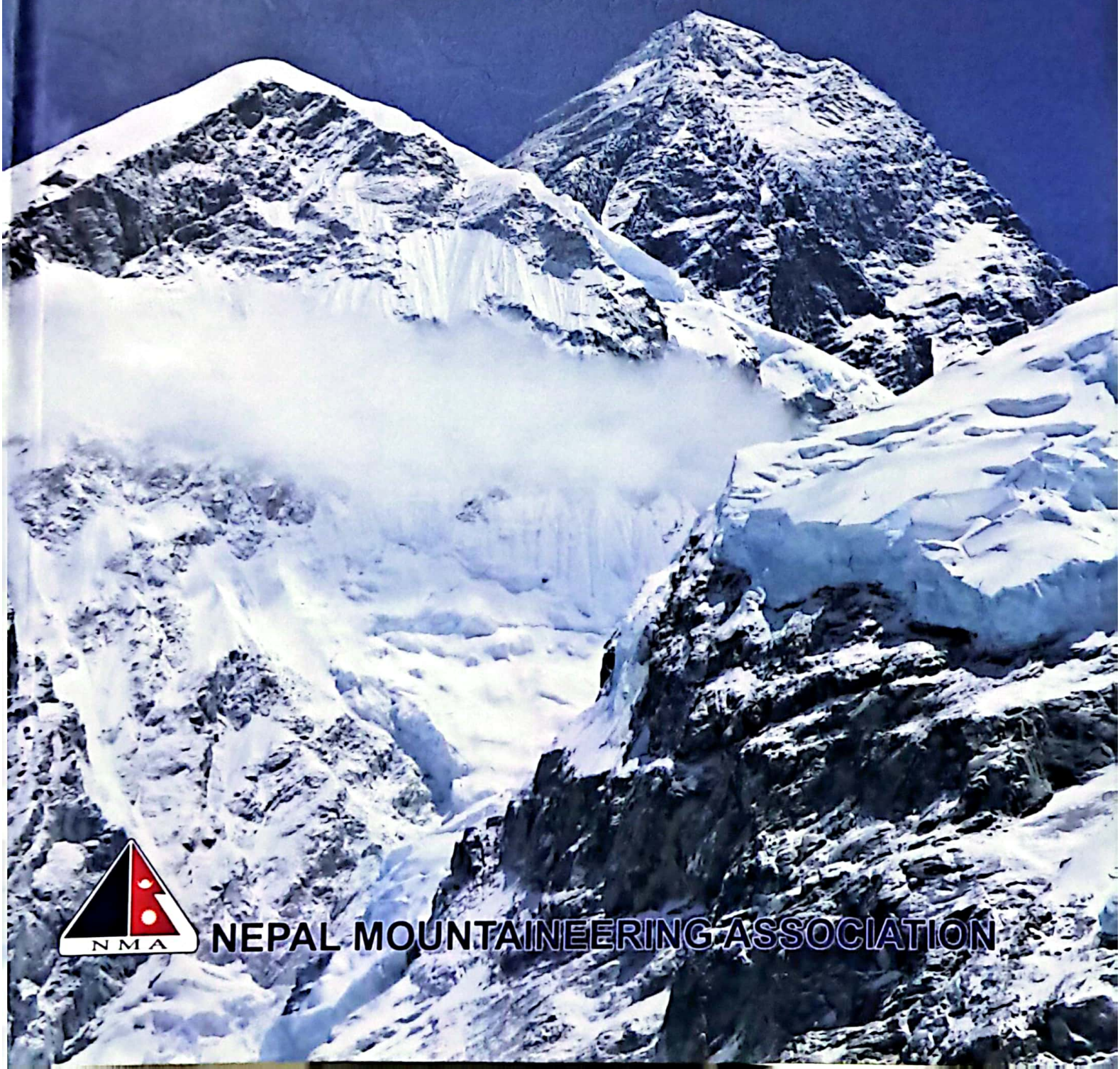
Nepal Parbat

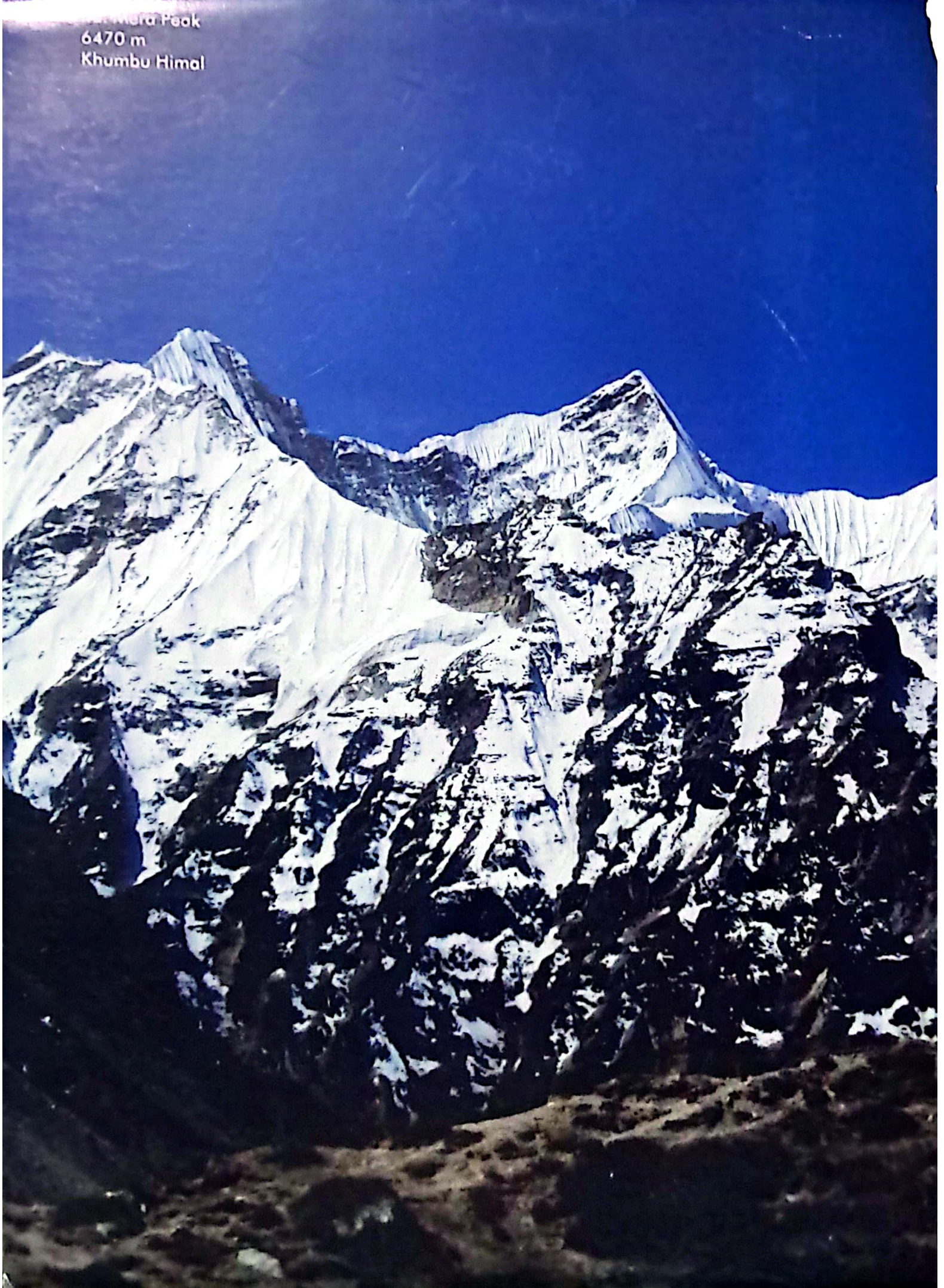
Vol 19 / No. 22 / February 2021

Mt. Sagarmatha (Everest) 8848.86 m



NMA

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION


Mera Peak
6470 m
Khumbu Himal

The President

Rashtrapati Bhawan
Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, Nepal.



Rt. Hon'ble President
Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari

Message

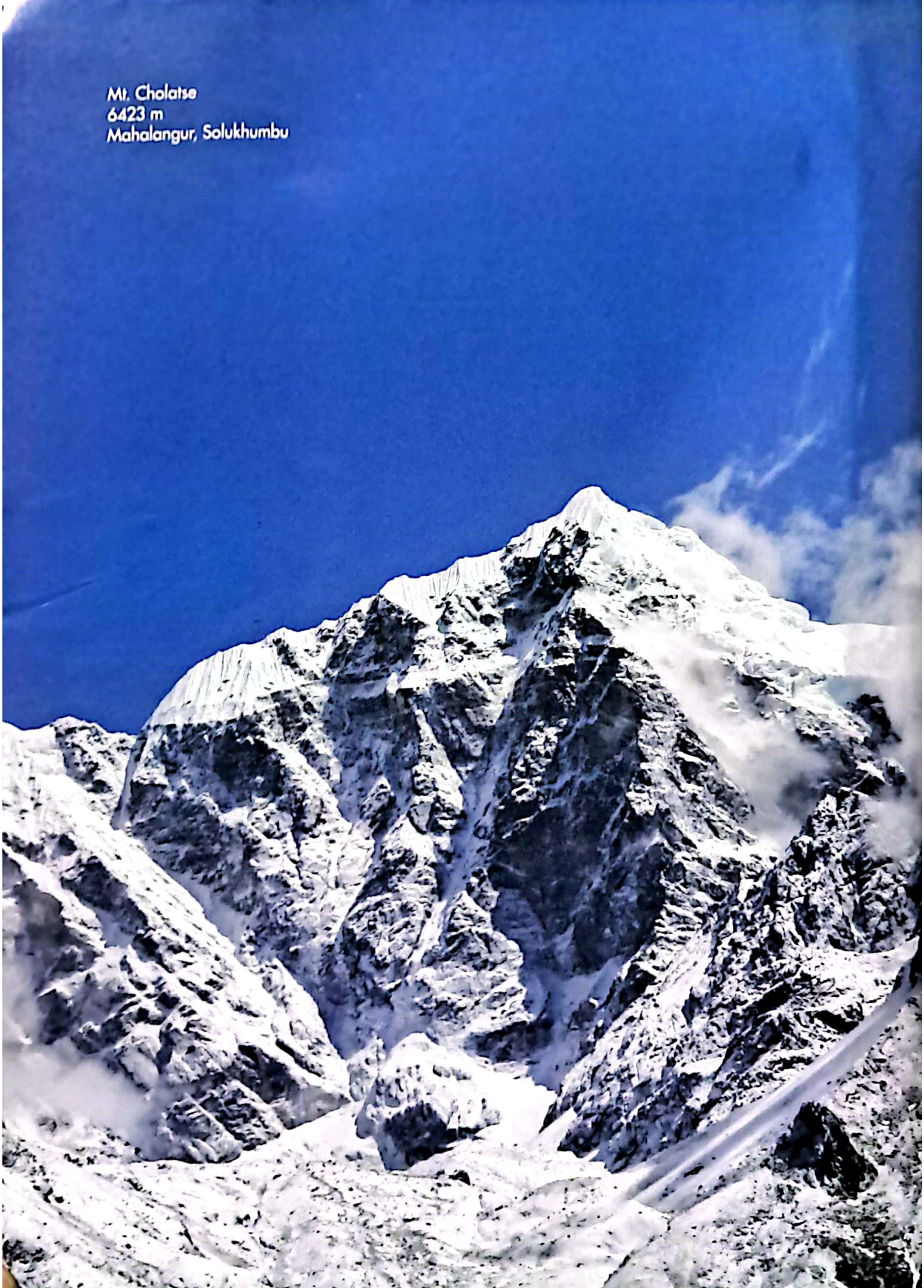
It is my pleasure to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is publishing a Special Edition of "Nepal Parbat 2020." Over the past year, the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the entire world and has adversely affected Nepal's tourism and mountaineering sector as well. Thousands of people have lost their jobs and the world has gone under economic crises. Now, with the availability of vaccine, this situation has been gradually changing towards improvement.

Economies of the world, including Nepal's have started showing the signs of revival. I hope, Nepal's tourism sector will soon rebound positively. Our resilience and faith on science will ultimately help us overcome the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like to extend my best wishes for the special edition of "Nepal Parbat 2020." I sincerely congratulate the writers and editors for this commendable work.

Bidya Devi Bhandari

23 February, 2021


Mt. Cholatse
6423 m
Mahalangur, Solukhumbu



Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister
K P Sharma Oli

The Prime Minister

KATHMANDU
NEPAL

MESSAGE

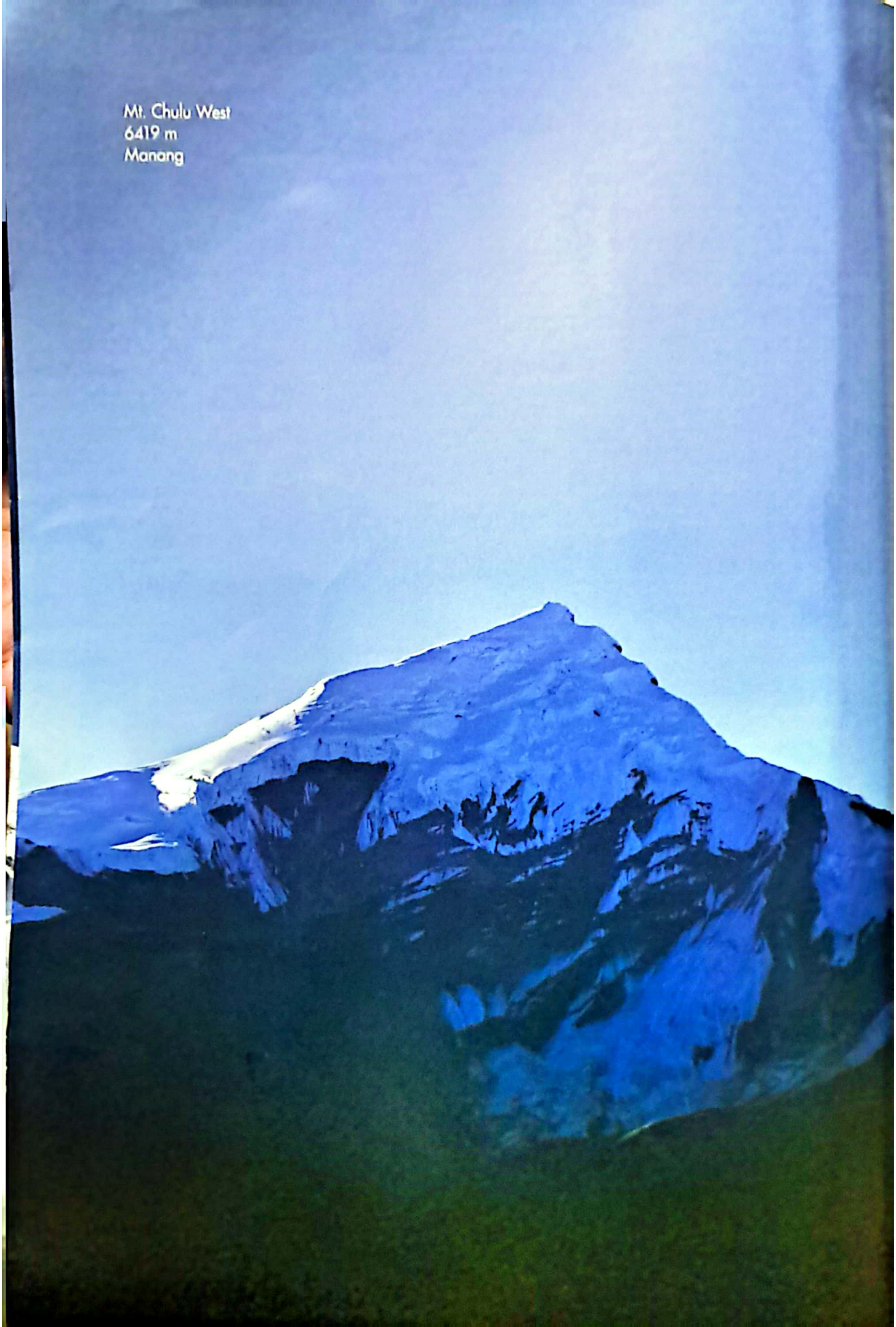
I am glad to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is publishing its special edition of mountaineering magazine 'Nepal Parbat 2021.' I express my appreciation for such an endeavour even during this trying time. I believe this magazine covers the stories of adventure world and encourages audience to overcome mental stress caused due to the coronavirus pandemic. Nepal is home to more than 3,000 mountain peaks higher than 5,800 metres and eight mountains taller than 8,000 metres among the fourteen 8,000 metre high mountains in the world. NMA's work in the area of mountain tourism has been remarkable.

Nepal Mountaineering Association is the only alpine club of Nepal that has been bridging international relations in mountaineering for 48 years now. International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) and Union of Asian Alpine Associations (UAAA) have put Nepal's mountaineering in the global map. I appreciate the contribution of NMA in the promotion of mountain tourism through the conservation of mountain environment and development of human resource in this sector. The future of tourism lies in the adventure and mountain tourism in Nepal and NMA's contribution to the tourism industry and promotion of its market through the publication of 'Nepal Parbat' has been commendable.

I believe the special edition of 'Nepal Parbat 2021' will inspire the mountain lovers to visit Nepal in the new normal situation now onwards. I convey my best wishes to the publisher, associates and the readers.

February 2021

K P Sharma Oli


Mt. Chulu West
6419 m
Manang



Hon'ble Puspa Kamal Dahal
'Prachanda'
Former Prime Minister

Message

I am happy to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has completed 48 years of Establishment on 1 November 2020. I am aware that NMA has been managing 27 mountain peaks of Nepal and acts as a technical wing of mountaineering to the Government of Nepal. Being the only Alpine Club of Nepal, NMA has extended international ties with International Federation of Climbing and Mountaineering (UIAAA) and Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA) and other alpine clubs around the world. I am also aware about the remarkable work of Nepal Mountaineering Association on the area of mountaineering development, preservation and conservation of mountain environment and developing skilled human resources to work in the mountains.

