Nepal Parbat

Vol 12 Issue 16 Oct 2010

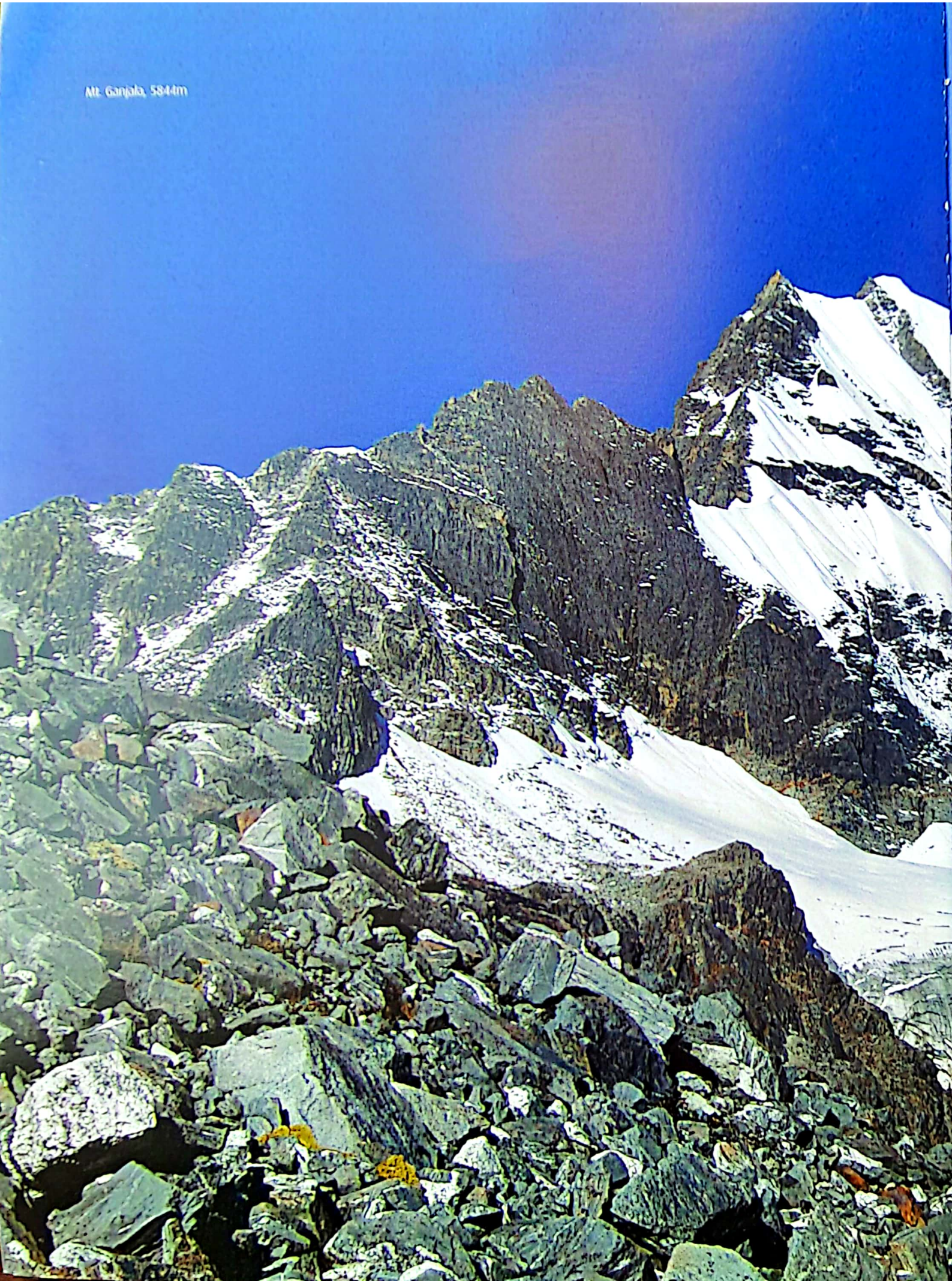
Our Mountains Awaits You



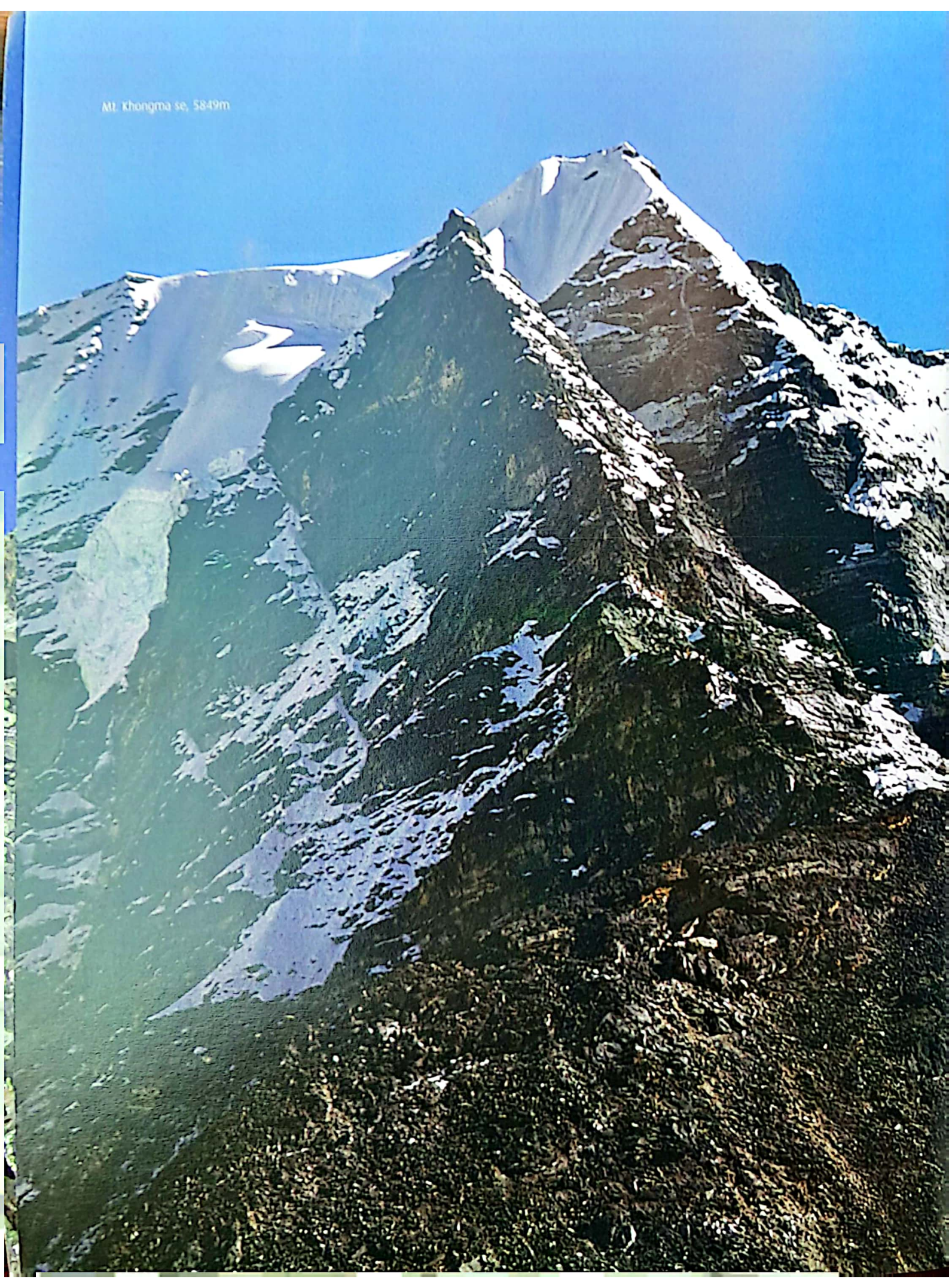
Nepal Mountaineering Association

Celebrating Nepal Tourism Year 2011

NEPAL TOURISM YEAR 2011


Mt. Ganjala, 5844m



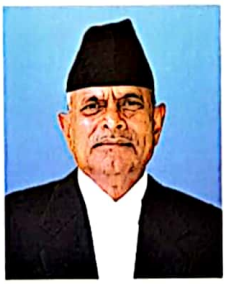

Mt. Khongma se, 5849m

Office of the President

Office of the President
Shital Niwas, Kathmandu

Rastrapati Bhawan,
Shital Niwas, Maharajgunj,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ref. No.:



Congratulation!

As Nepal Mountaineering Association is publishing a magazine named "Nepal Parbat" on the occasion of Nepal Tourism Year 2011, Rt. Hon'ble President has expressed happiness for this effort. As tourism is an effective medium to uplift the living standard of Nepali people and specially people of rural areas, Rt. Hon'ble President has expressed that everybody should participate to make Nepal Tourism Year 2011 successful.

Rt. Hon' ble President has emphasized that our efforts are necessary for the promotion and development of the tourism sector through contributions by all through their respective positions to attain the objectives of Nepal Tourism Year 2011. Rt. Hon' ble President has expressed his best wishes for the huge success of Nepal Tourism Year 2011 as well as for the upcoming efforts of Nepal Mountaineering Association in mountaineering and adventure tourism.

LAW BOOKS MANAGEMENT BOARD
Permission granted for authentic translation as per the NOTARY PUBLIC ACT. 2007
Kathmandu, Nepal

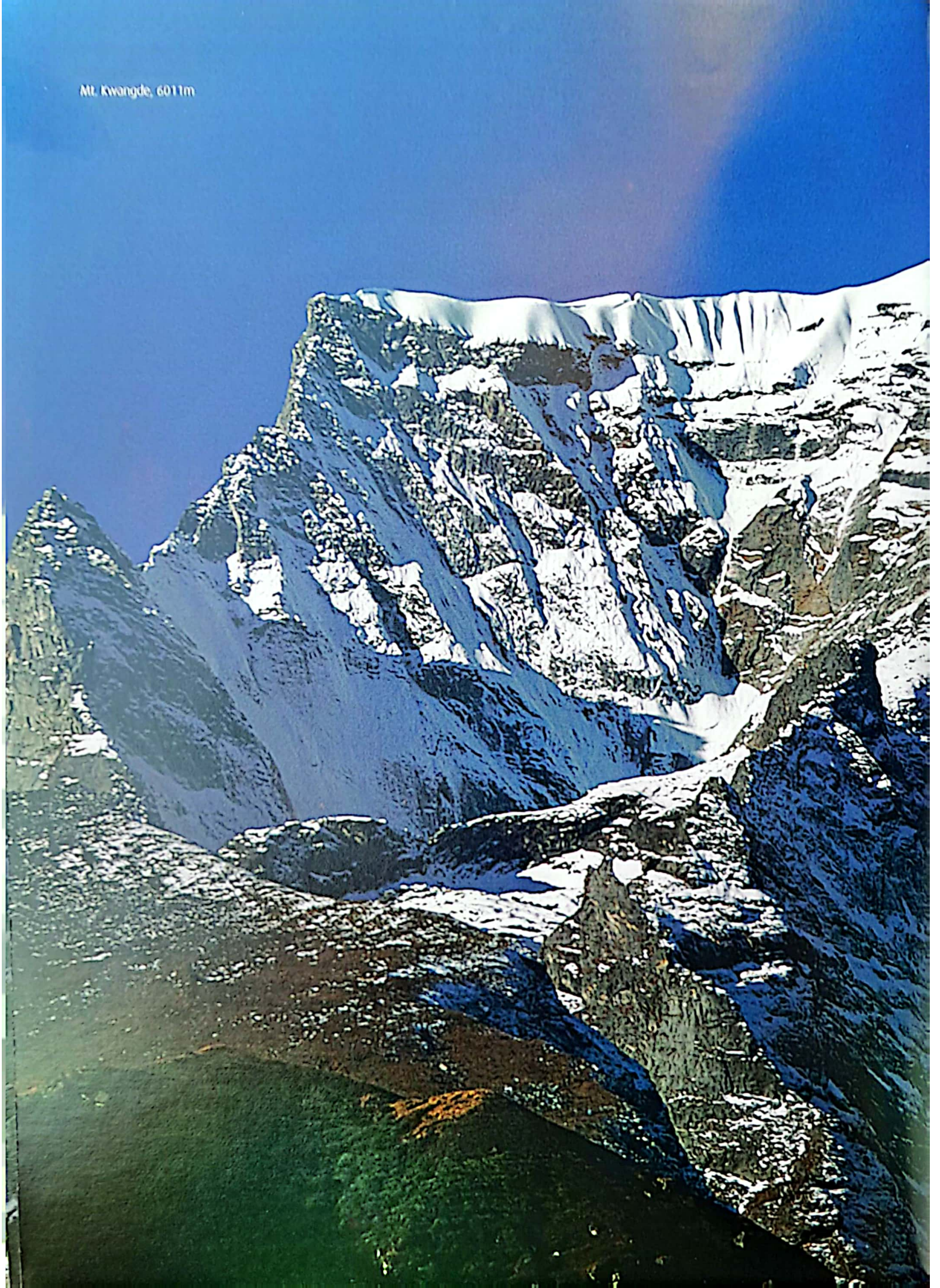
By order,

September 26, 2010
(Chakrapani Pandey)
Under Secretary

Date:- Sunday, September 26, 2010

Sept. 27, 2010

Devi Regmi
(Production Officer)


Mt. Kwangde, 6011m

The Prime Minister

KATHMANDU
NEPAL

September 21, 2010



Message

It is my pleasure to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association is publishing a special issue of Nepal Parbat, an official journal, to celebrate Nepal Tourism Year 2011. This is indeed an inspiring gesture on the part of your association to many other private and public sectors showing how the general public, professionals, business sectors and organizations can get involved in the process of making the goal of Nepal Tourism Year 2011 a resounding success. I hope this organization with its global network will play an important role in promoting Nepal as a popular tourist destination all over the world during Nepal Tourism Year 2011 and also beyond.

Tourism is one of the best ways to bring people of the world together. It makes them acquaintances, allow them to share their experiences and also familiarizes them about other countries' cultures, religions and rituals. Countries like ours where tourism has also been a great source of national income and also employment generation can contribute to achieve our millenium developmental goal from this sector. We all know that Nepal with its exotic flora and fauna, its panoramic scenes and the loftiness of its snow-capped Himalayas endowed by nature can always be a popular destination for a large number of visitors across the world. But, the negative impact of climate change in our Himalayas and the mountain regions poses tremendous challenges for the sustainability and preservation of our environment. Therefore, we should promote tourism by making it more environment-friendly and give utmost importance for the preservation of our natural beauties.

On the eve of Nepal Tourism Year 2011, let's join our hands together and vow to make it a grand success by offering quality services and best hospitality to our guests. I wish for all round success of Nepal Mountaineering Association for its endeavours in the days to come.

Madhav K. Nepal


Mt. Lubuje, 6119m

Government of Nepal

Hon'ble Sharat Singha Bhandari
Minister
Tourism & Civil Aviation

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Singhadurbar, Kathmandu,
Nepal.

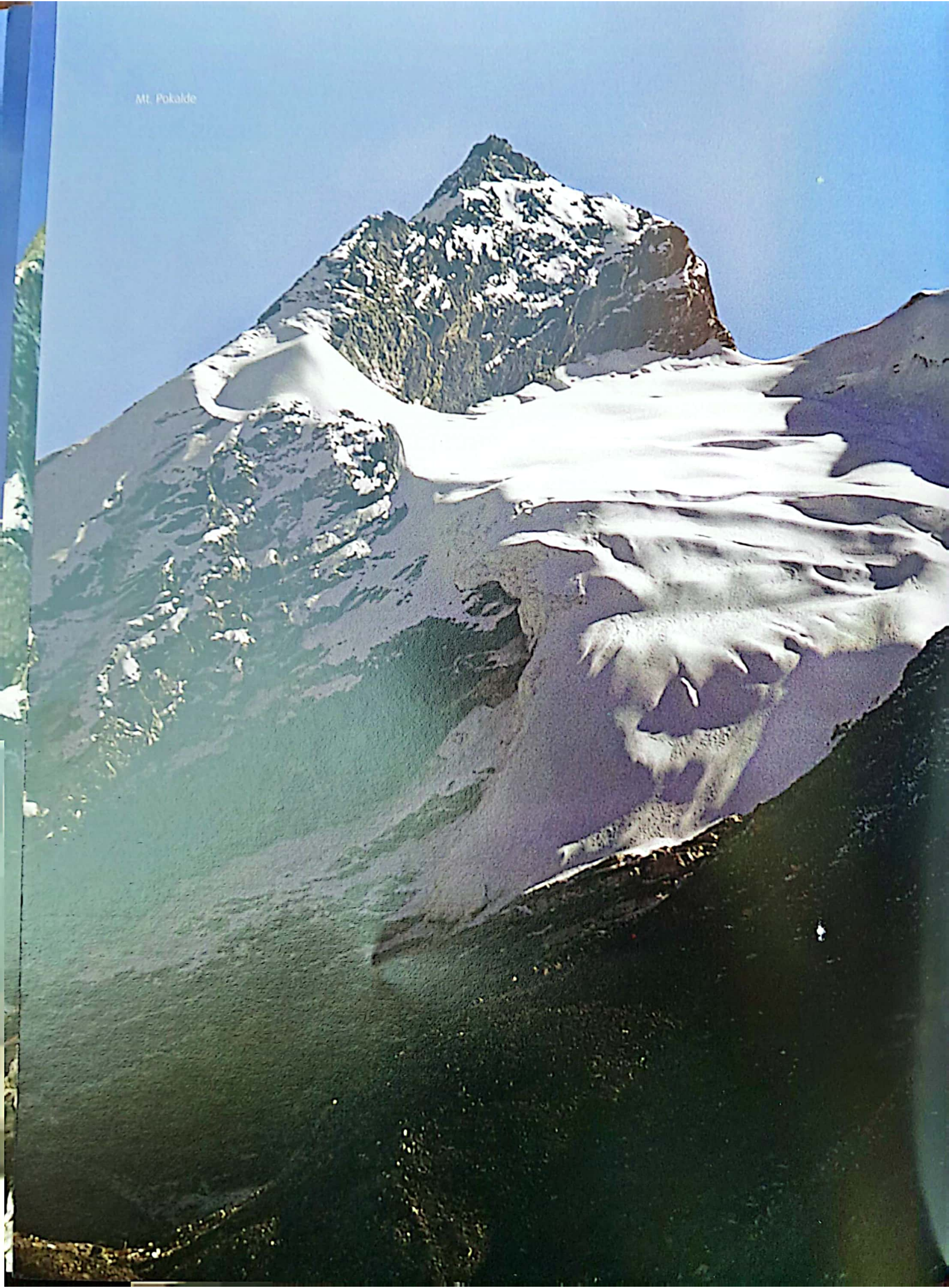
Date : 25 september 2010



Message

Congratulations on bringing out a special issue of your magazine, Nepal Parbat, to celebrate the upcoming Nepal Tourism Year 2011. Without doubt, Nepal Mountaineering Association will be playing a very important role in making Nepal Tourism Year 2011 a big success. Nepal Mountaineering Association is a highly regarded organization not only within our own country but also throughout the world. So, your active involvement in Nepal Tourism Year 2011 will most definitely help our country to achieve its ambitious goals. I wish you all success.

Sharat Singha Bhandari, Minister
Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation Nepal


Mt. Pokalde

UIAA PRESIDENT

Date: 25 september 2010

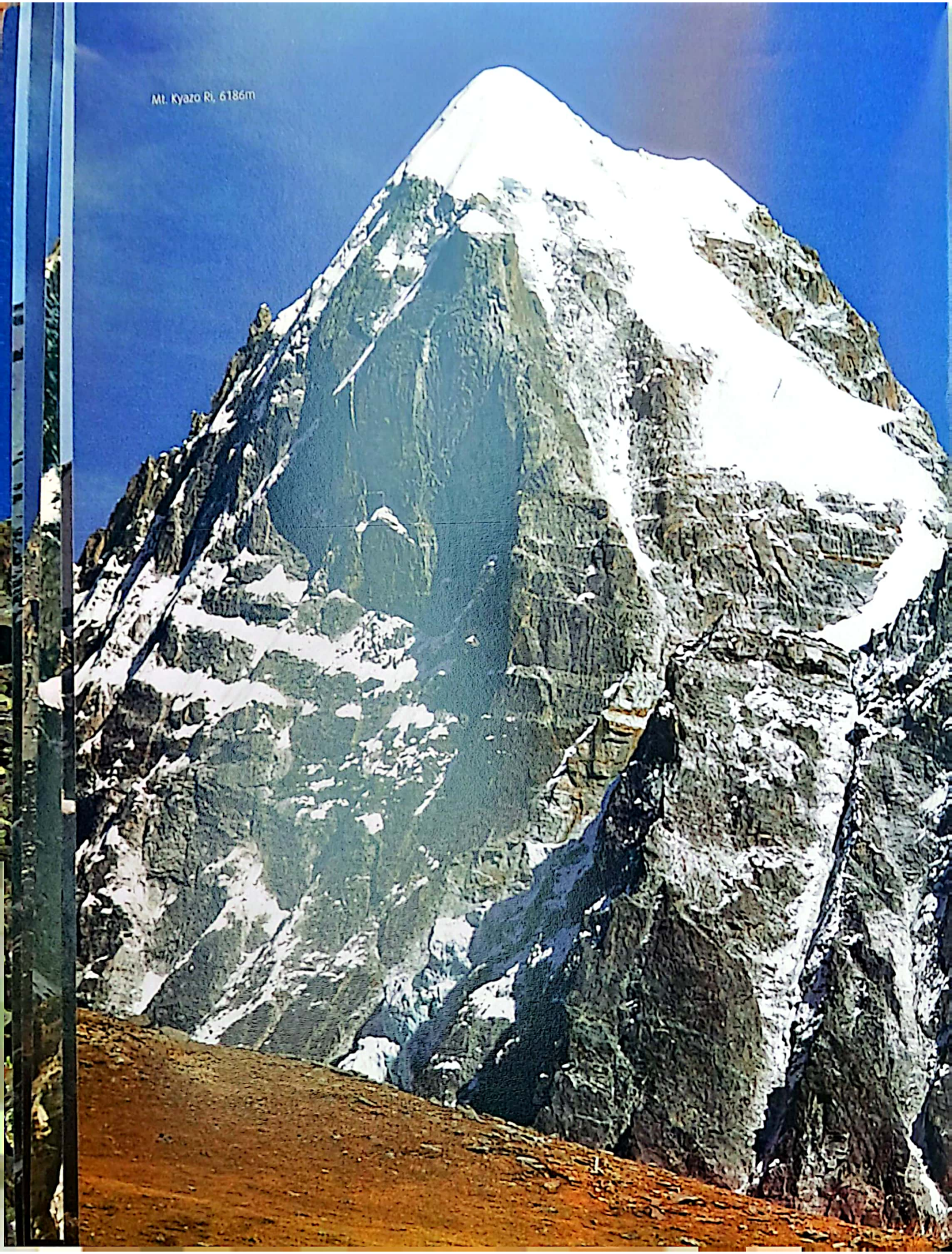


Message

Please accept my sincere compliments on behalf of UIAA on the occasion of your bringing out a special issue of your official magazine, Nepal Parbat, to celebrate Nepal Tourism Year 2011. Nepal Mountaineering Association is a very important member of our organization and has always held a special place in our hearts not only because of the great significance of your high mountains to climbing enthusiasts but also because of the sincerity of your people. UIAA hopes to be a part of your great celebrations by holding its general assembly in Kathmandu around September 2011. We are sure that Nepal Tourism Year 2011 will be a great success and we have no doubt that Nepal Mountain Association will be contributing greatly towards it.

Mike Mortimer

Mike Mortimer
President
Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme (UIAA)


Mt. Kyazo Ri, 6186m

REINHOLD MESSNER

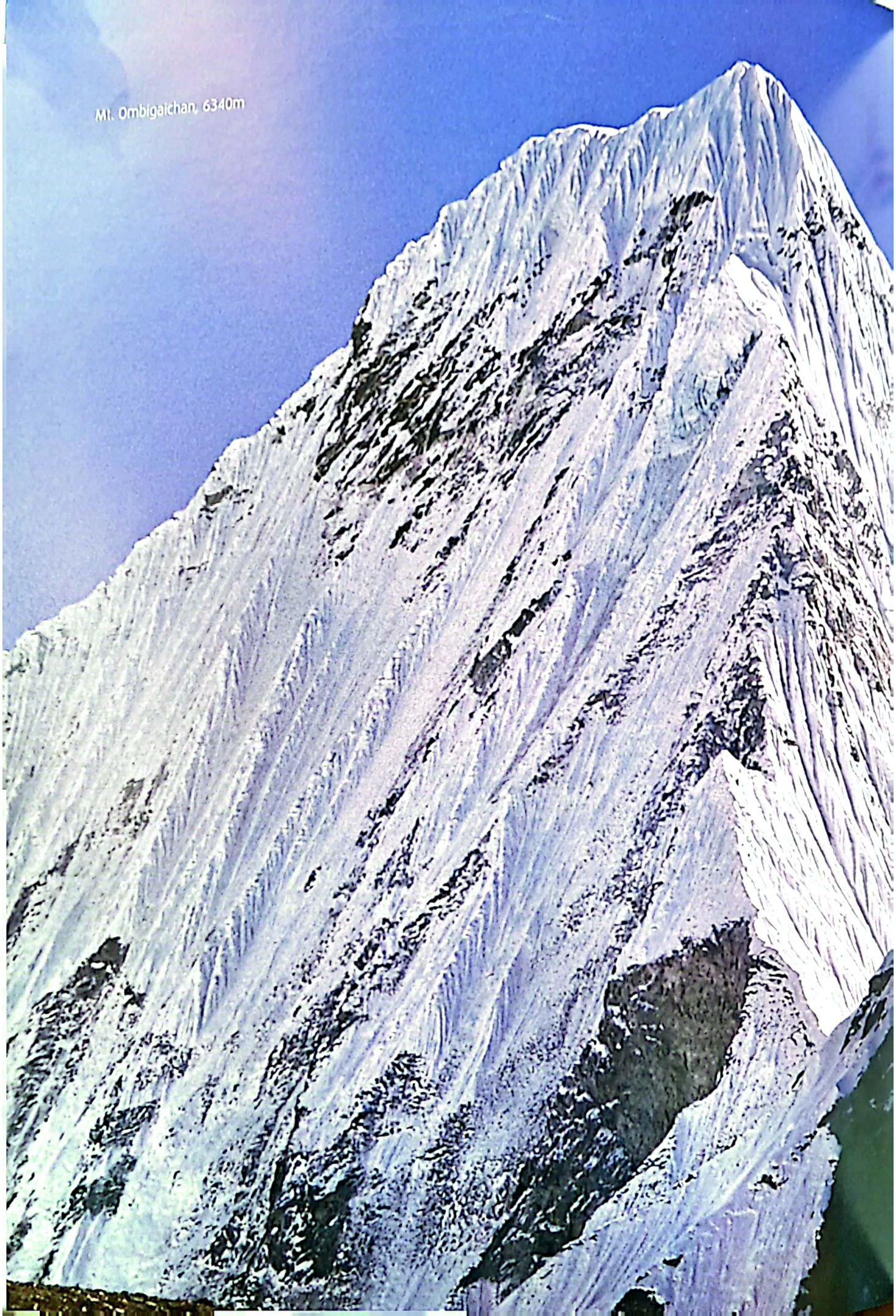
Date: 25 september 2010



Message

It gives me great pleasure that you are bringing out a special issue of Nepal Parbat in anticipation of a successful Nepal Tourism Year 2011. Nepal is a beautiful country with very hospitable people and its great Himalayan peaks are a joy to behold and a challenge to conquer. I wish Nepal Mountaineering Association great success not only during Nepal Tourism Year 2011, but also in the future. I also wish Nepal a triumphant Nepal Tourism Year 2011.

Reinhold Messner


Mt. Ombigaichan, 6340m

Nepal Tourism Board

NEPAL TOURISM YEAR 2011

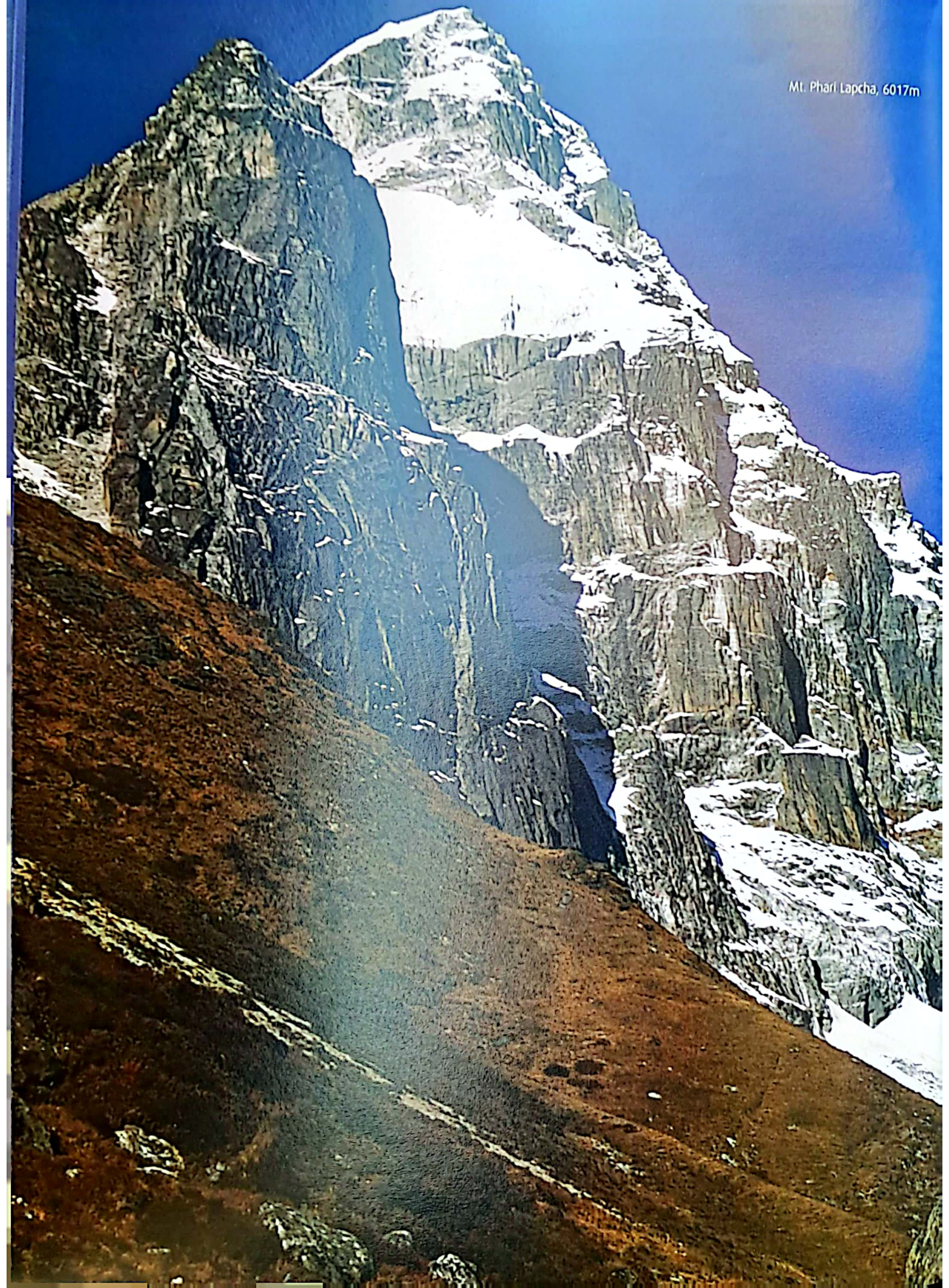
Date: 25 september 2010



Message

I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to Nepal Mountaineering Association for coming out with a special issue of its magazine, Nepal Parbat, to celebrate the upcoming Nepal Tourism Year 2011. As you know, the theme of Nepal Tourism Year 2011 is 'Together for Tourism' and we have no doubt at all that your esteemed organization will be actively involved during this great event of national importance. It is well known that Nepal Mountaineering Association is regarded with the highest respect both nationally and internationally and thus your whole hearted involvement in Nepal Tourism Year 2011 will be invaluable. I wish Nepal Mountaineering Association all success in the years to come and look forward to your active participation during this momentous year.

