expedition of 1950 reached. The ascent of Annapurna without bottled oxygen and nearly in a single Alpine-style push was quite extraordinary in 1950. It was, possibly, one of the most dramatic feats in mountaineering history.

It was in a spirit of naivety and enthusiasm that Herzog led his team to the summit. It was energy created by trial and error, knowledge and calculated risk-taking. He was the first to stand on the top and on the descent it was he found himself with one foot in the grave. In the end, his success was to be enjoyed by mountaineers of the world.

Legendary Eric Shipton wrote: "French showed their resolution, their superb skill and their driving force. It is a success which, we may be sure, is the forerunner of many to come."

Annapurna for me is quite simply the greatest mountaineering book ever written. Translated into 25 languages, it had profound effect on many climbers of the world. Annapurna epic – the tale of courage, camaraderie, loyalty after and beyond the time of expedition, became the most successful mountaineering story of the century. Maurice Herzog's expedition report is a more exciting read than any novel. Incredible, yet true! It also speaks the volumes that Herzog was not merely a creative and enthusiastic leader, that unfortunately only had one chance in his life to show what kind of mountaineer he really was. Without him, the Annapurna expedition of 1950 would have failed.

FACTS ABOUT MT. ANNAPURNA

- Annapurna I is one of the over Eight Thousander and 10th highest mountain in the world and is situated in Nepal.
- Annapurna massif contains 6 major peaks namely:

Annapurna I	8091m
Annapurna II	7937m
Annapurna III	7555m
Annapurna IV	7525 m
Gangapurna	7455m
Annapurna South	7219m

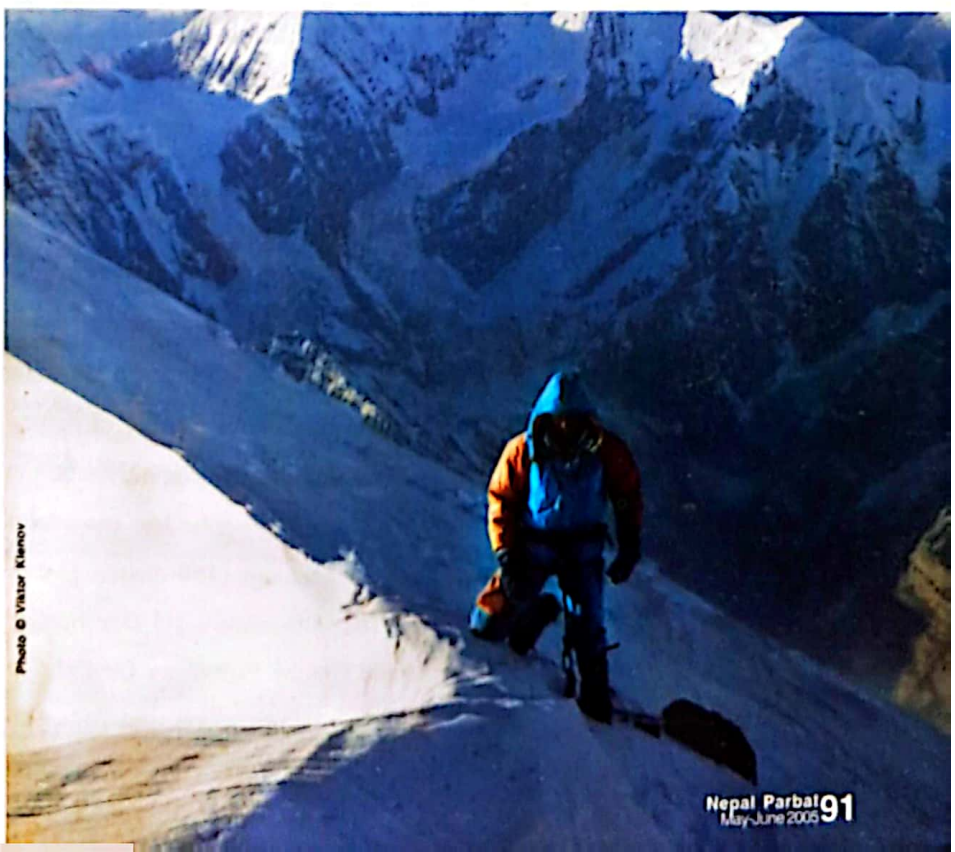
- Annapurna I was the first over eight thousander peak to be climbed. Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal of a French Expedition reached the top of Annapurna I on June 3, 1950.



Herzog forged a new life. The highest mountains in the world were inaccessible to him now and forever. "There are always new summits in a man's life," he maintained, this motto he lived by. Annapurna had become a treasure for him.

In the 50 years, since the pioneering feat of Herzog and Lachenal climbing in the highest mountains of the world, has changed and developed profoundly. Today, it is possible to climb the notorious Annapurna even by its most demanding routes. But at that time it was great achievement – the team conquered completely unexplored terrain, relying on the equipment of the era.

Since the 1950 expedition, Annapurna has witnessed many exciting and significant ascents, including climbs led by Bonington, Messner, Loretan. Annapurna is still regarded as a difficult mountain to climb. The history of climbing on Annapurna is not yet complete; it will go on and continue to excite the future mountaineers.





Kanchenjunga: Promising Tourism Destination

BY MINGMA NORBU SHERPA
Tourism Planning Specialist,
Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (TRPAP).

KANCHENJUNGA (8586m), the world's third highest peak, is one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Nepal. This majestic mountain lies in the Taplejung district of Nepal bordering Darjeeling and Sikkim in the east and Tibet in the north. The district is endowed with a number of natural and cultural heritages which makes the area a unique tourist destination in the world. Just to name a few, the district has many popular high mountains such as Kumbha Karna, Jannu including Kanchenjunga. The district has 11 different 7000m high Himalayan peaks. The 400-century-old Dikichoeling Buddhist monastery of Olangchungola and famous Pathibhara Devi shrine are religious assets of the district.

The district is inhabited by different ethnic groups of people such as Sherpa, Bhote, Gurung, Magar, Tamang, Chetri, Brahmin and other castes dominated by Limbus. Forty per cent of the district population consists of Limbus followed by Chetris and Brahmins.

The district is also home to many endangered species of wildlife such as snow leopard, musk deer, red panda and more than 1200 species of flowering plants including 25 species of rhododendron and 250 species of birds. Because of these natural and cultural richness and diversity, His Majesty's Government of Nepal designated the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) in July 1997 and presented it as a **"Gift to the Earth"** in the Save the Earth Campaign programme.



Photo © Da Gombu Sherpa

Despite having many tourism attractions, the Kanchenjunga area remained as a hidden valley till 1988 until the government of Nepal formally permitted foreign trekkers to visit the area. Before this, only mountaineering expeditions were permitted to visit the area. The government of Nepal also opened Olangchungola for tourists in December 2001. With this new initiative, the number of trekkers visiting the area has been increasing till 1999 though there have been fluctuations since then due to various factors both national and international.

Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, HMG/N, under the financial and technical support of UNDP, DFID and SNV-Nepal, with the objective of reducing poverty through development of sustainable rural tourism, a five-year tourism programme – Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (TRPAP) has been implemented in Taplejung district since 2002. The programme is implemented in six Village Development Committees (VDC) outside KCA. TRPAP works directly with the local communities under the decentralized local self-governance system through the District Development Committee – Taplejung. TRPAP has supported the local community in understanding tourism, preparing community based tourism plans, empowering the local people in community based tourism development, implementing and monitoring tourism plans, building tourism infrastructure appropriate to the local context and developing tourism related skills of the local people.

In addition, identification of tourist routes, development of promotional information such as trekking maps, information boards, web sites, brochures, posters for tourists and trekking and mountaineering operators, familiarizing these new tourism products to the private sectors in the national and international markets form one of the major activities of TRPAP.

To sustain and enhance tourism development activities in the district, tourism related institutions have been formed and capacitated from the community to district and national level. Pro-poor, pro-community, pro-women and pro-environment related tourism guidelines and district tourism plans have been prepared to develop tourism on long-term basis.

Kanchenjunga base camp trek, Milke Tinjure Trek, Limbu Cultural Heritage Trek, Pathibhara Pilgrimage Trek and Olangchung Gola Cultural Trek are the major popular tourism products of Taplejung.

With these strategic tourism development initiative in Taplejung, the hidden Kanchenjunga/Taplejung will certainly receive more tourists in the near future and improve the livelihood of the local people. However, concerted efforts to marketing from concerned stakeholders are still the priority of tourism development in Taplejung. Moreover, the flight service should also need to be added with regular frequency. Most encouragingly, the **Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration-2005** is expected to create a positive image of Kanchenjunga area and play a vital role in the promotion of Kanchenjunga area as one of the premier trekking, mountaineering and pilgrimage tourism destinations in Nepal to the outside world thereby contributing to the poverty alleviation objective of the government.

TOURIST ARRIVAL STATISTICS OF TAPLEJUNG

YEAR	NUMBER	YEAR	NUMBER	YEAR	NUMBER
1988	87	1994	575	2000	375
1989	590	1995	667	2001	690
1990	620	1996	608	2002	646
1991	502	1997	631	2003	519
1992	436	1998	782	2004	205
1993	577	1999	794	2005	-

Source: District Tourism Plan Taplejung



Ang Phurba Sherpa, first Nepali to ascend Kanchenjunga (May 14, 1980).