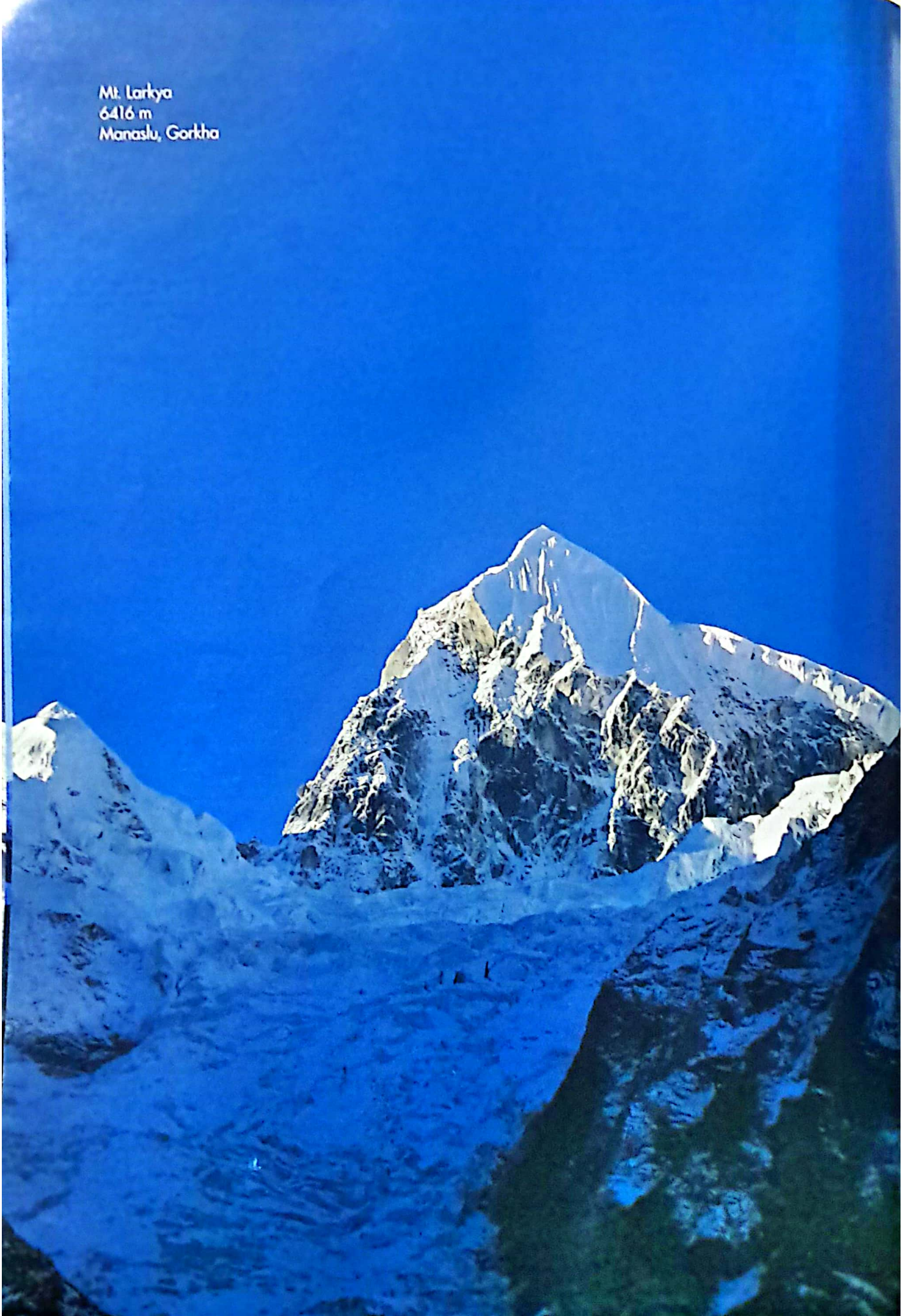
It's a proud moment to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association is going to publish its annual magazine 'Nepal Parbat'. It seemed just like yesterday that you started the magazine and today it has completed so many years of successful publication.

Your aim a few years back was to make this magazine a mountaineering journal and today it stands a digest for mountaineering in Nepal. It is indeed a matter of joy and success. Congratulations to you and your team for this grand success and may your magazine reach great heights in the years to come.

Prachanda

Puspa Kamal Dahal ' Prachanda'
Former Prime Minister

February 2021


Mt. Larkya
6416 m
Manaslu, Gorkha



Hon'ble Madhav Kumar Nepal
Former Prime Minister

Message

It is my pleasure to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association is going to publish a special issue of 'Nepal Parbat', as an official journal. 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.

Nepal is known for the highest peak of the world- Sagarmatha and its other 8000 meters mountains in the world. The world is facing dire problems amongst which climate change has hit the mountains the most. I appreciate Nepal Mountaineering Association for working towards conservation and preservation of Mountain Ecosystems. I also want to applaud the recognition of the joint initiation by NMA for Everest Cleaning Campaign 2019 which was awarded by the Guinness World Records.

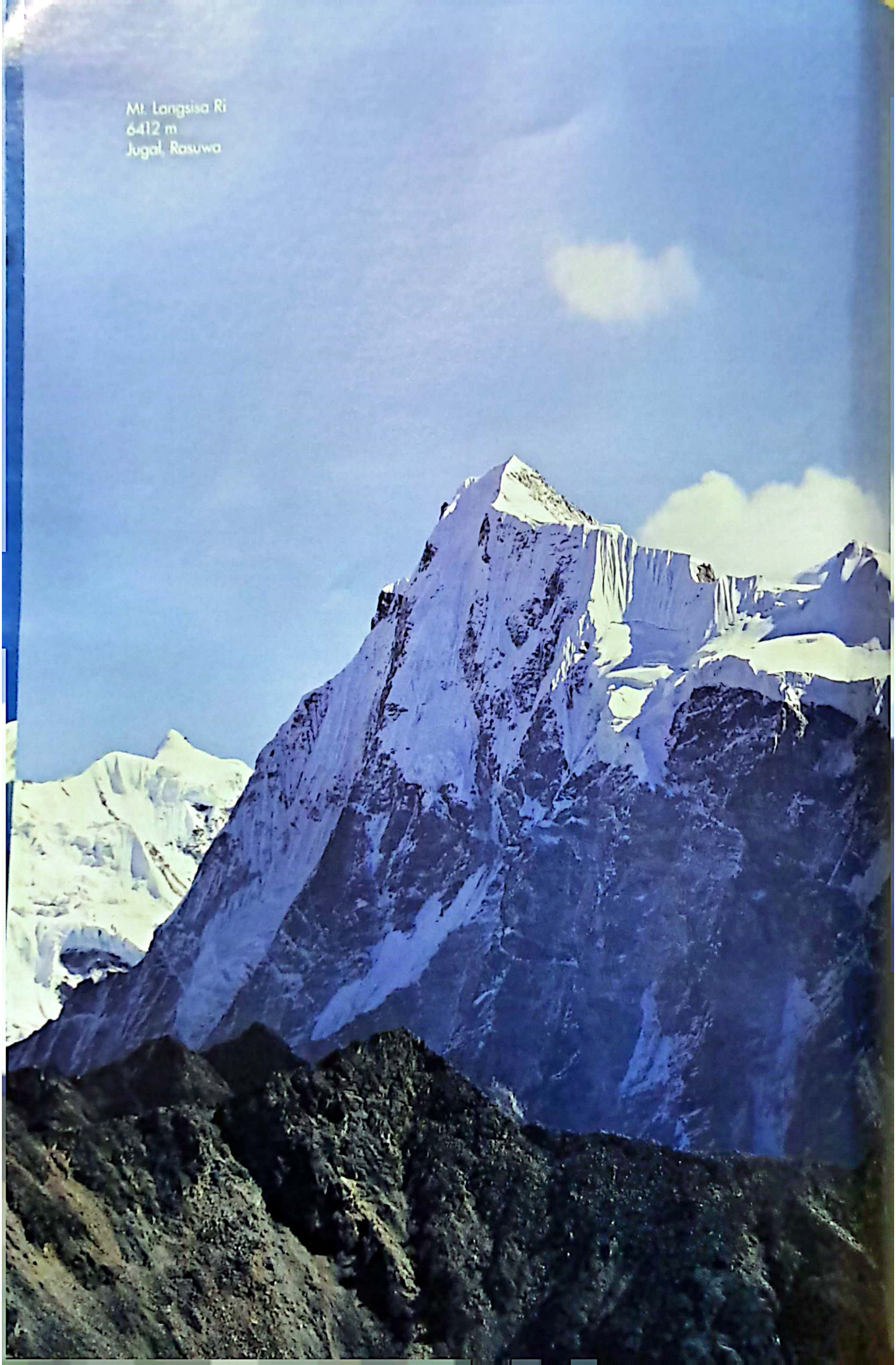
The whole world is badly hit by the global pandemic. The tourism industry has come to a halt, I applaud NMA's effort to support the mountain workers whose daily livelihood was stopped due to the pandemic.

I would like to congratulate and appreciate the publication committee and entire team of NMA in the effort of publication of this wonderful mountain journal 'Nepal Parbat' again.

February 23, 2021

MKNepal

Madhav Kumar Nepal
Former Prime Minister


Mt. Langsisa Ri
6412 m
Jugal, Rasuwa



Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba
Former Prime Minister

February 24, 2021

Message

I am well aware of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) and its commendable efforts for the development of Mountain Tourism in Nepal. Serving as the technical wing of Mountaineering to the Government of Nepal, NMA is managing 27 mountain peaks on behalf of the government. During the 48 years of establishment, NMA has produced skilled human resources for mountaineering in Nepal. NMA has put Nepal on the global mountaineering map via its membership to the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) in 1975 as the first Asian Country and co-founded the Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA) along with other Asian Countries.

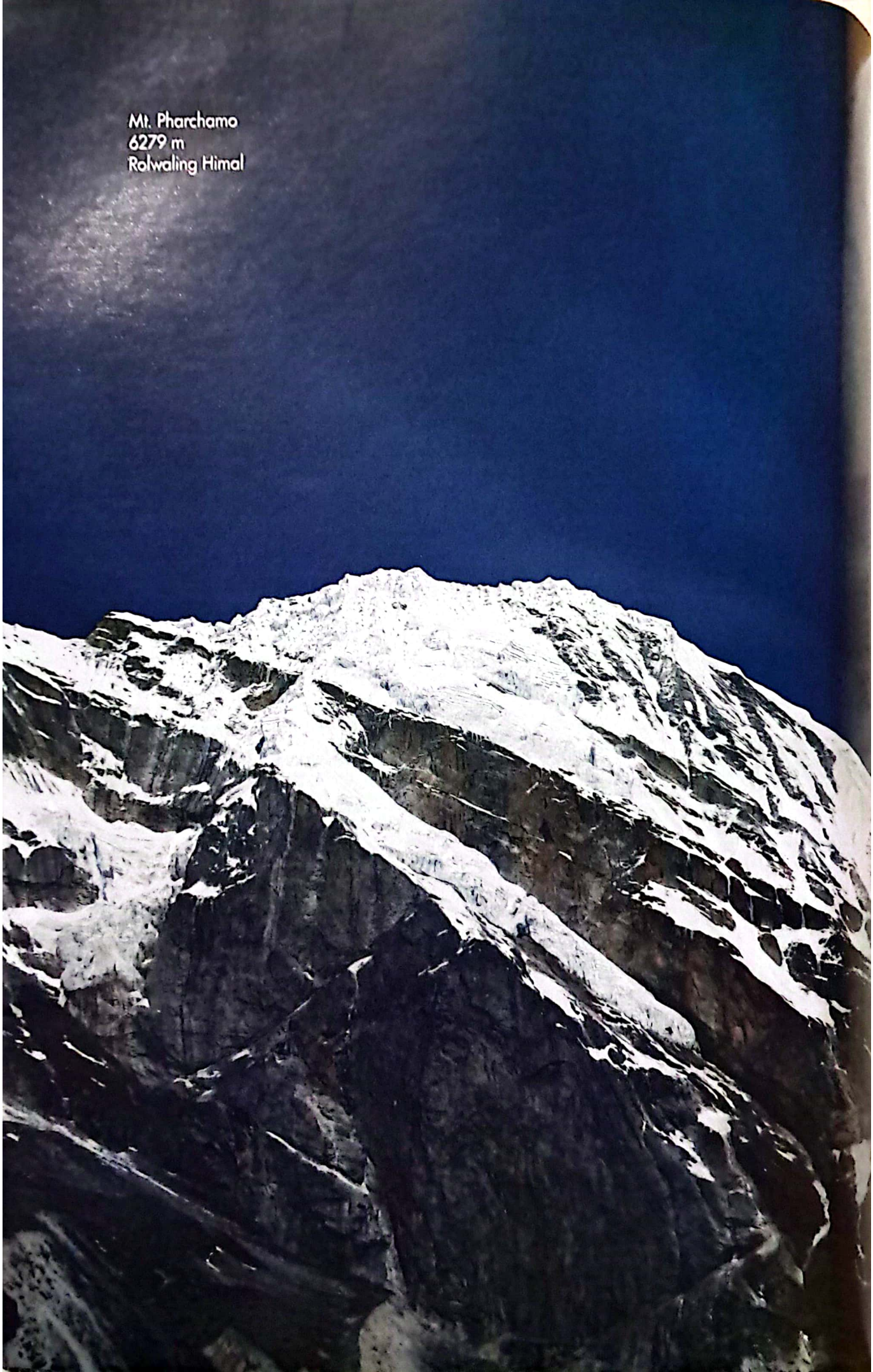
I am glad to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is publishing its Special Edition of Nepal Parbat. Although we are in a difficult time, I applaud the effort of NMA to bring forward a publication to inspire all the adventure lovers and mountaineers from around the world. I do hope the magazine will show the path to overcome the pandemic situation of Covid-19.

I believe the publication of NMA will be a parameter for future mountain tourism with a new normal discipline.

I, on behalf of the Nepali Congress Party and on my own, wish the NMA team all the success in their future endeavor.

Sher Bahadur Deuba

Sher Bahadur Deuba
Former Prime Minister


Mt. Pharchamo
6279 m
Rolwaling Himal



Hon'ble Dr. Baburam Bhattarai
Former Prime Minister

Greetings

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) publishes its annual 'Nepal Parbat' a mountaineering journal and this time the special edition is being published amidst the global pandemic. The whole world is at a stand still and the worst hit industry is Tourism. Tourism is an industry which employs the highest number of workforce. Large number of people have lost their jobs and the world has gone under economic crises. We are seeking for a breakthrough to revive the industry and the economy as a whole.

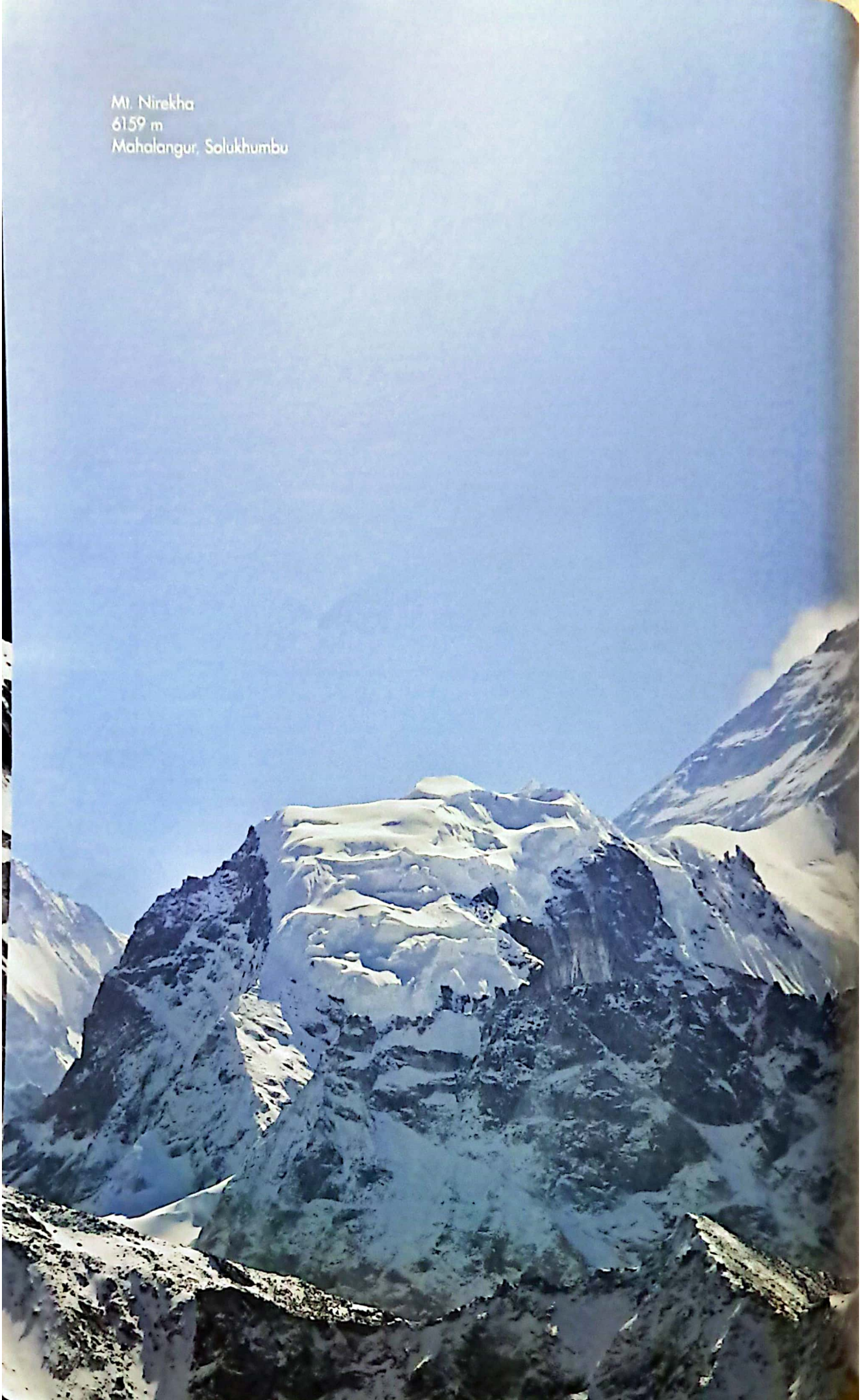
We are a country of mountains and harsh climatic conditions, we have gone through so many catastrophic events in the past. We bounced back from the Earthquake which shook the entire country and traumatized the economy. We built and came stronger to build our nation back. This time the scenario is different and we need to be more resilient and strive through this time for a golden future. Now is the time to build better amenities and be prepared for a better future. Even nature has given an opportunity to revive and rejuvenate.