Prachanda Man Shrestha
CEO
Nepal Tourism Board
Kathmandu


Mt. Phari Lapcha, 6017m

Date: 25 september 2010



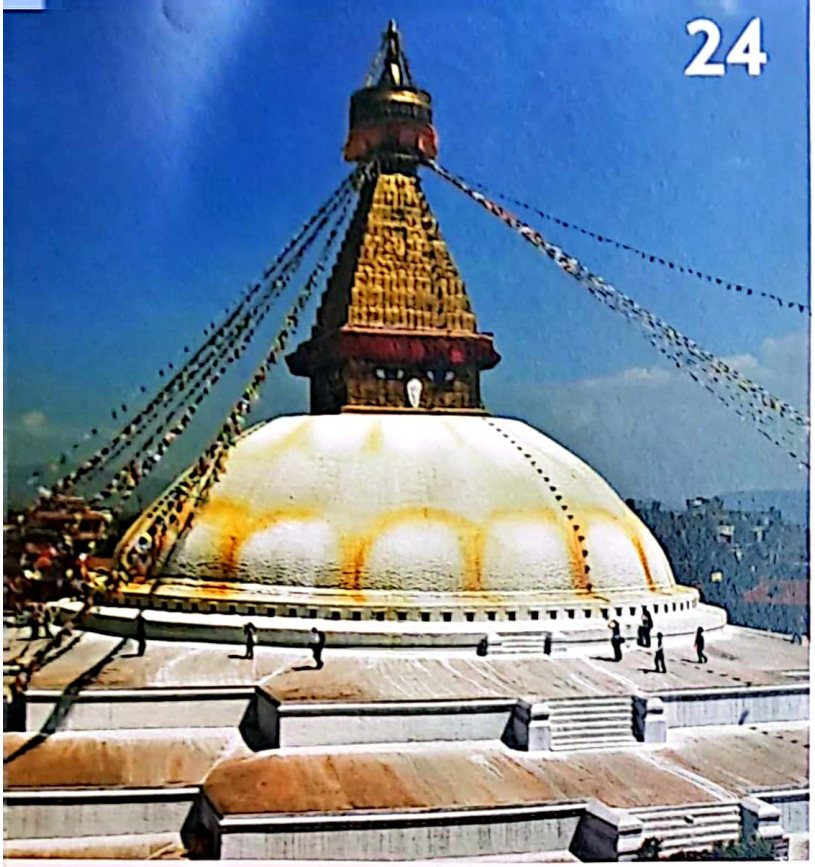
Message

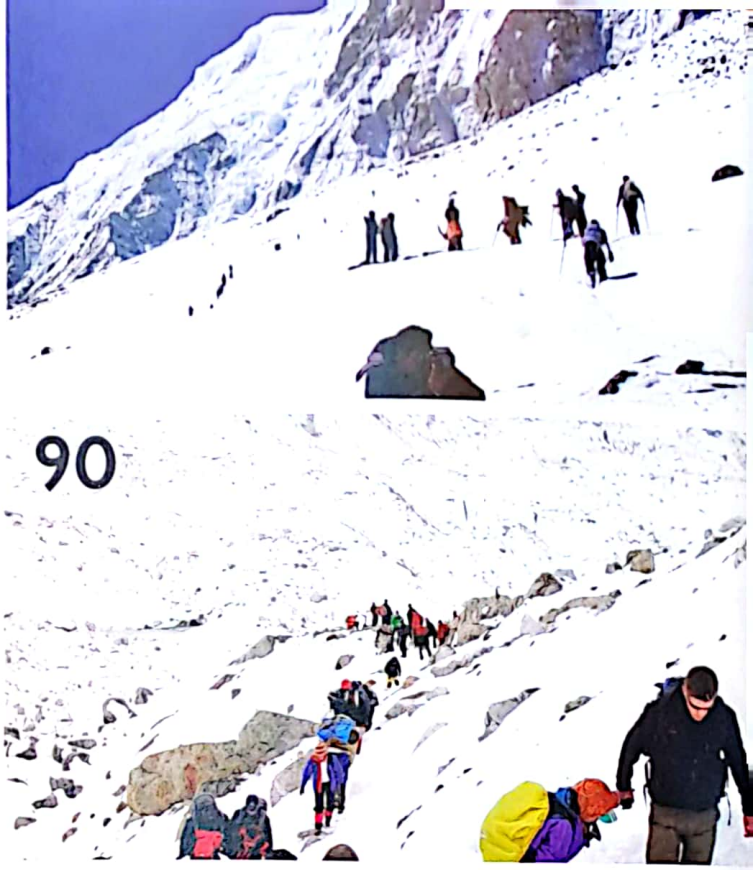
I would like to convey my warm greetings on behalf of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). I am pleased to inform that after a successful completion of our election on July 15, 2010, NMA has a new Central Executive Board 2010-2013. The only alpine club of the country, NMA has been steadfast in its efforts to promote mountain tourism and conservation of mountain environment and landscape throughout its 40 years history. In doing so, NMA has focused on training activities to produce qualified manpower which in turn has helped directly in the development of mountain tourism. Such development has not only brought about economic prosperity to the region but also highlighted new and current issues that are linked to mountain tourism, cultural heritage, and involvement of local population - in other words, tourism as a whole.

In terms of promotion, NMA has already taken up some prestigious projects like International Mountain Museum (IMM) in Pokhara and the International Mountaineers' Memorial Park (IMMP) in Kakani. I am sure that this new executive board will further strengthen and promote such products which can substantially help to promote mountain activities nationally and internationally. Honouring successful mountaineers and assisting families of those who have met with tragedy in the Himalayas are also priorities that should receive our constant attention. I am confident that this team will look into all such matters to develop alpinism in Nepal, and also involve the younger generation to promote the Himalayas.

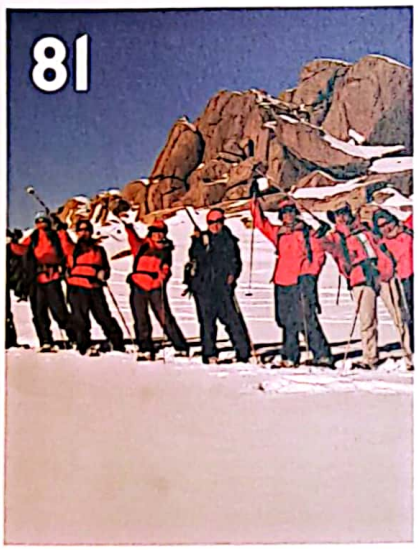
I am happy that we are coming out with a special issue of our official magazine, Nepal Parbat, to celebrate the coming of Nepal Tourism Year 2011. We are fully aware that this momentous event can only be successful through involvement of all sections of society including organizations like ours. In fact, I would go a step further and say that perhaps NMA has one of the most critical roles to play in this regard. We will certainly play our part to the utmost to make this national event a great success and this special issue is a first step in the right direction.

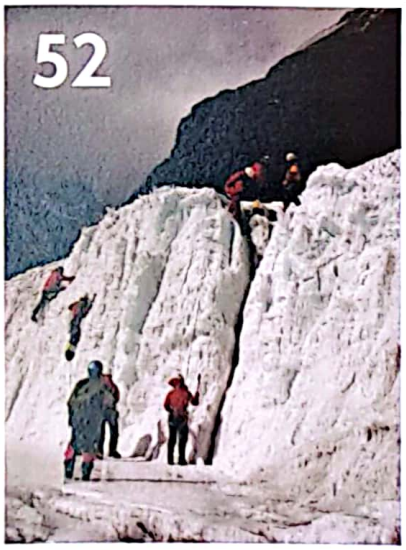
Thank you.
Zimba Zangbu Sherpa
President













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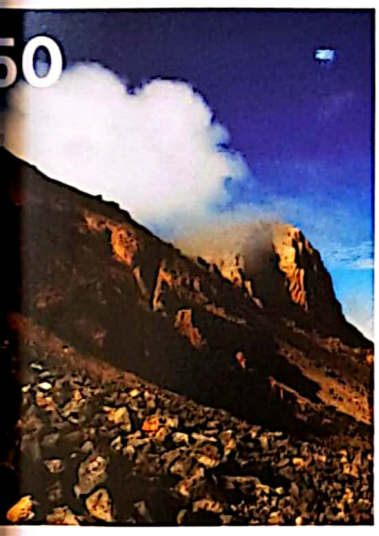
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NEPAL TOURISM YEAR 2011

NATURALLY NEPAL



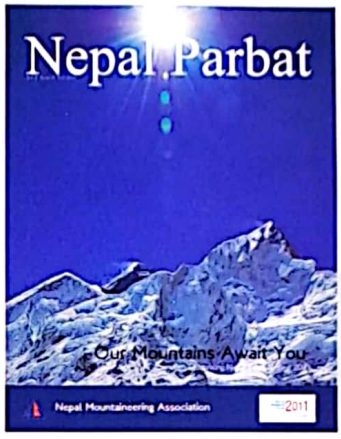






Nepal Parbat

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Assisted by Jinesh Sindurakar

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Showcasing Nepal

We are indeed very happy to bring out this special issue of Nepal Parbat to celebrate Nepal Tourism Year 2011. Yes, we know that 2011 has yet to begin, but we believe that the mood has already been set this year to give Nepal Tourism Year a flying start in 2011.

Preparation is the key to the success of any program and we are confident that Nepal Tourism Board and other concerned bodies are doing their utmost in this regard. We at NMA are also as committed to making 2011 a year to remember for the people of Nepal as well as for the many guests we expect to visit us during the course of the year. And, while it is true that there have been campaigns of this nature before, this time around there is a big difference in its objective. NTY 2011 is not only meant for tourism development and to benefit only those in the tourism business, it is also meant for the country's development and for the benefit of all its citizens.

Therefore, we pray for its success and we will endeavor as always to do whatever we can from our side. This publication is one such effort as will be the UIAA Assembly that we will be holding in Kathmandu in 2011. UIAA has more than 70 states as its members and is the apex organization for all alpine associations in the world.





Nepal, we are proud to say, is one of the most valued. This Assembly will hopefully bring in mountaineering related people from all the member states along with their families. It is also to be expected that the international press will be here to cover the grand event.

We at NMA believe that by honoring the more than 3000 Everest Summiteers of the world by designating them as NTY 2011 Goodwill Ambassadors and by providing them free visa entry, the concerned authorities have done the right thing. Likewise, commemorating the Dhaulagiri Golden Jubilee Celebrations this year, a 50% reduction in royalty fees has been announced for those wishing to climb this great mountain. In addition, Dhaulagiri Summiteers too have been honored with free visa entry to Nepal. We will be attending the UIAA Assembly in Italy in October 2010 and we shall make the most of this opportunity to promote NTY 2011 there as well. We are sure that it will be a most suitable setting in which to do so and we are confident of making a great impact for NTY 2011.

Let us all not only look forward to a great NTY 2011, but also do whatever we can to ensure its grand success.

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



NEPAL

CONTINENT: Asia
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 km
b. Length : 885 km (east to west)
c. Width non-uniform, mean width of 193 km (north to south)

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, Buddhist, Islam, Kirat, Christian, Sikh, Jain, etc.

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 to NRS 75.84 as on 26 May, 2010)

ACCORDING TO WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2008/2009 OF WORLD BANK
PER CAPITA GDP: US$ 473
PER CAPITA GNP: US$ 786

WEATHER: Nepal has four major seasons, namely:
a. Winter: December - February
b. Spring: March - May
c. Summer: June - August
d. Autumn: September - November

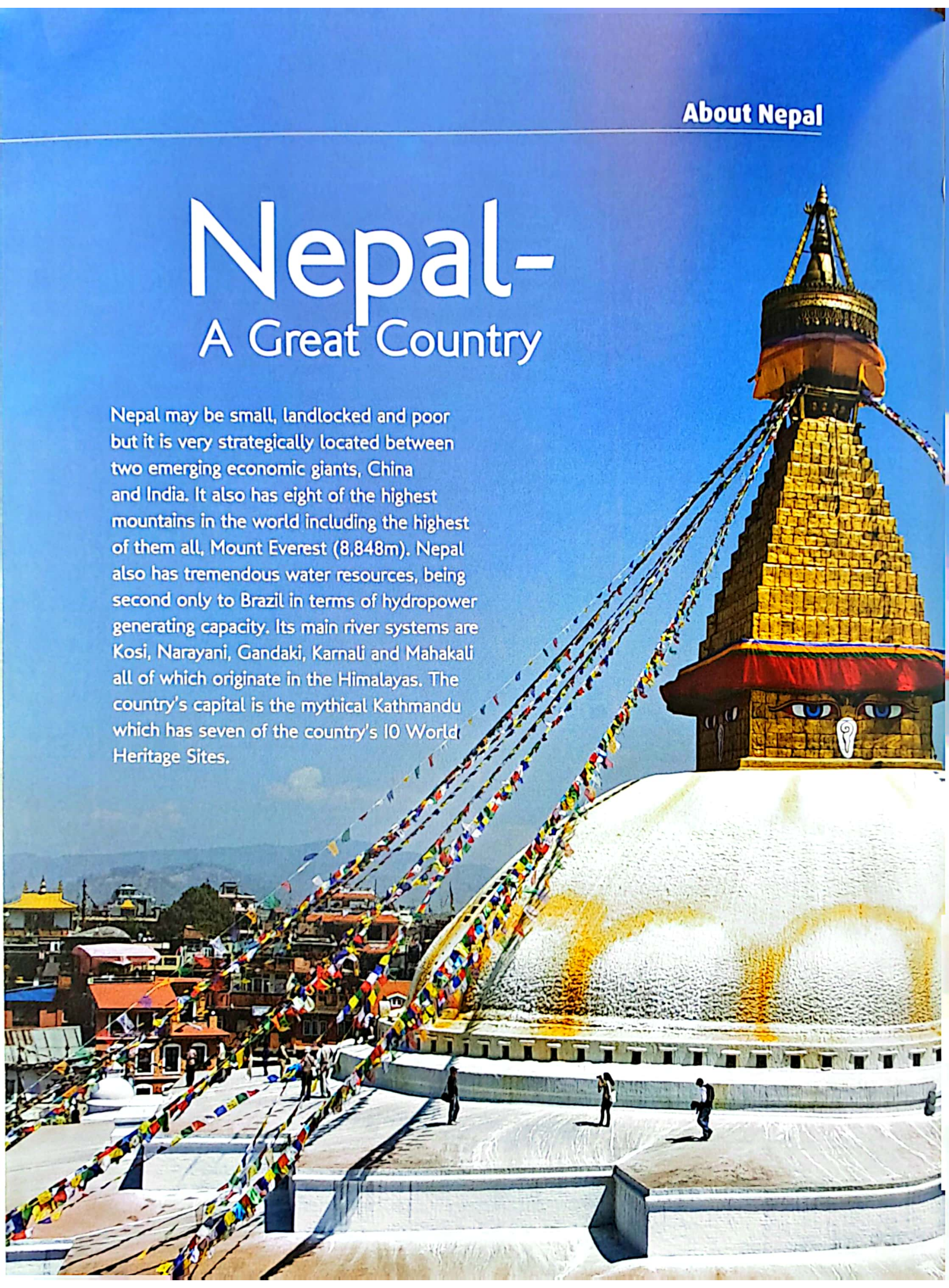
WHAT TO WEAR: Light weight clothing is recommended for May through October.
Warm garments are required in October to March.
An umbrella or a raincoat is necessary for the rainy season.

ENTRY PROCEDURES: A visa is required to enter Nepal except for Indian nationals. One can get a visa at Nepalese Embassies and Consulates 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. The prime tourist attractions are nature, culture and religious resources. Mountaineering, trekking, rafting and wildlife sanctuaries are special attractions for adventure tourism in Nepal. Tourism plays an important role in the national economy and is a major source of foreign currency.

Nepal-
A Great Country

Nepal may be small, landlocked and poor but it is very strategically located between two emerging economic giants, China and India. It also has eight of the highest mountains in the world including the highest of them all, Mount Everest (8,848m). Nepal also has tremendous water resources, being second only to Brazil in terms of hydropower generating capacity. Its main river systems are Kosi, Narayani, Gandaki, Karnali and Mahakali all of which originate in the Himalayas. The country's capital is the mythical Kathmandu which has seven of the country's 10 World Heritage Sites.



Nepal is home to about 29 million people of various ethnicities, culture and language, and although many of them may be poor, they are generally honest to a fault and quick to have a laugh. All Nepalis are famous for their hospitable and welcoming nature. Among Nepal's many ethnic groups are the Gurkhas whose exploits in many battles through the centuries have made them into legendary warriors and the Sherpas who are considered to be the world's best mountaineers. In addition, the Newars who inhabit Kathmandu Valley are renowned for their craftsmanship and architectural skills. The beautiful woodcraft and fascinating bronze and stone work evident in the making of impressive temples, palace squares, and even residential houses in the cities of Katmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur stand testimony to this fact. Thus, Nepal is a giant in its own right as far as natural resources, art and culture are concerned besides of course, the exploits of its people.

Nepal is also home to a lot of animals, the most famous being the snow leopard, the red panda, the yak, the one-horned rhino, the Royal Bengal tiger and the gharial. These exotic animals can be seen at the many sanctuaries around the country including Chitwan National Park, Bardiya National Park, Rara National Park, Khaptad National Park, Makalu Barun National Park, Shey-Phoksundo National Park, Sagarmatha National Park, Shivapuri National Park and Langtang National Park. Similarly, Nepal has three conservation areas (Annapurna Conservation Area, Manaslu Conservation Area and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area) and four wildlife reserves (Shukla Phant Wildlife Reserve, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Kosi Tapu Wildlife Reserve and Parsa Wildlife Reserve).

Nepal also has plenty of lovely resorts located on the hills and mountains catering to the mountain lovers, the best of which are in Nagarkot and Dhulikhel, both quite close to the capital. Pokhara, some seven hours by road from Kathmandu, is according to many, one of the loveliest places on earth. And, while Fishtail Mountain and Fewa Lake are its main attractions, this scenic city has numerous world-class resorts as well as economy hotels and lodges with their own unique charms. Besides all the above mentioned attractions, one must reiterate that Nepal is a trekker's paradise and undoubtedly, the ultimate destination for mountain climbing. In addition, this country offers great opportunities to those seeking the thrills of extreme adventure sports such as bungee jumping, paragliding, mountain biking, canyoning, white water rafting, and so on. Nepal is a great country in more ways than one. You have to experience it to know just how great!



Leading an Institution

Zimba Zangbu Sherpa, President, NMA

"When I was in Japan in connection with a conference on mountains, I was provided with a young student as a guide to show me around the city," relates Zimba Zangbu Sherpa, the current president of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). "He was very respectful and took me around sightseeing. On the second day, he asked me about how many times I had climbed Everest. When I answered that I had not yet done so, he just turned around and left me alone. He didn't come back." Sherpa laughs when remembering this.

What struck this writer about this story is not that the student had asked whether he had climbed Everest but rather, how many times he had climbed it! This incident perhaps vindicates the often repeated lament about how climbing Everest has become a lesser achievement than it used to be before. According to Sherpa, about 3000 people have so far reached the summit of the highest mountain in the world. It is a large number no doubt but nevertheless, when one thinks about it, what is 3000 in relation to the world's population of about 6 billion people?

And, on the flip side, so many climbers atop Everest only further signifies the importance of conquering Everest for any climber to be able to claim to be a real climber. No doubt, the importance of Mount Everest will never diminish with time because any climber worth his salt will always have a desire to reach its summit in his or her lifetime. Zimba is no less in his desire to do so. "I am also planning to climb Everest."--

NMA – an Important Institution

Presently however, he has a more modest plan. "A team led by me will be climbing a virgin peak, the 6257 m Chekigo in the Rolwaling area, this coming year on the occasion of Nepal Tourism Year 2011," he informs. "It will be joint venture with Bangladesh Mountaineering and Trekking Club." According to the president, there are about 300 virgin peaks in Nepal and he has proposed to the concerned authorities on having them open for climbing in 2011. Zimba is confident that his suggestion will be taken seriously because NMA is practically the only organization whose suggestions are invited and implemented by the government on any matter to do with the mountains.

Zimba discloses that NMA has 33 peaks under its authority, many of them sharing a border with China. He is of the opinion that the government should give permission to climb more of these peaks soon. This is a major concern as far as he is concerned, especially more so now that he is the president of NMA. Not that he was unconcerned before, having served two terms as the Ist Vice President before being elevated to his present post.

Zimba says that NMA is not only an organization of mountaineers but also an institution to impart training to those interested in becoming guides. "This includes a basic guide training that we give in collaboration with the Slovenian Alpine Club and an advanced guide course in collaboration with Ecole Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme (ENSA). Previously some of them were sent to France to complete the course. I was among the first batch to do so. Upto now, about 70 guides have completed their course from France." Zimba adds, "Now the course can be completed within the country itself in collaboration with ENSA. The first batch will be passing out in November 2011. "How long does all this take, I want to know, to which Zimba says, "It takes quite some time, five years to be more precise." The president also informs, "While our training helps our guides to be accredited internationally, till date there is only one internationally recognized Nepali guide - Sunar Gurung."

NMA, on the other hand, has been a member of the premier international organization, Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme (UIAA), since a long time. In fact, the apex organization held its annual assembly meeting in Kathmandu in 1981 for the


"I will climb
Everest
one day"

first time. "The meeting concluded with the 'Kathmandu Declaration' - a call for action against the degradation of mountains," says Zimba. "It was a historic declaration which paved the way for a successful cleaning campaign of the Everest region." He further discloses that he will be attending this year's assembly in Italy and that there is a high probability of the next one being held in Kathmandu in 2011. "There are 68 member countries in UIAA and all of them will be attending, many with family and friends. The international press will also be there. It will be really helpful to Nepal Tourism Year 2011. We have planned excursions for all of them into the mountains." One can surmise that this event is the most important one in NMA's immediate calendar and preparations have to begin right away. The president agrees, "Oh yes, it will be a big affair."

I ask him about his views on Nepal Tourism Year 2011 (NTY 2011) and he explains, "Certainly, this is a unique talking point for all those involved in mountaineering and trekking entrepreneurs here. We have something special to say to potential customers. Beside other obvious benefits, just being able to talk about this is in itself a big help to our promotional activities." And, what are the hurdles he sees on the path to making NTY 2011 a success, especially with regard to mountaineering and trekking? "In my view, we have to do away with too many bureaucratic hassles. When visitors come they should be provided with facilities to match our claims and make their stay convenient and comfortable. It is also my opinion that NMA has still not yet invited NMA to be really participative in NTY 2011. So, till now our involvement is quite limited."

In closing, the NMA president says proudly, "Nepal is a very valued member of international mountain related organizations like UIAA as well as of other international and regional bodies. This is because we have the most number of peaks that are 8000m and above including of course, Mount Everest. "As an afterthought, he adds, "And, one thing I must mention here is that even during the years of insurgency, mountain tourism was not affected because trekkers and climbers were not made to feel insecure and because they usually stayed away from cities and towns where violence was ripe. In fact, we have had consistent growths of 10% or more every year. So, this means that mountain tourism has a big role to play during bad times as well as good times. But we have to be aware of one danger – because of too much competition among ourselves, there is a great deal of undercutting which obviously can lead to deterioration in quality of services. The concerned authorities have to do something to ensure quality control. This is very important."



NMA Annual General Assembly 2010 (2068) - September 14, 2010

The Annual General Assembly 2010 of Nepal Mountaineering Association was held on September 14 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu. On the occasion, NMA General Secretary Diwas Bikram Shah presented the annual report wherein he highlighted the notable activities of the association during the past one year related to work done by various committees of the organization. The assembly was also informed about the formation of the Sport Climbing Committee from this year. The report also talked about NMA 's participation in various national and international conferences, symposia and workshops including those organized by UIAA, UAAA and IFSC. It was also reported that NMA made various contributions in cash and kind to different causes in the course of the year, including a contribution of Rs. 10, 00, 000 to the Extreme Everest Expedition 2010 program organized by Friends of Save the Himalayas to clean up garbage on the Everest route. The report also mentioned that NMA had celebrated various events in the year, including the Dhaulagiri Golden Jubilee Celebrations on May 13-14, 2010 and International Everest Day on May 29, 2010.

Commitment

In response to the fresh mandate given by the general members of NMA, the president has resolved to involve more people engaged in the mountaineering profession. He wishes to impart social justice to those who have been so deprived and he is determined to improve working conditions of those working in the climbing field. He feels that urgent steps are needed to address social welfare in mountaineering activities so as to enhance NMA's image which has been lacking so far.

Though this association is the country's premier mountaineering association, more efforts are needed to transform it into a National Alpine Club. To do so, it has to be made all inclusive and there has to be transparency in conducting all its activities including financial dealings. The present leadership is also committed to continue its efforts towards enhancing unity among climbers, entrepreneurs and concerned people. There is agreement that this association has to be transformed into an organization with capable and active members with experience in mountaineering activities.

During his tenure as president of the new executive body, one of his prime agendas will be to promote the lesser known peaks. The new team has also felt an urgent need to improve the system of assignment of government liaison officers in light of a more competitive environment in the immediate neighborhood. The present executive body has ambitious plans to play an active role in the administration of Nepal's mountain peaks with the aim of developing itself into a resource center for all mountain activities in the Nepal Himalayas, thus allowing the government to be more involved in policy making matters.

The new executive body hopes to improve the quality of its training methods and Clean Himalaya Awareness Campaigns so as to contribute in making our mountain environment clean. NMA will also be using modern technology to efficiently manage and administer its projects like International Mountain Museum, Mountaineers' Memorial Park and its Central Office. Finally, It believes that the involvement of capable mountaineering professionals and related experts are essential to the further progress of NMA.

ENSURING NATIONAL COMMITTMENT

Prachanda Man Shrestha, CEO, Nepal Tourism Board

Prachanda Man Shrestha was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) on November 1, 2007. Before this, he was the Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, where he was also the chief of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Division. Shrestha has also worked for a long time in the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and he was the Acting Director General of the Tourism Department before it was dissolved in 1998. He was a Humphrey Fellow at the American University and George Washington University, USA. As expected, with Nepal Tourism Year 2011, round the corner, he was very busy when we met him and asked for some time to clarify a few doubts.

The last Visit Nepal Year campaign was in 1998. Why the big gap?

Well, the situation was not conducive in the years after 1998. We had problems like the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar, then there was the September 11 attack in New York in 2001 and then of course, we had the Maoist insurgency at home and the royal massacre. It was only after 2006 when the peace treaty was signed with the Maoists that the environment became somewhat better.

Do you think it was wise to declare 2011 as Nepal Tourism Year?

There have been great upheavals in Nepal in the recent past. With every new change, people have expected good things but every time delivery has failed. People on the whole are not linked to any particular political party and so when things did not turn out as expected, they have sided with others to effect yet another change. This has been a continuous process and people's morale is at an all time low. In such a scenario, tourism is the only industry that can give many people a degree of prosperity with less investment and in a shorter span of time. So, I wouldn't say that declaring 2011 as a Nepal Tourism Year was a bad idea. And, with all parties in the mainstream now, the security situation is better than before. I can state with conviction that Nepal is a perfectly safe destination for tourists because even at the height of the insurgency, tourists were left alone most of the time.

How are the preparations for NTY 2011?

First of all, let me explain a few things: tourism has no particular color or shape, meaning that it is not something that is the responsibility of any single entity but rather, it is something that everyone must be involved in. There are various factors we have to keep in mind: one, the regulatory factor which is the responsibility of the government; two, things like registration and so forth (of concerned businesses) which falls under the tourism ministry; third, the financial factor (visa fees, park fees, etc) which has to do with the finance ministry and then there is the operations factor which primarily involves the private sector. Lastly, there is the promotional factor where we at NTB are involved. Our main task is 'Destination Promotion' where we have to promote the country as a whole.

So, what has NTB done till now?

After many brain storming sessions, we came to the conclusion that what was required was a national commitment to ensure NTY 2011's success. This commitment had to come from the government, the business sector, the professional work force, inter-ministerial and secretary level co-ordination, as well as commitment from local bodies. We at NTB have been busy ensuring all this. We have established a Tourism Council under the Prime Minister's chairmanship which involves many ministries. In the same way, we have formed a Central Implementation Committee in which ministerial secretaries and business people are involved. We have conducted education campaigns In the various ministries and we have also devised partnership programs at the local bodies' level throughout the country. In


"Tourism
has no
particular
color and
shape"

We have a set of objectives that distinguish NTY 2011 from previous similar campaigns.

places where none were present, we encouraged the formation of committees to promote NTY 2011. One of our major programs has been the development of 'home stay' facilities in many places where we have given training to those interested in the concept of 'home stay' programs. Our focus is on linking the value chain of tourism activities with the objective of minimizing the guest-host gap.

How confident are you that NTY 2011 will be a success?

We have a set of objectives that distinguish NTY 2011 from previous similar campaigns. The first objective is to maintain tourism by broadening the sphere of activities. The second is to restore confidence of business people within the country; the third is to invest in capacity building. You know that the last decade's turmoil has been quite disturbing for all, especially for those who have invested in the tourism business. Even if we do not achieve completely our stated goals in 2011, we have to understand that our efforts this year will pay dividends in the following years. So, even if critics might say that 1,000,000 visitors is too ambitious a task, all I can say is that having this goal will help us develop the much needed capacity for the future.

What are the hurdles in your way?

Being a landlocked country, people have recourse only to arrive by air or by road. Our international airport was designed to handle 420 passengers per hour, now it is handling 720 per hour which is the reason that it is not well maintained and passengers face delays when arriving and departing. The airport also has only a single airstrip which obviously makes it very difficult to handle more flights. And, everybody knows about the condition of our national airlines. So, I would say that the first hurdle in the way of NTY 2011's success is poor air transport infrastructure.

Any suggestions on solving this problem?

One suggestion that I can put forward is to keep the airport running 24 hours a day. Another suggestion would be to divert low cost arrival flights such as those transporting our migrant labor, to another smaller international airport. Similarly, we should use more helicopters for internal transportation – developing helipads in different places should not be a very big problem. We



could also use smaller airports for short distance cross border flights such as those between some Indian cities and Nepal.