COMPACT & RELEVANT MOUNTAIN HISTORY

Peaks And Pinnacles: Mountaineering In Nepal; Written by: Dr. Harka Gurung; Published by: Nepal Mountaineering Association, Nagpokhari, Naxal, Kathmandu, Nepal; No. of Pages: 213
Price: Hard Cover-NRs. 700/ US$ 10; Paperback-NRs. 500/ US$ 8.
ISBN 99946-32-94-9

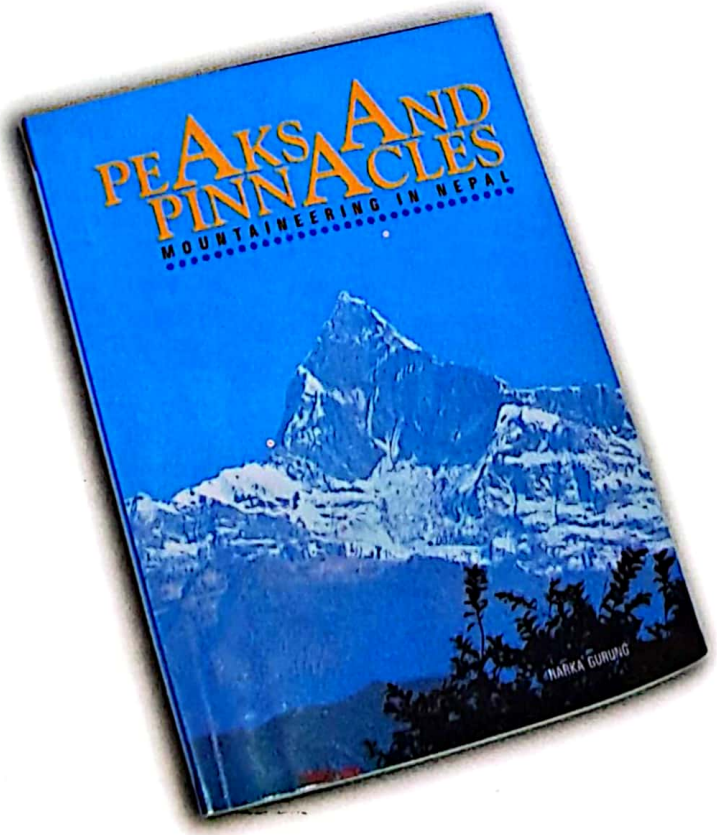
REVIEWED BY : PREM N. KAKKAR

Mountains remain the grand natural heritage of Nepal. The Himalayas have always attracted human attention because of their grandeur and the ability to spark the imagination. The Himalayas have been sought since time immemorial as a place where tranquility and peace of mind could be found. The sages and seers of the past had come to the abode of the mighty Himalayas to medidate and attain bliss and communion with God. Stories of such have been written in many religious texts.

The mountains have influenced all through its permanent presence and the as they are the origin of the mighty rivers they must be revered for sustaining life on earth. A look at any place in the world is enough to suggest that the perennial rivers flowing down the mountains have spurred the development of civilisation. This is all the more true for Nepal where the big rivers coming down from the glaciers of the Himalayans have been the stimuli for the development of the unique civilisation that we boast of.

Nepal is well-known all over the world as the land of the Himalayas with the highest peak Sagarmatha or Mount Everest being the prime centre of focus. Once identified as the highest peak, the mountaineers were quick to realise that to climb it would be the greatest test of human endurance, endeavour, determination and courage. Being an isolated country before 1950, the expedition teams could not directly attempt the peaks via Nepal. But, the successful ascent of Annapurna I in 1950 changed the whole scenario as it was one among the peaks that towered over 8000m. That started the flow of visitors to Nepal—mountaineers, mountain lovers and adventurers. The successful ascent of Everest on May 29, 1953 by Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary set the stage for Nepal's status as a playground for mountaineers and also as a tourist destination of the highest order. Of course, the tourism infrastructure were were not in place then it is now yet the natural heritage and the antiquity of the cultural heritage was enough to lure in tourists in ever-increasing numbers.

As an eminent geographer with deep affinity with the mountains, Dr. Harka Gurung has made immense contributions to the mountainering sector in Nepal. Numerous books on mountains and

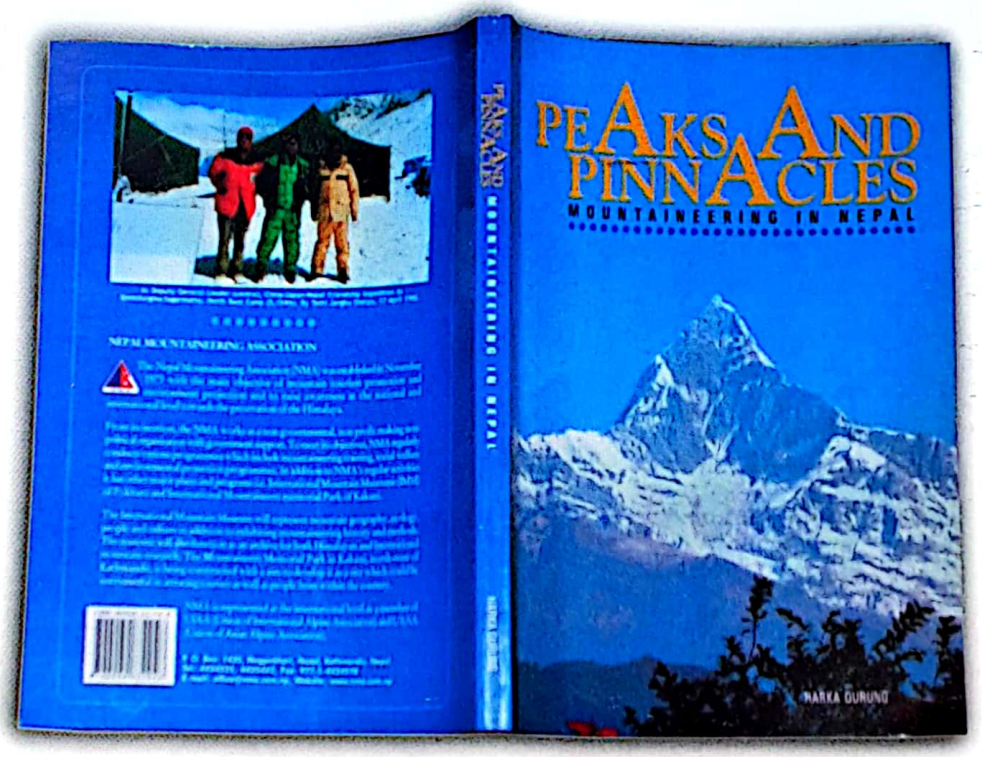


geographical survey are credited to Dr. Gurung. he has all along been active without any let down even today. His recent publication *Peaks And Pinnacles* is a collection of his writings which span over four decades. Herein, it is important to note that the first past is a reproduction of his book ***Annapurna to Dhaulagiri*** (1968). The author has mentioned in the preface that this particular book is long out of print. In the second part three chapters are being published for the first time and the rest written at various intervals.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part "Annapurna to Dhaulagiri" has thirteen chapters. The first chapter starts with a brief introduction with the first sentence itself talking of the Annapurna conquest in 1950. The writer talks of the decade being a glorious as it marked the beginning and end of the ascents of the over-8000m peaks. The first chapter is the backdrop for the next chapters including 'Annapurna The Advent-1950", "Year of Reconnaisance—1951", then on to "Approaching Everest—1952" which includes the mention of the expeditions to Cho Oyu, Rolwaling Himal, Manaslu reconnaisance. And to round it off came the year 1953 when Everest was climbed "a sentimental journey of sensational value". Chapter VI describes the Cho Oyu conquest in 1954 and the attempts at Makalu, Ganesh Himal, Dhaulagiri and Yalung and Talung. In 1955, the third and the fifth highest peaks in the world were successfully ascended. Their golden jubilee celebrations are being marked—for Makalu it was May 15, 2005 and for kKanchenjunga it is today that is May 25, 2005. 1959 has been described by the author as the "Year of Disaster" as there were eight mountaineering related deaths that year.

In the second part "Mountain Miscellany" the various facets of the mountains are mentioned. It talks of the lure of the mountains, the abominable snowman (Fact and Fiction, Search and Research, Attraction and Distraction). Chapter XVI highlights mountaineering in Nepal.

The articles coming from a person of the stature of Dr. Gurung has all it needs for the interested to learn about the mountaineering history of Nepal starting 1950. The comprehensibility of the language used by the author does not make it difficult for the readers to grasp the information. The inclusion of relevant tables, graphs and references gives further weight to the book. For any mountaineer, mountain lover, student, mountain researcher and others it is a valuable book to make an addition. As the articles in the book stretches over forty years, much information can be gleaned.