Nepal Mountaineering Association is publishing a special edition of 'Nepal Parbat 2020". I admire NMA for its initiation to overcome the pandemic situation through the encouraging articles and stories in Nepal Parbat 2021.

I wish the NMA team every success for the publication.

February 18, 2021

Dr. Baburam Bhattarai
Former Prime Minister



Mt. Nirekha
6159 m
Mahalangur, Solukhumbu



Hon'ble Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal
Minister for Culture, Tourism &
Civil Aviation

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Hon.Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal
Minister

Ref No:

Message

I am delighted to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is publishing Special Edition of Nepal Parbat 2020 during this painful period. I appreciate the initiation taken by NMA for endeavour.

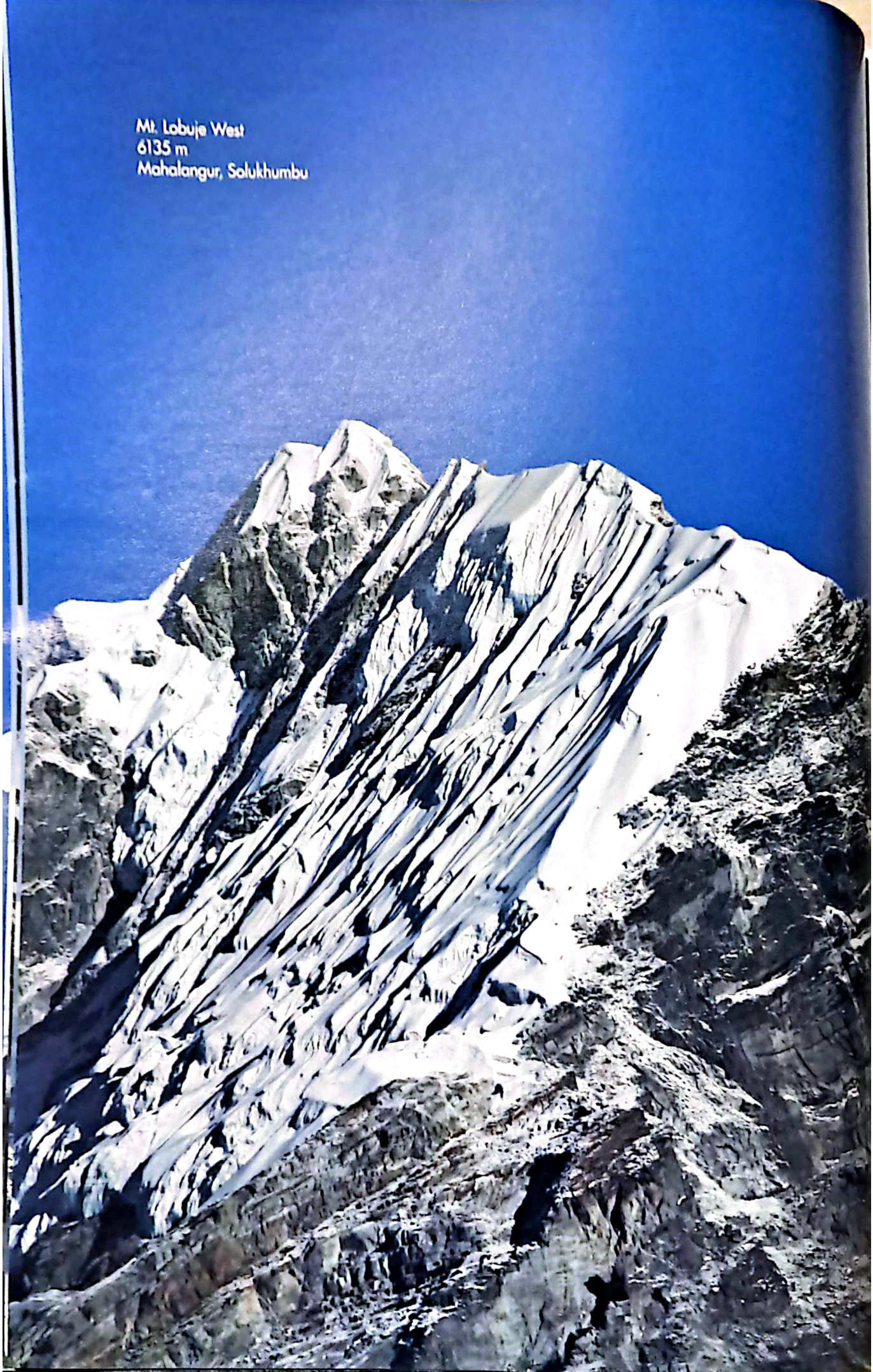
The world is suffering from the pandemic Covid-19. People from round the world are in grief including mountain lovers and adventures. In the country, the nature is getting better quality from the situation. Let us hope for the best.

As our tourism is based in nature and adventure, I expect, this publication will guide for the betterment of tourism activities in upcoming days. I wish all the best for NMA team.

23 February 2021

Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal

Tel: +977-1-4211879 (Office), Fax: +977-1-4211758, e.nail: dhbhanu04@gmail.com, website: www.tourism.gov.np



Mt. Lobuje West
6135 m
Mahalangur, Solukhumbu

UIAA



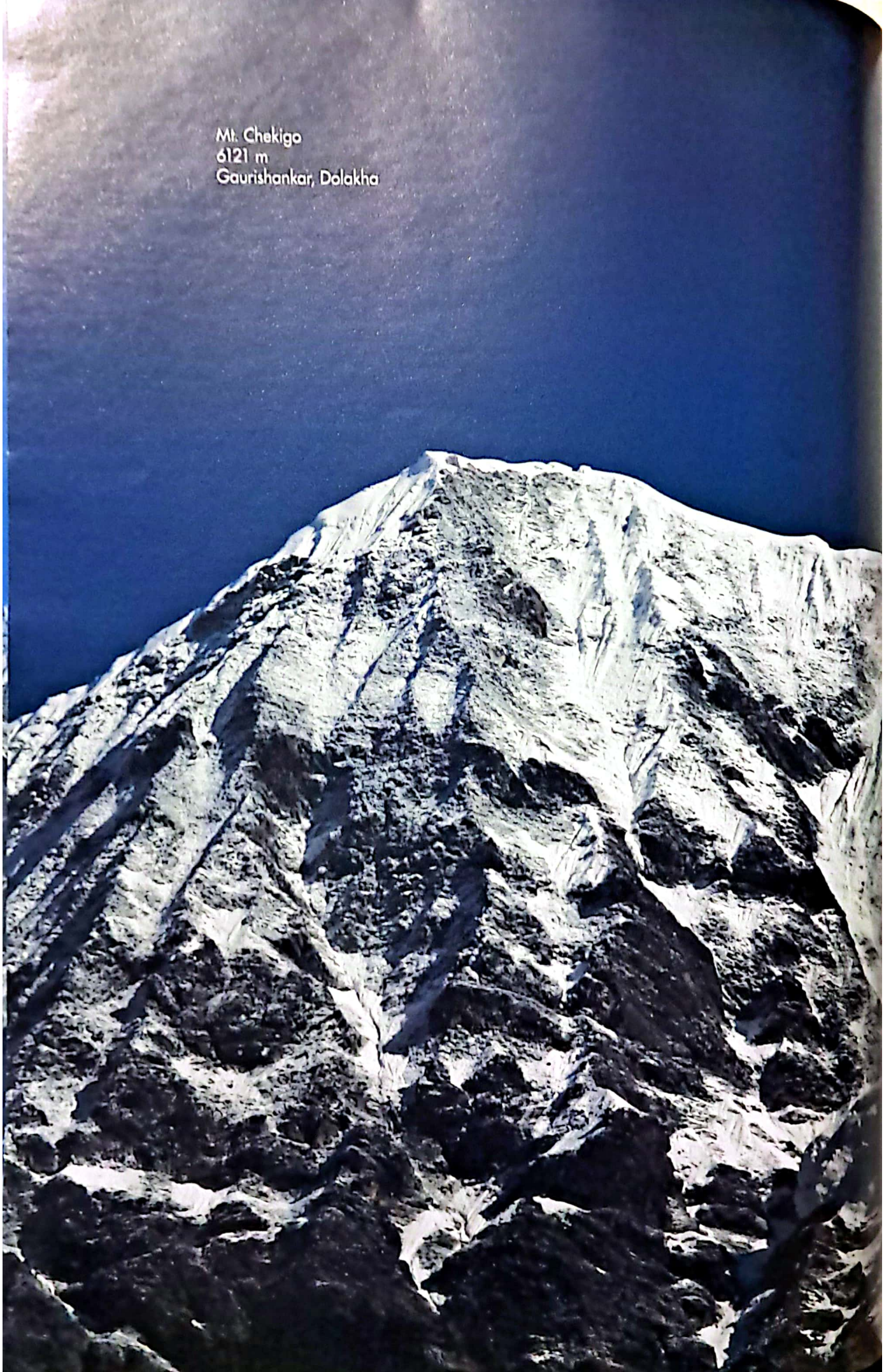
It gives me immense pleasure to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association is publishing its special print edition of its annual magazine 'Nepal Parbat'. I am delighted for the endeavor of Nepal Mountaineering Association, the national alpine club of Nepal to produce the agglomeration of the mountain stories, opinions, vista from Nepal and around the world.

Nepal is a haven for mountains and mecca for mountaineers. With more than 3000 mountain peaks and 8 peaks above 8000mts with the highest mountain Mt Everest with its new height 8848.86mts is unanimously the third pole of the world. I would like to congratulate the entire mountain community of Nepal for the astonishing feat over Mt. K2 in the winter. Nepal is abode to the amazing mountaineers who have established impassable breakthroughs. I commend on the impressive number of skilled human resources Nepal Mountaineering Association produces via its outstanding mountaineering training programs.

Conclusively, I believe this publication would bring out the exclusive perspective of mountaineering. I can't wait to have a copy of the magazine to pore over the immense mountaineering experiences. I applaud the creation of the fascinating publication by the amazing team of Nepal Mountaineering Association and wish all the very best. I look forward to enduring the blooming relationship between UIAA and NMA.

Sincerely,

Peter Muir
President
International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA)


Mt. Chekigo
6121 m
Gaurishankar, Dolakha

UAAA

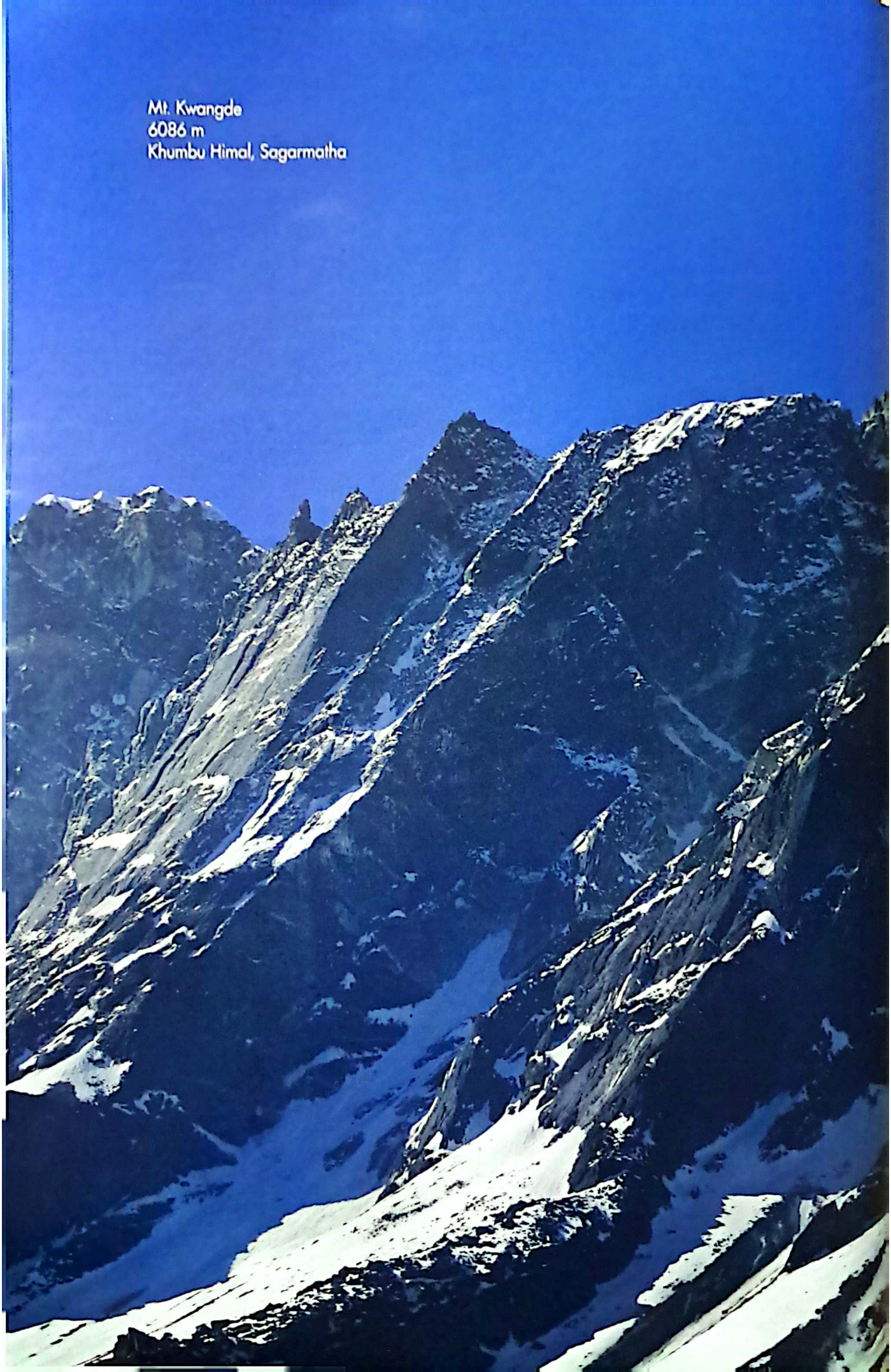


On behalf of the Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA) family I, Dr. Lee Injeong feel very proud and honored to acknowledge the great efforts made by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). Nepal Mountaineering Association has been working efficiently for the sustainable development of Mountain Tourism in Nepal since its establishment. It also works for the protection of mountain people, culture and heritage. The various steps taken by Nepal Mountaineering Association to promote the mountains of Nepal in International Level are very appreciable.

The annual journal named "Nepal Parbat" provides deep information about the ongoing mountain activities in Nepal. It is my great pleasure to convey my best wishes to NMA for publishing its annual journal.

With sincere gratitude for our kinship in mountains.

Dr. Lee Injeong
President
Union of Asian Alpine Association



Mt. Kwangde
6086 m
Khumbu Himal, Sagarmatha

नेपाल पर्यटन बोर्ड
Nepal Tourism Board



Dr. Dhananjay Regmi
Chief Executive Officer
Nepal Tourism Board

MESSAGE

This gives me immense pleasure to congratulate Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) on the release of its annual publication"Parbat Magazine", highlighting tourism and mountaineering activities of the year.

Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, 2020 has been an intense year for the whole world. Restricted movements and frequent lockdowns in many parts of the world have brought down economies and have taken a big toll on global tourism industry. Nepal is no exception, and our industry too has gone through one of the most difficult times due to growing threat and uncertainty.

Nevertheless, the industry has stood together looking for every possible solution to survive and recover. In a bid to reopen Nepal's tourism industry, Government of Nepal has decided to open trekking and expeditions from October 17, 2020, with the set rules of health and safety especially for the mountain regions. Following the protocols, it is expected to ensure the safety of tourists as well as the communities. Opening of Nepal for trekking and expeditions from mid-October is a big step forward for the tourism industry and for the well wishers of Nepal all over the world.

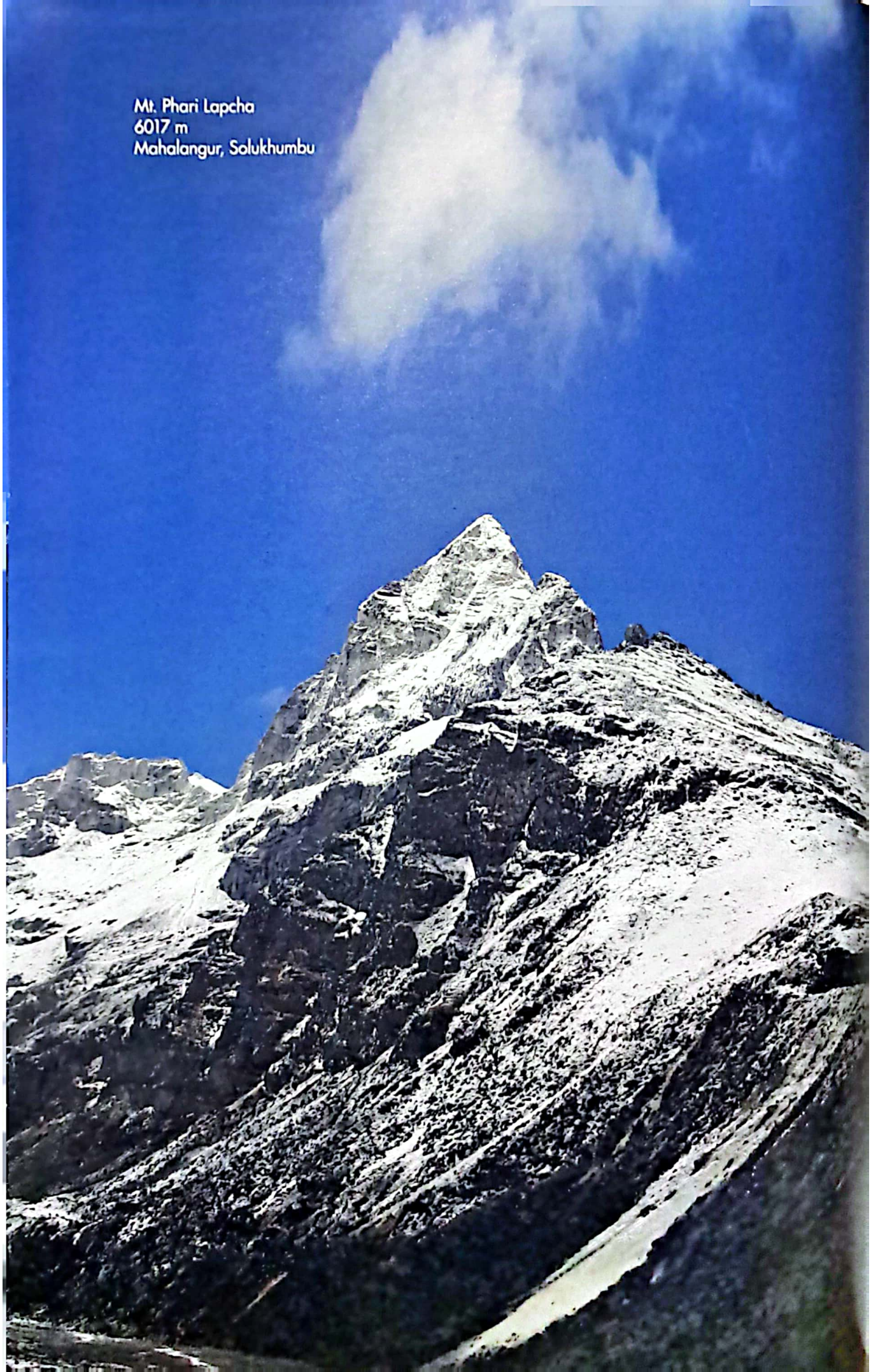
In this context, I would like to take this opportunity to request my partners and members of the tourism fraternity for their support in controlling the cases of COVID-19 infections in the mountains by strictly implementing and monitoring of the health and safety protocols. The special care must also be given to customize and personalize tourist experience to make up for the hassle of the safety procedures and protocols. Let our welcome and service win their hearts, and prove our core competency in hospitality.