Any other challenges in NTY 2011's way?

The second challenge is our failure to develop 'destination ownership'. On the one hand we want to increase the number of tourist attractions throughout the country, on the other hand, many of them are mismanaged and in sorry states because of lack of ownership by the local concerned people. So, it is essential to improve such destinations by ensuring better management through development of ownership ethos. The third challenge is of course social disturbances due to political wrangling and only sincere commitment from political parties can undo this.

How is mountain tourism being promoted for NTY 2011?

My view is that to develop mountain tourism further we need to have a new definition of peaks with a view to make peaks under a certain height, free of all fees. I also have suggested that our border peaks from Kanchenjunga to Gorkha Himal should all be opened up for climbers. As you know, one half of these peaks are on the Chinese side and I hear that they are increasingly opening up these peaks for climbers. If climbers summit these peaks from their side then we will not be able to capitalize on the subject. We have also proposed a discount in royalty for expeditions in 2011. Another subject that has come up is the issue of one window policy for climbers. Right now, there are too many departments involved leading to unnecessary hassle for visitors. We have also arranged for all Everest and Dhaulagiri summiteers to get free visa for 2011. Similarly, we have offered the honorary title of NTY 2011 Goodwill Ambassador to all Everest summiteers.

Any regional co-operation programs for NTY 2011?

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding between NTB and Tibet Tourism Board in order to complement each other's efforts since our border shares the same Himalayan peaks. For example, in all their brochures (which they print and distribute in the millions) they will add a few lines promoting Nepal as well. We also will do likewise. Our effort will be to promote and expose the glory of the Himalayas together.

What do you have to say to visitors about our mountains?

I say to them, the Himalaya is the source of life-sustaining water for two billion people. You should come to Nepal to be close to them. This will enable you to get a better understanding of the region and the intricacies of life involved, so that you can then support in a wiser way, our efforts to combat the ills of climate change in the high mountains.



Together for Tourism

Yogendra Shakya, National Coordinator, Nepal Tourism Year 2011

Yogendra Shakya is a well known hotelier who has been appointed the National Coordinator for Nepal Tourism Year 2011 (NTY 2011). Coincidentally, his brother Karna Shakya, who is in a similar business, was the National Coordinator for Visit Nepal Year 1998 (VNY 1998). According to him, the main aim of NTY 2011 is to broaden the base of tourism and regain the lost confidence of people involved in the tourism business. We talked to him at length on the subject.

Do you think declaring 2011 as the Nepal Tourism Year was a good idea?

First of all, let me clarify that NTY 2011 is very different from previous campaigns like VNY 1998 or Destination Nepal. While their objective was to develop tourism, NTY 2011's goal is to use tourism as a means to develop the country. In this sense, NTY 2011 has a bigger role to play, carries more importance and is expected to have far reaching effects.

Do you think the timing was right?

Look, it is no use saying that everything is bad and do nothing. But then, there has to be reason to do anything. NTY 2011 is a reason to do many positive things. Besides, after so many years of conflict and political and social disturbances, it was high time that we cleared up the country's image. I think the time is right to reposition Nepal in the eyes of the world.

What is your role in NTY 2011?

I came into the picture eight months ago when I was appointed the National Coordinator for NTY 2011. I am also the Vice Chairman of the Implementation Committee which is under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Tourism.

You said NTY 2011 is different from previous such campaigns. Could you talk more on this?

Unlike similar previous campaigns, NTY 2011 will not only concern hoteliers, travelagencies, transport operators and so forth; it will involve everybody right from the grass root level. That is why our slogan is 'Together for Tourism'.

What are the hurdles to making NTY 2011 a success?

Obviously, there are many hurdles, but aside from the well known ones, we are not very strong on consumer marketing. To improve on this area, we have a non-tourism related marketing professional for the first time on the committee who will be responsible for this. Also a major part of the Rs. 23 crores budget that we have requested will be spent on this activity. Unfortunately, our plan to start this from August has not borne fruit because the budget has not yet been passed.

What has been your biggest failure till date?

Our greatest failure till now has been our inability to develop an ownership ethos among society in general. Of course, we have tried to do so. For instance, when we announced NTY 2011 this year, we took a public commitment in Tundikhel from leaders of all political parties not to have any disrupting activities during the year. People can judge for themselves as to whether they have kept their promise or not. Similarly, commitment and involvement are needed from the bureaucracy, business people and labor forces. However, I must stress that while we have to be real, we should not give up and let go.

How are you supporting and promoting mountain tourism through NTY 2011?

We have done several things: we are promoting the Great Himalayan Trail trekking route. This takes about 140 days to complete and will go from one end

of the country to the other alongside almost the entire Himalayan range on the border. Of course, not everybody will be doing the complete trek, but certainly people can do a part of it. We have also invited all Everest summiteers to be our Goodwill Ambassadors. We also have begun discussions on ways and means to develop more mountain related adventure activities and sports. For this, I believe that we need a more participatory approach particularly from foreign professionals since we lack the necessary expertise and trained manpower.

When are you inaugurating NTY 2011?

We will be doing so on January 14, 2011. For this, we have invited ministers from 22 Asian countries to be the guests of honour.



"There must be a reason to do anything"

Optimistic about NTY 2011

Dipendra Purush Dhakal, Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation

Dipendra Purush Dhakal was the Secretary of Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation from November 1995 to April 1999. On December 31, 1998, he had the honour of being the Founder Chairman of Nepal Tourism Board. Currently, he is working as a freelance consultant of conflict management with GTZ. Dhakal wrote a policy paper titled, 'Sustainable Rural Tourism for Improved Livelihood of Local Communities' in December 2005 for Economic Policy Network, Ministry of Finance. He was the overall coordinator for Visit Nepal Year 1998 (VNY 1998).

Do you think declaring Nepal Tourism Year 2011 (NTY 2011) to be a good idea?
Actually, I had felt the need for another Visit Nepal Year soon after VNY 1998. From my side, I had suggested that 2009 would be a better year for another Visit Nepal campaign. I thought that 2011 might be a little too late.

Why do you say that?
Well, I believed that after the peace accord with the Maoists, and with all political parties entering the mainstream, 2009 would be the right time to have another Visit Nepal Year. I thought that afterwards the country would be too busy with formation of a new constitution and soon thereafter, new elections. Of course, things have not turned out that way and the country is still in a state of limbo with no sign of a new constitution anytime soon which makes for uncertain times and not very conducive to have another Visit Nepal Year campaign.

So, you are not optimistic about NTY 2011's success?
No, I am optimistic about NTY 2011. At least we will have a national campaign that should uplift the economy to some extent.

What do you think about the 1,000, 000 visitors target?
That's just a declared objective around which one can plan one's activities. And, even if we fall short of the objective, it doesn't matter much because the effort will help in increasing the number of tourists every year onwards. Tourism is of a resilient nature. However, I have another opinion on this subject. My view is that five tourists coming and staying here for 10 days is equal to 50 tourists coming and staying for only one day. Our investment would be much lower while the returns would be the same.

Are you talking about 'quality tourism'?
Yes, you could say that.

Would you say that VNY 1998 was a success?
Yes, it was successful. We had set a goal of bringing in 500,000 tourists; we succeeded in attracting about 460,000 visitors. I must mention that in those days, there was a general slump in the entire region's tourism business, with many countries recording double digit negative growths. I believe only Maldives showed positive growth. In such a scenario, we managed a 10% growth which, under the circumstances, was cause for satisfaction.

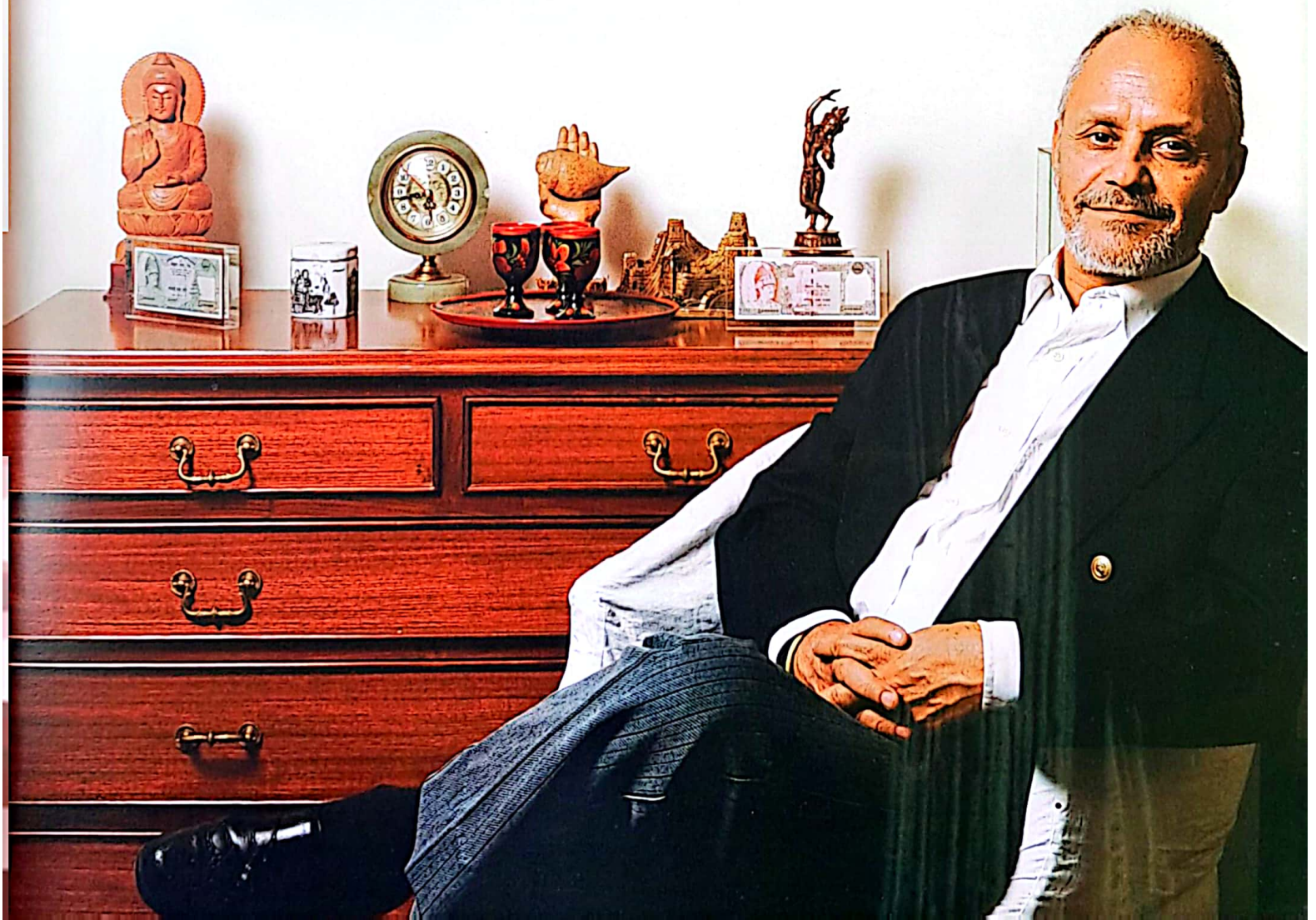
What were the other problems you faced?
There were the big problems of waste management and the question of pollution due to the Vikram tempos which ran on diesel fuel.

When did your preparations start for VNY 1998?
We declared VNY 1998 in April 1996. Karna Shakya was appointed the national coordinator while I was the overall coordinator from the government's side. We planned to promote 12 destinations, one for each



"Tourism is resilient in nature"





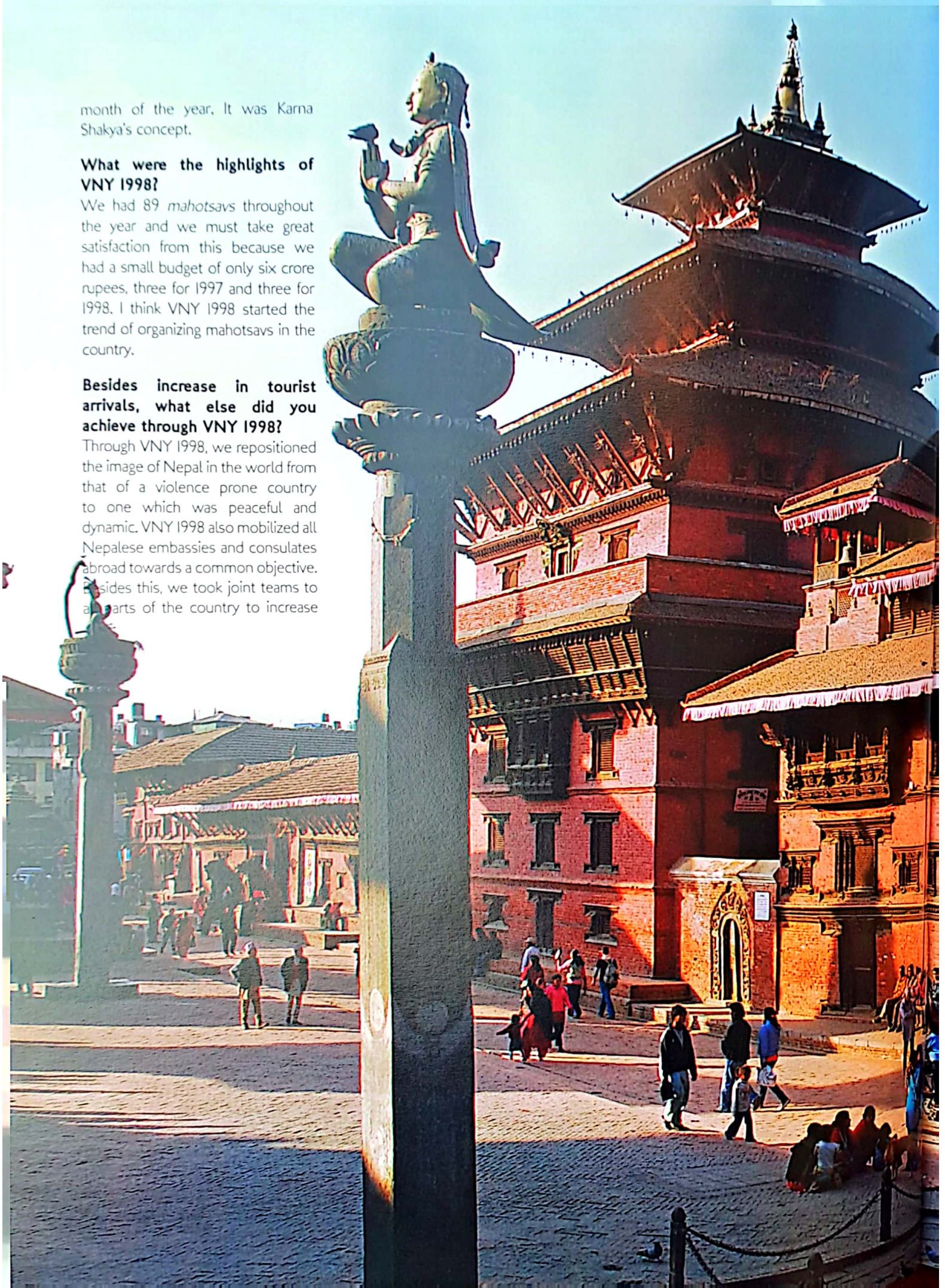
month of the year. It was Karna Shakya's concept.

What were the highlights of VNY 1998?

We had 89 *mahotsavs* throughout the year and we must take great satisfaction from this because we had a small budget of only six crore rupees, three for 1997 and three for 1998. I think VNY 1998 started the trend of organizing mahotsavs in the country.

Besides increase in tourist arrivals, what else did you achieve through VNY 1998?

Through VNY 1998, we repositioned the image of Nepal in the world from that of a violence prone country to one which was peaceful and dynamic. VNY 1998 also mobilized all Nepalese embassies and consulates abroad towards a common objective. Besides this, we took joint teams to all parts of the country to increase



awareness and promote new destinations. But, one of our biggest achievements was that VNY 1998 brought about a big change in the country's aviation infrastructure.

Any suggestions for improving tourism?

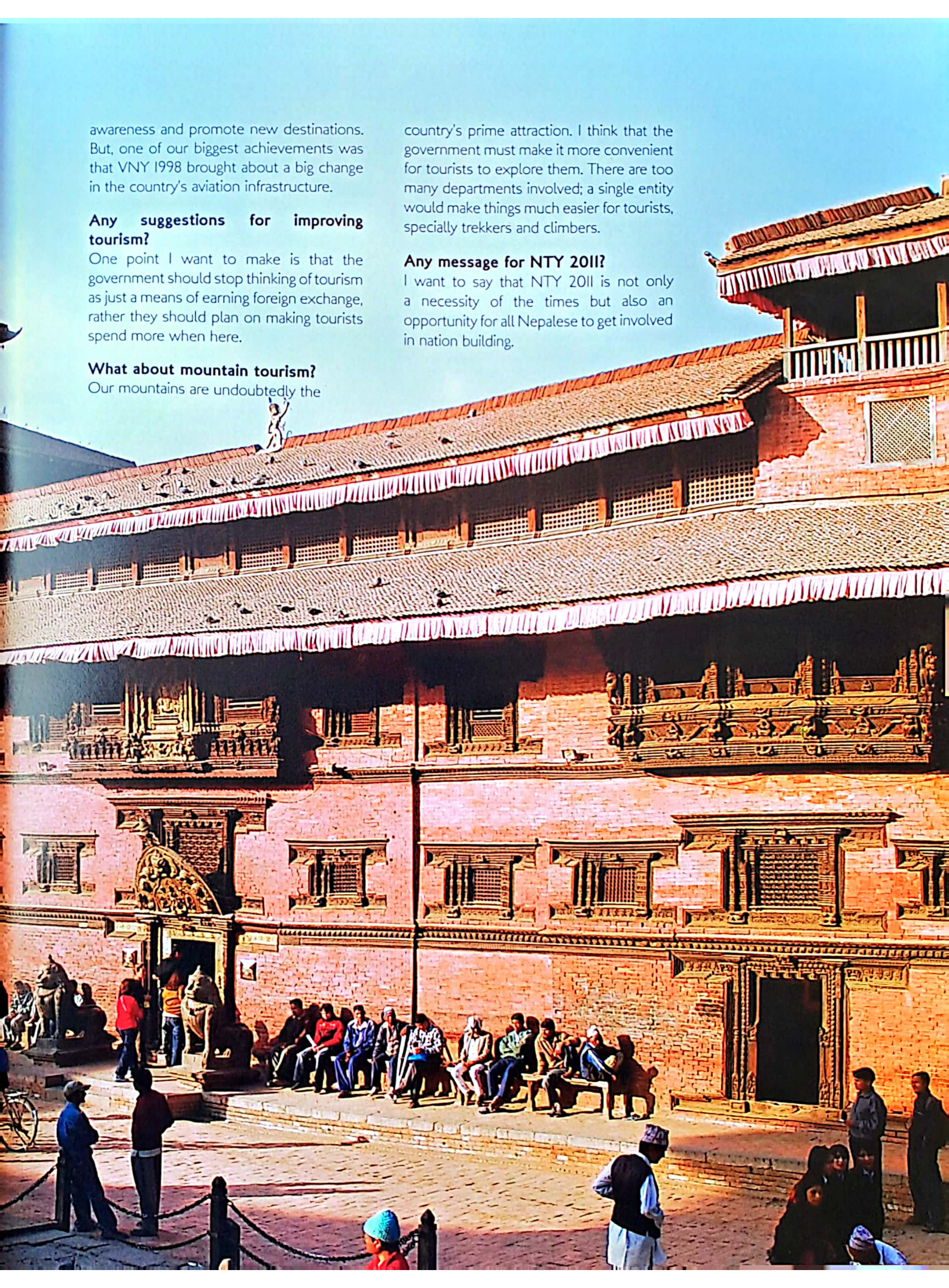
One point I want to make is that the government should stop thinking of tourism as just a means of earning foreign exchange, rather they should plan on making tourists spend more when here.

What about mountain tourism?

Our mountains are undoubtedly the country's prime attraction. I think that the government must make it more convenient for tourists to explore them. There are too many departments involved; a single entity would make things much easier for tourists, specially trekkers and climbers.

Any message for NTY 2011?

I want to say that NTY 2011 is not only a necessity of the times but also an opportunity for all Nepalese to get involved in nation building.



Forbidden Kingdom

Mustang District is a largely dry and arid region due to its position in the rain shadow of the Annapurna massif and the Dhaulagiri Range towards the south.

It covers an area of 3,573 sq km and had a population of 14,981 as of the last census year, 2001. Part of the river valley in the southern Mustang District is according to some, the deepest gorge in the world. The district straddles the Himalayas and extends northward onto the Tibetan plateau where is located the former Lo Kingdom of Mustang or Lo Manthang, which comprises the northern two-thirds of the district.

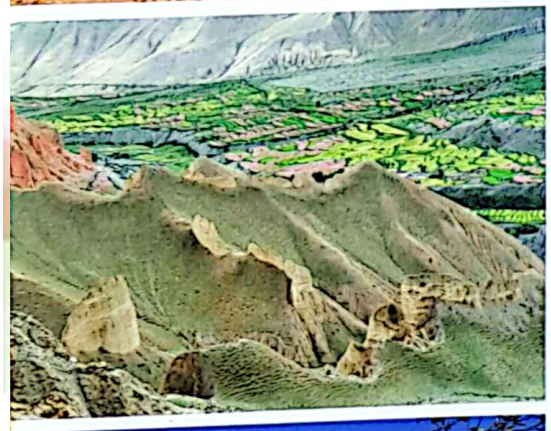
In addition to trekking routes through Lo Manthang and along the Annapurna Circuit in lower Mustang, the district is famous for its hot springs. Equally well known is the village of Muktinath, an important pilgrimage site for both Hindus and Buddhists. Here spring water flows from a rock face via 108 spouts (108 is a sacred number to Buddhists). This water wall surrounds a temple sacred to Vishnu and below the statue runs a trickle of water with pale flames caused by natural gas. There are shrines to Shiva and his consort, and to Padmasambhava as well as numerous chortens. The region is also renowned for the quality of its apples from which is made the famous Marpha Brandy.

Once an independent kingdom that was closely tied by language and culture to Tibet, Mustang's strategic location made it a very important point for trade between Tibet and India in the period from the 15th to the 17th century when salt was the major commodity of trade. Along the Kali Gandaki are still routes known as the salt trade routes. Although the kingdom was annexed by Nepal at the end of the 18th century, it had its own king till October 7, 2008, when its monarchy was abolished by order of the Government of Nepal. The king (raja or gyelpo) was Jigme [illegible], a descendant of Ame Pal, who founded the kingdom in 1380.

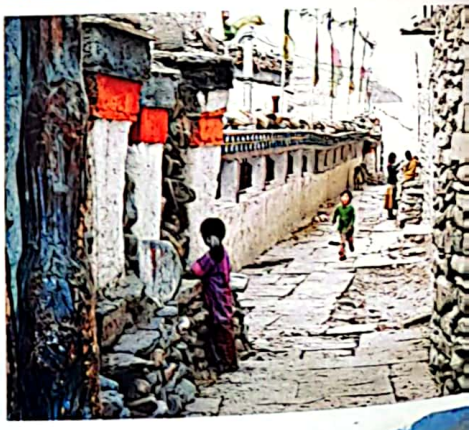
Mustang is populated by mostly Thakalis, Gurungs and Tibetans with most of them concentrated near the Kali Gandaki River. While life in Mustang revolved around animal husbandry and trade in days gone by, tourism took on more importance after the region was opened to foreigners in 1992. The district headquarter is Jomsom which has an airport and is eight kilometers south of Kagbeni, the main entry point for visitors going to Mustang. Most tourists trek on the same trade routes used in the 15th century and in 2008, the region was visited by about 2,000 tourists. October is the peak month, followed by May. The foreign visitors need to obtain a special permit to enter Upper Mustang.

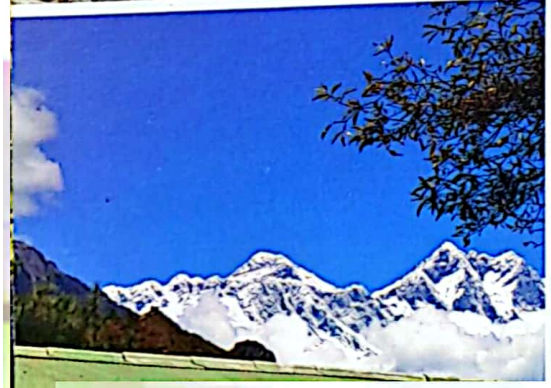










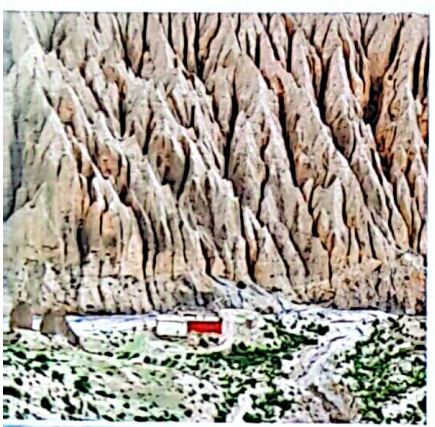






Lo Manthang

Lo Manthang was the capital of the ancient 15th century Kingdom of Lo in Upper Mustang. The population includes ethnic Lobas and Bhutias who speak many Tibetan dialects. Located on a plateau at 3800 meters above sea level, it is actually an earthen walled village surrounded by a 6-meter high earthen wall with square towers or dzongs at the corners. Within the walls is a compact settlement of earthen structures with white washed walls. The major shrines here are: Jampa Lhakhang, Thubchen Gompa, Chodey Gompa (the main temple) and the Choprang Gompa, ('New Compa'). Many ancient festivals, rituals and ceremonies are still followed today which are largely defined by the Sakyapa traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. On 30/01/08, a submission was made to UNESCO to list Lo Manthang as a World Heritage Site.







Damodar Kunda

A Most Rewarding Trek

Damodar Kunda is a sacred lake that lies in the Upper Mustang region between Kagbeni and Muktinath at a height of 4890 meters. It is located in the shadow of the high Himalayas north of the Annapurna range and is an important pilgrimage site for Hindus and Buddhists alike who come here during the full moon of August every year to be part of a big festival. From this site, one gets a spectacular view of the great Tibetan plateau and the imposing Damodar Himal to the north and the magnificent Annapurna massif to the south. The 22 days Damodar Kunda Upper Mustang Trek was recognized as the 'Trek of the Year' in 2002. This classic trek is a very rewarding one which can be completed within a reasonable timeframe and without having to ascend to extreme altitudes.



Bringing Together Man, Mountain and Mountain Activities

The International Mountain Museum (IMM) in Pokhara was built by the Nepal Mountaineering Association to record and exhibit past and present development of mountains and mountaineering activities throughout the world. The museum is to south of the airstrip near the Himalaya Eye Hospital. Original gear from many of the pioneering Himalayan ascents are on exhibit as are displays portraying the history, culture, geology and flora and fauna of the Himalayas. Supporters of the prestigious project include many international mountaineering associations as well as individual donors from Japan, China and Nepal.

The soft opening of the museum took place in May 2002 when it was inaugurated by Junko Tabei, the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest (May 16, 1975), and Appa Sherpa, who has climbed Everest 20 times. Later, in February 2005, the museum was fully opened for the general public. The museum and its vicinity encompass an area of 100 ropanis of land while the display area covers an area of about 4200 sq m. The theme of this museum is 'Man, Mountain and Mountain activities' and accordingly, the museum is divided into the following segments:

Mountain People Gallery:
Showcasing the culture and way of life of the mountain peoples, this gallery gives viewers a better understanding of how mountain people live and their close interrelationship with their immediate environment.

Mountain Gallery:
Displaying the natural history, especially the geological facts, about the origin of world mountain systems, this gallery is very informative in nature and makes viewers more knowledgeable about mountain geology, flora and fauna, glaciology and so on. To honor Reverend Ekai Kawaguchi, Late Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah and Late Dr. Toni Hagen for their contribution to the promotion of the Nepal Himalayas, a dedicated corner has been set aside to display their exemplary works. In the flora and fauna section, various activities of WWF and King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation are displayed.

Mountain Activities Gallery: Chronicling the historical ascents and explorations in and around mountain areas as well as trekking adventures, this gallery also helps to understand how the mountain climbing equipments have developed over time. Historical pictures of mountaineering activities from 1921 to 1953 presented by the Royal Geographical Society and British Council are also on display here.

Associates' Gallery:
This gallery is to highlight the many activities of different INGOs and NGOs like IUCN, ICIMOD, etc in and around mountain areas.

Library:
The small library has a collection of more than 2000 mountain related books and journals by many well known author and scholars.

Audio Visual Hall:
For screening documentary films and other presentations.

Outside the museum building is located the Craft Village, which depicts a typical Nepali mountain village. A climbable 31 feet high model of Mt. Manaslu, just outside the museum building, is another attraction for visitors as is a 21 m tall climbing wall situated on the premises.

Nima Nuru Sherpa, I[st] Vice President is present convenor of IMM



In Remembrance

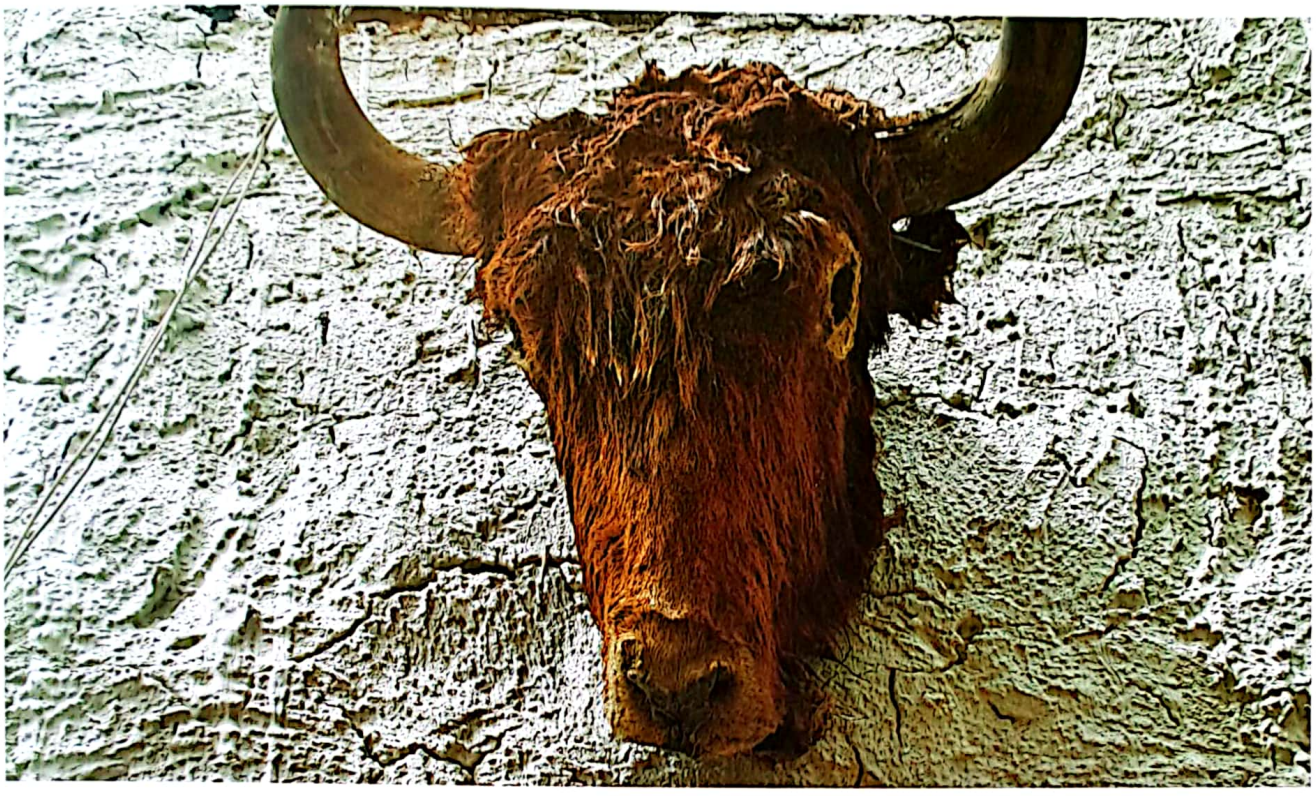
NMA has always accorded deep respect to mountaineers and has consistently upheld its tradition of honoring them. However, the hazards of mountain climbing cannot be ignored.