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has taken the exemplary initiative to publish the book. This is so as NMA is dedicated to the promotion of mounains and mountain tourism. The effort is praiseworthy and it is hoped that the interested will buy a copy of the book and help NMA in its mission. This is all the more so as NMA is a non-profit making association.



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

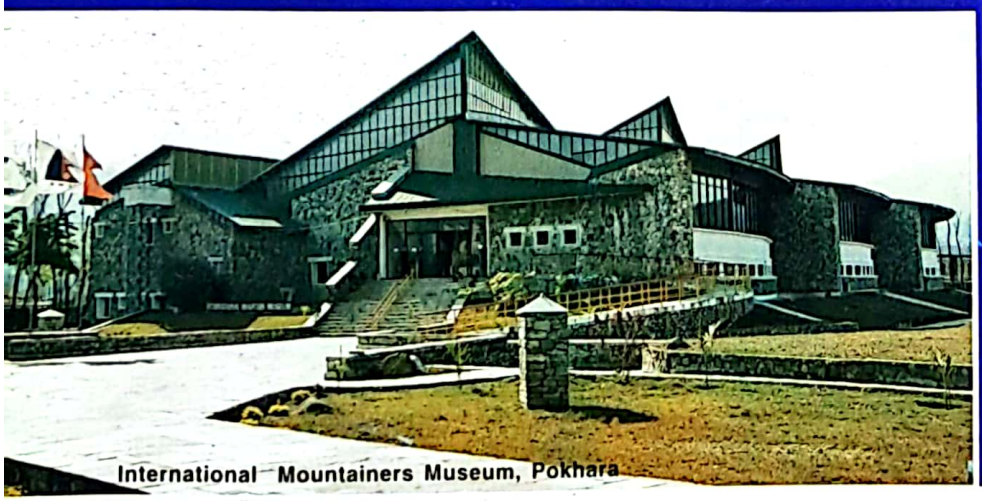
His Majesty's Government of Nepal has authorized NMA to issue permits for 18 peaks between 5,587 meter to 6,654 meter in the Manang, Annapurna, Langtang and Khumbu area since 1978. Mera Peak (6,654 m.) is the tallest amoung these 18 peaks while Mardi Himal (5,587m.) is the smallest in altitude. These 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 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 Grand Opening of the International Mountain Museum took place on February 5, 2004.

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 contains three main exhibition halls : Hall of the Great Himalayas, Hall of Fame and the Hall of World Mountains. It also contains 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. With the income generated by issuing permits to the 33 NMA peaks it has many works lined up. 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.



International Mountainers Memorial Park, Kakani.

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERS MEMORIAL PARK, KAKANI

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

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

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

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

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

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-Lamjung-BC
12.	Mt. ABI	6,097	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Merala-BC
13.	Mt. Yubra Himal	6,035	Langtang Himal	Rasuwa	Dhunche-Legbeni-BC
14.	Mt. Yala	5,732	Langtang	Rasuwa	Ktm-Dhunche-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.C.
14.	Khongma-tse (Mehra Peak)	5849	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Dole-Machermo-Gokyo-Dughala-B.C.
15.	Ganja-la Chuli (Naya Kanga)	5844	Langtang Himal	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhunche-Syabru Gaon-Lama Hotel-Kyanjin Gomba-Ganjala-B.C.
16.	Pokhalde	5806	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Dole-Gokyo-Na-Thagna-Chola pass-B.C.
17.	Mardi Himal	5587	Annapurna Himal	Gandaki	Ktm-Pokhara-Hyangia-Dhiprang-Kharka-Mardi Base Camp
18.	Paldor	5896	Langtang Himal	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhading-Ankhu Khola-Rigaon-Jharlang-Sertung-Kharka-Somdang

Fee Structure for Group „B" NMA Peaks

Group Size	Rate US$	Additional P/P US$
1-4 persons	350.00 only	
5-8 persons	350.00 plus	40.00 (per person)
9-12 persons	510.00 plus	25.00 (per person)

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

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.

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

For Details

Nepal Mountaineering Association

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	2047/48 (1990/91)		2048/49(1991/92)		2049/50 (1992/93)		2050/51(1993/94)		2051/52(1994/95)		2052/53(1995/96)	
PEAK	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
Pharchamuche	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

1996/97-2003/04 (B)

FISCAL YEAR	2053/54		2054/55		2056/57		2055/56		2057/58		2058/59		2059/60		2060/61	
PEAK	(1996/97)		(1997/98)		(1999/2000)		(1998/99)		(2000/2001)		(2001/2002)		(2002/2003)		(2003/2004)	
	PERMIT	CLIMBER	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS
Mera	116	691	142	903	206	1164	160	995	186	1124	169	890	1	4	145	790
Chulu East	16	79	19	86	26	113	14	79	31	164	22	95	14	54	20	77
Singuchuli	8	22	14	46	21	90	17	92	16	60	17	72	135	727	10	41
Hiunchuli	3	14	3	18	5	24	4	11	0	0	4	10	0	0	2	5
Chulu West	10	59	11	46	11	52	14	85	14	74	20	90	8	30	18	53
Kusum Kangguru	3	4	6	29	6	26	2	4	4	16	7	22	15	46	3	11
Pharchamo	56	253	53	330	72	390	69	404	78	449	78	410	17	71	58	269
Island	224	1220	265	1502	333	1842	287	1526	337	1815	317	1587	277	1325	308	1491
Lobuje	20	111	30	178	57	276	45	277	53	268	55	229	46	243	56	282
Pisang	17	65	17	83	21	80	16	63	44	229	29	114	42	240	20	57
Kwangde	7	39	4	23	5	32	11	33	7	23	13	61	13	67	2	6
Ramdung	52	271	35	165	26	149	42	226	30	167	23	145	26	88	10	48
Paldor	11	103	9	47	10	63	9	58	11	47	6	23	11	79	4	21
Khongmatse	3	18	3	7	7	39	3	18	3	11	2	6	0	0	2	6
Ganjala Chuli	26	120	24	104	35	138	28	125	33	171	27	104	21	84	21	70
Pokhalde	18	115	20	113	34	255	27	201	22	162	25	148	21	146	21	133
Tharpu Chuli	30	116	22	94	29	126	35	134	35	151	16	65	4	20	7	24
Mardi Himal	3	19	3	11	4	16	3	7	5	12	10	36	5	14	2	6
New Peak																
Cholat-Se													5	9	8	30
Kyazo-Ri													4	14	3	23
Nirekha													2	4	3	9
Langsisa-Ri													3	5	2	8
Ombigaichen													2	17	1	3
Bokta													2	10	2	15
Lobuche West													1	4	1	12
Larkya													3	19	2	13
Yubra Himal													1	1	2	4
Yala													9	49	19	82
Machermo															4	13
Dhari Lapcha															2	6
Chekigu															4	24
Abi																
Chhukung Ri																
Total	623	3319	680	3785	908	4875	786	4338	909	4943	840	4107	688	3370	762	3632

Source : Nepal Mountaineering Association

DATA OF TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY NMA IN DIFFERENT YEARS (1979 TO 2004)

YEAR	BASIC MT. TRAINING	ADVANCE MT. TRAINING	BASIC ROCK TRAINING	ADVANCE ROCK TRAINING	TREK TOUR LEADER	JUNIOR BASIC TRAINING	MOUNTAIN RESCUE TRAINING	FEMALE TRAINING	INSTRUCTORS REFRESHMENT TRAINING
1979	20	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1980	45	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1981	46	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1982	24	3	-	-	-	-		-	
1983	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1984	30	7	-	-	-	-		-	
1985	24	11	-	-	-	-		-	
1986	31	9	-	-	-	-		-	
1987	30	15	-	-	-	-		-	
1988	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1989	31	22	-	-	-	-		-	
1990	30	17	-	-	-	17		-	
1991	29	13	-	-	30	-		-	
1992	33	17	-	-	-	-		-	
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1994	30	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1995	32	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
1997	13	11	-	-	-	-		-	
1998	16	13	29+34	-	-	-		-	
1999	-	16	-	7	-	-		15	
1999	31	-	-	-	-	-		-	
2000	32	11	12	-	-	-		13	
2000	15 (Singaporean Student)								
2000/01		17						15	
2001	30	11					10		
2002	18							16	
2002	8	8							
2003		20						17	
2003	16								
2003	31								
2004	15							15	
2004	33	21							
2005									11
Total	693	242	75	7	30	17	10	91	11

Grand Total 1176

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.