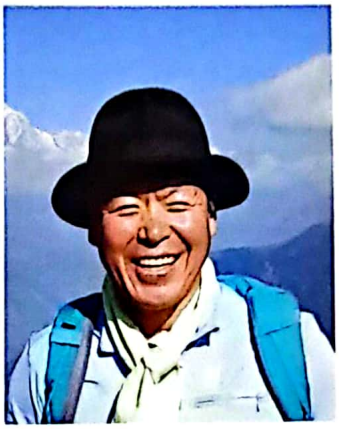
I extend my best wishes to the NMA for the busy days in post-COVID scenario, when Nepal's tourism resumes for trekking, mountaineering and adventure. For now, let us synergize our efforts through cooperation and collaboration to revive our tourism industry and the communities for sustainability and resilience.

Nepal Tourism Board NTB 1997

Dr. Dhananjay Regmi
Chief Executive Officer

Tourist Service Center, P.O. Box: 11018, Bhrikut Mandap, Kathmandu, Nepal
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Mt. Phari Lapcha
6017 m
Mahalangur, Solukhumbu



Um Hong Gil
Executive Director
Um Hong Gil Human Foundation, Korea

Message

I am very glad to know that Nepal Mountaineering Association, the only and leading Alpine Club of Nepal has completed 47 successful years of its establishment and publishing an annual magazine "Parbat Magazine" to promote mountain and mountaineering around the globe. I am also glad to hear that this is the 19th volume of the Parbat Magazine and it is indeed a matter of joy and success.

I really appreciate the hard-work, cooperation and commitment of the entire team for the meaningful development of the mountain and the people related with the mountain and most importantly its promotion to the rest of the world. I heartily congratulate to the entire team for making this magazine reach such a great height. Also hope it reaches greater heights than this in the future and keeps entertaining and informing the readers in the more relevant and effective way.

I wish NMA to be a centre and leader of the world mountaineering and would be pleased if I get the opportunity to work with such a pioneer and leading NMA.

Best wishes!!

.....
Um Hong Gil
Executive Director
Um Hong Gil Human Foundation, Korea



Mt. Paldor
5903 m
Langtang Himal

स.ज.नं: २४ ०३० प.फा.नं. १५९

पा.नं. ३०१३२८५३५
स.क.आ.नं. १५३८१

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ
NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION



Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa
Chief Advisor
Nepal Mountaineering Association

Message

Next two years on, NMA turns 50 years of age. Mountaineering in Nepal has changed much over the last half a century. Mountains here have observed social, economic and environmental changes. Time is up now for a review of the 'reason for existence' of the association. The task of the review should be to conduct a serious case study. Its aim should be redefine the 'new reason for existence' to make the association more relevant and meaningful now and in the coming years.

Mountains and mountain people are central matters for NMA. The preservation of the mountains and uplifting the overall wellbeing of the mountain people should be main agendas of the association. Research, study, training, employment generation, and environmental preservation should revolve around the mountains and its people. Developing mountaineering through science and technology should be a key agenda. Mountaineering should be better developed and promoted, which will eventually help the mountains and people living around.

Over the decades, NMA has dedicated itself for conducting basic and advance mountaineering training, mountain leader training, mountain guide training and high Himalaya rescue training. NMA has made a huge contribution through such training in mountaineering in Nepal and for Nepalese mountain tourism. It has positively affected local economy also. In the days to come, it's imperative to review these training courses and regularly update them.

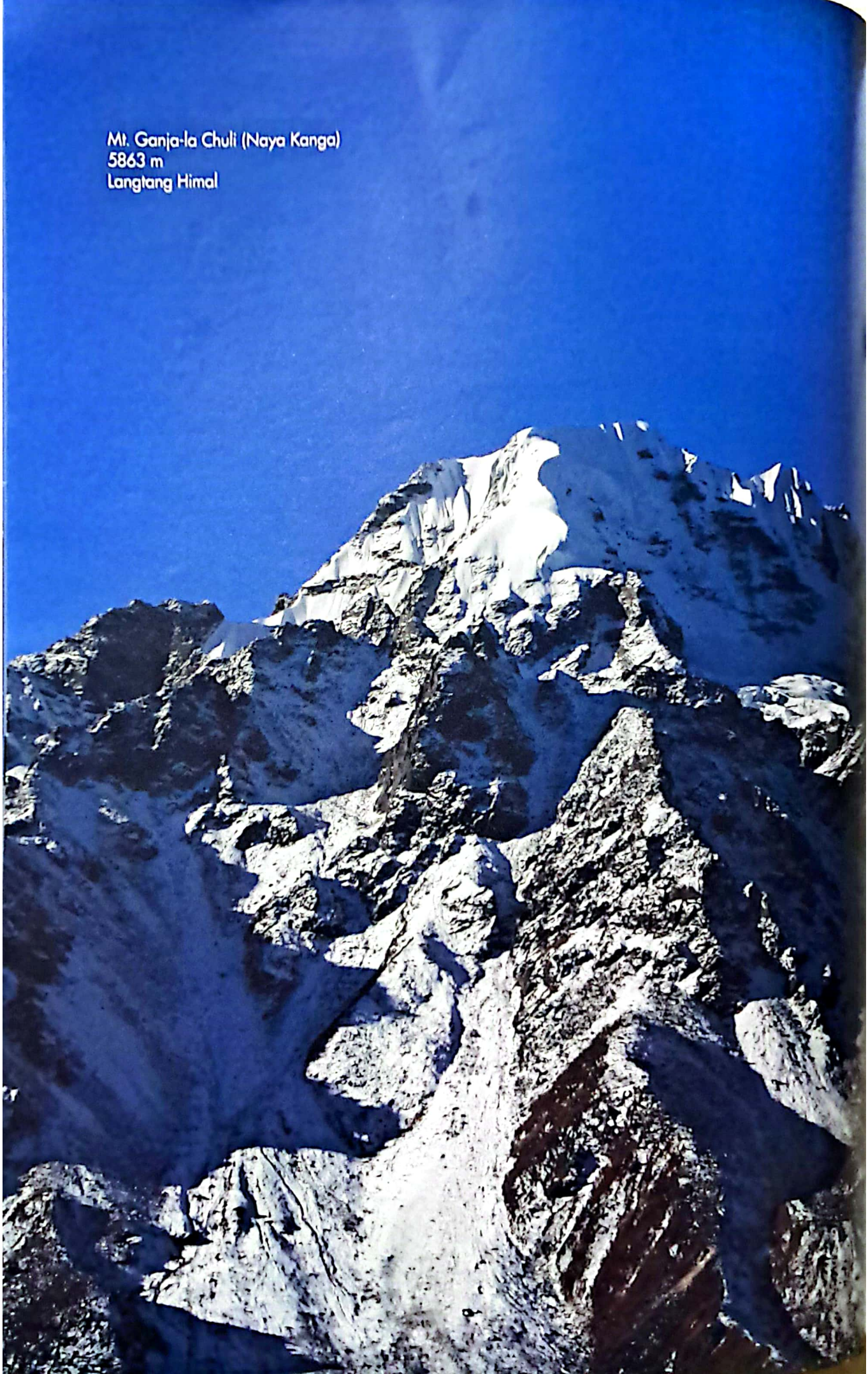
At a time near attaining 50 years of age, it's a practical need for NMA to look across and around for ways and means towards becoming independent from all angles. It's time to re-strengthen the organization, recalibrate the way we work, and re-energize and re-engage our members for the betterment of the association.

Upon the first quarter of the last year, the Covid-19 eruption engulfed the lives of the people around the world. Perhaps the worst economic crisis of the second half of the century prevailed all over. It affected all spheres of economy – tourism, aviation, hospitality being the worst hit sectors. Mountains, trekking and mountaineering couldn't escape the crisis. The pandemic impact appears to continue over the coming few years. NMA needs to rethink its role to mitigate the impact and re-navigate its traditional role for this purpose.

World tourism confronts unusual crossroads due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Concerted efforts at local and international level remain the call of the time. NMA should rally together with local and international stakeholders to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on mountaineering and mountain tourism. A hand of partnership will help all.

Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa
Chief Advisor
Kathmandu, Nepal

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Mt. Ganja-la Chuli (Naya Kanga)
5863 m
Langtang Himal

स.द.नं. २०... ...नं. ७१९

पा.नं. ३०१३२८५३५
स.क.आ.नं. १५३८१

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ
NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION



Santa Bir Lama
President
Nepal Mountaineering Association

Message from Santa Bir Lama

I am happy to mention that Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is publishing its Special Edition of Nepal Parbat 2021. Although the last year became the worst situation and was not favourable for the economic and tourism growth, NMA has taken an initiation to inspire all themountaineers from around the world. During the pandemic situation, NMA conducted some virtual seminars to update the pandemic and new normal life style and tourism in coming days. The magazine will illustrate the progress during our tenure and during the pandemic situation of Covid-19.

I thank the publication committee and editorial board of Nepal Parbat and the entire executive board members together with all the committees for their sincere commitment and dedicationto bring out this publication.

February

Santa Bir Lama
President
Nepal Mountaineering Association

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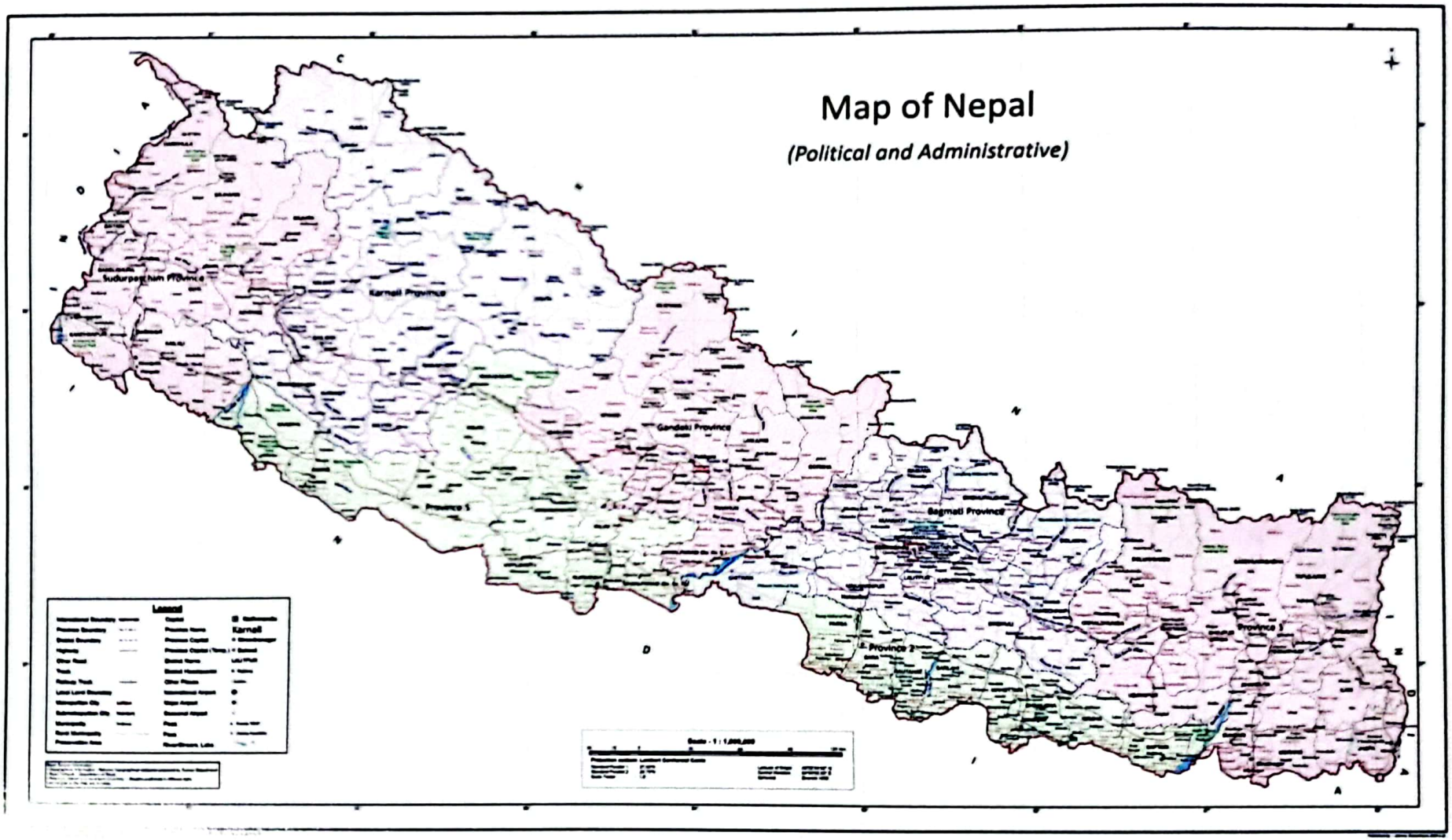
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Website: www.nepalmountaineering.org


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Province 2
Province 1
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Editorial

It gives us immense pleasure that we have been able to publish the special edition of Nepal Parbat, a publication of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) with a compiled version of NMA activities and mountain-related articles.

The world is suffering from pandemic Covid-19 and Nepal is not an exception. This special edition may be able to present the contemporary issues of Mountain and mountaineering activities during pandemic COVID-19, in 2020. We have seen the adverse impact of the pandemic in mountaineering and tourism activities in the world. We hope this publication will be a supplement to encourage mountain lovers to have patience during this pandemic situation.

We have included interviews and a variety of articles related to mountain and mountaineering activities in Nepal. This edition will help to provide some guidelines for the upcoming tourism and mountaineering policies of Nepal in the days ahead.

We feel honored that we are able to integrate the profiles of NMA personalities and renowned mountaineers that provide encouragement to the mountain fans. This special edition will be a valuable resource for academicians, researchers, and mountain lovers. We hope this will be a collective reference for the next generation. This edition will be a coffee table magazine for mountaineers and mountain researchers as well.

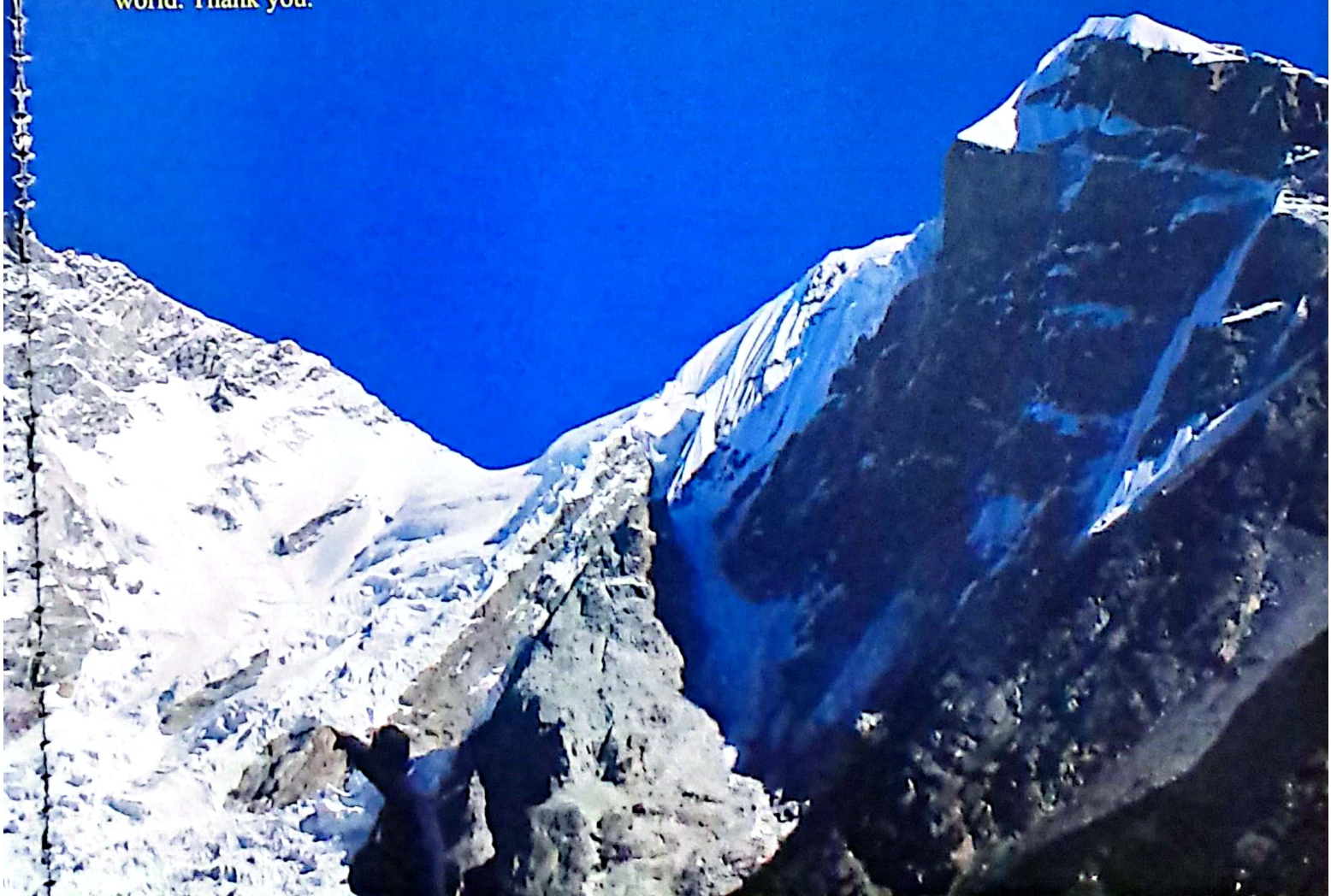


We extend our gratitude to all the contributors for their painstaking effort to publish this special edition. Our special thanks to the President of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Mr. Santa Bir Lama, and the entire team of executive board members. We thank all the well-wishers, friends, mountain lovers, academicians, and article writers for their inspiration. We welcome any comments and suggestions for improvement in upcoming issues of Nepal Parbat.