It need not be mentioned that tragedies do occur on the high mountains which sometimes proves to be unavoidable. In an attempt to reduce fatalities, NMA has been conducting mountaineering training to interested people. The mountain climbing training that NMA has been conducting since the last many years has reduced the number of accidents in the Himalayas. This is a great achievement for an association that works on a no-profit basis. The safety and welfare of the mountaineers has been its guiding principle. But, at times, tragedies cannot be avoided and the fury of nature in the form of snowstorms, avalanches and so on, have led to the death of a number of mountaineers including some of the more famous ones. The hazards of mountaineering are always there and the only way to mitigate them is through preparation.

Those who succeed receive the limelight but those who die are forgotten after some time. This is the basic reason why NMA is establishing the International Mountaineers Memorial Park to perpetuate the memory of those mountaineers who have passed away. It is NMA's conviction that the deceased mountaineers must be paid respect even though they are not with us. Their endeavor and courage even during adverse conditions must receive attention. Likewise, many mountaineers have met an unfortunate death while on the mountains. They also must be respected and honored.

With this sacred objective in our mind, we have started to construct International Mountaineers' Memorial Park at Kakani. In order to meet our objectives, the government of Nepal granted us 144 ropanis of land at Kakani in 1996. The foundation laying ceremony was held on May 28, 1998 on the occasion of Visit Nepal Year 1998.





Since then, with our limited budget, we have built a shed for gatekeepers, a 1000m long fencing wall, and some toilets. Presently, we are working on a master plan to develop the park as one of the finest tourism destinations in Nepal. It includes a recreation center, a conference hall, picnic spots, a helipad etc within the park. 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.

Master Plan

Memorial Monuments: NMA has endorsed the guidelines to construct monuments in the memory of deceased mountaineers in IMMP, Kakani. A committee formed under the convenership of Ist Vice President Zimba Zangbu Sherpa with the following members formulated the guidelines.

- Mr. Bhumi Lal Lama - 2nd Vice President
- Mr. Narhari Bhandari - Secretary
- Mr. Ang Kaji Sherpa - Treasurer
- Mr. Khadananda Dhakal - Representative, Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation

Guidelines

1. NMA allots an area of 20' x 20' for the construction of each monument. The memorial monument will cover an area of 4' x 4' inside the allotted area. The maximum height of the monument should be within 11' including the platform. Damaging of landscape will be strictly prohibited during the construction of monuments.
2. NMA will construct the monuments of first, second and third successful Mt. Everest Nepalese Summiteers and first summiteers of remaining seven 8000 meter peaks of Nepal.
3. NMA may look after the construction of monuments with an additional administrative charge of 25% on quotation amount received in case of families of Nepalese or foreign mountaineers interested in constructing monuments of those who have climbed 8000 meter peaks at their own expense in or outside Nepal.

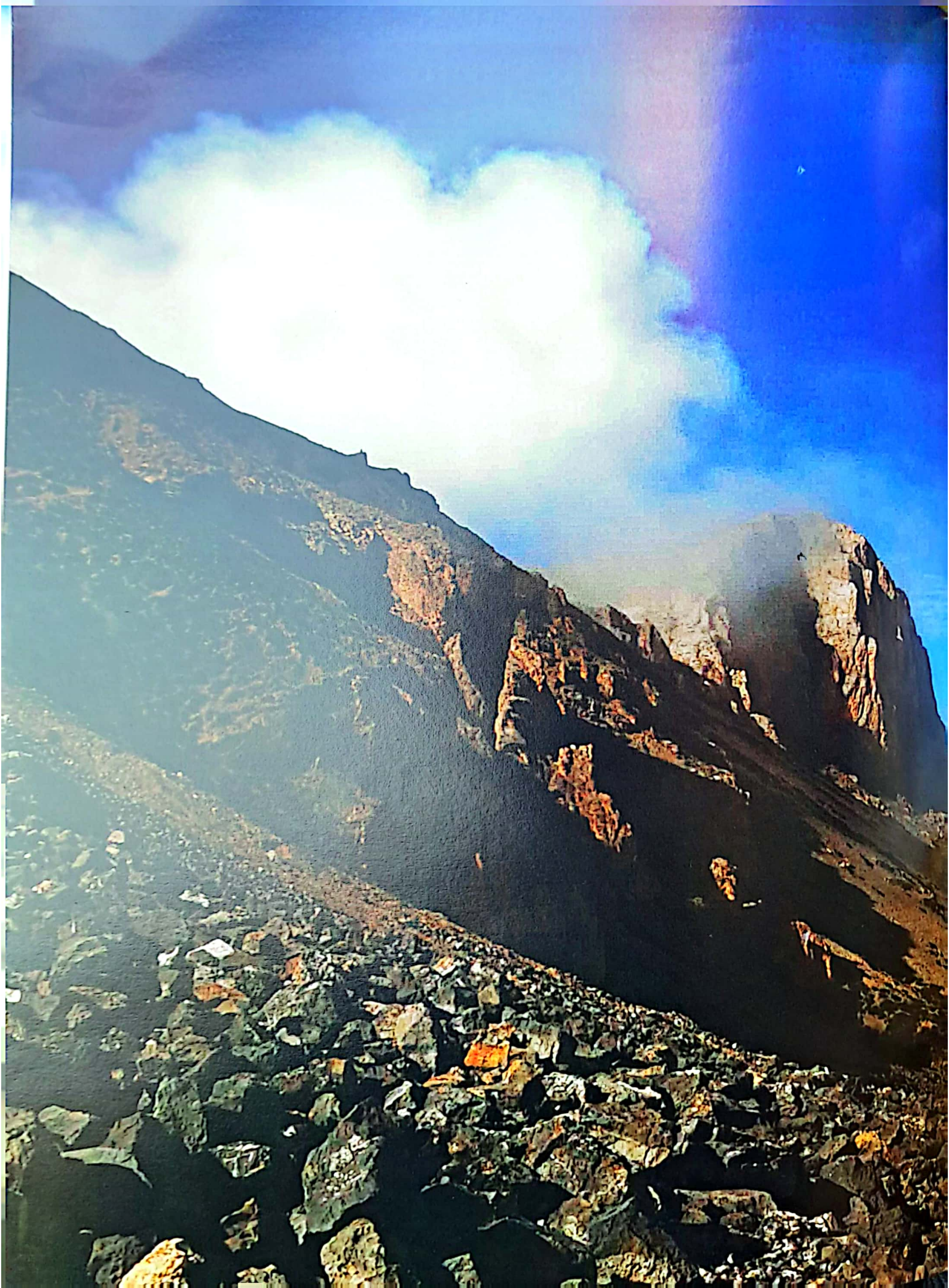
Artificial Climbing Wall

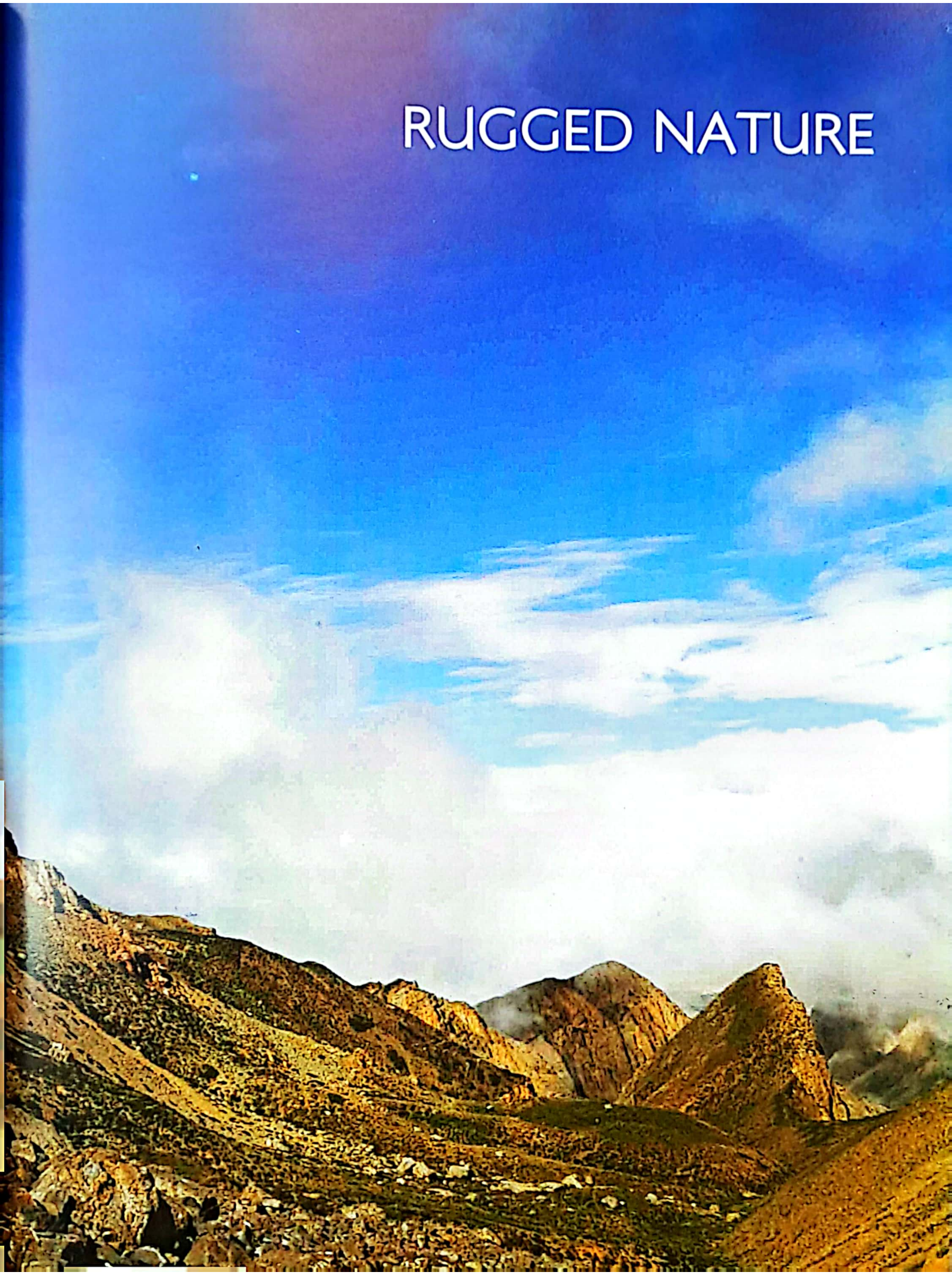
With financial assistance from the French Embassy, 15 meter high climbing wall was built at IMMP. French volunteer Henry Sigaret played a vital role in the construction of this wall. The climbing wall was hand over officially by His Excellency the French Ambassador Michel Jolivet to NMA on January 28, 2006.

Facilities

- Electricity and clean water facility available
- Sufficient parking area

Santa Bir Lama, 2nd Vice President is the present Convenor of IMM Park




RUGGED NATURE

Mountaineering Training In Nepal

Mountaineering training in Nepal dates back to 1979 when Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) conducted the first official basic level mountaineering course in Annapurna of Manang region with the cooperation of Slovenian Alpine Association PZS. In the same year, the first ever Mountaineering Training School was established under the aegis of NMA.

In 1982, NMA conducted a further advanced level mountaineering training in cooperation with National School of Ski and Alpinism of France (ENSA). Later, NMA sent three Nepalese trainees to ENSA in Chamonix, France, for further diploma level mountaineering training.

NMA is presently conducting the following courses:

- Basic Mountaineering Training
- Advanced Mountaineering Training
- Annual Winter Aspirant Guide course – jointly with Nepal National Mountain Guide Course (NNMGA)
- Artificial Wall Climbing
- High Mountain Rescue Training – jointly with Nepal Mountaineering Instructors Association (NMIA)
- Petzl Foundation Training – in cooperation with Petzl of France
- Instructors Refreshment Course

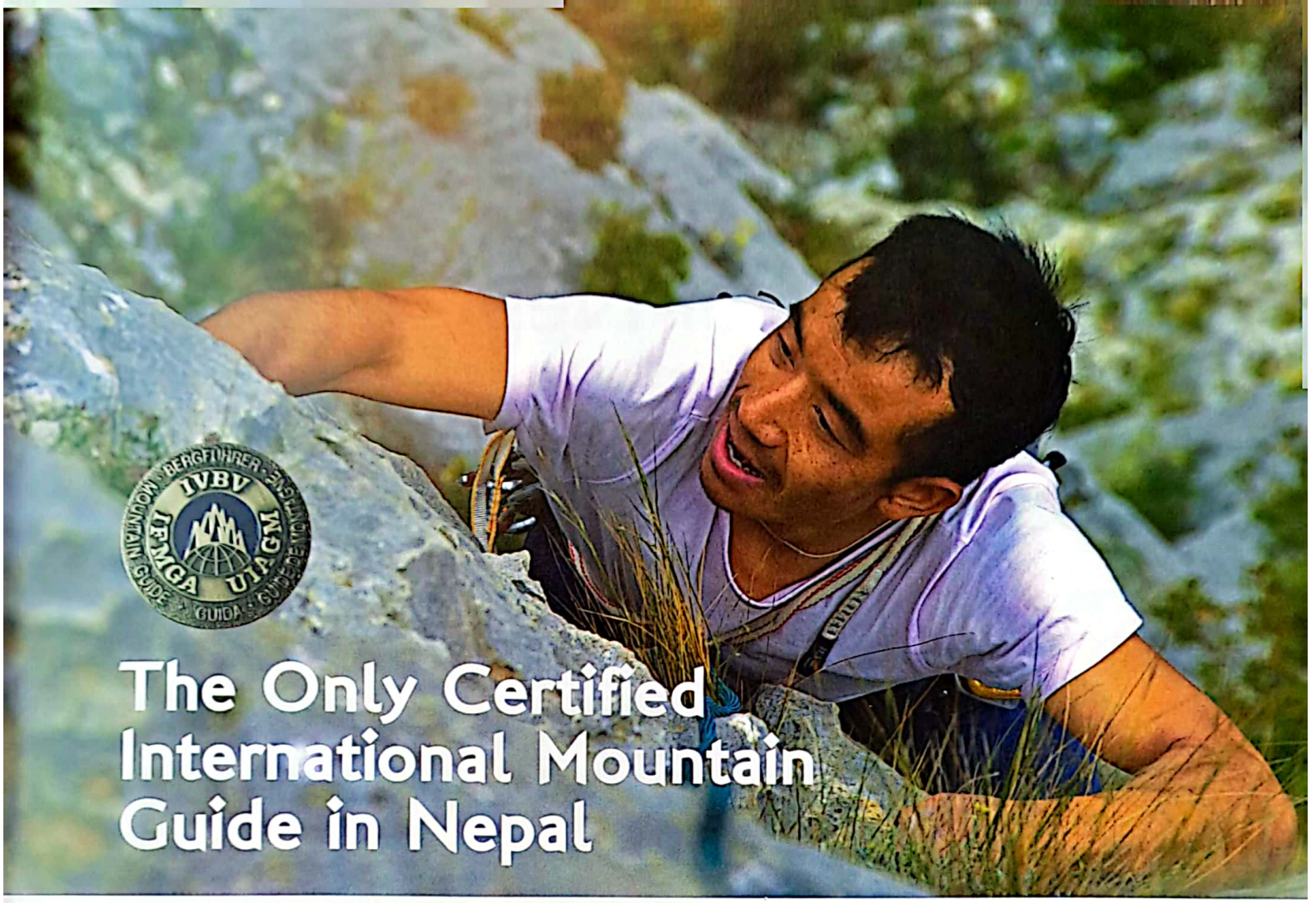
People's interest in mountaineering has grown over the years in Nepal with individuals from all walks of life taking to climbing. Moreover, people have started to realize that mountaineering is a highly specialized adventure sports activity which requires quality training. Recently in 2006, Nepal became the second country in Asia, after Japan, to be accepted as a candidate member for International Federation of Mountain Guide Association (IFMGA). This in itself is a strong indication of our high standards of instruction and training as well as recognition of the excellent mountaineering culture of Nepal.

Efforts are on to get full membership of IFMGA in 2011, the first ever international mountain guide certification for Nepalese Mountain Guides. Presently, NMA climbing training is the power house of South Asia and interestingly, foreign participation in NMA mountaineering training is increasing every year. This can be attributed to Nepal's rich resources in mountaineering and its experienced trekking industry which are valuable assets because such activities require skilled manpower and safe hands.

It would be pertinent to point out here that for enhancing Nepal tourism further, attention has to be given to developing its adventure sports industry. For this, institutional development of mountaineering training is required and therefore, Nepal's mountaineering and tourism community strongly believe that a National Mountaineering School of international standards under NMA must be established soon.

Ngawang Nima Sherpa
President- NMIA
Convener-Training & Expedition
Committee (NMA)





The Only Certified International Mountain Guide in Nepal

Sunar Bahadur Gurung was born in 1971 in Laprak -5 of Gorkha District. His claim to fame is that he is Nepal's only certified International Mountain Guide. He completed his advanced guide course from France and was awarded the IFMGA/UIAGM (International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations / Union Internationale des Associations de Guides de Montagnes) certificate in 2008. It took him quite a long time (1997 – 2008) to earn this prestigious recognition.

When asked for the reason, this is what he had to say, "There are certain criteria one has to fulfill to be qualified: at least five years experience in guide activities, skiing skills and rock climbing abilities. Well as you know, skiing couldn't be learnt in Nepal and during my time, there was no rock climbing facilities either. So I had to live in France for some time which meant that I also had to learn the language. Due to all this I could become a certified International Mountain Guide after a relatively long time."

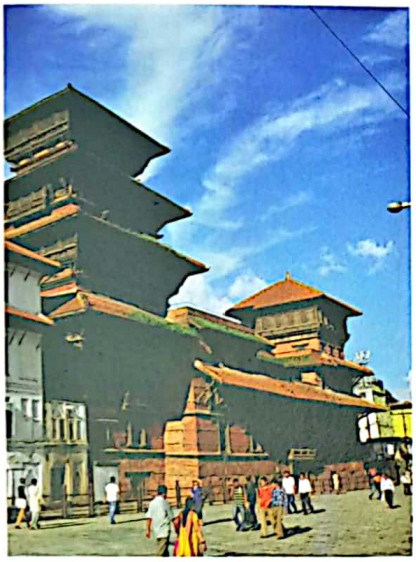
In France, from 1997 to 2003, Gurung was busy fulfilling requirements needed to apply for the entry exam of Diplome Aspirant, the criteria of which reads like this: *To apply for the entry exam of an aspirant guide, a candidate has to climb a minimum of 55 climbing routes of different grades in a minimum time span of 4 years in the Alps.* Having completed this demanding course, he went on to fulfill requirements needed to apply for exam of international guide-training (2005 to 2008). The criterion for this reads thus: *On successful completion of all the above-mentioned challenges, the candidate becomes an Aspirant guide – recognized as a national guide in France. Then the aspirant guide needs a two-year field experience with clients and has to climb 50 technical routes of different grades in the Alps. Only after demonstrating a thorough knowledge on some of those routes, the aspirant guide is considered eligible to apply for the international guide-training program.*

Knowing all this, one can understand why it took Gurung so long to become an International Guide. Currently, he is the president of the Nepal National Mountain Guide Association (NNMGA) besides being a member of the Nepal Mountaineering Instructors Association as well as that of Nepal Mountaineering Association. He is also a board member of the Parbatiya Prashikshen Pratisthan Bikash Samiti at the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. He was the vice president of NNMGA at its founding and says of the association, "We are very thankful to have the full support of NMA. Without their help we couldn't function."

The Glories of Nepal

Nepal may be a small country and one of the poorest in the world but it certainly is one of the richest in culture and natural resources, which is why Nepal has a significant number of World Heritage Sites in and outside the Kathmandu Valley. For the record, as of today, 911 properties worldwide are listed as World Heritage Sites because of their outstanding universal value. These include 704 cultural, 180 natural and 27 mixed properties. In Nepal, the following have been inscribed as World Heritage Sites: Kathmandu, Lumbini, Chitwan National Park, Sagarmatha National Park.

Kathmandu Valley was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1979 based on the following seven groups of cultural monuments (also known as Monument Zones): Kathmandu Durbar Square, Patan Durbar Square, Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Pashupatinath Temple, Boudhanath Stupa, Swayambunath Stupa and Changu Narayan Temple.

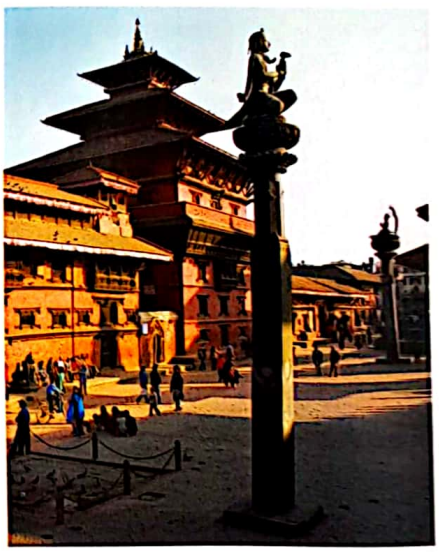


Kathmandu Durbar Square

Kathmandu Durbar Square is also known as Hanuman Dhoka, a name derived from the statue of the monkey god, Hanuman, which stands at the entrance of the main palace in the square. The expansive square holds other palaces of the Malla and Shah Kings which are said to have been built by King Gunakamadev in the 10th century. During King Ratna Malla's time (1484-1520), they became the royal palaces for the Malla kings. Among the many temples at the site, the oldest ones, namely Jagannath, Kotilingeswara Mahadev, Mahendreswara and Taleju Temples were built by King Mahendra Malla (1560-1574). One of the most famous palaces here is Kumari Bahal, the three storied residence of the Living Goddess Kumari who is worshipped as a reincarnation of Goddess Kali. Kasthamandap Temple is another renowned structure here. The name, Kathmandu, is said to be derived from this temple, which is built from the wood of one single tree. Maru Ganesh Temple nearby is one of the most visited temples in Kathmandu. Other temples seen here are the Shiva Parvati Temple, Bhagwati Temple, Saraswoti temple, Krishna Temple and the Kal Bhairav Shrine. After the conquest of the valley by King Prithvi Narayan Shah in 1769, Kathmandu Durbar Square became the abode of the Shah Kings who ruled from here until 1896 when they moved to the Narayanhiti Palace.

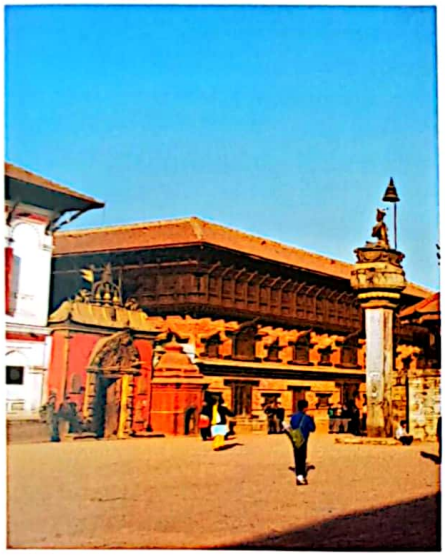
Patan Durbar Square

Patan Durbar Square served as the seat of the former royal family of Patan. It is situated in the center of Patan city, also known as Lalitpur. The palace has three main courtyards, namely Mul Chowk, Sundari Chowk and Keshav Narayan Chowk. While the Mul Chowk is the oldest, the Keshav Narayan Chowk is where



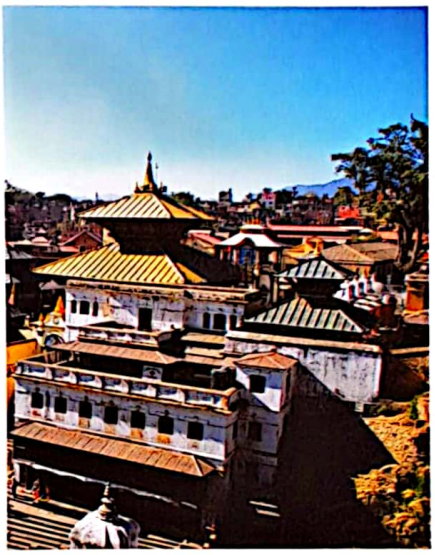
the first Malla palace in Patan was constructed on the foundations of an old Buddhist monastery. Sundari Chowk has a famous sunken watering spot (previously the royal bath) known as Tusha Hiti. Patan Durbar Square has one of the most diverse collections of traditional architectural styles found within a square anywhere. Many single and multi tiered temples representing different architectural styles occupy the western part of the complex. Among the most famous are Krishna Temple, Kumbheswor Temple, Bhimsen Temple and the 12th

century Golden Temple or Hiranya Varna Mahavihar. The 17th century Krishna Temple has been constructed with red stone in the Shikhara style and is the most important place of worship during Krishna Asthami. The Kumbheshwor Temple is a five-storied pagoda-style structure dedicated to Lord Shiva while another similarly styled temple is the Jagat Narayan Temple which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.



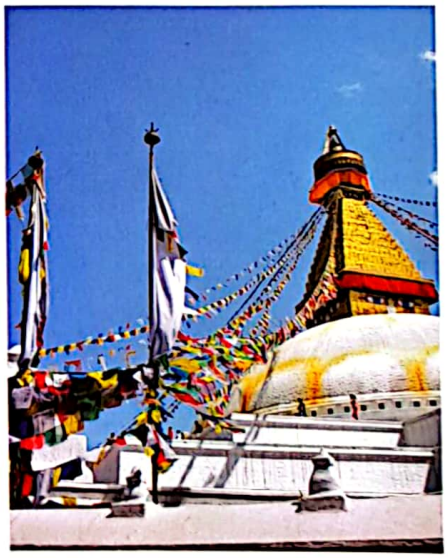
Bhaktapur Durbar Square

Bhaktapur Durbar Square, in the typically Newari town of Bhaktapur, is highlighted by a plethora of various monuments and works of art including stone statues of ancient kings and guardian deities. In addition, it is a treasure trove of fine wood carvings that adorn most of the temples and houses in the vicinity. A conglomeration of pagoda and shikhara–style temples can be seen in the square as can be seen the Lion Gate which was constructed in 1696 and is guarded by two huge lion statues on either side. The gate is embellished with stone images of Lord Shiva and Ugrachandi represented in their frightening manifestations. Also located in the square is the world renowned Golden Gate, an exquisite monument of gilded metalwork that is surmounted by a figure of Goddess Kali and Garuda (mythical man/bird) attended by two nymphs. Erected by King Ranjit Malla, it is the entrance of the main courtyard of the famous 55-Window Palace which was built during the reign of King Yakshay Malla in 1427 and was later remodeled by King Bhupatindra Malla whose statue on a column facing the palace is considered to be one of the finest statues in the square.



Pashupatinath Temple Complex

Located on the banks of the Bagmati River, Pashupatinath Temple is an important pilgrimage site for Hindus the world over and Nepal's most sacred Hindu shrine. The present temple was built by King Bhupatindra Malla in 1653 although an inscription found at the site indicates that a previous temple dating back to the 5th century stood here. Adorned with a two tiered gold plated roof, silver doors and beautiful wood carvings, the temple is specially visited by thousands of devotees during religious occasions like Ekadasi, Sankranti, Maha Shivaratri, Teej Akshaya, Rakshabandhan, Grahana (eclipse) and Poornima (full-moon day). Facing the main entrance of the temple is a 300 year-old bronze statue of Nandi (Shiva's carrier, the bull) while the four faced Lingum (phallic symbol of Shiva) inside the temple dates back to the 14th Century. The cremation ground near the temple has one section, the Arya Ghat, reserved specially for royalty. Nearby is a 7th century statue of Virupaksha, the 'three-eyed Shiva' while south of the cremation grounds is the 6th century Baccareshwari Temple dedicated to Goddess Parvati. Nearby is a terracotta figure of Lord Narayan. Other shrines at the complex are the Raj Rajeshwari, Nawa Durga and Pancha Dewal Temples while, across the river, are the Ram Temple, the Rama Janaki Temple and the Laxmi Narayan Temple as well as the Gorakhnath Temple dedicated to the sage Goraknath, the patron deity of the Shah Kings. The 17th century Guhyeshwari Temple is some distance downhill while the Kirateshwar Mahadeva Mandir and Surya Ghat are to the west of the river.



Boudhanath Stupa

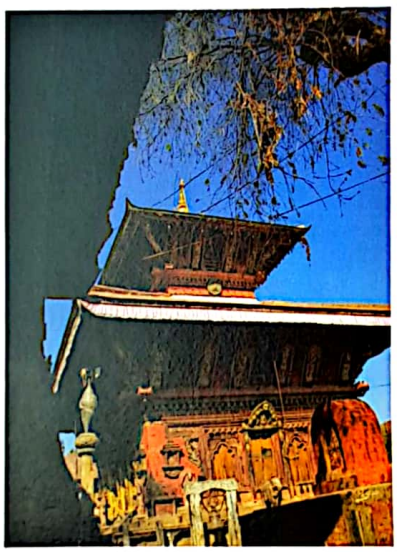
Boudhanath Stupa is claimed to be the one of the largest stupas in the world and is the most holy Buddhist site in Nepal. Located about 7 km east of the Kathmandu city center, it is also known as Khasti Chaitya and has a diameter of about 100m and a height of 40m. Among its most distinctive features are the all-seeing eyes of the Buddha which are painted in red, white and blue that gaze out on all sides from the upper tower which is capped as a pyramid. All this stands atop a large dome and a 3-layered base around which are 108 Buddhist deities and rows of brass

prayer wheels which devotees spin while going round the shrine in a clockwise direction. Many colorfully adorned monasteries from all four schools of Mahayana Buddhism are situated within the complex. King Manadeva is believed to have first erected the stupa during the Licchavi period (2nd to 9th century) and it was later renovated extensively in the 17th Century. Boudhanath Stupa is said to contain the remains of the past Buddha Kashyapa. The most popular festival celebrated here is Lhosar, the Tibetan New Year, when one will find thousands of devotees from near and far congregating at the site.