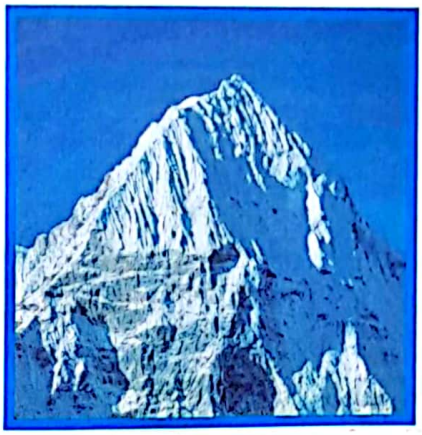
Number of Tourist Arrivals in Nepal 1962-2003

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 2003 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	4458	59279	21.5	-41.2	7.9
2003	338132	22.7	5472	65721	19.4	10.9	9.6

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

50 year Chronology of Kanchenjunga Summiteers



On the occasion of the Mount Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration, we have tried to present the statistics of the Kanchenjunga summiteers of the past 50 years. To collect the names of the successful summiteers we had asked the alpine clubs of various countries to help us. This chronology of successful mountaineers has been prepared according to the information received from the concerned alpine clubs, His Majesty's Government, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, ***On the Top of the World: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Mountains*** written by Richard Sale and John Cleare (Harper Collins, London, First Edition 2000) and other concerned individuals, institutions and related books and magazines. This list may not be complete so we would like feedback if any climber's name is missing or misspelt so that it could be corrected in the next issue of the *Nepal Parbat*.

S.NO.	NAME OF SUMMITEERS	DATE OF SUMMIT	NATIONALITY	SEX	ROUTE
1.	George Christopher Band	1955/5/25	UK	M	SW Face
2.	Joe Brown		UK	M	SW Face
3.	Norman Hardie	1955/5/26	New Zealand	M	SW Face
4.	Tony Streather		UK	M	SW Face
5.	Prem Chand	1977/5/31	India	M	NE spur to N Ridge
6.	Nima Dorje Sherpa		India	M	NE spur to N Ridge
7.	Peter Boardman	1979/5/16	UK	M	NW Face to N Ridge
8.	Douglas Keith (Doug) Scott		UK	M	NW Face to N Ridge
9.	Joseph Thomas Tasker		UK	M	NW Face to N Ridge
10.	Ryoichi Fukuda	1980/5/14	Japan	M	NW Face
11.	Hiruichi Kawamura		Japan	M	NW Face
12.	Naoe Sakashita		Japan	M	NW Face
13.	Shomi Suzuki		Japan	M	NW Face
14.	Ang Phurba Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Face
15.	George Ritter	1980/5/15	W Germany	M	SW Face
16.	Nima Dorje Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
17.	Lhakpa Gyalu Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
18.	Matomu Ohmiya	1980/5/17	Japan	M	NW Face
19.	Toshitaka Sakano		Japan	M	NW Face
20.	Pemba Tshering Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Face
21.	Dawa Norbu Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Face
22.	Kazumi Fujikura	1981/5/9	Japan	M	SW Face
23.	Akinori Hosaka		Japan	M	SW Face
24.	Kunio Kataoka		Japan	M	SW Face
25.	Shigeru Suzuki		Japan	M	SW Face
26.	Noburu Yamada		Japan	M	SW Face
27.	Nima Temba Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
28.	Jozef Psotka	1981/5/20	Czech	M	NW Face
29.	Ludovit Zahoransky		Czech	M	NW Face
30.	Michel Parmentier	1981/10/15	France	M	SW Face
31.	Jean-Jacques Ricouard		France	M	SW Face
32.	Innocenzo Menbreaz	1982/5/2	Italy	M	SW Face
33.	Oreste Squinobal		Italy	M	SW Face
34.	Nga Temba Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
35.	Reinhold Messner	1982/5/6	Italy	M	NW Face to N Ridge
36.	Gottfried (Friedl) Muschlechner		Italy	M	NW Face to N Ridge
37.	Ang Dorje Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Face to N Ridge
38.	George Bachler	1983/5/28	Austria	M	SW Face
39.	Pierre Beghin	1983/10/17	France	M	SW Face
40.	Marc Buchez	1983/10/21	Switzerland	M	NW Face
41.	Vincent May		Switzerland	M	NW Face
42.	Takashi Ozaki	1984/5/19	Japan	M	SW Face to Main Summit
43.	Ang Tshering Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face to Main Summit
44.	Toichiro Mitani	1984/5/20	Japan	M	SW Rib to S Ridge up, down in traverse of 3 summits
45.	Satoshi Wada		Japan	M	SW Rib to S Ridge up, down in traverse of 3 summits
46.	Roger Marshall	1984/10/18	Canada	M	SW Face
47.	Jerzy Kukuczka	1986/1/11	Poland	M	SW Face
48.	Krzysztof Wielicki		Poland	M	SW Face
49.	Josep Permanye	1986/10/24	Spain	M	SW Face
50.	Ang Rita Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
51.	Phupu Bhutia	1987/5/25	India	M	NE spur to N Ridge
52.	Phu Dorjee Sherpa		India	M	NE spur to N Ridge
53.	Choten Tsering		Nepal	M	NE spur to N Ridge
54.	Subash Limbu	1987/5/31	India	M	NE spur to N Ridge
55.	Chandar Singh		India	M	NE spur to N Ridge
56.	Bhawan Singh		India	M	NE spur to N Ridge
57.	John Coulton	1987/10/10	Australia	M	SW Face
58.	Michael Groom		Australia	M	SW Face
59.	Jeong-Chel Lee	1988/1/2	S Korea	M	SW Face
60.	Carlos Buhler	1988/5/3	US	M	N Ridge
61.	Peter Habeler		Austria	M	N Ridge
62.	Martin Zabaleta		Spain	M	N Ridge
63.	Masayuki Unno	1988/10/17	Japan	M	SW Face
64.	Nima Temba Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
65.	Vasili Elagin	1989/4/9	USSR	M	SW Face
66.	Evgeni Klinezky		USSR	M	SW Face
67.	Vladimir Koroteev		USSR	M	SW Face
68.	Alexander Sheinov		USSR	M	SW Face
69.	Zijnur Khalitov	1989/4/16	USSR	M	SW Face
70.	Victor Dedi		USSR	M	SW Face
71.	Alexander Glushkovsky		USSR	M	SW Face
72.	Grigori Luniakov		USSR	M	SW Face
73.	Yuri Moiseev		USSR	M	SW Face
74.	Vladimir Souviga		USSR	M	SW Face
75.	Leonid Trotschinenko		USSR	M	SW Face
76.	Kazbek Valiev		USSR	M	SW Face
77.	Sergei Bogomolov	1989/4/29	USSR	M	SW Face
78.	Rinat Khabibulin		USSR	M	SW Face
79.	Vladimir Karataev		USSR	M	SW Face
80.	Mikhail Mozaev		USSR	M	SW Face
81.	Viktor Pastukh		USSR	M	SW Face
82.	Sergei Bershov	1989/5/1	USSR	M	Yalung Kang Up to Central and S
83.	Anatoli Bukreev		USSR	M	"
84.	Alexander Pogorelov		USSR	M	"
85.	Mikhail Turkevitch		USSR	M	"
86.	Evgeni Vinogradski		USSR	M	"
87.	Sergei Anatolievich Arentiev	1989/5/1	USSR	M	SW Face up S Ridge-SW side down
88.	Evgeni Klinetski		USSR	M	"
89.	Valeri Khrichtchaty		USSR	M	"
90.	Vladimir Souviga		USSR	M	"
91.	Vladimir Babyberdin	1989/5/1	USSR	M	S/Central Smts-S Ridge to Yalung Kang
92.	Zijnur Khalitov		USSR	M	"
93.	Vasili Elagin		USSR	M	"
94.	Vladimir Koroteev		USSR	M	"
95.	Grigori Luniakov		USSR	M	"
96.	Nikolai Cherny	1989/5/3	USSR	M	SW Face
97.	Sergei Efimov		USSR	M	SW Face
98.	Babu Chhiri Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
99.	Philip Ershler	1989/5/18	US	M	NW Face to N Ridge
100.	Craig Douglas Van Hoy		US	M	NW Face to N Ridge
101.	Edmund K. Viesturs		US	M	NW Face to N Ridge
102.	Robert Link	1989/5/21	US	M	NW Face to N Ridge
103.	Laurence Nielson		US	M	NW Face to N Ridge
104.	Ronald Gregory Wilson		US	M	NW Face to N Ridge
105.	Mark Emery Udall	1990/5/15	US	M	SW Face
106.	Stipe Bozic	1991/5/1	Yugoslavia	M	SW Face
107.	Viktor Groselj		Yugoslavia	M	SW Face
108.	Hirotaka Imamura	1991/5/24	Japan	M	E Ridge to N Ridge
109.	Hideji Nazuka		Japan	M	E Ridge to N Ridge