There are always ups and downs in the life of human beings, and this has helped us develop the courage to deal with the pandemic. Let us hope for the best possible bounce-back of tourism in the world. Thank you.



Vinaya Shakya
Chief Editor







Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah

Founding President of NMA

Late Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah is remembered as the first pioneering personality under whose dynamic leadership the most essential organization – Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) was established with the main purpose of promoting mountaineering and providing mountaineering trainings to the fresh climbers.

The NMA was established in the year 1973 when Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah agreed to be its first president and took the required steps for the growth and development of this institution. He was the president of NMA till 1990.

This was the time when Nepal was opened to the outside world. Foreigners, tourists, and climbers were about to flock into Nepal after Mt Everest was scaled by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay just more than two decades earlier.

This was also the early phase of mountain tourism when only the Nepal government could collect the royalty of Mt. Everest and few other mountains for climbing. Hundreds of other peaks were not permitted and infrastructure for mountain tourism was in its tottering state.

Kumar Khadga Bikram was the husband of Princess Sharada Shah and the brother-in-law to late King Birendra of Nepal.

It was his royal connections that led to his assassination during the royal massacre, the most gruesome incident that took place on June 1, 2001. Nine other royal members including King Birendra and his Queen Aishwarya along with crown prince Dipendra was also assassinated in that incident.

The contribution of Kumar Khadga Bikram can not be forgotten because it was his instrumental leadership that had led to the establishment of the NMA and the development of mountain tourism in Nepal.

His ancestors were the kings of Jumla principality which is located in the far western parts of Nepal. He was a famous academician and a writer, who used to remain engaged in his reading of books in his huge library at home.

He is survived by his three sons. His love and dedication to mountaineering and mountain tourism were accredited after his death when Kumar Khadga Bikram Adventurous Award was initiated in his name in 2004 which continues to commemorate his name and fame as a pioneering NMA personality in Nepal. He was equally successful in leading a tri-nation (Nepal, Japan, and China) Everest expedition in 1990. He was not only a pioneer of NMA but also a pioneer of UIAA. His academic intellectuality was profusely exhibited when he was appointed as the Director of the Center for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS) from 1984 to 1989 at Tribhuwan University.

Initially, he was not accepted as the leader of CNAS as people thought he was appointed at CNAS due to his royal connection with the palace. But later on, his academic initiatives proved that he was a genuine scholar and academician to lead such an academic institution in the country.

The CNAS took a bigger leap during his tenure in defining its scope of work. It is said his aptitude would transcend the political issues when it came to be a topic of research. Such was his personality.

He was a keen sportsman and was once the captain of the hockey and cricket team. He was also a footballer, who played with the Mahabir Club until his leg injury forced him off the field. That's why he was also the first member secretary of the National Sports Council where he contributed to Nepali sports with his support in constructing the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu.

He was also equally instrumental in the establishment of the International Mountaineering Museum in Pokhara. Indeed he has contributed quite significantly to mountain tourism.



Dr. Harka Gurung

First Tourism Minister
Chief Adviser of NMA

Dr.Harka Gurung (1935-2006) was one of the most formidable and most influential intellectuals of contemporary Nepal who possessed deep knowledge about the Himalayas, flora, fauna and was equally fond of mountains until his unfortunate death in 2006 in a helicopter crash along with 23 others conservationist at Ghunsha in Taplejung while returning from a conservation meeting.

He was a Nepali geographer, author, and politician, known for his conservation work. Dr. Gurung was also the first Tourism Minister of Nepal. It was during his tenure as the first Tourism Minister of the government of Nepal that few tourism entrepreneurs, mountain climbers approached him to do something and helped them to establish the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) under the leadership of Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, which now has become instrumental in initiating climbing training for the new climbers. The NMA founding member and world-record-holding Everest summiteer Shambhu Tamang still remembers how Dr. Harka Gurung was fond of mountaineering and how he loved to meet with the climbers. Dr. Harka Gurung as Tourism Minister encouraged the climbers to move forward with their dreams and plans to establish the NMA for the betterment of the mountain tourism and mountaineering sector which is considered to be one of the backbones of the tourism industry in Nepal today.



According to Tamang, Dr. Harka Gurung instantly took steps to prepare all kinds of necessary documents for the establishment of NMA on behalf of the government and he even got an endorsement letter from the government side.

Without his timely support, encouragement, and initiatives taken by Minister Dr. Harka Gurung, the NMA would not have come into existence. Dr. Harka's profound intellectuality is exhibited through his book entitled, "Nature and Culture". Dr. Harka Gurung was also one of the pioneering persons to rename the mountain peaks and trekking trails in Nepali rather than the names used after the first European visitors which was practiced before Dr. Gurung took up steps to stop such practices in Nepal's tourism sector which proved to be very much fruitful. Dr. Gurung was also connected to opening Manang Mountaineering school as well as International Mountain Museum.

Dr. Harka Gurung is remembered not only as a planner, demographer, and development expert but also as a tourism expert. He was the leader of the government committee formed to provide names to mountain peaks in 1983. Born in Lamjung District, Dr. Gurung studied in Dehradun and Patna before receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh.

He later served as the Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission (1968–75) and Minister of State (1975–78) in the Nepalese government. His areas of professional interest include demography, planning, environment, geography, sociology, and tourism. He has authored numerous books, including Annapurna to Dhaulagari (1968), Vignettes of Nepal (1980), Dimensions of Development (1984), Social Demography and Expressions (1998), Mountains of Asia (1999), Landscape Change in the Nepal Hills (2004), Peaks and Pinnacles (2005) and Mountain Reflections (2005). Dr. Gurung continued his research on Himalayan life and science)

After completing his PhD, Gurung worked as a Research Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies and then, returned to Nepal in 1966 to take up a lecturing post at Tribhuwan University in Kathmandu.

He was the first PhD holder in Nepal. In 1984 he was appointed Visiting Fellow at the East-West-Center in Hawaii. A prolific scholarly author, Gurung published fifteen books and around 675 academic articles and reports. He also worked as an advisor to the World Wildlife Fund in Nepal.

Dr. Gurung subsequently held several government posts, including Minister of State for Education, Trade and Industry Minister. He served as Director of the Asia and Pacific Development Centre from 1993–1998 and was a consultant for the World Bank.

Dr. Gurung was born in the village of Taranche that overlooks the Marsyangdi River in the central-western hill district of Lamjung. His father was a Gurkha soldier who had seen action in France and Palestine in the First World War. It was perhaps from his father that Dr. Gurung inherited the almost soldier-like discipline and sense of purpose. Dr. Gurung was also the chief advisor of the Nepal Mountaineering Association from 2002-2006 AD. He was a prominent conservation expert.

Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award was established in 2007 just one year after his demise to commemorate his life and contributions to mountain tourism in Nepal. Dr. Gurung's perpetual contribution to mountain tourism has been accredited with one of the mountains of Nepal being named after his name.

He was indeed a storehouse of knowledge, wisdom, intellectuality, a unique personality who was not comparable to any other learned academicians in Nepal and elsewhere.





Dawa Norbu Sherpa

Former NMA President

1993-1996

Dawa Norbu Sherpa had acted as President of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) from 2050 BS to 2054 BS. He has contributed substantially to the promotion and development of the NMA and the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara. It was his hard work and sincere dedication that has led to the attainment of the NMA's level of mountaineering training and professionalism that we appreciate today.

The NMA in recognition of Dawa's contribution to mountaineering has established a mountaineering award in his name.

Dawa Norbu Sherpa's sudden demise in October 1997 shocked the mountaineering community and people of Kathmandu for he was a famous personality associated with the Himalayas, mountain tourism, and trekking in Nepal. He has left an indelible imprint in the minds of the people who are associated with the NMA and mountain tourism.

During his tenure as the president of the NMA, he was engaged in assisting mountaineering expeditions and negotiating on behalf of high altitude Sherpas. Although he hailed from the poor family background of Khumjung, he was always a man of enterprise and initiative.

He had attained his education in Darjeeling and spent some years as an administrative clerk with the British Gurkhas in India. He had met with Colonel Jimmy Roberts at that time and this relationship would become fruitful in the future.

When colonel Jimmy Roberts retired from the army he established his mountain travel company for which he appointed Dawa Norbu Sherpa as the manager of this office. This was the time when Dawa along with others developed the concept of the trekking industry in Nepal.

Later on, Dawa established his own first Sherpa-owned trekking company and initiated tourism into Tibet with his own Amiko company. Him becoming a member of the Nepal Tourism Committee also paved a lot in helping tourism to become one of the greatest foreign currency earners for Nepal.

He was also equally involved and was the main driving force behind the high altitude cleanup of Mt. Everest by Sherpa climbers. His most recent development was that of Asian airlines which introduced the first large Russian helicopters in Nepal.

He is survived by his wife and two children. The International Mountain Museum in Pokhara is considered to be the dream project of Dawa Norbu Sherpa which was hampered for some time after his sudden death but was later resumed and completed.

Reviving Mountain Tourism in Post Covid-19 Situation

Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang is the Director General of Department of Tourism of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. He is also a ex-officio member of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). He spoke about current situation, government rule and regulations and the plans he has in mind for Mountain tourism. The excerpt is as follows:



Mr. Rudra Sing Tamang
Director General, Department of Tourism

Parbat: First of all welcome and congratulations onbeing appointed as the Director General of the Department of Tourism of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. So, how do you look at the present situation of mountain tourism?

Rudra Singh Tamang: Everything is topsy-turvy now. Mountain tourism is passing through a critical phase. The situation is almost null at this moment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Recently, the government and health ministry have decided to open two sectors of trekking and mountaineering by preparing and adopting safety protocols. So, we are planning on procedures to prepare the upcoming team of trekkers and climbers by maintaining safety protocols. For example,we have to make plans on how to receive the new arriving teams, how to put them in quarantine and how to take them up to hotels.

We have just sent a climbing team and after them we are going to send the royal expedition team of Bahrain to climb Mt.Manaslu. And we have to do everything we can to prevent the crisis created by Covid-19.

Parbat: How do you look at the government's relief programs allocated to revive the tourism sector?

Rudra Singh Tamang: The fiscal year budget for 2077 B.S. has introduced a relief program to redress the tourism sector which is on the verge of collapse. Nepal Rastra Bank has set aside this program. Nepal Tourism Board is also working on it. All that we have to do is analysis and evaluate the overall situation of crisis related to total loss incurred post Covid-19 and do the need assessment to identify our future needs and our determining factors. We are doing whatever we can to prepare for the possibilities of safe tourism in the face of Covid-19. Discussions are also going on at high level to revive the ailing tourism industry. The tourism department is also working to revive the tourism industry.

So, in fact, we are looking for opportunities amidst the critical situation created by the outbreak of Coronavirus. There is a widespread unemployment problem for tourism workers during this pandemic. There is a need to improve tourism entrepreneurship and bring back the derailed tourism sector to the right tract.

Meanwhile, a few development works have also come up such as construction of hotels, and developing tourism infrastructures, making policies, amending the laws etc. For example, we are working and discussing about how to utilize the local resources and what can be done by the federal government as per the need of the situation to give flawless direction. We are in close contact with tourism entrepreneurs and are discussing what can be done. So we are preparing internally as well. In the recent times, we have studied about tourism products such as lower grade trails. We are thinking of studying higher altitude trails to start new adventure sports. We are working for interconnection between base camps and opening routes for mountains. We are developing new trails to the base camps and connection between various ranges. In the recent times we have pushed forward opening new trekking routes. One such route under progress is the Cho-Oyu Mountain trail.

We have given priority of the tourism sector as we want to manage and utilize the naturally gifted mountains and heritages. We don't need branding because we have eight of the world's highest mountains here in Nepal.We are preparing for the backup for tourism at this moment.

Parbat: What are the new provisions of new tourism bill being proposed. What are the reasons behind it?

Rudra Singh Tamang: The act is likely to be introduced for mountaineering is not a new law. The new act is aimed at improving the ongoing practices of tourism. It includes new areas such as anti-money laundering, casinos and whether or not to treat Nepali climbers as tourists. The act also includes methods on how to take into account the Indian climbers coming from across the Nepal-India Border. This new act will further empower the NMA activities. This is only a proposition. It has to go through the cabinet meeting and then get passed by the parliament.

Parbat: Mountain tourism is related to famous mountain climbers. Many have gone abroad and many of the Nepali world record holders associated with mountaineering complain that the government has not been able to protect them after retiring from their climbing jobs despite earning name and fame for the nation. What is your opinion on this issue?

Rudra Singh Tamang: Of course, there is an issue here. There are some world record holding mountaineers who are doing well in their lives due to their own connections and relations outside the country. But there are also few who have remained back and their livelihood is miserable. The social security facility should be considered for this purpose. We can only focus on social security. Even the government is planning to retire its employees without pension. So, social security model can work out in this regard. We can connect it to the social security model. The government has openly come up with it. Some foreign countries follow social security model too.



We have started discussing on this though no concrete breakthrough has been made as multiple stakeholders are linked to it. It is not an easy task. We are thinking of how to mobilize emergency needs.We are recognizing those climbers who have been long time climbers, and those who are recognized globally. We can think of interventions on policies. We have been recognizing both long time mountain climbers and world renowned climbers. The issue has been raised and government is aware of it. So, maybe we might intervene at the policy level to sustain their livelihood. However, we have to go according to government policy too.

Parbat: We have many mountains. But not all mountains are open for tourism. Some Himalayan areas are restricted without reasons. How can we resolve them?

Rudra Singh Tamang: There may be false rumors about some restricted areas in Nepal. Some mountain shave not been climbed so far and even if they were, the person who did so was not recorded and documented after the climbing. Such claims were for saken due to local beliefs for faiths. The rumors are related to local cultures, faiths etc. Our tourism department is ready to review it. We honor the public sentiment and cultural part of the local people. But we are open to discuss with the local people. We are aware of the fact that we have not been able to open all possible mountains and many mountains that are open are not interesting to climbers. We have not been able to do marketing for mountains. We can't hide everything. However, we will respect the faiths of the local because faith comes first and then comes livelihood and other activities. We know we have not been able to review some cases.

We need to open the hearts and minds of the local people at first. We came to know that some local people believe in a particular faith about the restricted areas. Some areas continue to exist as remote areas though the roads and vehicles have reached there. We want to make the restricted areas easier to access. For example, it takes more than 14 days to reach Upper Mustang. During that time, we can fly to Thailand or Singapore and fly back to Kathmandu. So, we are thinking of making it easy to get access to the restricted areas in future.

Parbat: What is your view regarding the restricted areas?

Rudra Singh Tamang: We are making efforts to gain access to all mountains if the faiths and cultures of local people do not stop us. There are not many restricted areas now. We will retain the restriction of those areas for reasons as there are some fundamental principles of restricted areas. But we have to think of giving access to restricted areas by making it easy.

Manang, Mustang, Humla and Dolpa are already under cultural attack. We have to take into account the cultural and religious aspects of these areas which must be kept intact. There are so many things which are still unexplored.

Parbat: What will be your contribution to NMA as its new member and what areas do you think NMA should improve to work more effectively for tourism in Nepal?

Rudra Singh Tamang: As a member of the NMA, I should say that it has not been able to do the marketing of mountains professionally and commercialize it. Their connection with other mountaineers must be improved. Now the country has gone into federal structure. So, we have to change the things accordingly to reach the lowest level of federal structure.

Parbat: Last but not the least, what would be your role as member of NMA?

Rudra Singh Tamang: NMA members sometimes seem to make decisions under the influence of emotions. It is recommended that the NMA should step up for policy level thinking and operational activities while using the public purse. We have to think of our responsibilities. I have made suggestions to theNMA at various levels to bring it to the right track for its betterment.