Swayambhunath Stupa

Located on the top of a conical hill, Swayambhunath Stupa is one of the most ancient of all holy shrines in Kathmandu Valley. It is easily distinguishable by its lofty white dome and glittering golden spire and the all-seeing-eyes of the Buddha, each pair of eyes having another eye, the third eye, above them. Swayambhunath is believed to have been an important Buddhist pilgrimage site since as far back as the 5th Century. Occasions like Buddha Jayanti (Buddha's Birthday), Gunla (a month- long festival) and Lhosar (Tibetan New Year) sees thousands of devotees visiting the site. The shrine can be reached in two ways, either by climbing 365 steps up the hill, past a gilded Vajra and two lions guarding the entrance, or by a metal road that winds up the hill on the other side. Many chaityas, temples and deity images as well as a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Harati are located within the complex as is the small but mysterious Shantipur Temple, inside of which, it is believed, lives the 8th century Tantric Shantikar Acharya whose meditation techniques are credited for his remaining alive for many centuries. Many new Buddha idols and many prayer wheels on the hillsides have been made in recent times. A 57-foot Buddha statue is another newer addition. It is situated to the west end within a park.



Changu Narayan Temple

The 4th century Changu Narayan Temple is the oldest temple in Kathmandu Valley. Displaying some of the finest examples of stone, wood, and metal craftsmanship of the Licchavi period (2nd to 9th century), it is situated 22 km from Kathmandu city and 4 km from Bhaktapur. The temple is devoted to Lord Narayan, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, whose ten-headed and ten-armed 5th Century stone image is the major attraction here. Rebuilding and renovations in 1702 resulted in the present pagoda-style temple. The life-size 5th century stone statue of Garuda, the mythical man/bird carrier of Vishnu, who kneels with folded hands at the temple entrance, is another well known figure. Beside this icon is one of the oldest Licchavi stone inscriptions found in the country as well as a statue of a kneeling King Bhupatindra Malla and his queen. Stone lions stand guard on either side of the gilded door which has intricate gilded windows. Four pillars with the symbols of Vishnu: the chakra (disc), conch shell, the lotus, and club (gadda) stand at the four corners of the temple and above the main door is also an image of Vishnu holding his four symbols. Many other shrines can be found here among which are temples dedicated to the gods, Krishna, Narayan, Ganesh, Somalingeshvara, Nateshvara and Shiva and to the goddesses Bhagwati and Lakshmi. Also found here are ancient (8th–10th century) sculptures of Vishnu Vikranta, Vishnu Visharupa, Narasimha Vishnu, Sri Mahadev, Vishnu, Durga Avalokitesvara and Garuda Ganesh.



Lumbini

Situated in the Terai of southern Nepal in Kapilvastu of Rupandehi District, Lumbini is the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautam who went on to be known as the Buddha, the propagator of Buddhism. He is said to have lived here till the age of 29, roughly between 563 and 483 BCE. The Mayadevi Temple, which has a stone image of Queen Mayadevi giving birth to the Buddha, is the main attraction here. Pushkarni Pond where she took the ritual dip before giving birth, and where Buddha himself had his first bath, is nearby. The site also has a sacred Bodhi tree (the kind under which Buddha received enlightenment) and the Ashokan Pillar at the exact site where Buddha was born. Along with Kushinagar, Bodh Gaya and Sarnath, Lumbini is one of the four essential pilgrimage sites for Buddhists the world over. The area was developed by the Lumbini Development Trust (established in 1976) and its master plan was designed by Japanese architect Kenzo Tange in 1978. The Trust area is divided into three zones: the Sacred Garden Zone, the Monastic Zone and the Educational and Culture Zone which includes a research area. The Monastic Zone is segregated into the East Zone where monasteries have been built by followers of Theravat Buddhism (Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, etc.) and the West Zone where monasteries have been similarly constructed by followers of Mahayana branch of Buddhism (Vietnam, Kampuchea, Bhutan, Japan etc.) as well as by followers of Tibetan Buddhism (like Drigyul and Kagyul sects). Lumbini was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1997.

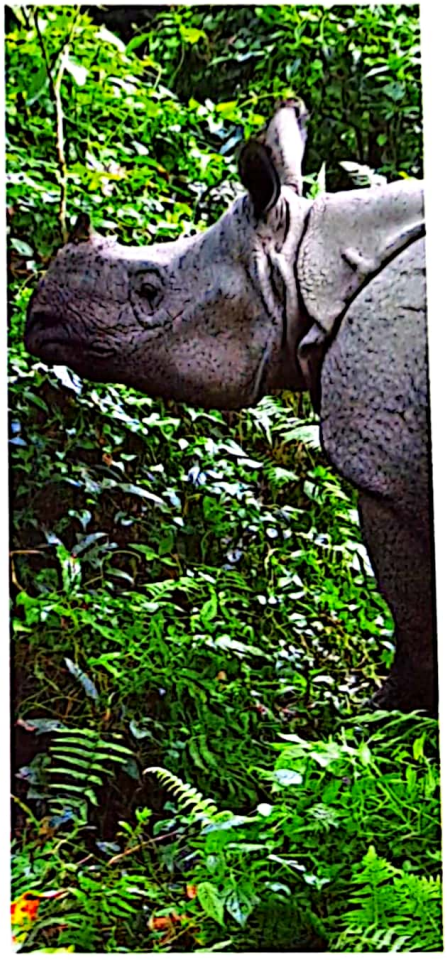
Sagarmatha National Park

Located at 3000 meters above sea level, the Sagarmatha National Park is the highest national park in the world. It is situated in Solukhumbu District of Sagarmatha Zone and was established on July 19, 1976. In 1979, it was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO because of its 'superlative natural beauty and great aesthetic importance'. The park comprises the upper catchment areas of Dudh Kosi and Bhote Kosi Rivers and encompasses an area of 1,148 sq km with most parts of the landscape being rugged terrain and gorges of the high Himalayas. The park is located amidst many of the world's tallest peaks including Mount Everest. Other well known peaks in the region are Lhotse, Thamerku, Pumori, Ama Dablam, Cho Oyu, Kwarıgde, Kangtaiga and Gyachyung Kang. The best time to visit this exotic park are the months between October and February when one may sight endangered animals like wild yaks, musk deer, red pandas, snow leopards and Himalayan black bears. Besides these, the park is home to more than 118 species of birds including the national bird, the Impeyan pheasant (danphe) and 26 species of butterflies. The flora includes pine and hemlock forests on the lower elevations and above 3500 m, trees such as birch, rhododendron, silver fir and juniper along with rhododendron shrubs.



Chitwan National Park

Nepal's first national park, the Chitwan National Park, is located in Chitwan District, one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal. It lies in the western part of Narayani Zone and is at a distance of 120 km from Kathmandu. The park covers an area of approximately 932 sq km and the nearest airport is in Bharatpur, the district headquarters. Chitwan has a rich flora and fauna having more than 43 species of mammals, over 450 species



of birds, and more than 45 species of amphibians and reptiles in the park. Some of the rare wildlife found here are the Royal Bengal tiger, the one horned rhino and the gharial besides other animals like leopards, mugger crocodiles, Indian rock pythons and several species of deer and monkeys as well as wild elephants, striped hyenas, the four horned antelope, pangolins, etc. Among birds, the endangered species include the Bengal florican, the lesser florican, the giant hornbill and black storks and white storks. Other common birds include peafowls and red jungle fowls as well as various species of egrets, herons, kingfishers, flycatchers and woodpeckers. While the best time to visit the park is between October and February, March and December are the best months for bird watching. The park was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1984.


REMOTE GRANDEUR



Protecting the mountains

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) was established on November 1, 1973 (Kartik 16, 2030). It is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political organization working as the national alpine association of Nepal to promote mountain tourism, climbing sports, protect mountain environments and preserve and promote the cultural heritage of mountain people. It is the only national alpine club authorized to issue climbing permits for 33 mountain peaks of Nepal.

OBJECTIVES

- Generate public interest towards mountaineering and popularize mountaineering and trekking activities locally.
- Conduct various activities to promote Nepalese mountains and protect them and their environment.
- Support ongoing and future work that benefits professional climbers and individuals involved in mountaineering.
- Establish training centres to develop mountain climbing skills and efficiency.
- Train Nepalis and foreigners for mountaineering and rescue operations.
- Coordinate and organize Nepalese climbing teams, conduct mountain climbing campaigns and other activities related to mountaineering.
- Assist and advice concerned authorities in formulating conducive policies and increase mountaineering activities.
- Obtain national and international recognition for Nepal Mountaineering Association.
- Encourage more foreign mountaineering teams to climb mountains in Nepal.
- Upgrade, operate and manage International Mountain Museum.
- Establish and develop International Mountaineers' Memorial Park.
- Adhere to Tourism Act and mountaineering regulations mentioned in the Act.
- Maintain cordial relationship with regional and international institutions related to mountaineering, the Himalayan environment and sports climbing.
- Promote and preserve cultural heritage of local mountain people.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Annual General Meeting: NMA General Members participate in the Annual General Meeting held once a year which adopts policies, programs, annual budget and annual audit report.

Advisory Committee: NMA has one chief advisor and six other advisors

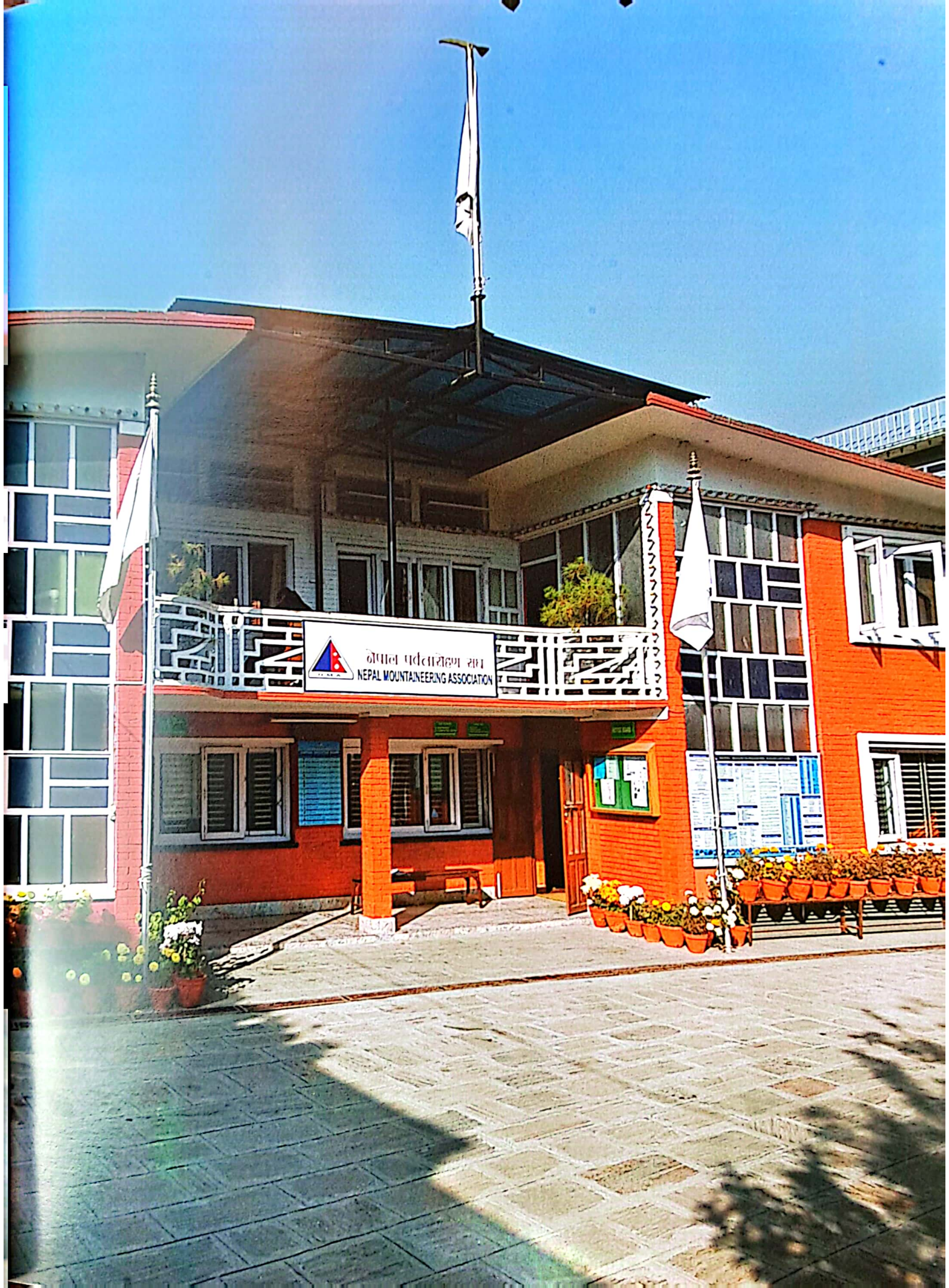
Central Executive Board: Every three years, an election is held to elect the NMA Central Executive Board officials and members. The composition of which is as follows:

President	1
Immediate Past President	1
Ist Vice President	1
2nd Vice Presidents	1
General Secretary	1
Secretary	1
Treasurer	1
Executive Members (from General Member)	9
Executive Members (from Book Holder Member)	2
Executive Members (from Institutional Member)	1
Executive Members (Nominated)	3
Ex-Offcio Members (MoTCA, TAAN, HRA)	3

The Central Secretariat looks after day to day activities of NMA. The Secretariat comprises of General Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer and four Central Executive Members.

COMMITTEES

Training and Mountaineering Committee: It carries out regular training programs to produce skilled mountaineers with the objective of developing mountaineering tourism as safe tourism. This committee mainly focuses on the development


नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ
NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

of mountaineering skills, efficiency and rescue techniques.

Welfare Committee: It conducts welfare activities in the form of assistance to families of those mountaineers who unfortunately meet tragedy on the high Himalayas.

Environment Conservation Committee: This committee conducts and coordinates activities to conserve mountaineering environment.

Publication and Publicity Committee: It is responsible for regular publications that focus on NMA activities.

International Mountain Museum Committee: It is responsible for the smooth management and operation of International Mountain Museum (Pokhara).

Mountaineering Rescue Committee: It conducts rescue activities in the mountains.

International Mountaineers' Memorial Park Committee: It coordinates the construction and operation of the park established at Kakani in memory of deceased mountaineers while on expeditions.

Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee: This committee forwards its report with suggestions to the Central Executive Board on complaints received against NMA members. It also monitors activities of NMA members in relation to the code of conduct.

Chapter Coordination Committee: This committee coordinates and monitors the activities of different chapters.

Other Committees: Fund Raising Committee, Artifacts Committee, Local Development Committee. Sports Climbing Committee, Annapurna Chapter, Public Relation Committee and Casual Program Implementing Committee.

REVENUE SOURCES

On January 18, 1978, the government authorized NMA to issue permits for 18 peaks between 5587 m to 6654 m in the Manang, Annapurna, Langtang and Khumbu regions. Mera Peak (6654 m) is the tallest among these 18 peaks while Mardi Himal (5587 m) is the shortest. On September 16, 2002, and additional 15 peaks came under the purview of NMA. These 33 peaks are also known as NMA Climbing Peaks. At present, the fees collected from issuing peak permits for these 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 and national and international individuals and organizations.

NMA Peaks Fee Structure

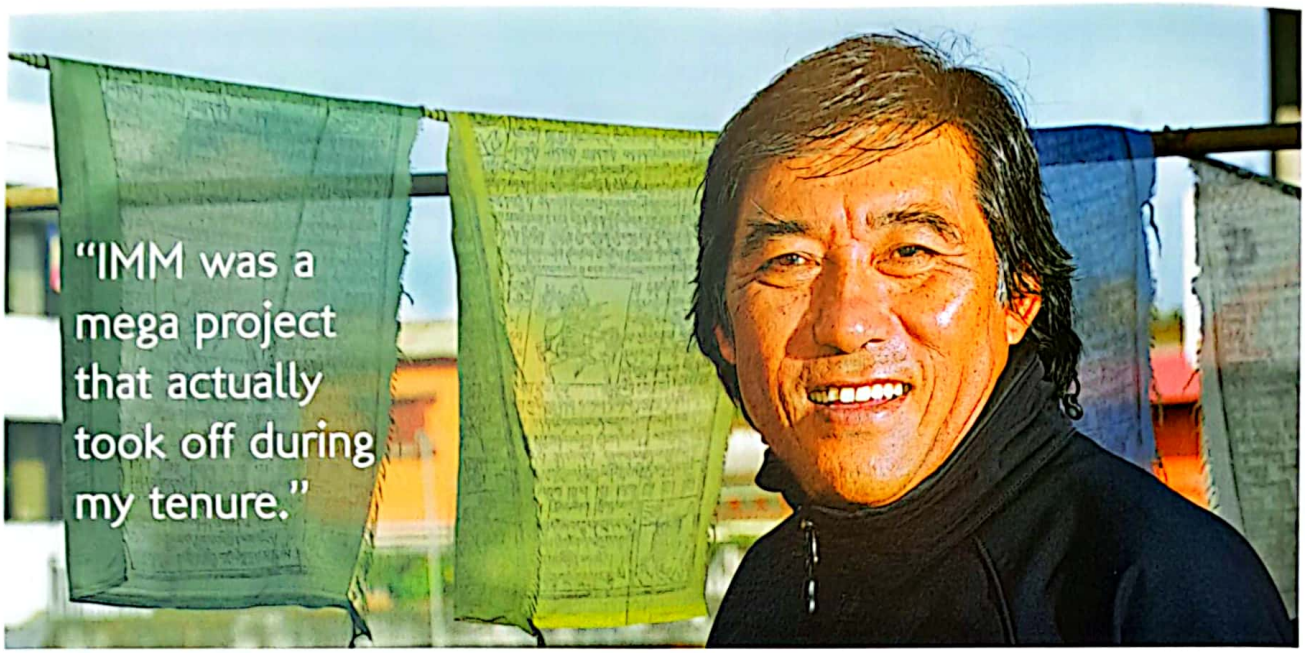
- Group A: 1-7 Members US$ 500 + US$ 100 for each additional climber up to 12 persons.
- Group B: 1-4 climbers US$ 350 + US$ 40 for each additional climber up to 8 persons and 9-12climbers US$ 510 + US$ 25 for each additional climber up to 12 persons.
- Garbage Deposit: Garbage deposit for all the 33 NMA Peaks US$ 250.

CALENDAR OF ANNUAL EVENTS

February 5	: International Mountain Museum Anniversary
May	: UAAA Council Meeting
June 3	: Annapurna Day
June 5	: World Environment Day
August	: NMA Central Annual General Meeting
August	: Basic and Advance Mountaineering Training
September 27	: World Tourism Day
September	: UAAA Annual General Meeting
October	: UIAA Annual General Meeting
November 1	: NMA Anniversary
December 11	: International Mountain Day


I am the last of the founding members – Tek Chandra Pokharel

Then and Now



Tashi Jangbu Sherpa, former NMA President

Until 1973, most activities concerning mountaineering in Nepal were in an unorganized state even though the country's mountains were increasingly becoming more attractive by the day to climbers internationally. There was no really active organization to look after such affairs. According to Tek Chandra Pokhrel who was the NMA president from 1990 to 1992, "I was involved with the NMA since its inception. At that time, I had just helped establish the Himalaya Rescue Association in July 1973. Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah heard about this and suggested to me about establishing a similar body for mountaineering. Madhav Khanal, who was in charge of the mountaineering division in the Ministry of Tourism, was also keen on the idea. Thus, NMA came into being on November 1, 1973."

Humble Beginnings

Pokhrel, who is currently the Honorary Counsel for Mexico in Nepal, also discloses that he is the last remaining founding member left. He remembers NMA starting as a small tight-knit group of only 30 to 40 members. Khadga Bikram Shah was the first president and he, the secretary. According to Bhumi Lama who has served as the General Secretary for three terms and was the vice president till recently, "I believe it was In 1988/1989 that they decided to have a membership drive and I also became a member at that time." Initially, the organization did not have provision for a vice president. Pokhrel remembers that he became the vice president at a historic period in Nepal's mountaineering history. He recalls, "It was during the time of the Three Nations Expedition to Everest". (Editor's note: On May 5, 1988, a joint team from China, Japan and Nepal reached the top from the north and the south simultaneously and crossed over to descend from the opposite sides). According to Pokhrel, the organization faced a lot of financial difficulties in the beginning and for almost five years, it operated from his offices at Trans Himalayan Tours which he was running then.

It was also during his tenure as president that they opened a training center at Manang in collaboration with Yugoslavia (now Slovenia). At first, the training center did not live up to expectations mostly due to faulty construction of the building in that it faced the north side and was high ceilinged, both of which contributed to creating a very cold environment in which it was difficult to undergo training. But still, NMA has today developed into an organization that is recognized as an institution that provides high quality guide training.



Tek Chandra Pokhrel, former NMA President



Ang Tshering Sherpa, former NMA President

According to the current president, Zimba Zangbu Sherpa, NMA imparts basic guide training in collaboration with the Slovenian Alpine Club and advanced guide training in association with Ecole Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme (ENSA). Previously, some selected students would be sent to France to complete the course. He himself was among the first batch to do so. He discloses, "Till date, about 70 guides have completed their training from France." However, now the course can be completed within the country itself in collaboration with ENSA and the first batch will be passing out in November this year. According to the current president, it takes almost five years to complete the guide training.

The Golden Age

While NMA has been very successful in the training sector, according to past president Pokharel, "NMA was good at training but not so good at organizing expeditions." Perhaps he says this in light of NMA's blotched attempt to send an expedition during his tenure. He recalls, "We had organized an expedition to commemorate King Birendra's coronation but it was unsuccessful. We received a lot of flak for this." However, things have improved as well in this sector and current president Zimba is planning to lead an expedition to climb the 6257m Chekigo in the Rolwaling area this coming year on the occasion of Nepal Tourism Year 2011.

In the organization's history, Ang Tshering Sherpa has had one of the longest tenures as president, having served for six years and seven months (2002-2005, 2005-2008 and December 2009 - June 2010). He says of his tenure as president, "I sometimes think of it as the 'golden age' of NMA because, during this time all 8000m and higher peaks (except Annapurna) celebrated their golden jubilees!" Ang Tshering is also a member of the Mountain Protection Committee of UIAA (Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme), the premier international organization for mountaineers in the world. NMA is a very important member of this apex organization about which he says, "You can compare UIAA to the United Nations as far as mountaineering is concerned." He will be going next month to Italy to attend this year's assembly. According to the past president, NMA has received confirmation that UIAA will be holding their next assembly in Kathmandu from November 5 to 8, 2011.

President Zimba is excited about this because delegates and their families from almost 70 countries will be coming along with members of the international press. He believes that it will give a big boost to NTY 2011. According to Immediate Past President Ang Tshering, "There were many countries vying to have it in their countries but we succeeded because of NTY 2011. However, we still have to give a presentation to UIAA to assure them that we can organize it well and that we have all the facilities required to do so."

Historic Achievements

It will of course be a big achievement and only the second time that the UIAA assembly is being held in Nepal, the previous one being way back in 1981 due to the single handed efforts of the founder president, Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah. Then, the meeting had concluded with the historic 'Kathmandu Declaration' - a call for action against the degradation of mountains which paved the way for a successful cleaning campaign of the Everest region that is still ongoing. Other notable achievements in NMA 's history have been the construction of the International Mountain Museum (IMM) in Pokhara and the Mountaineers' Memorial Park at Kakani. The then secretary, Bhumi Lama, who was involved in the setting up of IMM recollects, "Founder President Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah arranged for 100 ropanies of land in Pokhara but we had only about 8 million rupees with us while the project cost was projected to be around 230 million rupees (it cost 115 million in the end)." It was tough going and was delayed for a long time. However, when after the restoration of multiparty democracy, talk began to circulate about the land being planned to be used for either making a new jail or to be given to landless squatters, the NMA office bearers were spurred on to finish the project even if it was only to satisfy their ego.

Tashi Jangbu Sherpa, who was the president from 1999 to 2002, has many recollections about the IMM project because according to him, "It was a mega project that actually took off during my tenure. The people before me had initiated it but it was left to me to really start the work in earnest. This was no easy matter because by then, we were facing severe criticism from both inside and outside the country for planning such an ambitious project which everybody doubted would be finished."

Nevertheless, Tashi Sherpa was upto the task. He took it upon himself to speak on the matter at the next UIAA assembly where he pointed out that the IMM was a responsibility of all alpine associations the world over and requested their support. Similarly, he spoke on similar lines at the UAAA assembly where he said, "We could go to companies like Coca Cola and Microsoft for sponsorship and they would no doubt agree but then, where will that leave us? IMM is the responsibility of all mountaineers and how would it look if organizations that are unrelated to mountaineering were to be involved instead?' Eventually, due to all these, NMA received support from organizations like Sanpaku, an association of seven Japanese alpine clubs as well as other international alpine associations.

The museum had a soft opening in 2002 and in 2005, was opened to the public. The IMM has been a grand success, having attracted 97,000 visitors last year alone. Speaking about other achievements during his tenure, Tashi Sherpa says, "I also initiated the Everest Rejuvenation campaign to clean up the Everest region. We collected double the amount of garbage with the same expense as before. We asked all those going to base camp to carry back garbage when returning and we would pay them according to the weight of the garbage they brought back." Another important work during his time was the opening of about 18 new peaks as well the signing of an agreement with France to train Nepali guides for the international certification (UIAGM) course. It was also during Tashi Sherpa's tenure that preparations began in earnest for the Everest Golden Jubilee celebrations.

A Bright Future

As far as further development of mountain tourism is concerned both Pokhrel and Ang Tshering have almost similar views on the question of reducing royalty fees to encourage more expeditions. While Pokhrel says, "All royalties for climbing should be got rid of. This will encourage more expeditions to come to Nepal - their benefit to the local mountain economy is tremendous," the latter believes that royalty fees should be reduced in line with our neighbors' which are less than ours. Ang Tshering also says, "Another problem I see is that it takes a long time to reach our base camps but visitors have time constraints. Also, beside the time cost, operation costs are also quite high because of this. For instance, to transport the usual expedition supply load of about 7000kg by porters costs almost 18000 dollars." He is however pleased to disclose, "I must mention that the government has taken our suggestions seriously and is positive about reducing royalty fees."

About the future of NMA, this is what Tek Chandra Pokhrel says, "I think we should develop better leadership capabilities since we have to present ourselves effectively at many international gatherings and I also feel that NMA should discourage misuse of available funds." Ang Tshering, on the other hand, is positive and says, "I think the future is good. It has an able president in Zimba Zangbu Sherpa who was the first vice president during my tenure as president. I think I can say that I have trained him well. This, and his own experience, makes him well prepared to successfully lead NMA into the future. I am confident that he will finish whatever work I started besides of course, beginning new work himself."

New Challenges

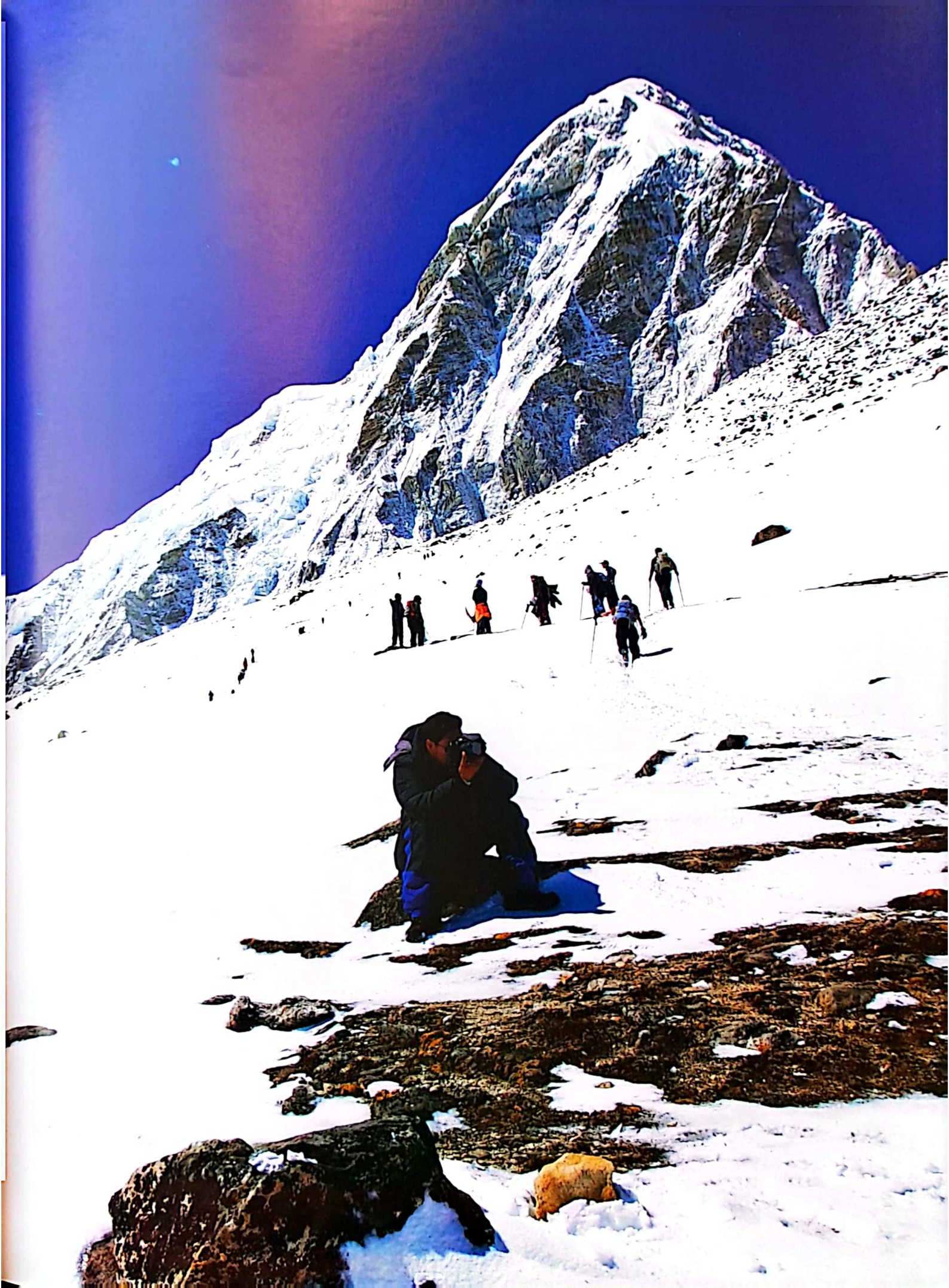
Walking on the footsteps of his father, Deebas Bikram Shah, son of the late NMA Founder President Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, is clear on one point, "The greatest challenge we face today is to find a balance while replacing traditional ways of doing things with modern methods." He elaborates further, "In the old days, the world was less commercial than it is today, and mountaineering was no exception. Today, there is pressure everywhere to make mountaineering more commercial, open more peaks, allow more players to be active in the field. This will have consequences and not all will be for the better, not if we fail to take timely measures to develop check and control mechanisms."