110.	Ryuro Oda		Japan	M	E Ridge to N Ridge
111.	Kanhaiya Lal Pokhriyal	1991/5/25	India	M	E Ridge to N Ridge
112.	Sunit Dutt Sharma		India	M	E Ridge to N Ridge
113.	Tsewang Smanla		India	M	E Ridge to N Ridge
114.	Carlos Miguel Carsolio	1992/5/12	Mexico	M	NW Face to N Ridge
115.	Valentin Boiko	1993/5/23	Ukraine	M	NE spur to N Ridge
116.	Alexie Kharaldine		Ukraine	M	NE spur to N Ridge
117.	Aleksander Serpak		Ukraine	M	NE spur to N Ridge
118.	Mikail Sitnik		Ukraine	M	NE spur to N Ridge
119.	Vladislav Terzyul		Ukraine	M	NE spur to N Ridge
120.	Aleksander Perkhomenko	1993/5/26	Ukraine	M	NE spur to N Ridge
121.	Ibragim Zaed		Ukraine	M	NE spur to N Ridge
122.	Victor Koulbatchenko	1994/10/23	Belarus	M	
123.	Erhard Loretan	1995/10/5	Switzerland	M	SW Face-W Col-NW Ridge
124.	Jean Troillet		Switzerland	M	"
125.	Abele Blanc	1995/10/14	Italy	M	"
126.	Sergio Martini		Italy	M	"
127.	Felix Iñurrategi Iriarte	1996/5/6	Spain	M	NW Face
128.	Alberto Iñurrategi Iriarte		Spain	M	NW Face
129.	Juanite Oiarzabal Urtaga		Spain	M	NW Face
130.	Scott McKee	1997/5/24	US	M	NW Face
131.	Akebu	1998/5/9	China	M	SW Face
132.	Dachung		China	M	SW Face
133.	Gyalbu		China	M	SW Face
134.	Lho Tse		China	M	SW Face
135.	Pemba Tashi		China	M	SW Face
136.	Ren Na		China	M	SW Face
137.	Tshering Dorje		China	M	SW Face
138.	Fausto de Stefani	1998/5/15	Italy	M	SW Face
139.	Gyalzen Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
140.	Kenzo Aksaka	1998/5/15	Japan	M	NW Ridge
141.	Kenta Hirose		Japan	M	NW Ridge
142.	Masakaru Okuda		Japan	M	NW Ridge
143.	Ansushi Shiina		Japan	M	NW Ridge
144.	Taro Tanigawa		Japan	M	NW Ridge
145.	Ginette Harrison	1998/5/18	UK	F	N Face
146.	Timothy Horvath		USA	M	N Face
147.	Jonathan C. Pratt		UK	M	N Face
148.	Christopher Shaw		USA	M	N Face
149.	Konrad Johan Auer	1998/5/18	Italy	M	SW Face
150.	Hans Kammerlander		Italy	M	SW Face
151.	Young-Seok Park	1999/5/12	S Korea	M	SW Face
152.	Sherap Jangbu Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
153.	Sange Pemba Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
154.	Andrian Cole	2000/5/13	UK	M	SW Face
155.	John Doyle		UK	M	SW Face
156.	Pemba Nurbu Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
157.	Nima Dorje Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
158.	Mu-Taek Park	2000/5/19	Korea	M	SW Face
159.	Hong-Gil Um		Korea	M	SW Face
160.	Wangchuk Sherpa	2000/5/20	India	M	SW Face
161.	Dawa Wangchuk		Nepal	M	SW Face
162.	Pasang Norbu Sherpa		Nepal	M	SW Face
163.	Piotr Postelnik	2001/5/15	Poland	M	Sout West Face
164.	Brian Duthiers		Switzerland	M	Sout West Face
165.	Martin Walter Schmidt		New Zealand	M	Sout West Face
166.	Gonzaleo Manuel Sobral Blanco Velez		Portugal	M	Sout West Face
167.	Urubko Denis	2002/5/13	Kazakhasthan	M	South West Face
168.	Vassiliy Divtsov		Kazakhasthan	M	Sout West Face
169.	Sergey Brodskiy		Kazakhasthan	M	Sout West Face
170.	Maxut Zhumayer		Kazakhasthan	M	Sout West Face
171.	Wang-Yong Han		S. Korea	M	South West Face
172.	Woong-Sik Kim		S. Korea	M	Sout West Face
173.	Martin Minarik		Czech Rep.	M	Sout West Face
174.	Dawa Wangchuk Sherpa		Nepal	M	Sout West Face
175.	Alexei Rospopov	2002/5/14	Kazakhasthan	M	South West Face
176.	Sergey Lavrov		Kazakhasthan	M	Sout West Face
177.	Damir Molgatchev		Kazakhasthan	M	Sout West Face
178.	Dawa Wangchuk Sherpa		Nepal	M	Sout West Face
179.	Redek Jaros	2002/5/14	Czech	M	SW Face
180.	Staurt Alexander Findlay	2002/5/24	UK	M	North Face
181.	Christopher Hig Grasswick		Canada	M	North Face
182.	Christian Kuntnier	2003/5/20	Italy	M	South West Ridge
183.	Gian Mano Menelli		Italy	M	South West Ridge
184.	Silvio Mondinelli		Italy	M	South West Ridge
185.	Jakob Reichen		Switzerland	M	South West Ridge
186.	Juan Carlos Pauner Gotor		Italy	M	South West Ridge
187.	Pemba Rinji Sherpa	2004/10/10	Nepal	M	South West Ridge
188.	Damai Chhiri Sherpa		Nepal	M	South West Ridge
189.	Dawa Wangchuk Sherpa		Nepal	M	South West Ridge
190.	Nima Wangdi Sherpa		Nepal	M	South West Ridge
191.	Mahavir Singh Chauhan	2004/10/10	India	M	South West Ridge
192.	Mohinder Singh Negi		India	M	South West Ridge
193.	Chhering Norbu Bodh		India	M	South West Ridge
194.	Neel Chand Dogra		India	M	South West Ridge
195.	Surender Singh		India	M	South West Ridge
196.	Ashok Kumar Chauhan		India	M	South West Ridge

LBH

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Lumbini Sacred Garden, Lumbani, Nepal, Tel: 00977-71-580114, Mobile: 981074728

50 year Chronology of Makalu Summiteers



On the occasion of the Mount Makalu Golden Jubilee Celebration, we have tried to present the statistics of the Makalu summiteers of the past 50 years. To collect the names of the successful summiteers we had asked the alpine clubs of various countries to help us. This chronology of successful mountaineers has been prepared according to the information received from the concerned alpine clubs, His Majesty's Government, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, *On the Top of the World: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Mountains* written by Richard Sale and John Cleare (Harper Collins, London, First Edition 2000) and other concerned individuals, institutions and related books and magazines. This list may not be complete so we would like feedback if any climber's name is missing or misspelt so that it could be corrected in the next issue of the *Nepal Parbat*.