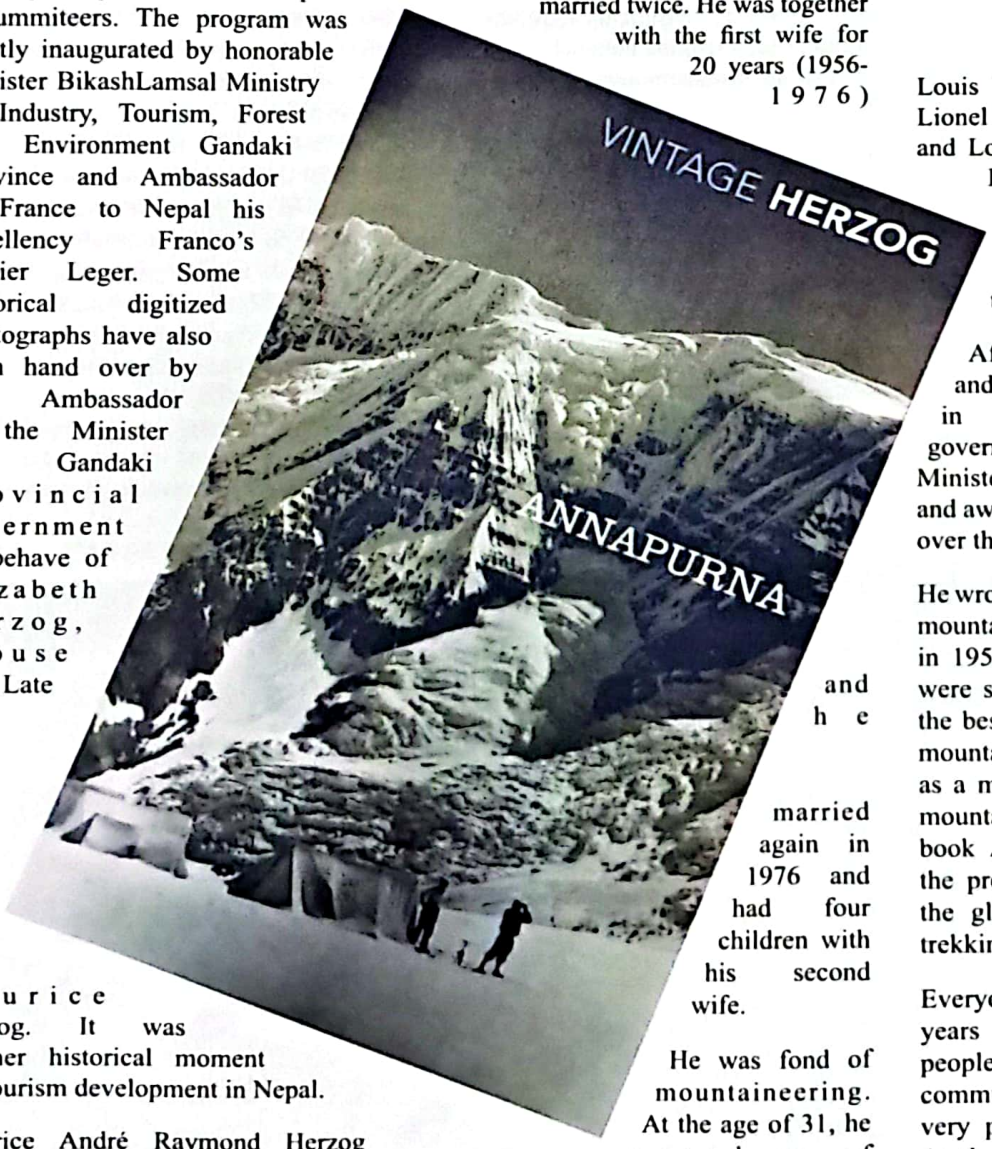
I think I can contribute to NMA, one at a policy and other at a personalized level. NMA is a historic institution. Whether I will remain as member of NMA for a longtime or not, I will continue to work for it and remain associated with it by means of guidance and support.

Maurice Herzog and Mountain Tourism in Nepal



Juddha Bahadur Gurung
Member
National Natural Resources &
Fiscal Commission

A historical photo corner was established at International Mountain Museum in Pokhara on 27 November 2020 in memory of Maurice Herzog, a pioneer of Annapurna I summiteers. The program was jointly inaugurated by honorable minister BikashLamsal Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment Gandaki Province and Ambassador of France to Nepal his excellency Franco's Xavier Leger. Some historical digitized photographs have also been hand over by the Ambassador to the Minister of Gandaki Provincial government on behave of Elizabeth Herzog, spouse of Late Maurice Herzog. It was another historical moment for tourism development in Nepal.



Maurice André Raymond Herzog was born on 15th January 1919 in Lyon, France, and passed away on 12th December 2012. He served as a mayor of Chamonix city (1968-77) and secretary of state for youth and sport (1958-66) Charles de Gaulle Presidency cabinet member of the French government. He also served 25 years (1970-1995) as a member of the International Olympic Committee. At a young age, he joined in military service during World War II (1939–45). He was married twice. He was together with the first wife for 20 years (1956-1976) and he married again in 1976 and had four children with his second wife.

He was fond of mountaineering. At the age of 31, he conquered one of the 8 thousand meter highest peaks known as Annapurna I (8091m) of the world on June 3rd, 1950 without oxygen with other three friends namely Louis Lachenal, Gaston Rebuffat, and Lionel Terry. Only two people Herzog and Louis Lachenal reached the peak. Louis Lachenal passed away (25 July 1921- 25 Nov 1955) at a young age. Both of them suffered from frostbites and lost their fingers.

After conquering Mt. Annapurna and making the world record in mountaineering history, the government of Nepal and then Prime Minister Mohan Shamsher JBR honored and awarded which became the news all over the world.

He wrote a book called Annapurna about mountaineering which was published in 1952. More than 11 million copies were sold (till 2000) making it one of the best-selling books in the history of mountaineering. This book is regarded as a milestone for the development of mountaineering tourism in Nepal. The book Annapurna contributed a lot to the promotion of tourism in Nepal to the global community, especially for trekking and mountaineering.

Everyone can imagine that seventy years ago the difficult geography, people, knowledge, infrastructures, communication, and many more were very poor compared to modern time. At that time Maurice Herzog's vision and planning for the future were very encouraging which we can never forget. Some of his notable contributions are listed below.

Pioneer and sources of inspiration for global mountaineers

Maurice Herzog is a pioneer of mountaineering and an inspiration for the young generation and all the mountaineers. He established the 1950s as the decade of mountaineering. After this successful climbing of Mt. Annapurna I, on 29th May 1953 Mt. Everest (8,848 m) the world's highest peak was conquered by Sir Edmund Hillary (New Zealander) and Tenzin Norgay Sherpa (Nepali). It glorified mountain tourism in Nepal. The third highest peak of the world Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,586 m) was conquered by British climbers Joe Brown and George Band on 25th May 1955. In the same year, Mt. Makalu (8,481 m) the 5th highest peak in the world was first summited by a French expedition team lead by Lionel Terray and Jean Couzy on 15th May 1955. The next year, the 4th highest peak of the World Mt. Lhotse (8,516 m) was successfully climbed by a Swiss team on 18 May 1956 that included Ernst Reiss and Fritz Luchsinger. In the same year Mt. Manaslu (8,163 m) was conquered by a Japanese Expedition team lead by Toshio Imanishi on 9th May 1956. During this decade out of 8, six peaks were conquered more than 8 thousand meters located in Nepal is completed by global mountaineers. At the beginning of the 1960s, the Austrian and Swiss joint Dhaulagiri Expedition team conquered Mt. Dhaulagiri (8,167m) with the help of a small Pilatus Porter plane lead by Max Eiselin on 13th May 1960. All these series of successful expeditions of mountaineering the cumulative effect marked in mountaineering tourism in Nepal.

Table : 1 Chronological order of conquering the peaks in fifties decade

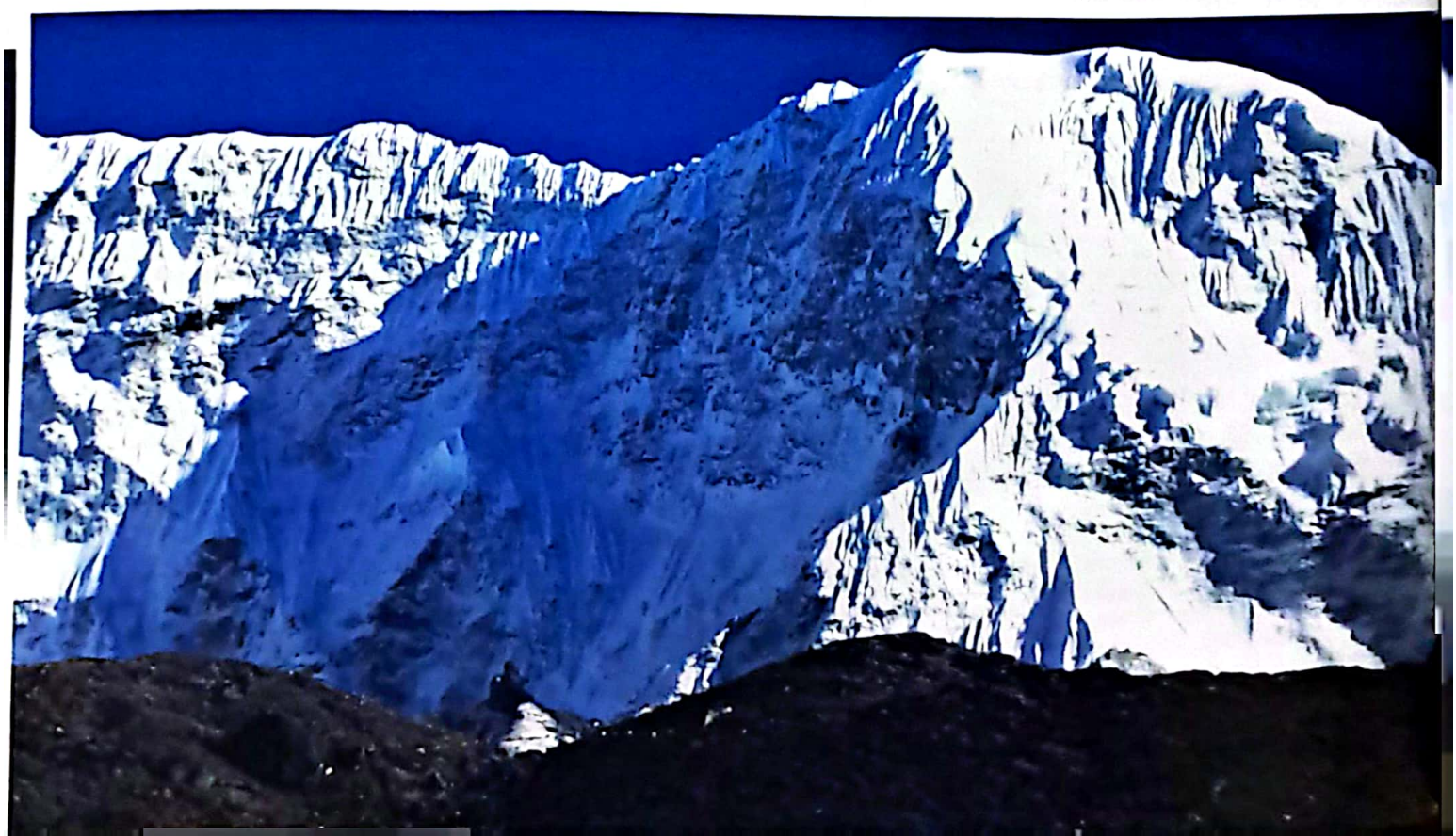
Conquered Date	Mt. Name	Height	Global Rank	Leader Name	Nationality	Conquered by 2019
3rd June 1950	Annapurna I	8,091 m	X	Maurice Herzog	France	309
13th May 1953	Everest	8,848 m	I	Edmond Hillary and Tenzin Norgay	New Zealand	6567
15th May 1955	Makalu	8,463 m	VI	Jean Cuozy	France	619
25th May 1955	Kanchenjunga	8,586 m	III	George Christopher Band	British	390
18th May 1956	Lhotse	8,516 m	IV	Ernes Reisse	Switzerland	719
9th May 1956	Manaslu	8,163 m	IX	Toshio Imanishi	Japan	2230
13th May 1960	Dhaulagiri	8.167 m	VIII	Max Ernest	Switzerland	550

Source : MOTCA 2020

Maurice Herzog and Tourism in Nepal

In Nepal, 35 % of the total land is covered by mountains and people enjoy daily life with the hardships of mountain life. Even they do not think about how to utilize the mountain resources in economic opportunity for people and society. Maurice Herzog opened the eyes of mountain communities and motivated them to know about mountain resources. After the successful summit of the Annapurna I, mountaineering tourism flourished in Nepal. Mountain people of Nepal have been engaged in mountaineering activities and creating lots of opportunities such as knowledge sharing, cultural exchange, and other economic opportunities (Guides for trekking and mountaineering, porters, cooks, and hospitality sector among many other sectors). Tourist flow raised dramatically in Nepal. No authentic tourist data can be found before 1961. In 1962, the number of tourists was recorded at 6,279, after more than a decade of successful climbing of Mt. Annapurna I. Twenty years later (1982) the number of tourists increased by 28 times (175,448) compared to 1962. After 40 years (2002) tourist numbers reached 44 times (275,485) than that of 1962. Among the tourists, a large number of them visited Nepal for trekking and mountaineering (MOTCA 2020).

An analysis of tourist arrivals in Nepal



reveals that Pokhara, the capital city of Gandaki province received an average of about 28.46% of tourists visiting Nepal in the last decade from 2001-2010. But this figure fluctuated from 21.56 % to 38.28 % in 2010 (MOTCA 2012). This trend remained the same up to 2019. Based on this we could estimate an average of 30% of the total tourists arriving in Pokhara and especially in the Annapurna region to see the majestic historical white peaks of mountains series along with the famous nature and culture of the Gandaki region.

Mt. Annapurna I is an iconic mountain for nature and adventure seekers. Most of the visitors like to visit the Annapurna region. Thus a major number of tourists arrive in Pokhara, as the city is the gateway to the Annapurna Circuit trek. Every year a large number of tourists come for trekking around Annapurna. This phenomenon forced the community to manage the Annapurna region due to heavy pressure from trekking many aspects such as socio-economic and natural resources management. Thus the idea of community-based sustainable tourism management was started in 1986 and it gave birth to the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP). This concept is very appropriate for community-based sustainable tourism management and as a result, this became a global model for community-based tourism management.

In Gandaki province, tourist flow moves towards the Northern side of the Annapurna region. To attract some more tourists in the southern sector of the Annapurna region and to exhibit the culture and nature of the rural areas, a new concept had been developed known as the community-based Home Stay program for village tourism promotion. This has been implemented since 1996 at Sirubari, a typical Gurung Village in Shyangja district. This program now is owned by Gandaki provincial government as one of the priority programs massively implementing 300 units of Community Home Stay for rural tourism promotion within the tenure of the first elected provincial government lead by Chief Minister PrithviSubbaGurung. This is a good concept for rural tourism and a model for the global community as well.

Tourism is one of the main sources of foreign currency and employment generation in Nepal. A case study showed that in the Round Annapurna circuit only 1100 tea houses, hotels, lodges, and restaurants have been serving trekkers which is a very low number. Guides and porters create the service temporary jobs. People utilize their time in tourism and earning too. Not only this, but many other activities in society such as relations established between individual and community as well as exchanges of love, affection, knowledge, culture, skill, and other unnoticeable activities can be affected by this profession. In 2019 around 181,000 people visited and trekked around the Annapurna circuit from 176 countries of the world which is a very much motivating impact of tourism in society.



Hence, Maurice Herzog's contributions have remained immortal for the development of mountaineering and tourism in Annapurna Region for the people throughout the world.

Maurice Herzog in the memories

As an honor to the great mountaineer Maurice Herzog, mountain lovers and tourism communities have established some memorable signs on the ground. Annapurna Rural Municipality of Kaski has established a Maurice Herzog half-size statue at Annapurna Base Camp, the most popular tourist destination in Nepal. The trekking route completed by Maurice Herzog and his team for mountaineering is named Maurice Herzog Trekking Trail that starts from BhurangTatapani to Annapurna North Base Camp in Myagdi district (though they started from Lete near Ghasha in Mustang). Likewise, Nepal Mountaineering Association established Maurice Herzog wall climbing and historical photo corner in International Mountain Museum in Pokhara. These are some tokens of memories to pay tribute to the pioneer of mountaineering Maurice Herzog.

Conclusion

Maurice Herzog was the pioneer and successful summiteer of Mt Annapurna I who established the history of mountaineering in the world. His record attracted the global community towards mountain tourism in Nepal. His book Annapurna created a new history in selling and exploring tourism throughout the world. Nepal's tourism has been flourished and developed only after the publication of his book which has resulted in two additional by-products known as historical tourism management brands and global models viz. community-based sustainable tourism management and promotion of village tourism through community homestay program in Nepal. Tribute and salute to Herzog for his contributions to tourism development in Nepal.

Yeti Died In Dhampus Pass, Near Dhaulagiri Mountain



Dr.Ganesh Gurung
Adviser NMA



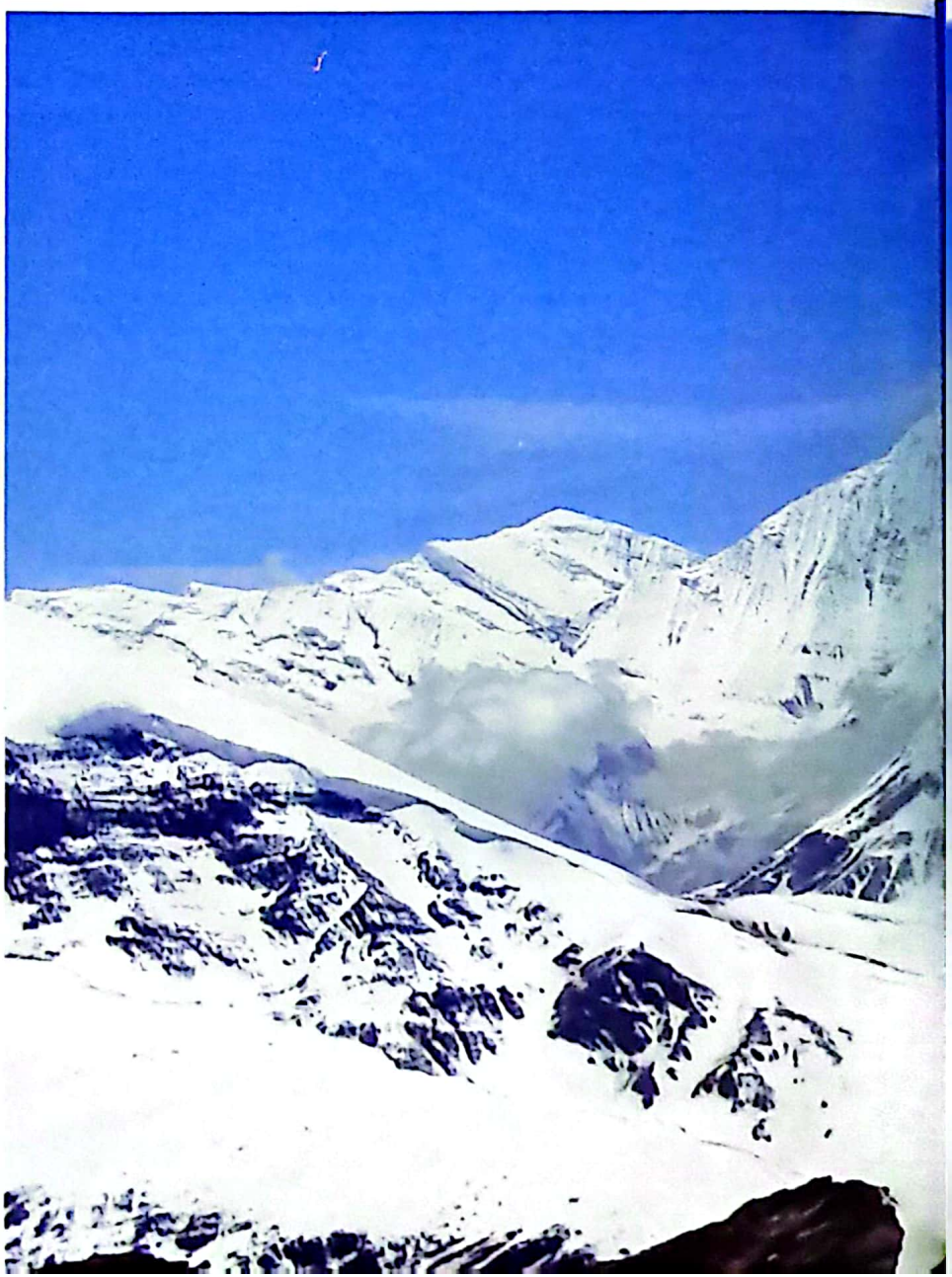
Ujwal Gurung

In 1972, when the news story of a Japanese soldier being killed by the local police of a small island of Lubang in the Philippines broke out, people were shocked to learn that there were Japanese Imperial Soldiers from World War II still in the South Pacific fighting the war. This raised many questions, including the possible existence of another soldier named Hiroo Onoda, now a war hero and half legend. After numerous attempts by the Japanese, the Philippines, and the American government, Hiroo was nowhere to be found.