He is right of course. For example, China has already taken steps to ban climbers below 18 and above 60 from climbing Everest. This is because of health risks. This is what Deebas means when he says, "Increased commercialization of mountaineering activities might lead to increase in accidents, even deaths on the high mountains. More commercialization will also affect employment because costs and margins will be scrutinized more closely." Deebas also thinks that at the present time, he is smack in the middle between relatively less educated mountaineers and highly educated experts on the other side. He believes that policy should gradually be tilted towards making mountaineering into more of a sporting activity and he says, "So, the question is, how to begin new packages for non–climbers and for those who are experts in fields other than mountaineering?"

His experience as the two times NMA General Secretary has taught him that things do not always go as they should. He says, "Our cry for infrastructure in mountaineering has always fallen on deaf ears."



Deebas Bikram Shah, NMA General Secretary



8,000 METER OVER MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD

S.N.	Mountain (Range /Location)	Height meteres	Feet	First to Summit	Date	Nationality
1.	Everest (Himalayas/Nepal)	8,848	29,028	Edmund Hillary, Tenzing Norgay	May29, 1953	New Zealander and Nepalese
2.	K2 (Codwin Austen) (Karakoram/ Pakistan)	8,611	28,250	Achille Compagnoni Lino Lacedelli	July 31, 1954	Italian Italian
3.	Kangchenjunga (Himalayas/ Nepal)	8,586	28,169	George Band Joe Brown	May 25,1955	British British
4.	Lhotse (Himalayas/ Nepal)	8,516	27,940	Ernest Reiss Fritz Luchsinger	May 18,1956	Swiss Swiss
5.	Makalu (Himalayas/ Nepal)	8,463	27,766	Jean Couzy Lionel Terray	May 15,1955	French French
6.	Cho Oyu (Himalayas/ Nepal)	8,201	26,906	Herbert Tichy Sepp Jochier Pasang Dawa Lama	Oct 19, 1954	Austrian Austrian Austrian
7.	Dhaulagiri (Himalayas/Nepal)	8,167	26,795	Ernest Forrer Kurt Dimberger Peter Diener Albin Scelbert Nawang Dorje Sherpa Nima Dorje Sherpa	May13,1960	Swiss Swiss West Germany Swiss Nepales Nepales
8.	Manaslu (Himalayas/Nepal)	8,163	26,781	Toshio Imanishi Gyalzen Norbu Sherpa	May 9,1956	Japanese Indian
9.	Nanga Parbat (Himalayas/ Pakistan)	8,125	26,660	Hermann Buhi	July 3 , 1953	Austrian
10.	Annapurna(HimalayasMepal)	8,091	26,545	Maurice Herzog Louis Lachenal	June 3,1950	French French
11.	Gasherbrum I (Karakoram/Pakistan)	8068	26,470	AndenvKauffmann Pete Schoening	July4,1958	American American
12.	Broad Peak (Karakoram/Pakistan)	8,047	26,400	Kurt Diemberger Hermann Buhl Markus Schmock Fritz Wintersteller	June 9,1957	Austrian Austrian Austrian Austrian
13.	Gasherbrum II (Karakoram/Paskistan)	8,035	26,360	Sepp Larch Fritz Morave Hans Willenpart	July 7,1956	Austrian Austrian Austrian
14.	Shisha Pangma (Himalayas/ Tibet, China)	8,013	26,289	Chery Son Chery Tianliang Doge Mima Zaxi Sodnam Doge Wanf Fuznou Wa Zongyne Xa Jing Yungden Zang Junyan	May2,1964	Chinese Chinese Chinese Chinese Chinese Chinese Chinese Chinese Chinese Chinese

HIGHEST PEAKS OF THE CONTINENTS

Continent	Mountain/Range/location	Height Meter	Feet	First to Summit	Date/Nationality
Asia	Mount Everest Himalaya/Nepal	8,848	29,028	Edmund Hillary Tenzing Norgay	May29, 1953 Nepal/New Zealand
South America	Mount Aconcagua Andes/Argentina	6,960	22,834	Matthies Zurbriggen	1897
North America	Mount KinleyAlSkaRange/Alaska,USA	6,194	20,320	Harry Karstens Walter Harper Robert Tatum Hudson Stuck	1913
Africa	Mount Kilimanjaro Tanzania	5,895	19,340	Hans Meyer Ludwig Purtscheller	1889
Europe	Mount Elbrus Kabardino¬ Balkaria Caucasus / Russia	5,642	18,510	F Crauford Grove F Gardiner H Walker A Sottajer P Knubel	1874
AntarcticaMt. Vinson Massif Santinal	Range/ Antarctica	4,897	16,066	Barry Carbet John Evans Bill Long Pete Schoening	1966
Australia	Mt. Jaya (Carstensz pyramid) Sudirman Range/New Guinea	4,884	16,024	Heinrich Harrer Philip Temple Russel Kippax Albert Huizenga	1962

Number of Permit and Climbers of NMA Climbing Peaks

1998/99-2008/09 (2055/56-2065/66)

FISCAL YEAR	2055/56 (1998/99)		2057/58 (2000/2001)		2058/59 (2001/2002)		2059/60 (2002/2003)		2060/61 (2003/2004)		2061/62 (2004/2005)		2062/63 (2005/2006)		2063/64 (2006/2007)		2064/65 (2007/2008)		2065/66 (2008/2009)	
PEAK	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS	PERMIT	CLIMBERS
Mera	160	995	186	1124	169	890	1	4	145	790	154	771	145	777	170	887	233	1249	244	1236
Chulu East	14	79	31	164	22	95	14	54	20	77	25	125	13	43	40	184	41	150	45	173
Singuchuli	17	92	16	60	17	72	135	727	10	41	6	11	5	17	7	13	6	20	14	31
Hiunchuli	4	11	0	0	4	10	0	0	2	5	2	4	1	1	1	4	2	4	2	5
Chulu West	14	85	14	74	20	90	8	30	18	53	13	46	24	91	15	49	18	71	22	79
Kusum Kangguru	2	4	4	16	7	22	15	46	3	11	2	4	1	2	4	10	2	2	2	6
Pharchamo	69	404	78	449	78	410	17	71	58	269	44	207	38	158	50	233	85	288	73	346
Island	287	1526	337	1815	317	1587	277	1325	308	1491	333	1579	374	1885	400	2006	464	2397	527	2522
Lobuje	45	277	53	268	55	229	46	243	56	282	65	334	52	276	61	279	71	295	85	417
Pisang	16	63	44	229	29	114	42	240	20	57	31	118	15	51	35	129	36	155	37	116
Kwangde	11	33	7	23	13	61	13	67	2	6	4	15	0	0	7	25	9	26	3	11
Ramdung	42	226	30	167	23	145	26	88	10	48	8	41	5	30	8	42	7	25	14	59
Paldor	9	58	11	47	6	23	11	79	4	21	0	0	2	2	4	7	4	15	3	16
Khongmatse	3	18	3	11	2	6	0	0	2	6	4	10	4	6	0	0	3	10	3	13
Ganjala Chuh28	125	33	171	27	104	21	84	21	70	21	88	13	39	14	54	26	121	20	56	
Pokhalde	27	201	22	162	25	148	21	146	21	133	22	152	18	122	25	153	24	154	20	117
Tharpu Chair 35	134	35	151	16	65	4	20	7	24	14	63	13	43	18	43	14	62	18	49	
Mardi Himal 3	7	5	12	10	36	3	7	4	13	3	7	4	13	5	15	3	7	5	24	
New Peak																				
Cholal-Se							5	9	8	30	12	47	8	34	8	31	4	15	9	28
Kyazo-Ri							4	14	3	23	4	11	6	17	3	9	6	26	12	59
Nirekha							2	4	3	9	4	25	7	41	7	47	7	36	9	30
Langsisa-Ri							3	5	2	8	5	22	0	0	4	22	5	14	5	22
Ombigaichen						12	17	1	3	2	16	2	8	0	0	2	10	0	0	
Bokta							2	10	2	15	0	0	2	10	3	9	1	5	0	0
Lobuje West							1	4	1	12	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larkya							3	19	2	13	3	15	7	44	5	20	7	33	6	19
Yubra Himal						1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	
Yala							9	49	19	82	17	94	15	83	20	94	29	153	23	115
Machermo									4	13	0	0	1	2	3	10	0	0	0	0
Phari Lapcha								2	6	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	12	3	7	
Chekigu									4	24	3	20	2	14	2	5	1	2	1	3
Abi											0	0	1	2	0	0	2	7	1	2
Chhukung Ri										0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	10	
Total	786	4338	909	4943	840	4107	688	3370	762	3632	803	3833	780	3813	920	4383	1091	5370	1210	5576

DATA OF TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY NMA IN DIFFERENT YEARS

(1979 TO 2010)

Year	Basic Mt. Training	Advance Mt. Training	Basic Rock Training	Advance Rock Training	Trek Tour Leader Training	Junior Basic Training	Mountain Rescue Training	Female Training	Instructors' Upgrade Refreshment Course	PETZL 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		-	-	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	21						15		
2004	33								10	
2005	37	14								
2006	37	14					13			
2007	37						7			14
2008	38						12			27
2009	84						9			
2010	86						12			
Total	1012	257	75	7	30	17	63	91	10	41

NMA Peaks Group "A"

S.N	NAME OF MOUNTAIN	HEIGHT(M)	HIMALAYAN RANGE	DISTRICT	CARAVAN ROUTE
1.	Mt.Cholatse	6440	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Pheriche-BC
2.	Mt.Machermo	6237	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Gokya-BC
3.	Mt.Kyazo Ri	6186	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-gokya-Bc
4.	Mt.Nirekha	6186	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-gokyo-BC
5.	Mt.Langsisa Ri	6427	Jugal	Rasuwa	Dhunche-Lantang-Langshis-ABC
6.	Mt.Ombigaichen	6340	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Gokyo-BC
7.	Mt.Bokta	6143	Kanchenjunga	Dolakha	Charikot-Simigaon-beding-BC
8.	Mt.Chekijo	6257	Gaurishankar	Dolakha	Charikot-Simigaon-Beding-BC
9.	Mt.Phari Lapcha	6017	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Namche-Machermo-BC
10.	Mt.Lobuje West	6145	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Merala-BC
11.	Mt.Larkya Peak	6249	Manaslu	Gorkha	Gorkha-Samagoun-Lamjung Bc
12.	Mt.ABI	6097	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Lukla-Merala-BC
13.	Mt.Yubra Himal	6035	Langtang Himal	Rasuwa	Dhunche-Legberi BC
14.	Mt.Yala	5732	Langtang	Rasuwa	Ktm-Dhunche-Langtang-Bc
15.	Mt.Chhukung Ri	5550	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-BC

Fee Structure For Group "A" NMA Peaks

1-7 Members US$ 500 + US$ 100 for each additional climber up to 12 persons.

NMA Peaks Group "B"

S.N	NAME OF PEAK	HEIGHT(M)	HIMAL	REGION	ROUTE
1.	Shigu Chuli(fluted peak)	6501	Annapurna Himal	Gandaki	ktm-pokhara-Tilkedhunga-Chorepani-Tadhaani
2.	Mera Peak	6654	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	ktm-jiri-shivalaya-Bhandar-sete- junbasi-nunthala- kharikhola-poyanbung-chadrabu- kothe-thangna-khar
3.	Kusum Kangru	6367	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	ktm-lukla-namcheThame-Khumjung-B.C.
4.	Kwandge	6011	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm-Lukla-Merala-Randimng-Hunde-B.C.
5.	Chulu West	6419	Manang	Gandaki	Ktm-Besisahar-Ngadi-Jagat-Dharapani
6.	Imja-tse(Island Peak)	160	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	ktm-Lukla-Namche-Tyangboche-Pangpoche-Dingboche-chhukang-B.C.
7.	Pharchamo	6187	Rolwaling Himal	Janakpur	Ktm-Dolkha-siguti-jagat-simigaon-Chagebukharka-Beding-Na-B.C.
8.	Lobuje	6119	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Thame-RermoPokhari-Gokya-dzonghla-B.C.
9.	Ramdung	5925	Rolwaling Himal	Janakpur	Ktm-dolkha-Siguti-GongerDoranangbu-Beding-Na-Kabung-Kydug-Kongma-Drolmaban- Tashi Lapcha-B.C.
10.	Pisang	6091	Manang	Gandaki	Ktm-Beshisahar-Bahundanda-Chamja-Bagarchhap-Chame- Pisang B.C.
11.	Tharpu Chuli (Tent Peak)	5663	Annapurna Himal	Gandaki	ktm-Pokhara-Dhampus-Langdrung- Ghandrung-Chomoro-Kuldi-B.C.
12.	Khongma-tse(Mehara Peak)	5849	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Dole-Mechermo-gokyo-Dughala-B.C.
13.	Ganja-la Chuli(Naya Kanga)	5844	Langtang Himal	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhunche-Sysbru Goan- Lama hotel-Kyanjin Gomba-Ganjala B.C.
14.	Pokhalde	5806	Khumbu Himal	Sagarmatha	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Dole-Gokya-Na-Thagna Cholapass B.C.
15.	Mardi Himal	5587	Annapurna Himal	Gandaki	Ktm-Pokhara-Hyangia-Dhiprang- Kharka-Mardi Basi Camp
16.	Paldor	5896	Langtang Himal	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhading-Ankhu khola-Rigaon-JAralang-Sertung-Krarka-somdang
17.	Hiunchuli	6441	Annapurna	Gandaki	Ktm-Pokhara-Chomrong-Bamboo-BC
18.	Chulu East	6584	Damodar	Gandaki	Ktm-Beisahar-Ngadi-Jagat-Dharapani-BC

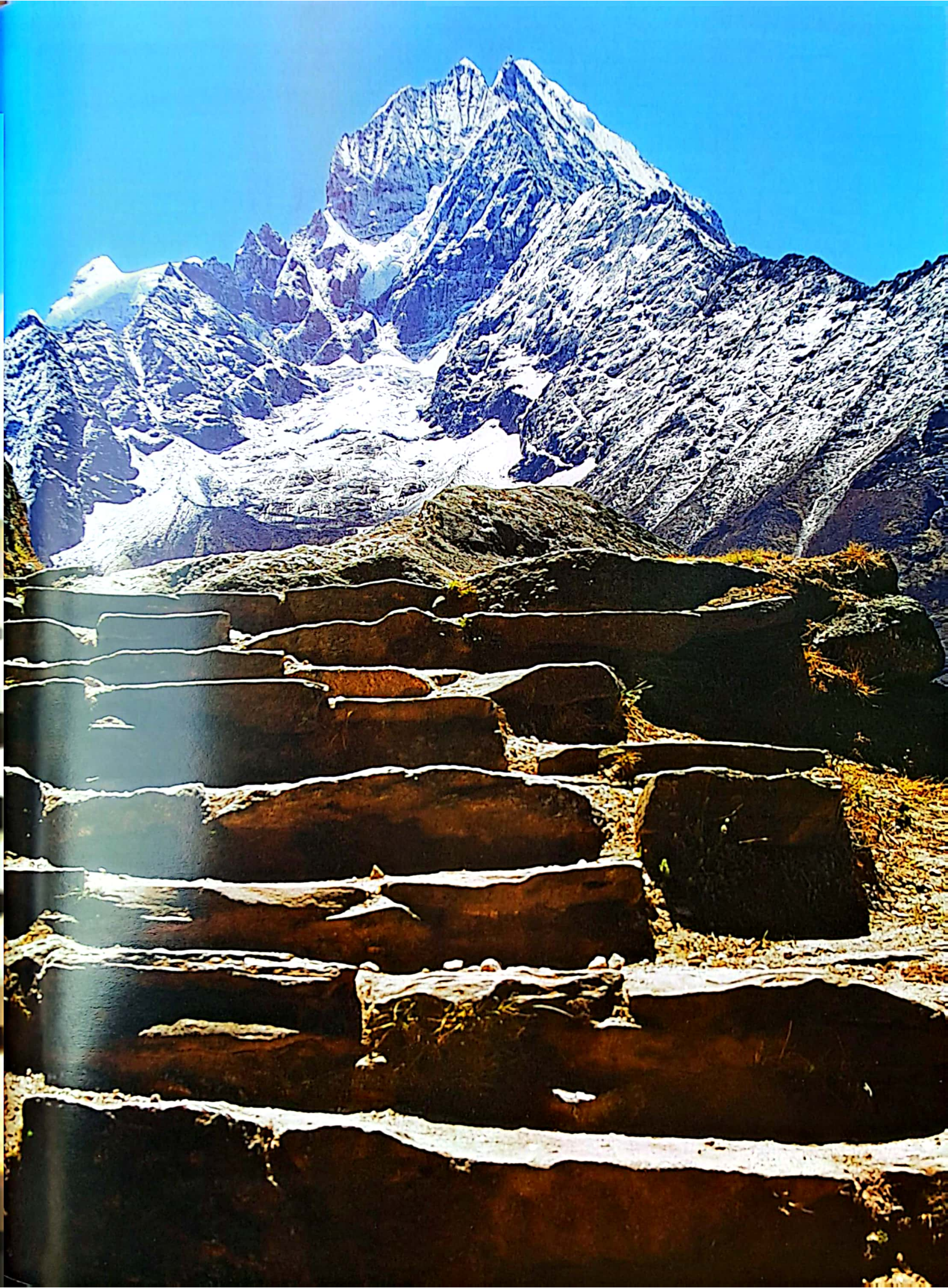
Fee Structure for Group "B" NMA Peaks

1-4 persons	US $ 350.00 only	
5-8 persons	US $ 350.00 plus	US $40.00(per person)
9-12 persons	US $ 510.00 plus	US $25.00(per person)

Note: Maximum number of members in team is 12.

Garbage deposit for all 33 NMA Peaks

US$250.00 should be deposited at NMA. The refund shall be made as per the provisions made by NMA.



Our Himalayas are also Suffering

The Himalayas – Water Storage under Threat

The Hindu Kush-Himalayan region has the most extensive high altitude areas on earth and the largest areas covered by glaciers and permafrost outside the polar regions – the 'Third Pole'. These mountains are now recognized to be a hotspot of climate change (Dyurgerov and Meier 2005), but they still receive significantly less attention than the Arctic or Antarctic. The region's ranges and foothills encompass a wide spectrum of ecological zones with great socioeconomic potential. They contain significant biodiversity hotspots and a unique array of plants and animals of global importance. Furthermore, the wetlands, rangelands, and forests provide valuable ecosystem services such as plant-based production, soil retention, climate regulation, and carbon sequestration. The ranges form a barrier to the easterly monsoon winds and are the origin of ten of the largest rivers in Asia. The huge water storage capacity of the mountains provides a lifeline for millions of people in the region and downstream; more than 1.3 billion people are estimated to depend directly or indirectly on Himalayan waters.

Climate change

The Himalayas are experiencing a general warming trend. The mean maximum temperature in Nepal increased by 0.06°C per year between 1977 and 2000. Similarly, the Tibetan Plateau has experienced warming in the range of 0.02°C to 0.03°C per year over the last fifty years (Yao et al. 2006) – much greater than the global average of 0.74°C total over the last 100 years (IPCC 2007). Based on regional climate models, it is predicted that the temperatures on the Indian sub-continent will rise between 3.5°C and 5.5°C by 2100, and on the Tibetan Plateau 2.0°C by 2050 and 5.0°C by 2100 (Rupa Kumar et al 2006). Monsoon rainfall in India and Nepal has been found to be highly correlated with large-scale climatological phenomena such as El Niño. There are already signs of changes in the dates of the onset and retreat of the monsoon as well as the number and frequency of extreme precipitation events. One of the main concerns in relation to climate change in the Himalayan region is the reduction of snow and ice, which reduces the region's water storage capacity. Changes in the intensity and distribution of rainfall may also lead to changes in the uptake of rainwater by soils and the recharge of aquifers. Climate change may affect people's wellbeing in numerous ways. For example, it is very likely to aggravate the existing food insecurity and problems of irrigated farming systems, especially in the Tarim and Indus river basins. The Indus Irrigation Scheme in Pakistan depends 50% or more on runoff originating from snowmelt and glacial melt from the eastern Hindu Kush, Karakoram, and western Himalayas (Winiger et al. 2005).



The Himalayas as the water tower of Asia

The Hindu Kush-Himalayan mountains are the major source of stored water in the region. Water is retained in the form of ice and snow in the high mountains, as well as being stored in natural lakes, wetlands, and groundwater aquifers, and behind constructed dams.

The Himalayas have a total glaciated area of around 33,000 sq km (Eriksson et al 2009) which provides important short and long term water storage facilities. "There is about 12,000 cu km of fresh water stored in the glaciers throughout the Himalayas ... more fresh water than in Lake Superior" (Thompson 2007). Compared to glaciers in other mountain ranges, the Himalayan glaciers are retreating at higher rates, and these rates are accelerating. Projections of glacier retreat in the region (IPCC 2007) suggest that the projected increase in the mean annual temperature for High Asia of 1.0°C to 6.0°C by 2100 is likely to result in an extensive diminishing of glacial coverage. Continued de-glaciation could have profound impacts on the hydrological regimes of the ten river basins originating in the Himalayas. It is suggested that river discharges are likely to increase for some time due to accelerated melting but as the glaciers' water storage capacity is reduced, the flow is likely to decline. Indications of shifting in the hydrographs of some rivers in Nepal have already been observed. The hydrological implications of such de-glaciation are expected to be most severe in the arid parts of the Himalayan region.

Areas in the high mountains and on the high plateaus not covered in perennial snow and ice are underlain by permafrost. The areas covered by permafrost are much larger than those covered by glaciers or perennial snow, especially in the Tibetan Plateau, China. The Tibetan Plateau has approximately 1,360,000 cu km of perennial permafrost (Xin Li and Cheng Guodong 1999). But recent studies show that the extent of permafrost is shrinking, that the thickness of the active layer (the upper portion of soil that thaws each summer) is increasing, and that this has altered the hydrological cycle, vegetation composition, and carbon dioxide and methane fluxes which appear to be linked to permafrost degradation.

The Himalayas have many lakes with an enormous capacity for water storage. For example, the Tibetan Plateau alone has more than 1000 lakes, with a total area of approximately 45,000 sq km. The major sources of lakewater are rainfall, and glacial, snow, and permafrost melting. In addition, many glacial lakes have formed associated with the retreat of valley glaciers. According to ICIMOD's inventory, there are 8790 glacial lakes in Bhutan, Nepal, and selected areas of China, India, and Pakistan. These lakes also offer a certain storage capacity, but a number of them are also potentially dangerous, that is they could burst out and cause catastrophic floods downstream (GLOFs) at any time. There have been at least 35 GLOF events in Bhutan, China, and Nepal in the past.

High altitude wetlands account for around 16% of the total area of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas and play an important role in water storage and regulating water regimes (Trisal and Kumar 2008). They maintain water quality, regulate water flow (floods and droughts) and support biodiversity. They also play an important role in mitigating the impacts of climate change by acting as carbon sinks. The peatlands in the Tibetan Plateau are one of the most important stores of carbon in the mountain region, storing 1500-4000 tonnes per ha (Trisal and Kumar 2008). The Himalayan wetlands are under pressure from drainage for agriculture, tourism related pollution, overgrazing, and climate changes. Some areas, such as the Ruoergai Marshes of the Tibetan Plateau have been severely degraded over the past decades due to drainage, overgrazing, and climate change.

Groundwater aquifers are important for water storage in the Himalayan region, but there is little data available to allow assessment of the change and uses of groundwater on a regional scale. Official statistics on dams higher than 15 meters from the World Register of Large Dams show that India has 4300 dams and China 1855, compared to 6600 in the USA and 2700 in Japan. There are also a large number of non-registered dams in China. Researchers have tried to explain the viability and cost of dam construction at a location in terms of its geographical features such as average land gradient and river gradient. They have also concluded that rivers flowing at a gradient of over 6% increase the suitability for dam construction. To this end, if mechanisms could be developed to ensure that environmental concerns are integrated in the process of planning and implementation of artificial water storage systems, it may be appropriate to promote environmentally-friendly dams and reservoirs that could provide water storage, as well as flood control and hydro-energy benefits.

China and India are traditionally two leading producers of rice in the world, most of the harvest coming from irrigated agriculture in the Ganges, Yangtze, and Yellow river basins. Moreover, China and India are today experiencing economic growth and are gaining in international importance. The development of these two giants demands increasing ecosystem services, especially freshwater resources.

The Himalayas – reconciling human demands and the environment in a globally warmed world: Climate change clearly has a global dimension. While the priority has to be adaptation, we are aware that the Himalayas are suffering the consequences of a global phenomenon. Unfortunately, global instruments in relation to the



Kyoto protocol do not yet benefit the mountains. There is a continuum between mitigation and adaptation, where mountain systems should not be sidelined in world actions. The mountains, especially the Himalayas, require global solidarity. Adaptation calls for micro-level changes within national responsibilities, however, the Himalayan region needs regional consultation, as well as exchange of information and experiences. Certain tasks call for regional, trans-boundary actions as outlined below.

Promoting regional cooperation:
Most of the large rivers originating in the Himalayas flow across several countries. The development of water resources in the Himalayan region requires trans-boundary cooperation. In the past, water resource management has been looked at from national and bilateral perspectives that hindered the optimum development of trans-boundary water resources in an integrated manner. Climate change has posed additional stress and challenges to water resources development and management with an increased scarcity of water in the dry season, enhanced hazards in the monsoon, and increased temperature leading to melting of snow and ice. Cooperative efforts among the riparian countries are crucial for addressing this huge challenge.

Developing a regional programme for climate change monitoring:
It is essential to develop a scientific framework for field observation in collaboration with government agencies and academia. Remote sensing allows for regular and repeated monitoring of snow cover, which can be carried out by countries such as China and India, with results shared with those lacking such technological infrastructure. Studies need to include both ground-based and satellite-based monitoring. Well equipped stations and long-term monitoring, networking, and cooperation within and outside the region are essential.

Developing water storage systems and management strategies as options for climate change:
It is necessary to assess the social requirements for water in the context of climate change, and then to develop natural systems and solutions for policymakers and stakeholders to take the required steps to meet those needs through wise use of high altitude wetlands, groundwater management, and construction of water storage systems, in the best manner possible. Water storage, based on local practices, should be encouraged in the region. In the end, the Himalayas may be an example of how humans and the environment collide in a globally warmed world. Can the world's third pole be saved? What we do about this will probably determine what is going to happen to our world in the future.

Ouyang Hua, Integrated Water and Hazard Management ICIMOD, (Sustainable Mountain Development No. 56, ICIMOD, Winter 2009)

Challenging your senses

Situated on the Nepal-Sikkim border, the 8,586 meter tall Kangchenjunga (Five great treasure houses of snow) is the world's third highest mountain and the eastern corner stone of the Nepal Himalayas. A trek to the Kangchenjunga Base Camp is ideal for those with the time and inclination to venture into some of the more remote regions of Nepal. A trek that reveals diverse landscapes, the initial part of the route goes alongside the sparkling, mica-flecked Tamur River and gives you plenty of time to interact with local villagers along its course. You will come face to face with the Limbus who could well offer you their favorite drink known as tongba (millet brew) and you will be captivated by small wooden house adorned with prayer flags in villages like Ghunsa which are inhabited by Tibetans since the past three decades.

As the course meanders on, the rich rhododendron forests gradually give way to barren hillsides on which can be seen grazing yaks and blue sheep. This route is peculiar in that in spite of the close proximity to the high mountains, Kangchenjunga itself comes into sight only when you are almost at the base camp at Pang Pema. However, then the great peak seems so close that you will think that you can almost touch it! It is truly a stirring sight. The best time to go on this trek is between March - June and October – November.

Following is a typical trek program to Kangchenjunga Base Camp:

Days 1-2: You fly into Kathmandu (1330 m) which in itself is an unforgettable experience with the Himalayas spread out before you. Your host will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel. Usually, on the following day, you will be taken around the capital for a short sightseeing tour.

Days 3-4: You will fly to Biratnagar where you will stay overnight and then be driven to Phidim (1311 m) the next day. This will take about eight hours.

Days 5-16: From Phidim, you will either trek or drive on to Taplejung (1798 m), a journey of about five hours. From here, the trail descends to meet the Tamur River at Dobhan (850 m) some three hours away. This beautiful valley is largely populated by the Limbus and here, you will see suspension bridges over the river providing links between the different villages. The trail passes through the Tibetan settlement of Amjilassa (2240 m) through lush bamboo, oak and rhododendron forests and past several waterfalls. You will be able to see Nang Mo Mountain, and as you ascend the Ghunsa Khola, you will observe many small gompas, chortens and mani stone walls along the route. This is because many Sherpas and Tibetans, who practice the Buddhist faith, live here. Ghunsa at 3460 m is the remotest village inhabited by Sherpas and from here you can see Jannu (7710 m). The terrain turns harsher above Kambachen (4110 m), and as you cross moraine, you will be treated to terrific views up the Kangchenjunga Glacier at Lhonak (4720 m). Finally, you will reach the Kangchenjunga Base Camp at Pang Pema (5100 m) where the panorama is spectacular. You can take your time here to explore the surrounding glacial valleys.

Days 17-25: After your exhilarating trek to base camp, you will retrace your steps via Ghunsa and return to Taplejung. However, this time around, you will be taking an alternate route that includes high passes and beautiful mountain lakes on your return.

Days 26-28: You will fly back to Kathmandu to finish your sightseeing of the enchanting Kathmandu Valley.

The Kangchenjunga Challenge

Mingma Sherpa was born 32 years ago in Sankhuwasabha District and today, he is well on his way to get his name into the annals of mountaineering history. He has climbed Everest (8848m), Lhotse (8516m), Makalu (8463m), Cho Oyu (8201m), Dhaulagiri (8167m), Manaslu (8163m) and Annapurna I (8091m) in Nepal and K2 (8611m), Nanga Parbat (8126m), Gasherbrum I & II (8035m) and Broad Peak (8047m) in Pakistan as well as Shishapangma (8027m) in Tibet. Now, all he has to do is to scale Kangchenjunga (8586m) to become the first Nepali climber to have climbed all 14 of the 8000m peaks in the world.