S.NO.	NAME OF SUMMITEERS	DATE OF SUMMIT	NATIONALITY	SEX	ROUTE
1.	Jean Couzy	1955/5/15	France	M	W Ridge
2.	Lionel Terray		France	M	W Ridge
3.	Jean Franco	1955/5/16	France	M	W Ridge
4.	Guido Magnone		France	M	W Ridge
5.	Gyalzen Norbu Sherpa		India	M	W Ridge
6.	Jean Bouvier	1955/5/17	France	M	W Ridge
7.	Serge Coupe		France	M	W Ridge
8.	Pierre Leroux		France	M	W Ridge
9.	Andre Vialatte		France	M	W Ridge
10.	Hajime Tanaka	1970/5/23	Japan	M	
11.	Yuichi Ozaki		Japan	M	SE Ridge
12.	Bernard Mellet	1971/5/23	France	M	
13.	Yannick Seigneur		France	M	W Ridge
14.	Stainslav Belak Srauf	1975/10/6	Yugoslavia	M	S Face
15.	Marjan Manfreda		Yugoslavia	M	S Face
16.	Janko Azman	1975/10/8	Yugoslavia	M	
17.	Jerney (Neje) Zaplotnik			M	S Face
18.	Victor Groselj	1975/10/10	Yugoslavia	M	
19.	Ivan Kotnik			M	S Face
20.	Janer Dovzan	1975/10/11	Yugoslavia	M	S Face
21.	Jordi Camprubi Cases	1976/5/24	Spain	M	SE Ridge
22.	Karel Schubert	1976/5/24	Czech	M	SE Buttress to SE Ridge
23.	Milan Krissak		Czech	M	
24.	Hermann Warth	1978/5/1	W Germany	M	NW Ridge
25.	Ang Chepal Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
26.	Hans von Kaenel	1978/5/10	Switzerland	M	NW Ridge
27.	Karl Landvogt		W Germany	M	NW Ridge
28.	Nga Temba Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
29.	Kurt Diemberger	1978/5/21	Austria	M	NW Ridge
30.	Nawang Tenzing Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
31.	John Fenton Charles Roskelley	1980/5/15	US	M	W Ridge
32.	Robert Schauer	1981/4/25	Austria	M	Makalu La-NW Ridge
33.	Jerzy Kukuczka	1981/10/15	Poland	M	W Face to NW Ridge
34.	Young-Ho Heo	1982/5/20	S Korea	M	SE Ridge to E Face
35.	Pasang Norbu Sherpa		Nepal	M	SE Ridge to E Face
36.	Ang Phurba Sherpa		Nepal	M	SE Ridge to E Face
37.	Makato Ishibashi	1982/9/30	Japan	M	NW Ridge
38.	Yukihiro Michiwaki		Japan	M	NW Ridge
39.	Karuo Yuda		Japan	M	NW Ridge
40.	Andrzey Czok	1982/10/10	Roland	M	W Face to NW Ridge
41.	Angel Maria Abrego	1984/5/16	Spain	M	Makalu La-NW Ridge
42.	Enrique-Julian de Pablo		Spain	M	Makalu La-NW Ridge
43.	Romelo Nottaris	1984/9/29	Switzerland	M	Kukuczka route
44.	Almo Giambisi	1985/10/1	Italy	M	NW Ridge
45.	Sergio Martini		Italy	M	NW Ridge
46.	Juan Jose San Sebastian		Sapin	M	NW Ridge
47.	Fabio Stedile		Italy	M	NW Ridge
48.	Fausto de Stefani		Italy	M	NW Ridge
49.	Marcel Ruedi	1986/9/24	Switzerland	M	NW Ridge
50.	Krzysztof Wielicki		Poland	M	NW Ridge
51.	Hans Kammerlander	1986/9/26	Italy	M	NW Ridge
52.	Reinhold Messner		Italy	M	NW Ridge
53.	Gottfried (Friedl) Mutschlenchner		Italy	M	NW Ridge
54.	Christopher J. Pizzo	1987/5/12	US	M	NW Ridge
55.	Glewn E. Porzak		US	M	NW Ridge
56.	Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
57.	Gary R. Neptune	1987/5/16	US	M	NW Ridge
58.	Dawa Nuru Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
59.	Moti Lal Gurung		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
60.	Mare Batard	1988/5/27	France	M	W Ridge ascent NW Ridge descent
61.	Carlos Miguel Carsolio Larrea	1988/10/12	Mexico	M	NW Ridge
62.	Ryszard Kolakowski	1988/10/14	Poland	M	NW Ridge
63.	Tomarz Kopys		Poland	M	NW Ridge
64.	Pierre Beghin	1989/10/6	France	M	S Face ascent NW Ridge descent
65.	Hiroshi Onishi	1990/5/6	Japan	M	NW Ridge
66.	Nima Dorje Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
67.	Catherine (Kitty) Calhoun	1990/5/18	US	F	W Ridge
68.	John Schutt		US	M	W Ridge
69.	Jorge Angles Sober	1990/10/3	Spain	M	Kukuczka Route
70.	Anotonio Bros Busquet		Spain	M	Kukuczka Route
71.	Lhakpa Sherpa		Nepal	M	Kukuczka route
72.	Carles Figueras Torrent	1991/9/24	Spain	M	Kukuczka Route
73.	Josep Permanye Sabates		Spain	M	Kukuczka Route
74.	Xavier Robiro		Spain	M	Kukuczka route
75.	Alberto Iñurrategi Iriarte	1991/9/30	Spain	M	
76.	Felix Iñurrategi Iriarte		Spain	M	
77.	Felipe Uriarte Camade		Spain	M	Kukuczka route
78.	Manu Badiola Otegi	1991/10/2	Spain	M	W Ridge
79.	Erhard Loretan		Switzerland	M	W Ridge
80.	Carles Figueras Troillet		Switzerland	M	W Ridge
81.	Carles Valles Ocane		Spain	M	W Ridge
82.	Yuji Futamata	1991/10/5	Japan	M	NW Ridge
83.	Hirotaka Imamura		Japan	M	NW Ridge
84.	Youko Okada		Japan	M	NW Ridge
85.	Ang Dorje Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
86.	Takami Ishizaka	1991/10/7	Japan	M	NW Ridge
87.	Taeko Nagao		Japan	F	NW Ridge
88.	Fabrizio Manoni	1993/5/22	Italy	M	NW Ridge
89.	Salvatone Panzeri		Italy	M	NW Ridge
90.	Dario Spreafico		Italy	M	NW Ridge
91.	Leopold Sulovsky		Czech Rep	M	NW Ridge
92.	Tirtha Tamang		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
93.	Mingmar Tamang		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
94.	Neal J. Beidleman	1994/5/15	US	M	NW Ridge
95.	Anotoli Boukreev		Kazakhstan	M	NW Ridge
96.	Benoit Chamoux	1995/5/7	France	M	NW Ridge
97.	Pierre Alain Royer		France	M	NW Ridge
98.	Mark Auricht	1995/5/8	Australia	M	NW Ridge
99.	David Victor Hume		Australia	M	NW Ridge
100.	Juanito Oiarzabal Urtaga		Spain	M	NW Ridge
101.	Benzamin Ruiz de Infante		Spain	M	NW Ridge
102.	Juan Vallejo Llamos		Spain	M	NW Ridge
103.	Um Hong-Gil		S Korea	M	NW Ridge
104.	Alberto Zerain Berasategui	1995/5/9	Spain	M	NW Ridge
105.	Verikka Gustafsson	1995/5/18	Finland	M	NW Ridge
106.	Robert Edwin Hall		New Nealand	M	NW Ridge
107.	Edmund Viesturs		US	M	NW Ridge
108.	Toshihiko Arai	1995/5/21	Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge
109.	Masayuki Matsubara		Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge
110.	Osamu Tanabe		Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge
111.	Atsushi Yamamoto		Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge

112.	Takeshi Ono	1995/5/22	Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge
113.	Taro Tanigawa		Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge
114.	Hirataka Takeuchi		Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge
115.	Munchiko Yamamoto		Japan	M	NE Ridge to NW Ridge
116.	Andrew Collins	1995/10/9	UK	M	SE Ridge
117.	Daniel Lee Mazur		US	M	SE Ridge
118.	Aleksei Nikiforov		Russia	M	SE Ridge
119.	Jonathan C. Pratt		UK	M	SE Ridge
120.	Nikolai Kogemiako	1996/5/19	Russia	M	NE Ridge
121.	Vladimir Koroteev		Russia	M	NE Ridge
122.	Ivan Plotnikov		Russia	M	NE Ridge
123.	Gleb Sokolov		Russia	M	NE Ridge
124.	Vladimir Bashkirov	1996/5/23	Russia	M	NE Ridge
125.	Sergei Bogomolov		Russia	M	NE Ridge
126.	Alexander Foigt		Russia	M	NE Ridge
127.	Juri Outechev		Russia	M	NE Ridge
128.	Vladimir Stalkovski		Russia	M	NE Ridge
129.	Alexandre Vegner		Russia	M	NE Ridge
130.	Alexei Bolotov	1997/5/21	Russia	M	W Ridge to S Ridge
131.	Igor Bougatshevski		Russia	M	W Ridge to S Ridge
132.	Yuri Ermatchek		Russia	M	W Ridge to S Ridge
133.	Nikolai Jiline		Russia	M	W Ridge to S Ridge
134.	Dmitri Pavlenko		Russia	M	W Ridge to S Ridge
135.	Andrei Alexandrov	1998/5/16	Russia	M	NW Ridge
136.	Ivan Aristov		Russia	M	NW Ridge
137.	Nikolai Kadoshinikov		Russia	M	NW Ridge
138.	Oscar Cadiach Puig	1998/5/19	Spain	M	NW Ridge
139.	Nani Duro Arayol		Andorra	F	NW Ridge
140.	Zaprian Stoyanov Horozav		Bulgaria	M	NW Ridge
141.	Zdravko Petkov		Bulgaria	M	NW Ridge
142.	Josef Simunek		Czech Rep	M	NW Ridge
143.	Ivan Gueorguiov Valtchev		Bulgaria	M	NW Ridge
144.	Doytchin Todoyov Vassilev		Bulgaria	M	NW Ridge
145.	Sona Vomackova		Czech Rep	F	NW Ridge
146.	Lhakpa Dorje Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
147.	Michael Knakkergaard Jorgensen	1999/4/30	Denmark	M	NW Ridge
148.	Markus Stofer		Switzerland	M	NW Ridge
149.	Andre Georges	1999/5/13	Switzerland	M	NW Ridge
150.	Michael Groom	1999/5/16	Australia	M	NW Ridge
151.	David P. Bridges		US	M	NW Ridge
152.	Ginette Lesley Harrison	1999/5/22	UK	F	NW Ridge
153.	Hamish Robertson		Australia	M	NW Ridge
154.	Alan Charles Hinkes	1999/5/23	UK	M	NW Ridge
155.	Dawa Chiri Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
156.	William Earl Pierson	1999/5/25	US	M	NW Ridge
157.	Young-Seok Park	2000/5/15	Korea	M	North West Ridge
158.	Hyun-Jo Lee		Korea	M	North West Ridge
159.	Dawa Chhiri Sherpa		Nepal	M	North West Ridge
160.	Olaf Zill		Germany	M	North West Ridge
161.	Thomes Tuerpe		Germany	M	North West Ridge
162.	Goetz Wiegand		Germany	M	North West Ridge
163.	Frank Meutzner		Germany	M	North West Ridge
164.	Bernd Mehnert		Germany	M	North West Ridge
165.	Christian Kuntner	2000/5/16	Italy	M	North West Ridge
166.	Stephen Andres		Italy	M	North West Ridge
167.	Abele Blanc		Italy	M	North West Ridge
168.	Guy Cotter	2001/5/12	New Zealand	M	NW Ridge
169.	Takashi Ozaki		Japan	M	NW Ridge
170.	Lhakpa Dorje Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
171.	Pablo Gutierrez		Chile	M	North West Ridge
172.	Andres Stambuk		Chile	M	North West Ridge
173.	Ermesto Olivares		Chile	M	North West Ridge
174.	Reza Zarei Toudeshki	2001/5/13	Iran	M	North West Ridge
175.	Mohammed Hassan Nazarian		Iran	M	North West Ridge
176.	Jalal Cheshmeh Ghasabani		Iran	M	North West Ridge
177.	Mohammed Oraz		Iran	M	North West Ridge
178.	Eghbal Aflaki Aghbelagh		Iran	M	North West Ridge
179.	Davoud Khadem Asl		Iran	M	North West Ridge
180.	Lhakpa Sherpa		Nepal	M	North West Ridge
181.	Lhakpa Wongel Sherpa		Nepal	M	North West Ridge
182.	Rudolf Denk	2001/5/14	Austria	M	North West Ridge
183.	Ms. Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner		Austria	F	North West Ridge
184.	Karl Watschinger		Austria	M	North West Ridge
185.	Ms. Karin Katstaller	2001/5/14	Austrian	F	North West Ridge
186.	Alexander Lugger		Austrian	M	North West Ridge
187.	Sebastian Ruckensteiner		Austrian	M	North West Ridge
188.	Wang Young Han	2001/5/14	Korea	M	North West Ridge
189.	Mi Gon Kim		Korea	M	North West Ridge
190.	Minga Sherpa		Nepal	M	North West Ridge
191.	Chhang Dawa Sherpa		Nepal	M	North West Ridge
192.	Giampaolo Corona	2001/5/14	Italy	M	North West Ridge
193.	Helmut Ortner	2001/5/18	Austria	M	North West Ridge
194.	Piotr Pustelnik	2002/5/16	Poland	M	North West Ridge
195.	Gonzalo Velez		Portugues	M	North West Ridge
196.	Martin Goblik		Slovak	M	North West Ridge
197.	Edurne Pasaban Lizarribar	2002/5/16	Spain	F	NW Ridge
198.	Gian Mario Meerelli		Italy	M	NW Ridge
199.	Juan Carlos Paunor Gator		Spain	M	NW Ridge
200.	Norbert Joos		Switzarland	M	NW Ridge
201.	Jakob Reichen		Switzarland	M	NW Ridge
202.	Silvio Mondinelli		Italy	M	NW Ridge
203.	Dorjee Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
204.	Tsering Dorje	2003/5/14	China	M	NW Ridge
205.	Ren Na		China	M	NW Ridge
206.	Bianba Zhasi		China	M	NW Ridge
207.	Gyalbu (Jia Bu)		China	M	NW Ridge
208.	Lho Tse		China	M	NW Ridge
226.	Sven Gangdal	2004/4/21	Norway	M	NW Ridge
227.	Dawa Chhiri Sherpa	2004/4/21	Nepal	M	NW Ridge
209.	Maxut Zhumayev	2004/5/20	Kazakhstan	M	West Ridge
210.	Vassility Pivtsov		Kazakhstan	M	West Ridge
211.	Jay Sieger		USA	M	West Ridge
212.	Vladyslav Tezyul		Ukraine	M	West Ridge
213.	Ignacio Ochoa de Olza	2004/5/16	Spain	M	NW Ridge
214.	Edger Ivan Vallejo Ricaurte		Ecuador	M	NW Ridge
215.	Jon Alexander Chicon Narvaez		Spain	M	NW Ridge
216.	Ricardo Valencia Martinez		Spain	M	NW Ridge
217.	Joby David Ogwyn		USA	M	NW Ridge
218.	Mauricio E.L. Ahumada		Mexico	M	NW Ridge
219.	Rosa Maria Fernandez Rubio	2004/5/20	Spain	F	NW Ridge
220.	Jose Ignacio Orviz Menendez		Spain	M	NW Ridge
221.	Badia B. Bonilla Luna		Mexico	M	NW Ridge
222.	Fura Dorjee Sherpa	2004/5/20	Nepal	M	NW Ridge
223.	Dawa Chhiri Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
224.	Eayula Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge
225.	Lhakpa Sherpa		Nepal	M	NW Ridge