Then, in 1974, a young Japanese traveler named Norio Suzuki decided to go on an epic mission to find and meet 3 entities: Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda, a panda bear, and the Abominable Snowman (Yeti), in that order.

Suzuki found Hiroo Onoda in just four days and convinced him to come back home to Japan, then went on to meet a panda bear, but died in an avalanche in the Dhaulagiri range while trying to find the Yeti.

This story has always stuck with us, especially the name Yeti, which made us wonder about this mysterious and elusive mythical creature supposedly native to my own country, in the Dhaulagiri range. We thought to ourselves; what if we could actually find the Yeti? While trekking in the Himalayas, we were constantly on the lookout for footprints or stories of Yeti by the locals. We often heard the locals(Sherpas) telling stories of them encountering Yeti multiple times during their travels in the mountains but none has yet to obtain living proof of the creature. The more we learned about Yeti, the more mysterious this creature



became to us and the more captivating the name Yeti became. This interest in Yeti and the way the word sparked our ears led us to yet another intriguing novelty of the Himalayas, the deserted and forgotten Yeti plane.

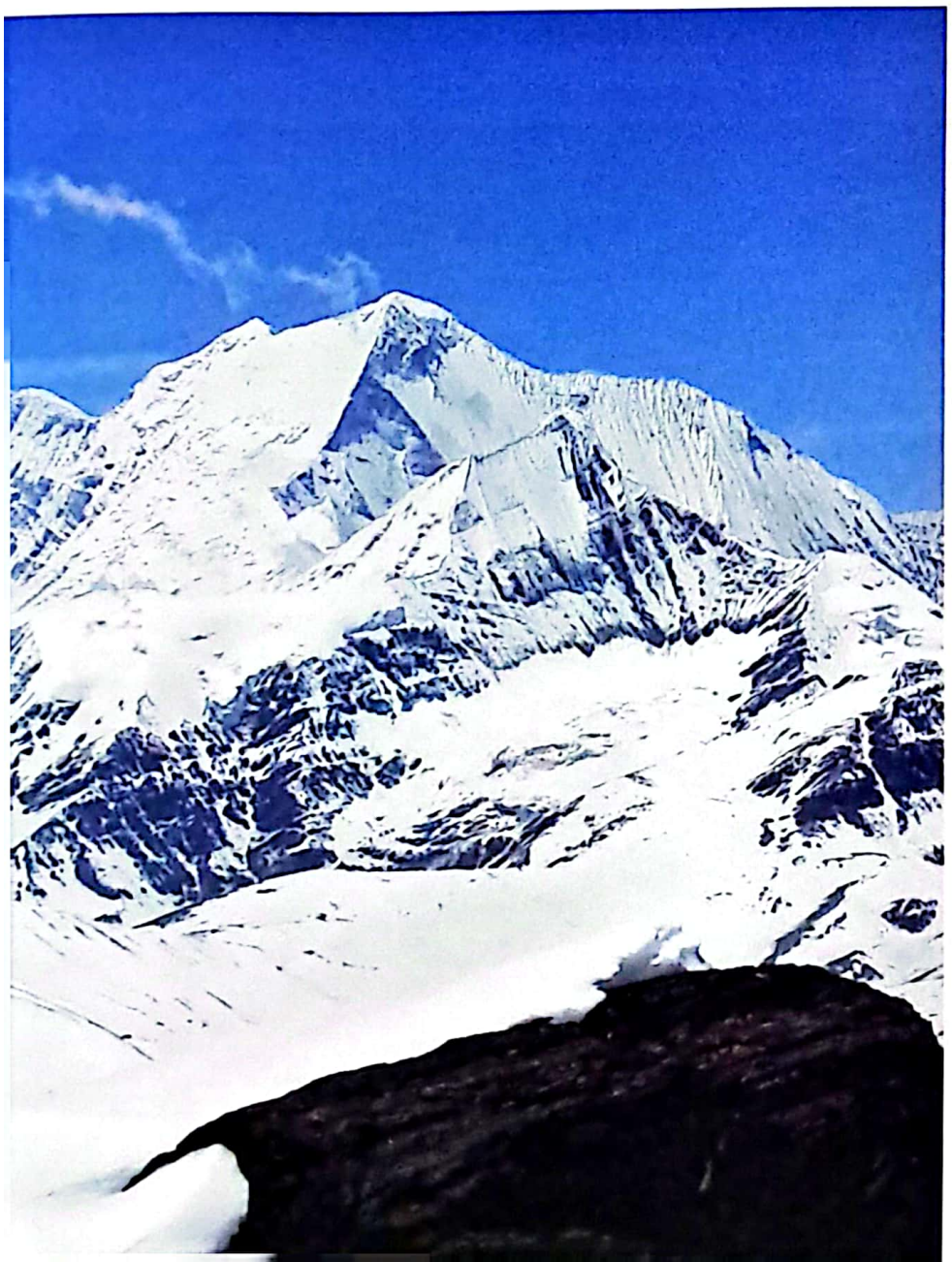
Story of the Flying Yeti

Mount Dhaulagiri, also known as the "White Mountain" is the world's 7th highest peak in the world, standing at 8167m(26,795ft). Due to its extreme wild storms and killer avalanches, it is considered one of the most difficult and dangerous mountains to climb. But in 1960, a Swiss team became the first to ascend the 7th highest peak in the world, and they did it with the help of the flying Yeti.

The "Yeti" was a P-6 STOL (Short take-off and landing) aircraft, made in Switzerland. The Swiss had used the plane to help in the construction of a tourist destination in Pilatus Mountain in the Swiss Alps. The plane was used to carry the necessary equipment, food, and supplies to replace the need for human porters and thus was named Pilatus Porter.

During the 1960 Dhaulagiri expedition, to cut off expenses and travel time from Pokhara to the base camp of Mount Dhaulagiri, the Swiss team leader, Max Eiselin, proposed the idea of using the Pilatus Porter on the route from Pokhara to the base camp of Mount Dhaulagiri to do the same job as it did back in Switzerland. The plane was brought in from Switzerland to Pokhara after numerous stops for fuel and was nick-named Yeti after the mythical Himalayan creature.

On March 28, 1960, Max Eiselin, along with two other pilots, Ernst Saxer and





Emil Wick, took off on Yeti's first flight from Pokhara and made history by landing on Dhampus pass at 5200m, the highest altitude landing accomplished by a fixed-wing single-engine aircraft. After only a few days of landing at Dhampus Pass, the Swiss team made yet another achievement by landing Yeti even higher at 5750m, which is still today the highest landing ever accomplished by a fixed-wing single-engine aircraft.

Yeti made a total of 16 flights during the expedition, but only 8 days before the summit, on May 5th, at approximately 10:15 am, according to the note left behind by the pilot Saxer, Yeti crashed right after taking off from Dhampus Pass. Both the pilots were uninjured, however, Emil seemed to be in worse shape than Saxer. The pilots left the message in the plane hoping that if someone comes to the plane will know the situation, which was following:

"Yeti died on 5 May at 10.15."

Both pilots spent two nights in Dhampus Pass, with limited food supply and no sleeping bags before they left for the nearest village of Tukuche. They got to the village of Tukche 12 hours later and then trekked another 4 days to reach Pokhara, a trip which would have taken them only 12 minutes of flying time in Yeti.

Our effort:

We have been fascinated by the story and wanted to do something about it. So, in 2016, we started researching about the Pilatus P-6 STOL aircraft named Yeti. Almost 60 years since that historical

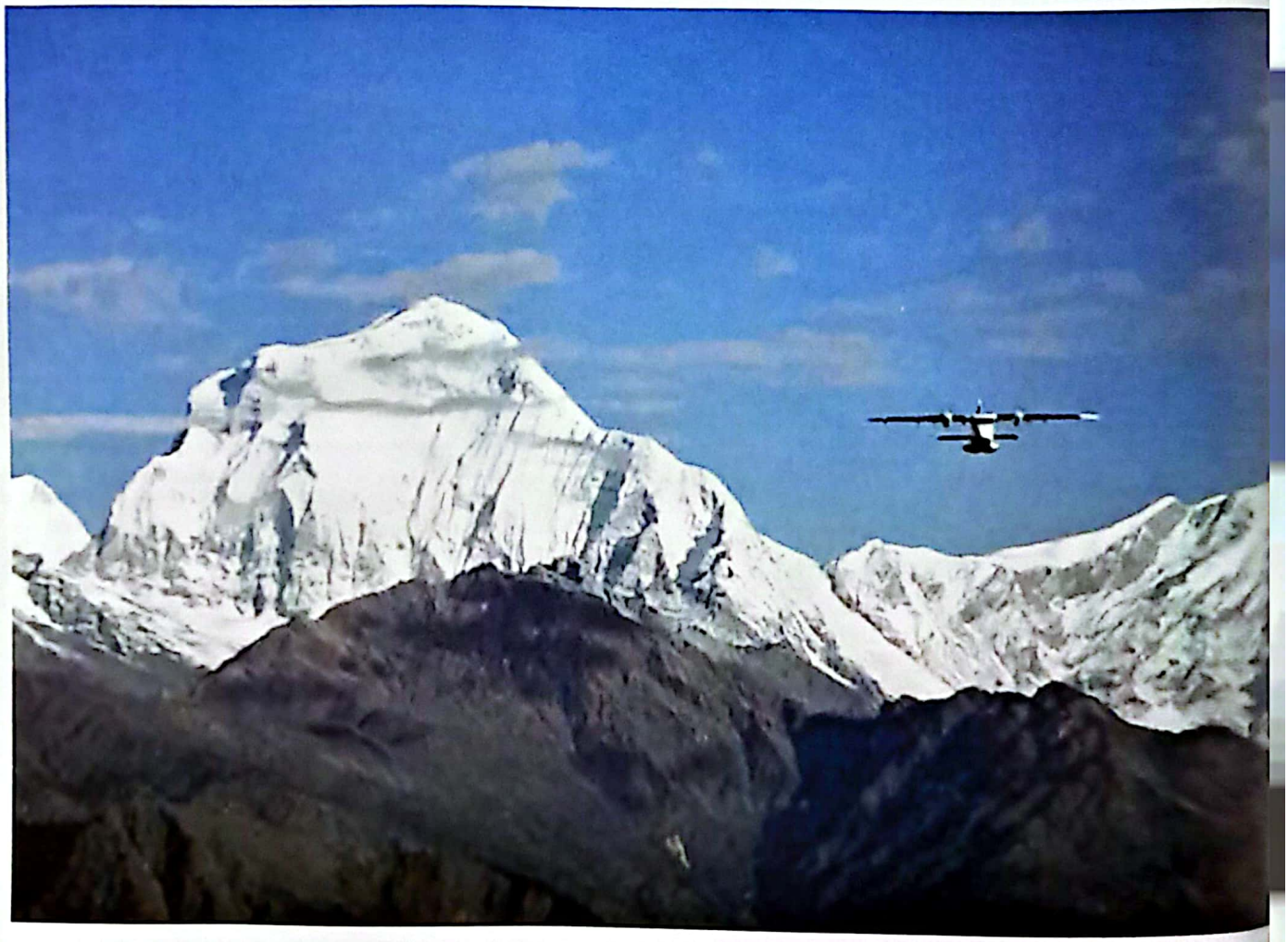
landing, there are very few remains of the aircraft, most of it having been taken apart by the locals as souvenirs or for personal gain. Sadly, all that remains is the metal structure of the plane. But by our research, we discovered where are the parts of the plane like a window, handle, seats, brakes, and so forth which can be obtained from the villagers with some incentives.

We attempted to start a project to bring the remains of the plane at least to Pokhara to create a display at the International Mountain Museum, and so contacted the manufacturer of Pilatus P-6 STOL aircraft and the team leader Max Eiselen, who runs mountain gear shops in Switzerland.

Our goal was to inspire people working in the mountain tourism sector to find better ways of transportation in the mountains, which is one of the major problems faced in mountainous regions of the country. We also wanted to show evidence of this amazing artifact called the Yeti that made history by landing at the highest altitude in the world, and which much like the legend it is named after, has disappeared deep in the mountains, largely remaining an elusive legend to the public.



Unfortunately, our permission to display the "Yeti" Pilatus Porter aircraft was denied by the Swiss manufacturer.



Establishment of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA)



Shambu Tamang
Founder Member, NMA

I was born in Liskhu village of Sindhupalchowk. At that time, the climbers of the Khumbu region used to pass through our village. We children used to rejoice when we saw the groups of climbers passing by. By looking at people walking with big boots and a big rucksack on their back, it seemed to us that climbing mountains was enjoyable. We were porters at Thumse.

While seeing all these things, I got an opportunity to reach Italy to learn the Italian language at the age of 14 in 1968. The place in Italy where I had gone to study was also like my village. I met people who would climb mountains. I was small and had gone there to study, yet I was interested to learn how to climb mountains. I learned about basic skills about mountaineering there.

After three years, I had gone to France for skiing and met mountain guides there. They had planned to climb mountains in Nepal. They told me to come to Nepal along with them to learn about climbing. In 1971, I accompanied them to climb the Mt Makalu peak. This is how my mountaineering experience started. In 1972 I went on to climb Mt Everest. However, I failed to accomplish both of these expeditions. I was small and lacked experience too.

The idea about establishing an Association

The experience of these two mountaineering expeditions and my company with European guides prompted me to open an association related to mountaineering.

There were mountain guides in Nepal from whom many foreigners learned to climb. However, till then even the government used to call then "Altitude porters". So, the climbers did not earn any name. So, I realized that there should be an association to honor climbers and work for their welfare. I had seen the institution of guides in Europe.

So, I started searching for friends. In the process of meeting friends, I met Nityaman Singh, discussed the idea, and everything matched. Then we began the process of founding the first Nepal Mountaineering Association. The Ministry of tourism did not exist at that time. The foreign Ministry used to issue permits to climb mountains. So, we approached the foreign ministry by asking my senior Nityaman Singh to move ahead of me. The task of giving a permit to climbers used to be overseen by the department looking over Europe and America. Yadav Kant Silwal was the chief of that department. Later on, he became one of the famous people of Nepal's diplomatic field. He was my maternal uncle and my uncle's friend. When we met him for the first time and requested him about our purpose, he chided us. He said, "Go out, and don't come for such things." As we were getting out of his room, he called us back and gave us tea to drink and said to us, "Don't take it otherwise. I thought you might not be able to do it. That's why I asked you to go out from here. Later, I thought we need such an institution. You can't do it, but I will let you meet someone."



He then asked us to meet with Kumar Khadka Bikram Shah. Kumar Khadka Bikram was living in Helambu of Sindhupalchowk at that time. Silwal had asked us to meet him by going to Sindhupalchowk. He just guided us. I didn't know where Helambu was though. As I was born in Sindhupalchowk. It took us at least two days to locate the area. Later, we came across another friend Karsang Lama. Nityaman, Karsang, and I headed for Helambu. Nityaman was then associated with a company known as the Himalayan Society. He used to supply manpower to the people who went for mountaineering.

It was a coincidence that Kumar Khadga Bikram used to stay in the house of Karsang whom I had picked up from Kathmandu. It made it easy to meet him. As soon as we met him we talked to him for one and a half hours. He was very excited to hear from us. He had organized a week-long picnic for the foreign ambassadors of Nepal there. He said, "You have come to me with a good purpose. I will stay here for a few more days. My doors are

always open for you." His sayings were the first step towards the establishment of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) in Nepal.

Later on, we came to know that there was no provision to register any institution. That's why NMA became one of the oldest institutions in Nepal. Then, under the leadership of Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, five of us including Tek Chandra Pokharel, Nityaman Singh, and Ang Kaji Lama formed a committee and registered it at the Kathmandu District Administration office.

There were many reasons for opening this institution. Its main objective was to give respect and recognition to the mountaineers. Besides this, the other objective was to enhance the capacity development of the mountaineers and make a connection with the alpine clubs abroad.

The income of royalty raised from Mountains

The institution was registered, but it was difficult to push our motions forward. Kumar Khadga Bikram was in the National Sports Council at that time. We fixed our office under the staircases of the council. Later on, we ran the NMA office under the staircase of Tek Chandra Pokhrel's Trans Himalayan treks with just a table.