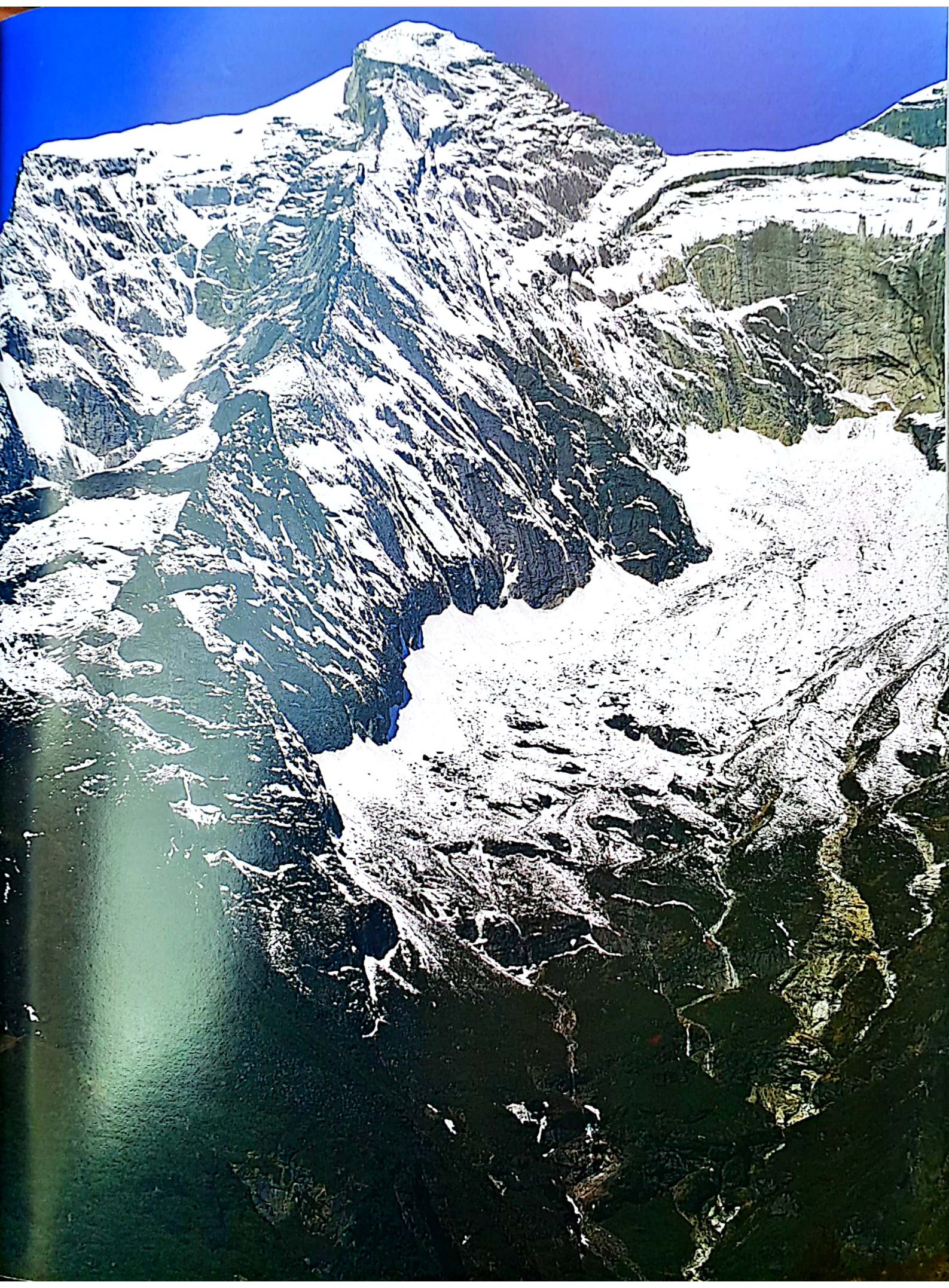
When are you attempting this record breaking feat?
I am aiming to summit Kangchenjunga seven months from now.

Who was the first to achieve this feat?
Reinhold Messner was the first to do so. I think till date, 24 climbers have done it.

Which was the first 8000m peak that you climbed?
It was Manaslu (8163m) which I climbed in 2000 when I was 22 years old.

When did you climb Everest?
It was in 2004, I was part of the Greek Olympic expedition. This was a historic occasion. Another historic occasion was when I had the opportunity to put Nepal's flag atop K2 when I was part of K2's 50th Year Celebratory Expedition.

After completing your 14 summit feat, what do you plan to do next?
I am thinking of attempting the seven highest summits of each continent.



9 women 7 summits

Shailee Basnet, Coordinator, EW7SEA

Two years after climbing Everest, our team of nine Nepali women from various ethnic backgrounds started yet another mission of climbing the tallest mountain in each continent with a message of climate action in an endeavor titled 'Everest Women 7 Summits Eco-Action' (EW7SEA).

The international journey started from Australia this July where our team climbed Mt Kosciuszko, the tallest mountain in that continent. Kosciuszko, at 2,228 meters, is not a difficult climb but without nature's permission she can still be testing, especially in winter. The snow-clad mountain has claimed the lives of some climbers in the past and said no to experienced Himalayan climbers. So our team left sunny Kathmandu with fingers crossed.

The Climb in Australia

On July 7, 2010, EW7SEA team climbed Mt Kosciuszko/ Tar Gan Gil guided by Wilderness Sports. On a perfect weather day with clear blue skies, we took the scenic route up the mountain and finally at the summit waved the Nepali national flag, flags of Nepal Mountaineering Association and the banner of Everest Women 7 Summits Eco-Action which sported logos of all supporters including the North Face, ICIMOD, The Crossing Land Education Trust, Outdoor Education Group, Veg Climate Alliance, Nepal Airlines, Nepal Tourism Board, Supreme Master TV and Nepal Tourism Year 2011.

The team learnt from Ken Green about the impact of climate change in the Snowy Mountains. He mentioned that Australia has lost 30% of its snow in last 50 years. Because of less snow, alpine vegetation and animals like Mountain Pygmy Possum are losing the snow cover that they used to hibernate underneath in winter. As a result, global warming is making it colder for these species to survive.

Presentations

The team made 18 presentations at various avenues including schools, communities, fundraising dinners and other interactions including one at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. Resource material for the presentation was provided by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The theme of the presentation was that we are all connected and so are the actions and their consequences. Across all platforms audiences were mesmerized to see pictures of the Himalayan giants. They were even more impressed by the significance and richness of the region. There was much interest to know about the country. We also got wonderful opportunity to learn from the experiences of the two seven summiteers in Australia, Brigitte Muir and Steve Bell.

Russia

EW7SEA team successfully climbed Mt Elbrus, the tallest mountain in the European continent on August 29, 2010. The climb was sponsored by Nepal Government, Non-Residential Nepalis Association and the North Face. Nari Nikunja and Nepalese Students Association PFUR in Moscow also provided special support to the team. Alexandar Abramov and Ludmila from the 7 Summits club were the leaders assisted by Tanya. Ludmila is the first and only Russian woman to climb all seven summits. Early morning on August 29, the team set out aiming for the summit. The team climbed up the rocks, traversed across the saddle on the classic route and all nine members made it to the summit at 12:30 pm. The weather was very clear with hardly any wind or snow. During a visit to a Second World War memorial museum in the Elbrus region, we learnt from the museum's founder that the region was a battlefield during the war and also that Tenzing Norgay Sherpa was in the region in the 1960s to climb Elbrus. While climbing we learnt that summer was getting longer in the Elbrus region. As a result, there were more streams originating from the mountain than in the past.

In May 2008, a team of Nepali women summited Mt Everest. In their quest to do something that would be meaningful not just to Nepal but globally, an idea took shape: They would climb, as a team of nine, seven of the highest peaks on seven continents, setting a world record of being the largest team to do so and use the expedition to highlight climate change. The journey thus evolved into 'Everest Women 7 Summits Eco-Action' (EW7SEA) and began with Mt Kosciuszko//Tar Gan Gil in Australia in June 2010.



1. Shailee Basnet (Coordinator): A graduate of Business Information Systems and a Post Graduate of Journalism, at 25 years of age she reached a new height on May 24, 2008, by standing on top of Everest.
2. Asha Kumari Singh: A 24-year-old student, Asha comes from the Danuwar community from Meghrail, Mahottari. She made not only her community but also the entire nation proud as she stood on top of Everest on May 24, 2008.
3. Chunu Shrestha: Hailing from a poor Kathmandu family, Chunu at 27 years of age reached the Everest summit on May 25, 2008.
4. Nimdoma Sherpa: Still in high school, Nim is the youngest woman to climb Everest. At 17 years, she set foot on the top of the world on May 22, 2008. She is also the ruling wall climbing national champion.
5. Pema Diki Sherpa: Pema Diki, 22, is from Dolakha. She achieved what she had long dreamt for on May 24, 2008 when she bowed her head to Cholmolungma, the mother goddess of the world.
6. Pujan Acharya: Pujan, 25, is an accomplished volleyball player and marathon runner. She made it to the summit of Mt. Everest on May 22, 2008. She skydived in the Everest region on October 17, 2009 from 29,300 ft. During the cabinet meeting of Nepal Government held at Kalapatthar (5240 m), she actively participated as a venue manager.
7. Maya Gurung: Maya reigned as the national bowling champion for four years. On May 22, 2008, she became the first Gurung woman Everest summiteer at the age of 28. She lived her long cherished dream of sky diving on October 10, 2008 with Everest in the backdrop. Maya led the Mt Manaslu clean-up expedition as coordinator and also was active venue manager for the cabinet meeting of Nepal Government held at Kalapatthar (5240 m) on December 4, 2009.
8. Ngabhang Phuti Sherpa: Ngawang, 33, is from Taplejung District. On May 22, 2008, she reached her highest destination, Mount Everest.
9. Usha Bist: Born in the far western district of Kailali, she was left in the jungle for dead at birth. A fellow villager saved the new-born. She has climbed a number of peaks including Amadablam. In 2007, she earned spot in the Loktantrik Expedition Team to attempt Everest. She was left behind at 8,400m and later rescued. This 24 year old finally stepped on the top of the world a year later.

Man of the Mountains



Dr. Harka Bahadur Gurung was born in Taranche, a small village in Lamjung of Central Nepal on February 5, 1939. Since his father was a subedar in the British army, he spent his childhood in Deharadun, India. He finished high school from King George Military School in Jalandhar. in 1955, he returned to Kathmandu and finished his Intermediate of Arts from Tri Chandra College in 1957. Then, he went to Patna College in India from where he earned a first class first BA (Hons) degree in 1959. While studying for his MA degree in geography, he received a scholarship to study geography at the University of Edinburgh in England, where he finished his Post Graduate In 1961 and received a Ph D degree in geography in 1965. He was a demonstrator at the University of Edinburgh (1963-64) and continued as a Research Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London (1964-66).

After returning to Nepal, he served as a lecturer in the Department of Geography (TU). He was also Visiting Fellow, Population Institute at the East West Center in Honolulu in Hawaii (1984-85). He served as a Member and the Vice Chairman in the National Planning Commission (1968-75) and became Minister of State for Education, Industry and Commerce (1975-77) and Minister of State for Tourism, and Public Works and Transport (1977-78). His last professional assignment was as the Director of Asia and Pacific Development Centre (1993-98). He joined New ERA, a NGO based in Kathmandu in 1980, and continued his association with this institution till his death in September 2006 in a tragic helicopter crash. Dr. Gurung has to his credit a total of 697 publications including 15 books, 7 small monographs and 675 articles and reports. He will be remembered as a planner, teacher and renowned academic.

Economics of Mountaineering

Late Dr. Harka Bahadur Gurung

Nepal has more than 1300 peaks that exceed 6000 meters in elevation. The increase in climbing activity has been associated with highlighting of alpine exploits and also concern for environmental problems. This paper attempts to review the trend of expeditions and their expenditure in Nepal based on studies based on data for the period 1979 to 2001.

Expeditions

In 1979, Nepal Himalayas had 48 climbing expeditions while in 2001, it was 112. 1998 saw the highest number, 141 expeditions. The average number between 1979 and 2001 was 103 expeditions. Of the total 2368 expeditions in this period, about 60% came in the summer season, 34.5% came in the spring and 8.7% in winter. It is to be noted that most high summits had their first ascent made during May and June.

Climbers

The number of climbers increased from 488 in 1979 to 836 in 2001. In 1989 and 1991, there were more than 1000 climbers. The average number of climbers per expedition was eight. The average decreased from 8.7 during 1981-1990 to 7.1 during 1991-2000 indicating a trend towards smaller groups than before.

Employment

The largest number of people employed was 12,179 in 1990 following which there was a steadydecline until 1996. In 2000, there was again an increase with 11,587 people employed followed by another decline. In 1979, the 48 expeditions employed 9,016 persons while in 2001, the 112 expeditions employed only 6,203 persons (-31.2%). Thus, the average employment per expedition declined from 188 in 1979 to 55 in 2001. This decline can be attributed to two factors: one was the increase in number of smaller expeditions and the second is because of better access to mountain areas by air and road.

Peak Royalty

In 1979, the total royalty paid by 48 expeditions was Rs. 577,000 while in 2001 the total royalty paid by 112 expeditions was Rs. 127 million or 221 times more. This appreciation was due to three reasons: first was the increase in number of expeditions; second was due to increase in royalty fees; and third was appreciation of the dollar against the Nepali rupee. In 1979 one dollar was equal to Rs. 11.90 while it was Rs. 74.65 in 2001. The average royalty earned per expedition was Rs.39, 055 during 1981-1990 and Rs, 572,725 during 1991-2000.

Since 1978, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) was authorized to operate 18 trekking peaks. In 1978/1979, 623 permits to 3319 climbers earned permit fees of Rs. 9.9 million. In 2000/2001, 909 permits were issued to 4943 climbers earning permit fees of Rs. 21.5 million. The average revenue was Rs.19, 402 per permit and Rs.3565 per climber.

Other Expenditure

Based on available data, the total expenditure of 2368 expeditions during 1979-2001 was Rs. 3249 million which was 3.9 times higher than the climbing royalty for the same period. In 1979, such expenditure was Rs.11.7 million while it was Rs 552 million in 2001 (+46.9%). In summary, during the 23 year period between 1979 and 2001, 2368 expeditions paid climbing royalty of Rs. 836 million and other expenditure of Rs. 3249 million thus totaling expenditure to Rs. 4086 million.

The Clientele

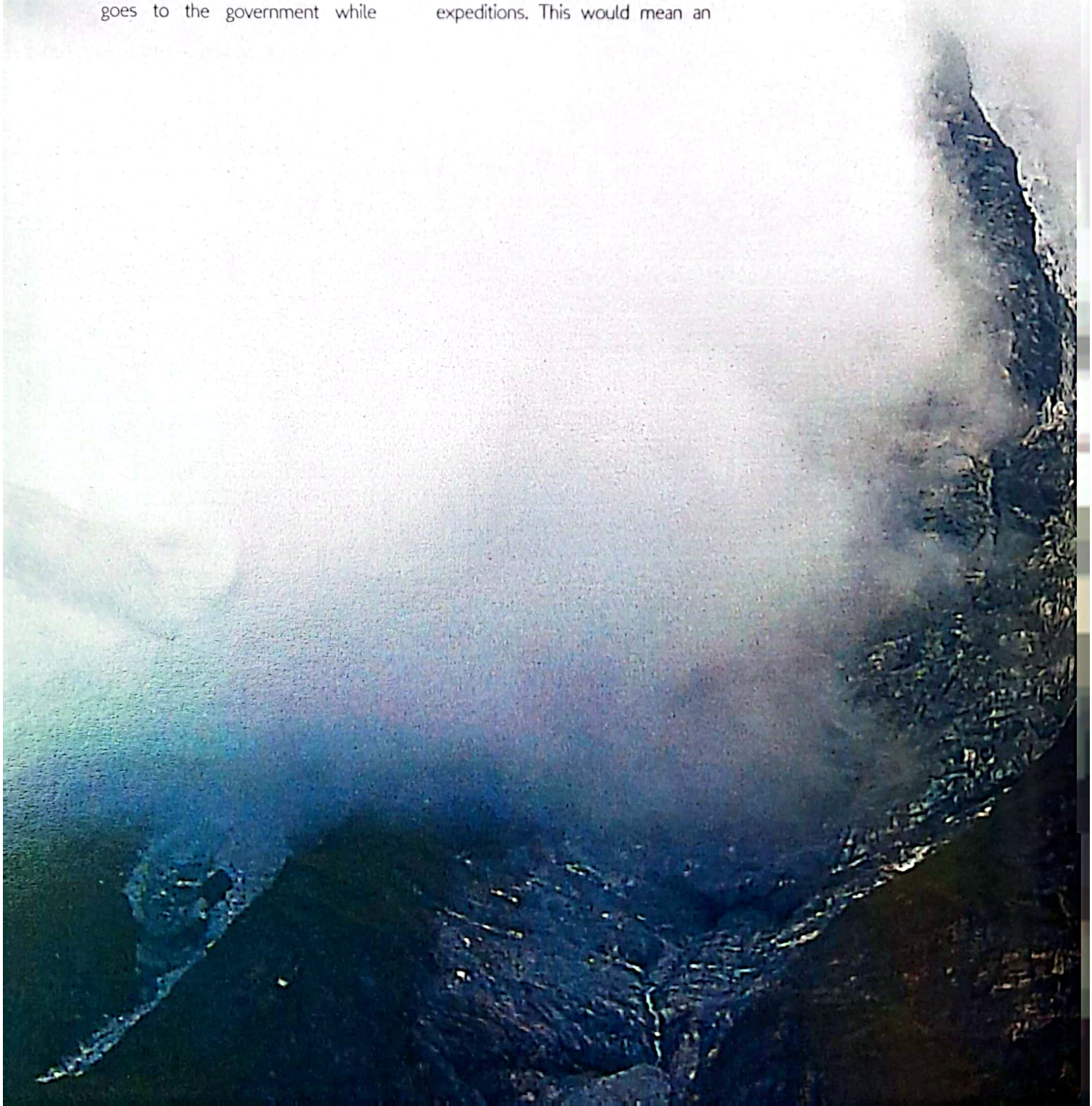
Of the 47 expeditions that came to Nepal during Spring 2002, an overwhelming number were from rich countries. Majority were from Western Europe. Japan and South Korea were the only Asian countries. USA had the largest number of expeditions (17). Others with more than one expedition in that season were Spain (4), UK (3), Australia (3) and South Korea (3). Countries with low middle income sent four expeditions (two from Eastern Europe and one each from West Asia and Central Asia) while India and Nepal were the only two low income countries that sent expeditions.

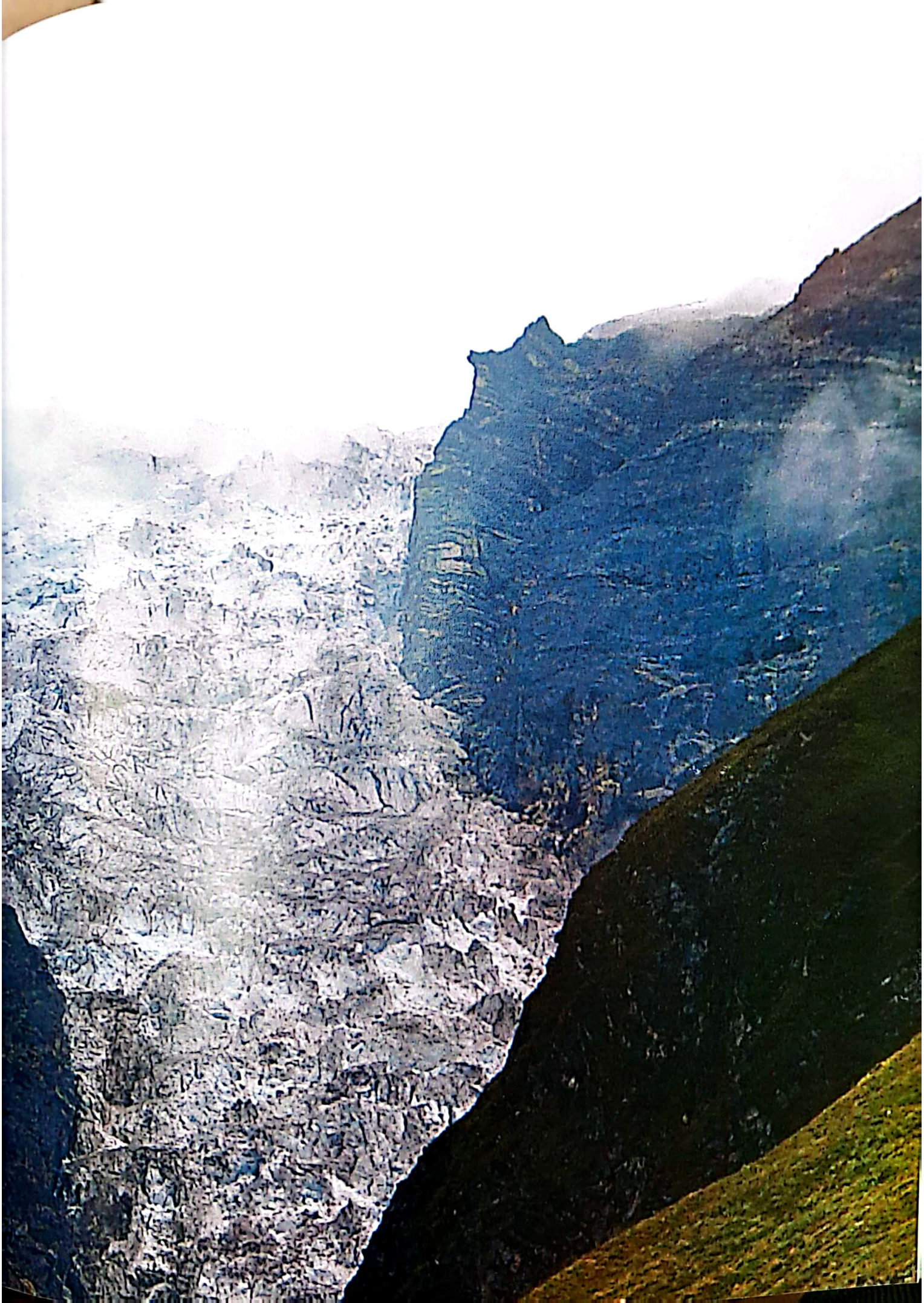
Observations

1. Mountaineering is a lucrative tourism activity. According to 1995 data, revenue per visitor was Rs 60 in rafting, Rs. 128 in trekking, Rs. 569 in park entry and Rs. 98, 028 in mountaineering. Therefore promotion

of mountaineering would mean higher income with even lesser number of visitors.

2. There are 1700 peaks in Nepal Himalayas that exceed 5500 meters in height. Presently, only 282 of these peaks are are open to expeditions which means only 15.8 % of Nepal's peaks are accessible to climbers. There is tremendous scope for generating tourism revenue by opening more peaks for climbing with priority to less crowded ranges in the west.
3. Expeditions spend nearly four times more in other expenditure than the royalty fees. The royalty goes to the government while other expenditures generate direct employment and indirect benefits. Therefore instead of tampering with the royalty fees, more expeditions should be encouraged as their other expenditure is much higher and has a multiplier effect on the economy.
4. Mountaineering royalty has generated much revenue for the government yet it does not benefit the areas where the peaks are climbed. Therefore, the royalty should be shared between the government and the districts receiving the expeditions. This would mean an average annual flow of Rs. 64 million to mountain districts which also happen to be the least developed and poor.
5. There is need for research on economic aspects of mountaineering activity by sectors such as porterage, transport, food, fuel, etc. Such an analysis would be useful to devise measures to promote more employment and encourage local economy for wider spread of income from mountaineering activities.





Nature's bounties

Nepal abounds with some of the world's most spectacular scenery, with a variety of fauna and flora unparalleled elsewhere in the region. This is because of the amazing geographical extreme found between the subtropical forests of the Terai (plains) in the south and the great peaks of the Himalayas in the north. The Terai harbours exotic endangered species like the one-horned rhinoceros, the Royal Bengal tiger and the gharial as well as a large variety of bird species including the endangered swamp partridges, Bengal floricans and the migratory Saru crane from Siberia. As far as the vegetation is concerned, the Terai has dense jungles in places consisting of tropical trees like the sal and the sisau besides tall elephant grass. In the same way, the Himalayan region too has its own exotic flora and fauna.

Fauna

The Yak (Bos grunniens)



Yaks are thick coated and have sturdy natures. They live at high altitudes and can climb up to as high as 20,000 ft. They have strong lung power by virtue of having large lungs which enable them to absorb more oxygen and they can weigh up to 550 kg each. In the Sherpa language, the males are called yaks while the females are known as naks or dris. They can carry loads of about 100 kg each. Besides this, they also plow fields, provide milk, butter and meat as well as wool for clothing and dung for fuel. Their bones are made into artifacts while their hair is used to make ropes, sacks, blankets, and tents. Their horns adorn doorways and roof tops to ward off evil spirits. Their blood is believed to cure diseases. When crossbred with cows, the offspring are known as dzo (male) and dzomo (female).

Bharal or Himalayan Blue Sheep (Pseudois nayaur)

The bharal is a cross between a sheep and a goat, although larger than either and they are really not blue in colour. The horns are smoothly rounded and curve backwards. Being extremely sure-footed, they are usually found grazing on steep mountains at altitudes of over 14,000 ft. In the winters, the bharals come down to lower altitudes. They can scramble up and around the roughest hillsides and they move about in large herds.

The Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia)

Weighing between 27 to 54 kg each, they live between 3,000 and 5,500 m above sea level. These large cats measure between 75 to 130 cm in length and have a tail that is nearly as long. They are endowed with luxurious thick fur and are spotted with dark grey to black rosettes on their body. Their head also has smaller spots of the same color while the legs and tail have larger ones. They are stockily built with small ears that are rounded in shape. They have fur on the underside of their wide feet which helps to increase traction on steep surfaces. Their tails are long and flexible which helps them to maintain balance.

Danphe (Lopophorus impejanus)

Designated as Nepal's national bird, the monal pheasant, or danphe, is the most exotic amongst the many species of pheasants found in the Himalayan region. When the danphe dances, it spreads its wings and tail feathers displaying a range of bright colours. They weigh around 2 kg each and are about 70 cm in length. While

the females are dull in color with dark brownish feathers, the adult males have multicolored plumage throughout their body and long metallic green crests. The males also have a prominent white back and rump when in flight while their necks have reddish copper color on the back and sides. The female danphe can be distinguished by a prominent white patch on the fore neck and a white strip on the tail.

Himalayan Griffon vulture (Gyps himalayensis)

As adults, their wingspan can be between of 102-114 in, while their bodies can be from 41 to 43 in long. They weigh between 8 to12 kg each and they breed on crags in mountains in the Himalayas and Tibet, laying only a single egg while doing so. They are



scavengers like all other vultures and they feed mostly on animal carcasses. The head is bald and white in colour as is the neck ruff. The bill is yellow and their wings are very broad while the tail feathers are quite short. These vultures are larger in size than their cousins, the European Griffon vultures.

Flora

The southern face of the Himalayas that receives the full force of the monsoons has deciduous, Lithocarpus pachyphylla (pig oak) and deodar forests. Fir forests are found in the Eswa valley, and the sub-alpine pastures are happy grounds for different flowers such as the anemone (marigold) field in Tiwa Gairi (3730 m). The northern face of the Himalayas has blue pine forests (especially in the Chumle region which is at 2750 meters) and steppe vegetation (above Ekla Bhatti at 2780 meters). Flowers bloom in the temperate and alpine areas only during the monsoon season.

Rhododendron

Designated as the national flower of Nepal, the Rhododendron arboreum ssp. arboreum has rose-red flowers that are hardy up to about -10°C. They



are found in the western Himalayas and also at lower elevations and are known as 'Lali Gurans' in Nepali.

Including this, over 30 sub species of Rhododendron arboreum are found in the country. They bloom during the spring season (March to May) and during this time one will find the hills deep red in color. Flowers of one sub species, the Rhododendron arboreum ssp. cinnamomeum, can be white, pink or red, and can resist temperatures between -15°C to -18°C. They grow in the central Himalayan region. Inflorescences of the Rhododendron arboreum tree measure from 4 to 8 in width and they have evergreen leaves.

Orchids

The local name for orchids is 'sunakhari' and there are 386 registered orchid varieties in the country. The central part of Nepal which has abundant rainfall has a rich variety of orchid flora including the highest number of epiphytic orchid species. Alpine terrestrials which grow at higher altitudes generally bloom during the summer, especially during the monsoon. A species called Dactylorhinza hatagirea grows in Dolpa district of far-western Nepal at altitudes of 2500–5000m and it is known locally as 'panch aunle' (literally meaning 'five fingered'). It is prized for their medicinal properties which includes imparting great vigour. Two other orchid species that are known for their medicinal value are Flickingrea macrei and Pholidota articulate. Their common local name is 'Jivanti', which means 'giving life'.