55 year Chronology of Annapurna 1 Summiteers



On the occasion of the Mount Annapurna I 55th Anniversary Celebration, we have tried to present the statistics of the Annapurna summiteers of the past 55 years. To collect the names of the successful summiteers we had asked the alpine clubs of various countries to help us. This chronology of successful mountaineers has been prepared according to the information received from the concerned alpine clubs, His Majesty's Government, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, *On the Top of the World: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Mountains* written by Richard Sale and John Cleare (Harper Collins, London, First Edition 2000) and other concerned individuals, institutions and related books and magazines. This list may not be complete so we would like feedback if any climber's name is missing or misspelt so that it could be corrected in the next issue of the *Nepal Parbat*.

S.NO.	NAME OF SUMMITEERS	DATE OF SUMMIT	NATIONALITY	ROUTE
1.	Maurice Herzog	1950/6/3	France	North Face
2.	Louis Lachenal	1950/6/3	France	North Face
3.	Gerry Owens	1970/5/20	Great Britain	North Face
4.	Don Whillans	1970/5/27	Great Britain	South Face
5.	Dougal Haston	1970/5/27	Great Britain	South Face
6.	Mathieu von Rijswick	1977/10/13	Holland	North Face
7.	Sonam Wolang Sherpa	1977/10/13	Nepal	North Face
8.	Irene Miller	1978/10/15	United States	North Face
9.	Vera Komarkova	1978/10/15	Czechoslovakia	North Face
10.	Mingma Tshering Sherpa	1978/10/15	Nepal	North Face
11.	Chewang Rinzing Sherpa	1978/10/15	Nepal	North Face
12.	Yves Morin	1979/4/30	France	North Face
13.	Henri Sigayret	1979/4/30	France	North Face
14.	Sezio Tanaka	1979/5/8	Japan	North Face
15.	Pema Sherpa	1979/5/8	Nepal	North Face
16.	Gustav Harder	1980/5/1	Germany	North Face
17.	Konrad Stalkmayr	1980/5/1	Germany	North Face
18.	Ang Dorje Sherpa	1980/5/3	Nepal	North Face
19.	Karl Schrag	1980/5/3	Germany	North Face
20.	Wolfgang Broeg	1980/5/3	Germany	North Face
21.	Maila Pemba Sherpa	1980/5/3	Nepal	North Face
22.	Ang Tsangi Sherpa	1980/5/3	Nepal	North Face
23.	Hiroshi Aota	1981/10/19	Japan	South Face
24.	Yukihiro Yanagisawa	1981/10/19	Japan	South Face
25.	Wasti Woergoetter	1982/5/4	Austria	North Face
26.	Werner Buerkli	1982/5/4	Switzerland	North Face
27.	Thomas Haegler	1982/5/4	Switzerland	North Face
28.	Dawa Tenzing Sherpa	1982/5/4	Nepal	North Face
29.	Erhard Loretan	1984/10/24	Switzerland	up Fast Ridge, down North face
30.	Norbert Joos	1984/10/24	Switzerland	up East Ridge, down North Face
31.	Reinhold Messner	1985/4/24	Italy	Northwest Face
32.	Hans Kammerlander	1985/4/24	Italy	Northwest Face
33.	Sergio Martini	1986/9/21	Italy	North Face
34.	Fausto De Stefani	1986/9/21	Italy	North Face
35.	Almo Giambisi	1986/9/21	Italy	North Face
36.	Jerzy Kukuczka	1987/2/3	Poland	North Face
37.	Artur Hajzer	1987/2/3	Poland	North Face
38.	Josep Maria Maixe	1987/10/8	Spain	North Face
39.	Rafael Lopez	1987/10/8	Spain	North Face
40.	Juan Carlos Gomez	1987/10/11	Spain	North Face
41.	Francisco Jose Perez	1987/10/11	Spain	North Face
42.	Kaji Sherpa	1987/10/11	Nepal	North Face
43.	Noboru Ymada	1987/12/20	Japan	South Face
44.	Yashuhira Saito	1987/12/20	Japan	South Face
45.	Teru Saegusa	1987/12/20	Japan	South Face
46.	Toshiyuki Kobayashi	1987/12/20	Japan	South Face
47.	Benoit Chamoux	1988/5/10	France	South Face
48.	Nicolas Campredon	1988/5/10	France	South Face
49.	Steve Boyer	1988/5/10	United States	South Face
50.	Soro Dorotei	1988/5/10	Italy	South Face
51.	Josef Rakoncaj	1988/5/10	Czechoslovakia	South Face
52.	Jindrich Martis	1988/10/2	Czechoslovakia	Northwest Face
53.	Josef Nevrka	1988/10/2	Czechoslovakia	Northwest Face
54.	Pablo Aldai	1988/10/3	Spain	North Face
55.	Juan Fernando Azcona	1988/10/3	Spain	North Face
56.	Ludmil Ianakiev	1989/10/28	Bulgaria	North Face
57.	Petar Panayotov	1989/10/28	Bulgaria	North Face
58.	Ognian Stoykov	1989/10/28	Bulgaria	North Face
59.	Giancarlo Gazzola, Gabriel Denamur	1990/10/5, 1991/10/20-21	Italy, Belgium	alleged North Face, up South Face, down North Face
60.	Bogdan Stefko	1991/10/21	Poland	South Face
61.	Krzysztof Wielicki	1991/10/21	Poland	South Face
62.	Ryszard Pawlowski	1991/10/22	Poland	South Face
63.	Rudiger Schleypen	1991/10/22	Germany	South Face
64.	Wanda Rutkiewicz	1991/10/22	Poland	South Face
65.	Mariusz Sprutta	1991/10/23	Poland	South Face
66.	Gonzalo Velez	1991/10/23	Portugal	South Face
67.	Ingrid Baeyens	1991/10/23	Belgium	South Face
68.	Segey Arsentiev	1991/10/24	USSR	North Face
69.	Nikolai Cherny	1991/10/24	USSR	North Face
70.	Vladimir Obichod	1991/10/26	USSR	South Face
71.	Vladimir Baschkirov	1991/10/26	USSR	South Face
72.	Nikolai Petrov	1991/10/26	USSR	South Face
73.	Serguei Isaev	1991/10/26	USSR	North Face
74.	Akebu	1993/4/26	China	North Face
75.	Bianba Zhasi	1993/4/26	China	North Face
76.	Ren Na	1993/4/26	China	North Face
77.	Tshering Dorjee	1993/4/26	China (Tibet)	South Face
78.	Park Jung-Hun	1994/10/10	South Korea	South Face
79.	Dawa Sherpa	1994/10/10	Nepal	South Face
80.	Ang Dawa Tamang	1994/10/10	Nepal	South Face
81.	Mingma Tamang	1994/10/10	Nepal	North Face
82.	Carlos Carsólio	1995/4/29	Mexico	North Face
83.	Davorin Karnicar	1995/4/29	Slovenia	North Face
84.	Andre (Drejc) Karnicar	1995/4/29	Slovenia	North Face
85.	Tomaz Humar	1995/5/6	Slovenia	North Face
86.	Park Young-Seok	1996/5/3	South Korea	North Face
87.	Kim Hun-Sang	1996/5/3	South Korea	North Face
88.	Kaji Sherpa	1996/5/3	Nepal	North Face
89.	Gyalzen Sherpa	1996/5/3	Nepal	North Face
90.	André Georges	1996/5/15	France	North Face
91.	Andrzej Marciniak	1996/10/20	Poland	Northwest Pillar
92.	Vladyslav Terzyul	1996/10/20	Ukraine	Northwest Pillar
93.	Sergei Bershov	1996/10/20	Ukraine	South Face
94.	Igor Svergun	1996/10/20	Ukraine	South Face
95.	Sergei Kovalev	1996/10/20	Ukraine	South Face
96.	Han Wang-Dong	1998/5/3	South Korea	North Face
97.	Ang Dawa Tamang	1998/5/3	Nepal	North Face
98.	Phurba Tamang (second ascent)	1998/5/3	Nepal	North Face
99.	Arjun Tamang	1998/5/3	Nepal	North Face
100.	Kami Dorje Sherpa	1998/5/3	Nepal	North Face
101.	Juanito Oiarzabal	1999/4/29	Spain	North Face
102.	Fenan Latorre	1999/4/29	Spain	North Face
103.	Juan Vallejo	1999/4/29	Spain	North Face
104.	Um Hong-Gil	1999/4/29	South Korea	North Face
105.	Park Chang-Soo	1999/4/29	South Korea	North Face
106.	Ji Hyun-Ok (F)	1999/4/29	South Korea	North Face
107.	Ang Dawa Tamang (third ascent)	1999/4/29	Nepal	North Face
108.	Kami Dorje Sherpa (second ascent)	1999/4/29	Nepal	North Face
109.	Hee Joon OH	2002/5/4	Korea	North Face
110.	Serap Jangbu Sherpa	2002/5/4	Nepal	North Face
111.	Lhakpa Chhring Sherpa	2002/5/4	Nepal	North Face
112.	Calig Kumar Negi	2002/5/6	India	North Face
113.	Chherin Norbu Bodh	2002/5/6	India	North Face
114.	Rajender Singh Jalal	2002/5/6	India	North Face
115.	Jagat Singh	2002/5/6	India	North Face
116.	Passang Rinji Sherpa	2002/5/6	Nepal	North Face
117.	Lhakpa Thendul Sherpa	2002/5/6	Nepal	North Face
118.	Tashi Dorje Sherpa	2002/5/6	Nepal	North Face
119.	Alan Hinkes	2002/5/6	U.K	North Face
120.	Phunurbu Sherpa	2002/5/6	Nepal	North Face
121.	Alberto Inourrategi	2002/5/16	Spain	South Face
122.	Jean Christopher lafaille	2002/5/16	France	South Face
123.	Atsushi Yamamoto	2003/5/16	Japan	South Face
124.	Kazuhiro Takahashi	2003/5/16	Japan	South Face
125.	Atushitta Yakawa	2003/5/16	Japan	South Face
126.	Shoichi Moni	2003/5/16	Japan	South Face
127.	Yoshinobu Kato	2003/5/16	Japan	South Face
128.	Kazuaki Amano	2003/5/16	Japan	South Face
129.	Palden Namgya Sherpa	2003/5/16	Nepal	South Face
130.	Lhakpa Rita Sherpa	2003/5/16	Nepal	South Face
131.	Ralf Dujmovits	2004/5/30	German	North Route
132.	Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner	2004/5/30	Australia	North Route
133.	Hiro Taka Tukeuchi	2004/5/30	Japan	North Route
134.	Urubko Denis	2004/5/30	Kazakhstan	North Route

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Heartily Congratulates



Mr. Krishna Lal Thakali, a NMA member, *on being nominated as the Minister for General Administration of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.*



Mr. Gia Tortladze, *President of International Mountaineers Association, on becoming the Member of the Lower House of Representatives of Georgia.*



Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa, *President of Nepal Mountaineering Association, on being awarded "the mark of honour of Knight in the Order of Leopold" by the Belgium Government.*

Nepal Mountaineering Association

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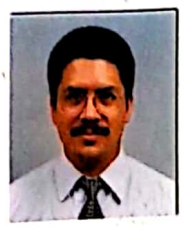
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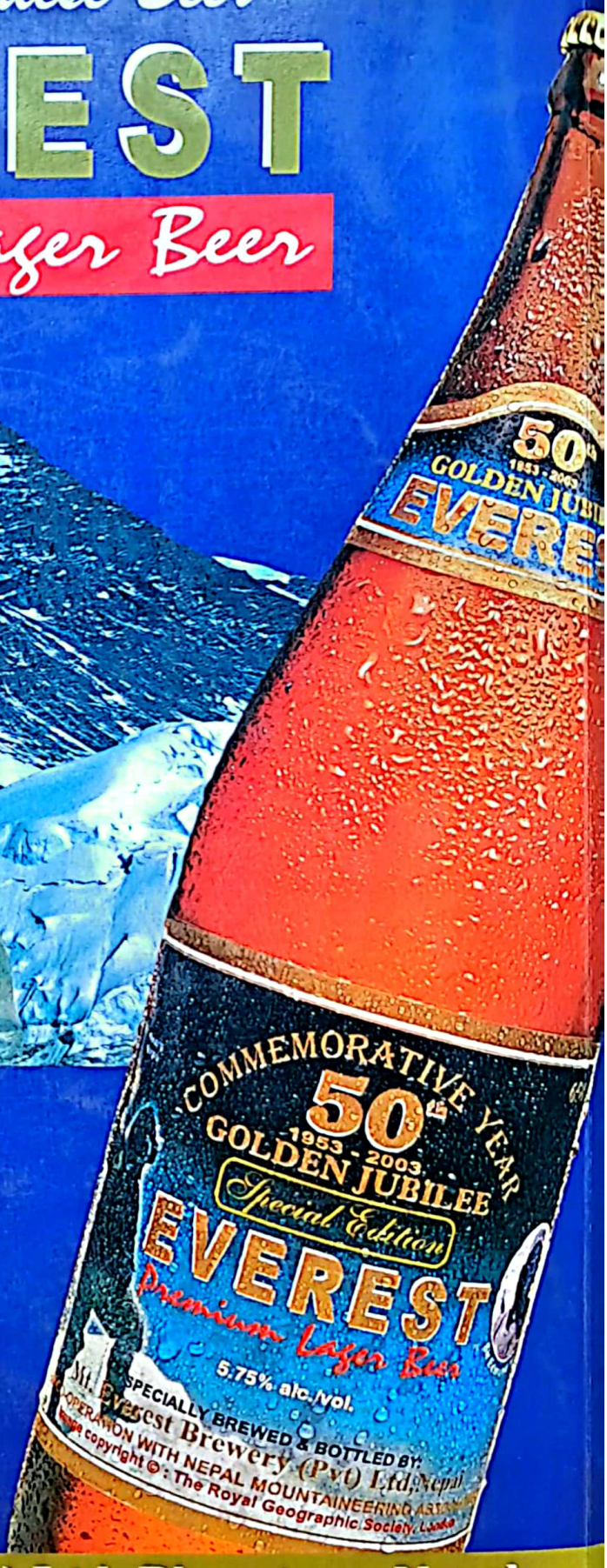
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