UNCLIMBED

Peaks

S.N.	NAME	HEIGHT	HIMAL	REGION	CARAVAN ROUTE
1	Amphu Gyabien 5647	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Tangboche-Dingboche-BC	
2	Amphu I	6840	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Tangboche-Dingboche-BC
3	Anidesh chuli	6960	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-BC
4	Chabuk(Tsajinp)	6960	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Dovan-Nilung-Sojang-Ghunsa-BC
5	Chago	6893	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Thangna-West col-sherpani Col-Makalu-BC
6	Chandi Himal	6096	Chandi Himal	Humla	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Humla-BC
7	Changla	6563	Changla	Karnali	Ktm-Simikot-Dharapani-Kanche-Bhimthaukoti-BC
8	Changwatnang	6125	Chandi Himal	Humala	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Humla-BC
9	Chaw Peak	6404	kanchanjunga	Janak	Ktm-Taplejung-Pamta-yamjin-BC
10	Chhochenphu Himal 6260	kanchanjunga	Janak	Ktm-Taplejung-Sekhthung-BC	
11	Chhubohe Peak	5603	Annapurna	Manang	ktm-Besisahar-Koto-BC
12	Chota Ri	6934	Khumbu Himal	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Thang Na-Amphu Laptse-BC
13	Dazaney (Dzanaye Peak)	6710	kanchanjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Lonak-Lonak Glacier-BC
14	Dhaulagiri	6632	Saipal	Bhajang	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Bajhang-Bajura-BC
15	Dingjung Ri	6249	Gaurishankar	Dolakha	Ktm-Charikot-Simi Gaon-Beding-BC or Via Lama Bagar
16	Dogari Himal	6536	Dhaulagiri	Dhaulagiri	Ktm-Beni-Darbanr-Muna-Gurja Gaon-BC
17	Dragmorpa Ri (Panaya Tippa)	6185	langtang	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhunce-Langtang-Kyanjing-BC
18	Ek Rate Dada	6312	Makalu	Shankhuwasava	Ktm-Lukla-Merala-Thanang-BC
19	Fimkof	6697	Saipal	Bajhang	Ktm-Bajhang-Dulu-BC
20	Gandharva	6248	Annapurna	Gandaki	Ktm-Pokhara-Landruk-Bagar-BC
21	Ganesh VI	6480	Ganesh	Gorkha	Ktm-Gorkha-Arughat-Dovan-BC
22	Ghustung North	6529	Dhaulagiri	Dhaulagiri	Ktm-Beni-Darbang-Gurja Gaon-BC
23	Gorkha Himal	6092	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukula-Mera la-Sherpani Col-Makalu-BC
24	Hongde	6556	Damodar	Mustang	Ktm-Pokhara-Jomsom-French Pass-Hongde-BC
25	Hongde	6556	Mukut	Mustang	Ktm-Pokhara-Marpha-Thapa Pass-BC
26	Hongu (Sura Peak)	6764	Mahalangur/ Makalu	Chamlang/ Makalu	Ktm-Lukla-Merala-Hongu-BC
27	Hunku	6119	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Tumlingtar-Numsedewa-BC
28	Jagdula Peak	5764	Jagdula	Karnali	Ktm-Dunal-Muktinath-BC
29	Jomsom Himal	6581	Damodar	Mustang	Ktm-Pokhara-Jomsom-Lomangthang-BC orVia Manang
30	Kalo Parbat	5419	Mukut Himal	Dhaulagiri	Ktm-Pokhara-Jomsom-Muktinath-BC
31	Kambong Peak	6570	Dhaulagari	Dhaulagiri	
32	Kande Hiunchuli	6627	Patrasi	Karnali	Ktm-Jumla-Talpe-Chaubise Khola-BC
33	Kang Nagchugo	6735	Gaurishankar	Dolakha	Ktm-Charijot-Simi Gaon Beding-BC or Via Lama Bagar
34	Kanjerawa	6612	Kanjiriba	Karnali	Ktm-Dunai-Ringmo (Phoksundo)-BC
35	Kanti Himal	6859	Kanti	Mugu	Ktm-Nepalgung-Mugu-BC
36	Khangri West	6773	Mahalangur	Sagarmatha	Ktm-Lukla-Din Kharkha-BC
37	Khayan	6186	Mansiri	Gandaki	Ktm-Besisahar-Dharapani-Dovan Khola-BC
38	Khiurikala	5806	Saipal	Bajhang	Ktm-Bajhang-Dulu-BC
39	Khumjung	6699	Damodar	Mustang	Ktm-Da Kharkha-Jomsom-lomangtang-BC
40	Kojichwa Chuli	6439	Kanti Himal	Karmali	
41	Kokthang	6148	kanchanjunga	Singalila	Ktm-Taplejung-Yamphudin-BC
42	Kumbatse	6639	Mahalangur	Solikhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Pumori BC
43	Kyungya Ri 2	6506	Langtang	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhunche-Kyanjing-langsisha Kharka-BC
44	Kyungya Ri I	6599	Langtang	Bagmati	Ktm-Dhunche-Kyanjing-langsisha Kharka-BC
45	Lachama Chuli	6721	Changla Himal	Karnali	
46	Lanpo Peak	6965	Kanchanjunga	Janak	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Pemetemba-BC
47	Lhayul Peak	6397	Api Himal	Humla	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Humla-BC
48	Linku Chuli I (Pig Pherago Shar)	6719	Mahalangur	Rolwaling	Ktm-Charikot-Beding-BC
49	Linku Chuli 2 (Pig Pherago Nup)	6659	Mahalangur	Rolwaling	Ktm-Charikot-Beding-BC
50	Lintren	6713	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla- Mera La-West Col-Sherpani Col-Ma-BC
51	Loshar I	6930	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Lonak-Tshima Glacier-BC
52	Loshar II	6860	kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Lonak-Tshima Glacier-BC
53	Lumba Sumba Peak	5670	Kanchenjunga	Taplejing	Ktm-Taplejung-Tshima Glacier-BC

54	Lumba Sumba Peak	5672	Lumbasumba	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Tshima Glacier-BC
55	Luza Peak	5726	Mahalangur	Taplejung	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Dole-Luza-BC
56	Marbang	6528	Kanjiroba	Karnali	
57	MDM Peak	6270	kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Lonak-Tshima Glacier-BC
58	Myka Peak	6032	kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-lonak-Tshima Glacier-BC
59	Nagpai Gosum II	7296	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Thame-Lunak-BC
60	Nagpai Gosum III	7110	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Namche-Thame-BC
61	Nampa	6755	Gurans	Mahakali	Ktm-Baitadi-Chamelikhbla-Ghusa-BC
62	Nampa I	6700	Gurans	Darchula/ Bajhang	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Bhajang-Darchuka-BC
63	Nampa III	6618	Gurans	Darchula/ Bajhang	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Bhajang-Darchula-BC
64	Nampa South	6580	Byas-Rikhi	Darchula/Bajhang	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Baitadi-Chameli Khola-GhusBC
65	Nangamari I	6547	Kanchanjunga	Janak	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-BC
66	Nangamari 2	6205	Kanchanjunga	Janak	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-BC
67	Nar Phu	5748	Peri	Gorkha	Kth-Gorkha-Arughat-Aama Gaon-BC
68	panaicitapa	6687	Mahalangur	Rolwaling	Ktm-Charikot-Simi Gaon-BC
69	Panbuk Ri	6716	Mahakangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-Charikot-Dolakha-BC
70	Pandra	6850	Kanchanjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Lunak-Tshima Glascier-BC
71	Panpoche I (Pang Phunch	6620	Mansiri	Gandaki	Ktm-Arughat-Sama Gaon-BC
72	Panpoche 2 (Pang Phunch)	6504	Mansiri	Gandaki	Ktm-Arughat-Sama Gaon-BC
73	pashuwo	6177	Langtang	Gandaki	Ktm-Syabrubesi-langtang Valley-BC
74	Patrasi	6450	Patrasi	Karnali	Ktm-Lukla-Merala-HunkuGlacier-BC
75	Peak 4	6736	Mahalangur/ Makalu	Chamlang/ Makalu	Ktm-Lukla-Thang Na-Amphu Laptse-BC
76	Peak 43	6779	Mahalangur	Solukhumbu	Ktm-lukla-Thang Na-Amphu Laptse-BC
77	Phole	6645	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-taplejung-Ghunsa-Pandra Glacier-BC
78	Phu Kang	6694	Peri Himal	Manang	Ktm-Besisahar-Dhara Pani-Phu-BC
79	Phungi	6538	Mansiri	Gandaki	Ktm-Besisahar-Dharapani-Thonje-BC
80	Pokharkan	6348	Damodar	Manang/Mustang	Ktm-Besisahar-Chame-BC
81	Punchen Himal	6049	Mansiri	Gandaki	Ktm-Besisahar-Dharapani-Dovan Khola-BC
82	Punchen Himal	6049	Mansiri	Gandaki	Ktm-Besisahar-Dharapani-Dovan Khola-BC
83	Rokapi	5467	Saipal	Bhajang	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Bhajang-Bajura-BC
84	Romaopen Peak	5407	Saipal	Bhajang	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Bhajang-Bajura-BC
85	Rothong	6682	Kanchenjung	Singalila	Ktm-Taplejung-Yamphudin-Ramche-BC
86	Saldim(Peak 5)	6374	Mahalangur/ Makalu	Chamlang/ Makalu	Ktm-Lukla-Merala-West Col-BC
87	Sat Peak	6220	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Lonak-Tshima Glacier-BC
88	Shantishikhar	7591	Mahalangur	Sagarmatha Khumbu	Ktm-Lukla-Imja Valley-Chhukung-BC
89	Sharphu I	7070	Kanchenjung	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Dovan-Nilung-Sojang-Ghunsa-BC
90	Sharphu II	6154	Kanchenjung	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Dovan-Nilung-Sojang-Ghunsa-BC
91	Sharphu III	6885	Kanchenjung	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Dovan-Nilung-Sojang-Ghunsa-BC
92	Sharphu IV	6433	Kanchenjung	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Dovan-Nilung-Sojang-Ghunsa-BC
93	Sharphu V	6328	Kanchenjung	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Dovan-Nilung-Sojang-Ghunsa-BC
94	Sharphu VI	6076	Kanchenjung	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Dovan-Nilung-Sojang-Ghunsa-BC
95	Sherson (Peak 3)	6422	Mahalangur/ Makalu	Chamlang/ Makalu	Ktm-Tumlingtar-Num-Yangri Kharka-BC
96	Sisne	5849	Sisne	karnali	Ktm-Jumla-Lamri-Mahari Gaon-BC
97	Sobitongie	6670	kanchenjung	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Pandra Glacier-BC
98	Surma-sarovar, north	6523	Surma Saravar Lekh	Bajhang	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Bajhang-Dulu-BC
99	Suyaokang	5960	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-Pandra Glacier-BC
100	Takargo	6771	Mahalangur	Rolwaling	Ktm-Charikot-Simi Gaon-Beding-BC
101	Tarphu Himal	6395	Nalakankar	karnali	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Simikot-Kerimi-BC
102	Taple Sikhar (cross Peak)		6341	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung Ktm-Taplejung-Tapethok-Ghunsa-Kambachen-BC
103	Thulagi Peak	7059	Mansiri	Gandaki	Ktm-Besisahar-Dhara Pani-Dovan Khola-BC
104	Tilje	5697	Peri	Manang	Ktm-Numre-Kolo-Nar-Phu-BC
105	Tilizang	6369	Nalakankar	Karnali	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Humla-BC
106	Tobsar Peak	6100	Siringi Himal	Gorkha	Ktm-Gorkha-Arughar-Sama Gaon-BC
107	Tso Karop Kang	6556	Kanjibora	Humla	Ktm-Nepalgunj-Humla-BC
108	White wave	5809	Kanchenjunga	Taplejung	Ktm-Taplejung-Yamphudin-Ramje-Ghunse-BC
109	Yakawa kang	6482	Damodar	Mustang	Ktm-Pokhara-Jomsom-Muktinath-BC
110	Yamme kang	6206	kanchenjunga	Janak	Ktm-Taplejung-Ghunsa-BC
111	Yokapahar(Nampa VII)		6401	Gurans	Darchula/Bajhang Ktm-Nepalgunj-Bajhang-Bajura-BC
112	Yubra Himal	6035	Langtang	Himal	Ktm-Dhunche-Legbeni-BC

Endangered spaces

It is difficult to appreciate or to see the gradual diminution in the quality of life caused by the innumerable acts of environmental degradation because there is no immediate and direct discernible threat to life. Contamination of our Himalayan environment, together with an alternation in vegetation, drainage and runoff patterns, has increased at an unprecedented rate. The management of our ecology in a way that allows trekkers and climbers to still fulfill their aesthetic, cultural and challenge needs requires a committed sharing of responsibilities. These guidelines are a step towards making this partnership a reality. These are tried and tested ways to protect our environment and to stop the extinction of Nepal's "endangered spaces".

I. TREK PREPARATION

Who organizes? If you decide to book through an agency, ensure it is a reputable firm that provides proof of its knowledge of the area you wish to visit, as well as of an environmental code of practice.

Destination - Select less traveled routes to reduce impact on popular trails or select or asked to be guided on less frequented alternative trails along the main route.

Group size: Limit your party to about 10 if tenting; larger groups place more strain on tent sites.

Clothing and equipment:

- Dark or earthen colored clothes, backpacks and tents blend in better with the natural surroundings.
- Carry a small stove and fuel for cooking to save on firewood.
- Take along a couple of garbage bags.
- Use a tent with poles and water proof floor to make it unnecessary to cut trees for tent poles or to dig a ditch for rainwater.
- Attach earphones to your radio or cassette player, so as not to disturb others at a campsite or on the trail.

Food:

Repack food from aluminum foil, cans and bottles into plastic bags to reduce weight, space and litter. If it cannot be repacked, consider leaving it at home.

II. PATH-OLOGY

Respect for people: Keep discreet by not shouting or loudly playing a radio or cassette player.

Respect for wildlife:

- Don't disturb animals by using only telephoto lens or binoculars for close-ups.
- Leave wild animals to their natural diet by not feeding them.
- Do not carve on trees: you may scar them for life.

Respect for "things"? Yes!

- Leave alone stones, wood and metal statues, cravings and shrines; never touch painted religious symbols, figures and frescoes or other cultural historical or archeological sites and artifacts. You can admire and photograph these, but also let future trekkers enjoy discovering them and, more importantly, respect the local people's use of the above.
- Never disturbed moraine, glaciers or ridge top cairns; they may be essential navigation aids for traders, herders, and other travelers.

Trail Hints:

- Stay off paths closed by logs or rocks; local people sometimes close certain paths that have been replaced by safer or better routes.
- Do not shortcut obvious switchbacks; if others follow you, it will lead to erosion.
- Spread out when walking off the path in flower meadows and avoid trampling some plants.

III. COOKING

Lodges: If stopping to eat in the lodge, remember that local meals are usually prepared between 9.00 and 11.00am; outside of those hours, extra firewood will be needed to prepare food for you. In the evening also, try to eat when others do.

Stoves:

- If camping out, use stoves whenever possible; stoves are mandatory in National Parks.
- Portable stove cooking is fast and efficient and saves cutting firewood.
- Stoves are much safer when dryness, dense vegetation or winds may create a fire hazard.
- Always use stoves above the tree line to preserve sparse vegetation and to discourage the use of scarce firewood brought from lower elevations.

Fires:

- Built a fire as a last resort; use it only for cooking and keep it small.
- Build, where possible, on inorganic soil such as beaches, dry washes or sand, or else on snow, rock, ice or gravel.
- Ringing with rocks does not prevent a fire from spreading, so leave stones where they lie.
- Build in existing fireplaces in high use areas; douse with water when finished.
- If you must built on a previously unused site, then douse with water, scatter ash and "naturalize" the site when finished.
- Collect firewood some distance from camp and from several locations so as not to deplete any one area.
- Collect only firewood which is dead, lying in the ground and breakable with your hands; alternatively, purchase a load of firewood from a nearby farmer.

IV. LITTER-ACY

Hygiene: Most items, clothing and even bodies may be adequately cleaned without soap; if you do need soap, use a biodegradable type to minimize contamination of water and vegetation.

Human Waste:

- Urinate on rocks instead of on vegetation in order to keep away salt-craving wildlife.
- If urinating in snow, kick some over your urination to cover the color.
- Minimize health risks to others by defecating at least 30 meters away from trails, water, houses, campsites and high waterline by river and lakes.
- If you have diarrhea and/or the distance from the trail is limited by the terrain (e.g. steep slope above and below), then at east ensure that your feces are exposed to the sun and unlikely to be walked on;



this way decomposition will be quicker.

- Learn to clean yourself from a "lota" (jug) of water, but if toilet paper is necessary, burn it after use.
- Groups should use temporary latrines dug at least 20cm deep and covered after usage with soil; if pit is full or site is abandoned, cover the latrine with a combination of soil, pine needles, cones, twigs and small stones.
- In snow, a concentration of waste will not decompose; so defecate in individual small holes that you cover with snow after use. Ideally, if you find an isolated spot which has little chance of being seen by someone else then defecated on the surface to expose your feces to the sun.
- Use toilets wherever they are available.

Plain Garbage:

- Prepare to rinse and pack out what cannot be eaten or burned; only paper, tampons and food scraps should be burned.
- Dumping juices out of cans may increase the number of bothersome and disease-carrying insect and other vertebrates; so drink it all or dilute it in waste water.
- Widely scatter waste water as well as animal and fish viscera on land. Pouring liquid cooking water in one spot contaminates the area with bad smells and attracts possibly hazardous insects, birds and other animals.
- Use designated "refuse pits" where existing, for any metal, glass or plastic garbage you truly are unable to carry out.
- Keep wrappers from chewing gum, candies, biscuits, medicine or film in your pocket until you arrive at a village where disposal is possible; if inside a private house, ask permission before throwing anything into a fire.
- Improper garbage disposal increases the population of vertebrates which, in high densities, become sickly.
- Trash facts: an aluminum soft drink or beer can will last for about 495 years; steel items for 95 years; ordinary plastics for 220 years; glass could last 1 million years. So doesn't be a refuse-ink; pick up other people's litter too!

V. GET AR-RESTED

- In popular areas with established campsites (such as terrain adjacent to a lodge, school grounds, other obviously demarcated land), set up your tents on one of the established fields to reduce the spread of impact.
- In remoter, less frequented areas selected a previously unused campsite to avoid creating sites that will be repeatedly used.
- Flat sites without vegetation and with good drainage are preferable.
- By rivers and lakes, camp below the high water line so that seasonal washes will clean the site.
- Do not overload your camp site with too many people.
- Do not rearrange a farmer's field! Leave undisturbed large field stones, fence stone, fence posts, scarecrows, soil, vegetation and crops.
- At high altitudes, vegetation needs the shelter of rocks, so moving them creates a permanent barren feature on matter how small.
- Spend just a few nights at any one tenting site.



Kathmandu Declaration

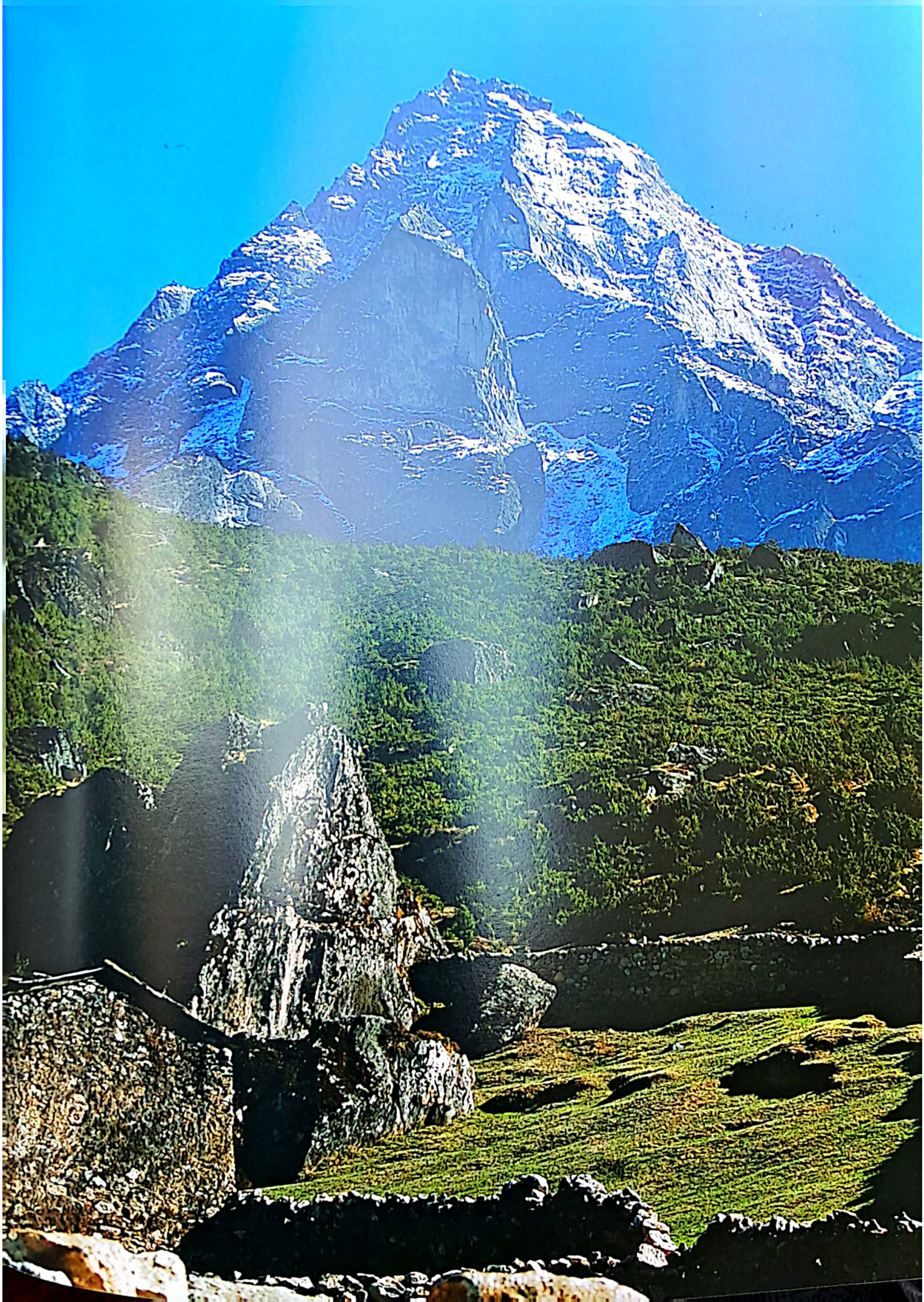
Preamble

The International Union of Alpinist Association UIAA met in Kathmandu from October 10 to October 16, 1982 for its 44th General Assembly and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its founding. It was for the first time in the history of UIAA that such an important meeting was held in Asia-most appropriately in the lap of the mighty Himalayas. One hundred and thirty five delegates from 26 countries exchanged ideas and experiences on various problems related with mountaineering activities. On evaluating the problems pertaining to the mountains, a new consensus emerged in the conference. The UIAA General Assembly resolved to adopt the following principles and guidelines as a programme for concrete action to be called the Kathmandu Declaration on Mountain Activities.

Articles of the Declaration:

1. There is urgent need for effective protection of the mountain environment and landscape.
2. The flora, fauna and natural resources of all kinds need immediate attention 'care and concern'.
3. Actions designed to reduce the negative impact of man's activities on mountains should be encouraged.
4. The cultural heritage and the dignity of the local population are inviolable.
5. All activities designed to restore and rehabilitate the mountain world need to encourage.
6. Contacts between mountaineers of different regions and countries should be increasingly encouraged in the spirit of friendship, mutual respect, and peace.
7. Information and education for improving the relationship between man and his environment should be available for wider and sections of society.
8. The use of appropriate technology for energy needs and proper disposal of waste in the mountain areas are matters of immediate concern.
9. The need for more international support-governmental as well as non-governmental to the developing mountain countries, for instance, in matters of ecological conservation.
10. The need for widening access to mountain areas in order to promote their appreciation and study should be unfettered by political considerations.

UIAA



Recommendations for Development of the Himalayas

Task Force for Development of the Himalayas

Excerpts from the report submitted to the Nepal Government Tourism and Civil Aviation Ministry on March 28, 2010 (2066/12/15) by the Nepal Government Ministry Level Task Force constituted for the development of the Nepal Himalayas and the Himalayan region as attractive destinations.

The Task Force was chaired by Assistant Secretary Laxman Bhattarai of Tourism and Civil Aviation Ministry and consisted of office bearers of various concerned organizations.

The workshop was entrusted with the following tasks:

1. Analyze the present condition of mountaineering and recommend ways to make it competitive with neighboring countries.
2. Suggest policy changes to provide royalty fee discounts for Nepali mountaineers.
3. Recommend ways to prepare conditions to make all opened peaks feasible for summiting.
4. Identify and recommend opening of new peaks for climbing.
5. Give recommendation on climbing related matter on border peaks.
6. Give recommendation on improving currently applicable provisions of liaison officers.
7. Give recommendations on matter to do with honoring famous mountaineers and providing identity cards to Everest summiteers.
8. Give suggestions on improvements needed in this sector keeping Nepal Tourism Year 2011 in mind.
9. Give suggestions on other related matters as the Task Force deems necessary.

In addition to others, the Task Force came up with the following recommendations:

1. Opening of new peaks and royalty discounts: Except mid west and far western peaks here royalty fees are already discounted, reduce royalty fees by 75% on other Himalayan peaks that have been climbed only two times each in the last five years.

2. Composition of expeditions and royalty fees:

a. Brief all expedition members along with its leader.

b. Give a slide show on caravan routes as well on the Himalayas at time of briefing.

c. Make available communication set for liaison officer.

d. To create an environment that can allay the safety concerns of all mountaineers, expeditions must ensure supportive services, communication facilities and adequate quality equipments.

e. It would be better to replace the current system of expedition fees by individual climber fees as suggested.

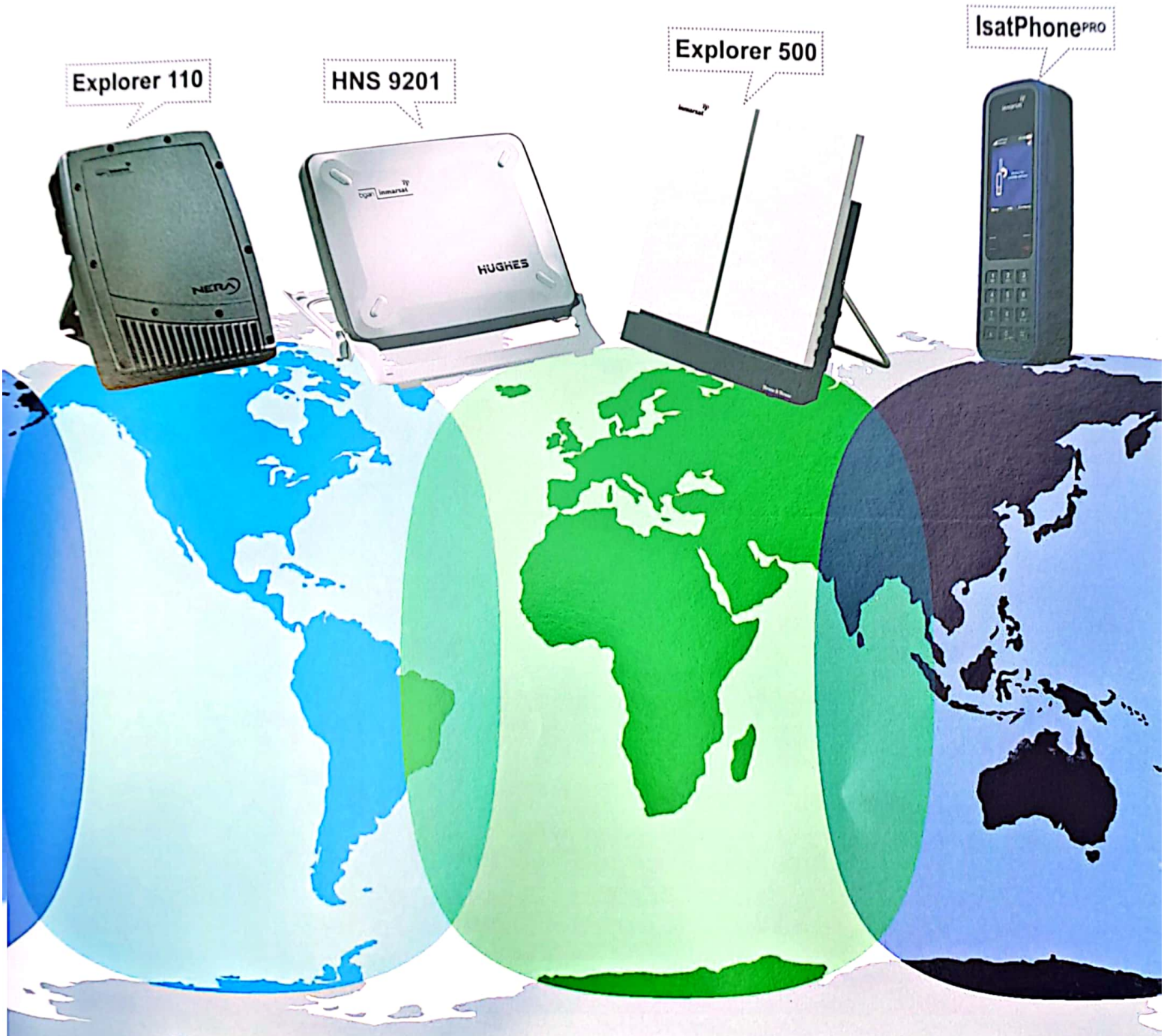
3. Liasion Officer: Based on the size and number of expeditions at base camps, it would be better to send a team of liaison officers with expeditions instead of singly. Liaison officers should accompany expeditions to 6700m and higher peaks rather than for 6500m and above as is the current provision. Further, it is suggested that one main liaison officer should be sent only for the major activity of climbing Himalayan peaks.

4. Protection and management of Himalayas: The existing garbage disposal fee should be replaced with Himalaya protection and management fee which should be as follows: Sagarmatha – US$ 80/person, other mountains over 8000m – US$ 60/ PERSON, 700m – US$ 40/person and 7000m and below – US$ 20/ person. Nepali mountaineers to get 50% discount.

5. Royalty fees for Nepali mountaineers: Based on fulfilling certain conditions, Nepali

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Nepal Mountaineering Association

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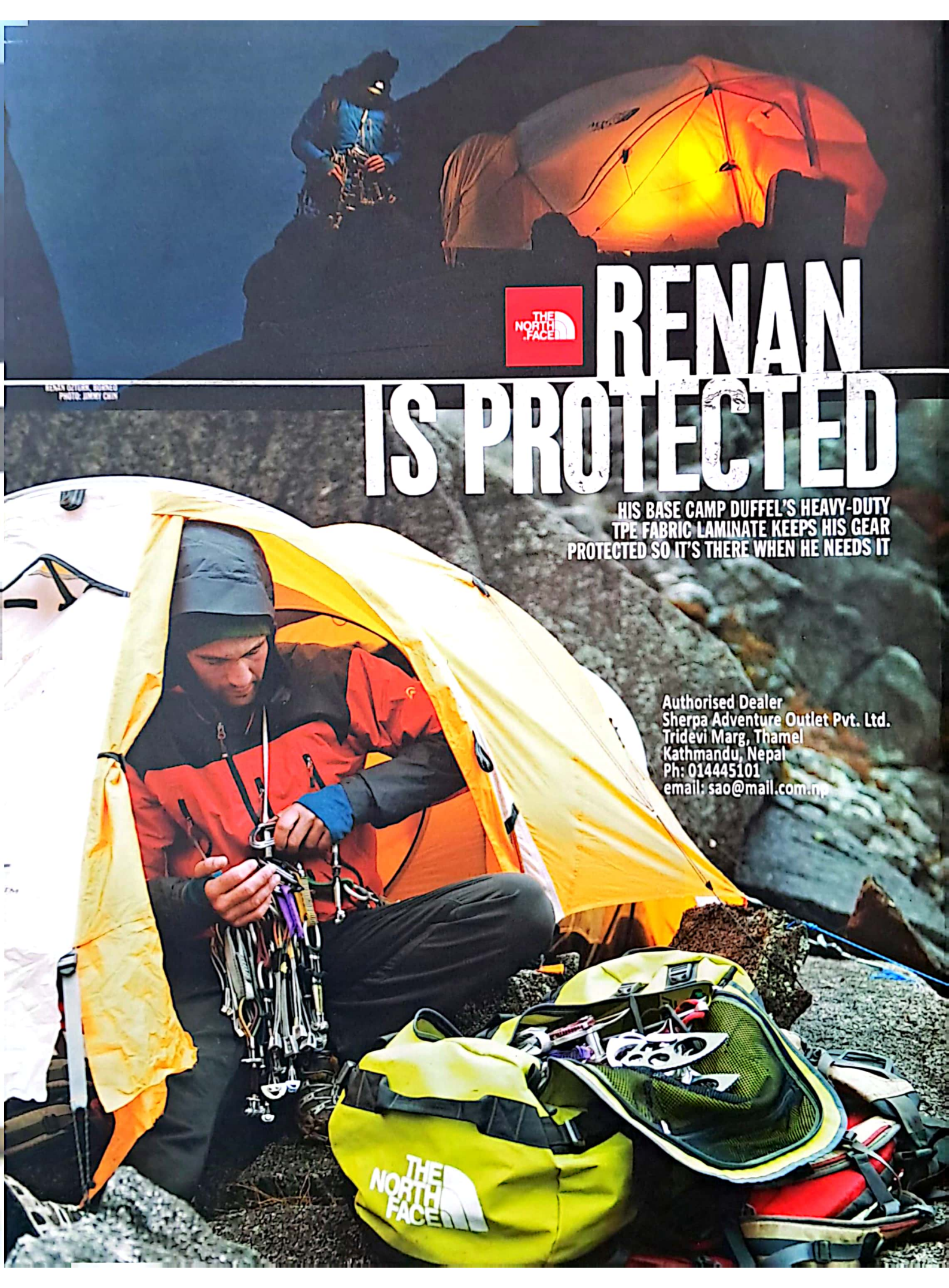


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