As we were running the office this way, the government formed the Ministry of Tourism. Dr. Harka Gurung was appointed as the first Minister forTourism Ministry. Dr. Gurung was a friend of Kumar Khadga Bikram and also a lover of mountains. We told him that it was very difficult to run our institution after registration. The main income of NMA at that time was just a membership levy of Rs 25. We needed money to spend while running the institution.

As we discussed in this matter, Dr. Gurung arrived at a solution. In those days although royalty was collected for bigger mountains like Mt. Everest, yet no royalty was collected from the smaller mountains. He suggested that royalty must be collected from the smaller mountains too to run the NMA. As far as I remember, the Ministry passed a law and got it endorsed from the royal palace that NMA could collect royalty from at least 16 smaller mountains.

So, the process of collecting royalty from smaller mountains for NMA, which is the main source of revenue, started from that time onwards. Minister of tourism Dr. Gurung of that time had a special contribution in this connection.



Establishment of Manang School

NMA's source of income was increased after getting the right to collect royalty from the smaller mountains, although it was not an easy task.

We could also link up with the alpine clubs of America and Europe. Through these clubs, we spread the message that royalty will be levied for the smaller mountains which if failed can be checked at any time during the expedition. Our scheme worked and permission to climb these mountains was sought after.

After income started being generated, we started working according to the main goals of the NMA. The one goal was to enhance the capacity building of the mountaineers, so to conduct training for that we thought of opening a school. That training also had two components-one theoretical part and another practical part. Mountaineering training must be done in the mountains. We started discussing about where to open the school.

Dr. Gurung was also connected to opening the school too. Some people were heard saying that mountaineering schools will be opened in the Khumbu region, while some heard that it will be opened in the west. Dr. Gurung suggested that the training school should be opened up in other places as the Khumbu region was already crowded with mountain climbers. Based on his suggestions, we decided to open the Mountaineering School in Manang.

We did open the school, but we did not have the infrastructures for it. We did not have the financial capacity to all these things. Then under the leadership of chairman Kumar Khadga Bikram and General Secretary Tek Chandra, support came from Yugoslavia.

The school building started to be built with the financial assistance received, but we did not wait to see its completion. We started basic training by installing tents. The trainers had also come from Yugoslavia. Nepal at that time did not have experienced mountaineers who could provide this training. But they did not have a certificate to do so. That's why the trainers for basic training were invited from Yugoslavia and trainers for



advanced training invited from France at that time.

NMA has been continuing the training so far. Even now, it is one of the prime tasks of the institution. In the beginning, we had initiated the training free of cost. On top of that participants were not found at that time as mountaineering had not grown into a profession. There was a high risk too. We did not have the publicity as we do today. I scaled Mt. Everest in 1973 as a young climber which might have become news in Rising Nepal and Gorkhapatra. There were no other media outlets at that time. The training was very expensive. Everything including shoes and sleeping bags had to be arranged for the training. Forget about the self-financed trainings that happen these days. Since participants did not find the training free of cost, Tribhuvan university, army and police were asked to separate quotas and send people for this training.

The good side of the training was that its evaluation outcome came after 5/6 years. This evaluation assessed that there were fewer accidents in the mountains of Nepal. In 1980s decades the accidents in the mountains, which were very high previously, had decreased. The accidents caused by human errors had decreased barring incidents such as earthquakes and landslides. This was a good thing for Nepal.

International Relations

The relation with alpine clubs of America and Europe were established after the foundation of NMA. Similarly, the support for training was received from Yugoslavia. Later on, Nepal got the membership of the Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA). This was the highest achievement of NMA to show its presence in the international arena and also get due recognition. As NMA's image spread far and wide across the world, Nepal stood as one of the trusted institutions. One example of such works done by NMA was the 1988 Tri-nation expedition which was a very significant one. The mountaineers of Nepal, China, and Japan had participated in it.

This was a new beginning. The mountaineers from the three countries were divided into two groups. One group was to climb Mt. Everest from the Chinese side and climb down from the Nepali side while the climbing group from the Nepal side was to climb down on the Chinese side. This expedition was telecast live by Japanese television. But this task was not easy. It had taken almost six months to complete the administrative works for it. Then the Japanese parliament member and, later Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, Dr. Harka Gurung, the minister from Nepal, and NMA chair Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah were the patrons of this expedition.

To encourage the mountaineers of this expedition, Hashimoto, Gurung, and Shah had reached Mt. Everest base camp. Hashimoto had returned after staying for one week while Gurung and Shah had stayed there at the base camp for the whole period of the expedition. This expedition ended with historic success. It also helped to expose Nepal's mountaineering and NMA to the international world.

Mountaineering of that time

I will narrate something about the mountaineering of that time too. Mountaineering was not so easy and interesting at that time. Now, mountaineering has become very professional. We can hear the news about 100/200 climbers climbing the Mt Everest.

When I had started the mountaineering, only one or two used to reach on the top. There was no equipment or tools to climb. That's why the outlook towards the climbers of the present day is different from what was there for the climbers of that time.

There was no means of communication at that time. It used to take months for household members to know about the summit. Accidents and risks were bountiful at the beginning. Everything was manual. One had to carry one's own luggage too. In 1953, for the first time, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay scaled Mt. Everest after which I climbed in 1973 which was the 32nd or 33rd summit of Mt. Everest during a lapse of 20 years. So many people used to reach the top Mt. Everest. Therefore, only one expedition team used to be given a permit to climb in one season. Not all mountaineers were given a permit to climb like today and very few used to be successful. In Nepal's mountaineering, it was French climbers who had succeeded to climb the mountains above 8000 meters for the first time. Morris Herzog was the first person to climb Annapurna Mountain which was above 8000 meters. British people were the first to start trekking.

Conclusion

I worked for the NMA working committee for 13 years. I worked up to the Assistant Secretary post. Now also I am an advisor. I wish that NMA should progress and prosper more for a lot of pain and perspiration was endured to establish it. It has progressed much and become experienced now as compared to the past. It has its museum, mountaineers' memorial park, and its office building. I have been involved in this institution since 1973 by ying the membership fee. In this way, ıave invested here. I love this institution. I think getting involved in an institution means being self-less to invest in it. Such people can sustain the institution for a durable time. Those who come here with selfish motives will move away from it after their selfish ends are fulfilled or not fulfilled.

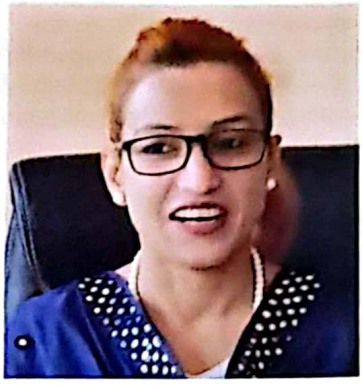
Even today the government has yet to look after the mountaineers well. Some of us have also drifted away to foreign countries. I think the government should look after the experienced climbers who have a good knowledge of mountaineering. I don't mean that that the government should just feed them. They should only be supported financially for their survival when they become older by making use of their skill, experience, and knowledge.

One thing that I would like to share with my colleagues is that election is just taken to be a means to elect the leadership. Defeat and victory are the usual outcomes. Under these circumstances, the winner should integrate all and the loser should accept the outcome. If one cannot respect another, others will not pay respect to us.

Once one has taken the post of leadership, the politically partisan should not exist anymore for anyone. All should develop a common feeling that all are the members of NMA and they are leading the institution.



The Future of Nepali Tourism Lies in Mountaineering



Mira Acharya
Director, Department of Tourism

Current situation

The tourism sector has been most affected due to the Covid-19 epidemic which has spread globally.

The tourism sector of our country has fallen to critical situation due to Covid-19. We have lost two tourist seasons for tourism. When it comes to mountaineering, we have closed the entire spring season of 2020.

Looking at it now, I think it would have been better if the season was not closed. If the spring season of 2020 was opened by adopting health security measures, the tourism sector would not have suffered such a huge loss. I think the mountaineering area could have been saved to some extent. At that time, after we found one or two coronavirus infected cases, we locked down the whole country. Because of that, the workers in the tourism sector had to pay a very high price. They have been completely unemployed since November.



Similarly, it seems that we are not prepared for a major disaster like an epidemic. There was a lack of prior preparation against such a great calamity too.

Our office used to issue 15 to 17 mountaineering permits a day. Now, there is a situation to be happy even when issuing some permits. Two teams of Nepali and a Bahrain team has taken permission to go on the expedition. That has made us all happy.

Now, we are slowly opening up. However, there are still some policy reasons that stand as a barrier across the way. For now, there is a policy problem. Although the government has opened up trekking and mountaineering from October 17, it is hard for the tourists to come immediately.

According to the protocol issued by the government in this regard, trekkers or mountaineers have to ensure Covid-19 insurance worth USD 5,000. Based on our current inquiries, we have not been able to find any system or global insurance policy to insure this type of Covid-19 related insurance. We have started discussions on this issue to be resolved.

However, the inquiries that have come to us in the meantime have made me very enthusiastic. It is known that permission for mountaineering is issued by our office and trekking permits issued by Nepal Tourism Board. Even during such a pandemic, encouraging inquiries are coming in. It has made us enthusiastic. Doubts about the future of tourism after Covid-19 have been allayed. There is room for optimism that our tourism sector will be revived and restored soon.

My experience in DoT

I have been leading the mountaineering division in the Department of Tourism for two years. During this period, I realized that the only thing that can make Nepal known to the world is mountaineering. I don't think any other field has been able to introduce Nepal to the world like this way.

I had the opportunity to see and experience both the spring of 2019 and the 2020 season. In the spring of 2019, a lot of positive and good news about Nepal came into the international

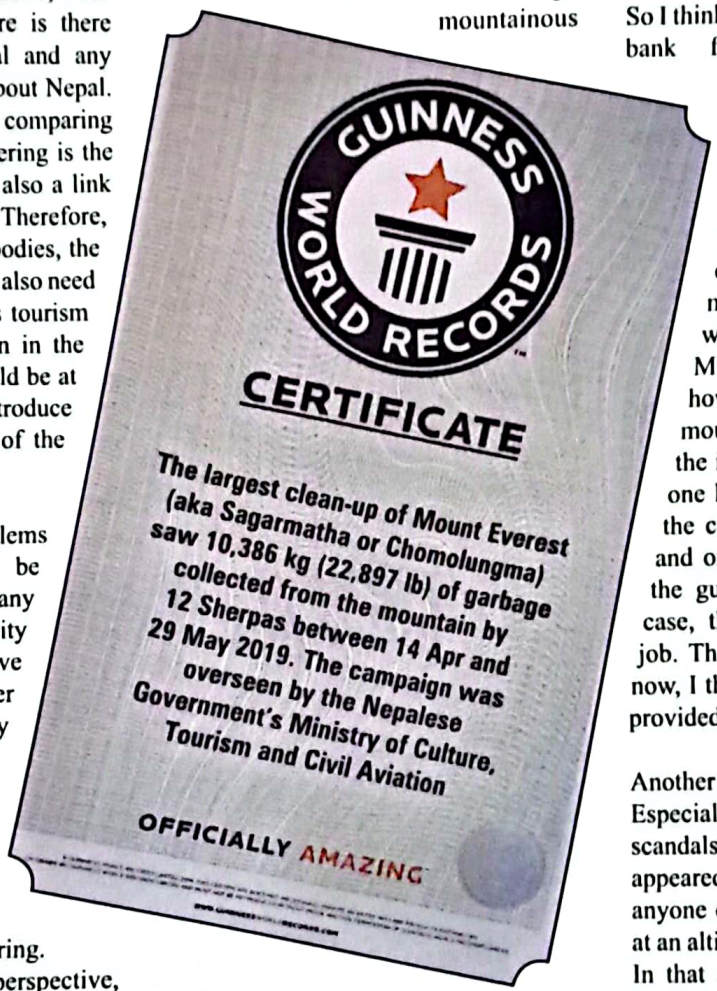
media. Since the beginning of the mountaineering season, the entire news of the mountaineering was covered by the international news media. The international media's attention was drawn to the news up to the rope fixing to world records. Nepal's name was exposed through this news. Moreover, the news of mountaineering celebrities caught the attention of the world. But in the spring of 2020, I am in this office, and now here is there any discussion about Nepal and any coverage of positive news about Nepal. This is known only after comparing the two seasons. Mountaineering is the backbone of tourism and is also a link for the country to the world. Therefore, the concerned government bodies, the private sector, and the media also need to reflect on this. If Nepal's tourism and Nepal are to be known in the world, mountaineering should be at the center. Only this can introduce the country to the corners of the world.

While saying this, the problems within it should also be discussed. There are also many weaknesses. There is diversity in our mountains. We have not yet been able to better coordinate the same diversity of the mountains.

Here the mountains below 5,800 are considered trekking peaks. The mountains above it are only for mountaineering. From a mountaineering perspective, the peaks below 6,500 meters are also considered as trekking peaks. There is a separate arrangement for mountains higher than 8,000 meters. The highest peak, Mt. Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest), is viewed differently. This shows that there is diversification in our mountains and corresponding legal and policy arrangements are needed.

Similarly, the mountains of Nepal are spread from east to west. You have to look at the mountains from Mt. Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) in the east to Api Saipal in the west. Thus, based on height and geographical reasons, Nepal's mountains are diversified. There are similar problems, which need to be addressed.

Another problem is human resource management. Some people have gained experience in the field of climbing for generations and others have come to this field with good training and education. There needs to be coordination between these two types of human resources in the market. People who have been born and raised in the high mountainous region and who have come to know the secrets of the mountain by playing with the same mountain, going with the mountaineers from outside, and mingling in the same environment are experienced people. Their wisdom cannot be compared with others. The newcomers are well educated and trained in mountaineering subjects. I find it necessary for both types of guides to share their knowledge and skills. This will help make the mountaineering safer and better.



One of the things we knew in the time of the pandemic of Covid-19 is that the information of the workers involved in mountaineering is more organized than others. We have data on how many guides are there and of which level and who went to which mountain. Therefore, it seems that mountaineering can be made more attractive by making it more organized. Nowadays, mountaineers know very little about their guide. Sometimes they are in problem if you do not know whether the guide given by the agencies is good caring.

So I think, we need a central information bank for mountaineering guides. Control by the Department of Tourism, the guides have the facility to keep a profile with their information in the system. After creating their profile by logging in, what kind of guide is he/she, how many mountains has he/she climbed, whether you have climbed Mt. Sagarmatha (Everest), how many 8000 meters above mountains climbed, there will be the information of all sorts. On the one hand, it will make it easier for the climbers to choose their guide; and on the other hand, it will make the guide more responsible. In this case, the excellent one will get the job. These are just my thoughts right now, I think this kind of facility can be provided.

Another problem is caused by climbers. Especially in recent years, fake climbing scandals of Indian climbers have also appeared. Our law does not imagine, anyone can take wrong intentions even at an altitude of more than 8,000 meters. In that case, doubting seems to mean hurting the climbers. But, what has been known lately is that there is mischief even at that extreme altitude. There is a need to be vigilant in this regard as well. We are preparing to study how to address such issues. There is also talk of GPS tracking. Although it cannot be applied to all the mountains and all the climbers at the same time, there are discussions of starting and gradually applying it to all.

Everest cleanup and world record

One of the most memorable campaigns of my tenure in the Department of Tourism is the Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha) Cleanup Campaign in 2019. It is the

responsibility of all of us to keep the mountains clean. Climbers, guides, tourism entrepreneurs, and the state, no one can escape from that. Therefore, legal arrangements have been made to bring back the goods, climbers brought to the Mountains.

However, due to various reasons, garbage has been released in the mountain and there are discussions about the issue from time to time. It is also natural to raise issues. As the state is the guardian of everything, the state should not remain silent on such issues. The government should also lead the protection, development, and cleaning of the mountains.

In the meantime, we discussed the issue of mountain cleaning with the then Director-General. It was said that there is no budget in this regard. On the occasion of International Mt. Everest Day, we saved Rs. 200,000 from the management expenses. That's where it all started. Many state entities and organizations came to join us. The Department of Environment, Nepal Army, Nepal Mountaineering Association, Khumbu Pasang lhamo rural municipality, Nepal Tourism Board, Sagarmatha National Park, Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee, and many others were involved in this campaign.

With the efforts of everyone, garbage was collected and we were able to excavate and bring back the four corpses that had been lying on Mt. Everest for years.

Myself went to Mt. Sagarmatha (Everest) base camp to monitor and work together. The task of removing the corpses was not easy. However, I am proud and happy to be able to do that. Also, the world record of garbage collection from the same campaign was set. I was even happier the day the certificate came.

Some have also made negative comments in this regard. There have also been comments of self-dumping garbage and setting a world record for cleaning it. In my opinion, the world record is not everything, but the recognition of the work we have done. What we have done this time has been a policy matter. For the year 2020, even though the amount is small, the amount for mountain cleaning has been allocated by the government budget. It has a long term effect. The work of cleaning the mountains will be continued.

Post Covid-19 Mountaineering

Many studies from around the world indicated that post-Covide-19 tourism means trekking and mountaineering.



This is the summary given by various studies. Therefore, I see the possibility of trekking and mountaineering especially in the situation after the Covid-19 pandemic. However, there are some issues for the government, entrepreneurs, and climbers themselves to consider.

The government has to take some favorable policy. At present, it is very tough to issue a permit due to the protocol issued by the government. It is said that the coronavirus insurance system of USD 5,000 is not available and appreciable internationally. In such a situation, the government has to go for alternatives by making life insurance instead of coronavirus insurance or by involving insurance companies in Nepal. Similarly, the services provided by government agencies should be fast and efficient.

Some issues need to be addressed by the business community. According to what I have read, the cough in the mountains, and the cough caused by Covid-19 are the same, so it seems that it can cause panic. Therefore, agencies need to pay special attention to the issue of consulting a doctor and adopting health protection measures when necessary. Special attention should also be paid to the health of the client in such a situation and the health risks he or she may pose to Nepali society.

Not only the government and Agencies but also the climbers themselves have to think about the same issues. As long as there is a risk of Covid-19, they have to follow some rules.

Walking freely like before, they can endanger not only him/her but others as well. Since trekking and mountaineering are far away from human settlements, you have to make the idea of wandering in isolation. Guides should not be changed in between. Everyone should be ready to take health-protective measures.

In this way, trekking and mountaineering in Nepal can be opened despite the risk of Covid-19 with the caution and efforts of the government, companies, and climbers.

With all safety protocols, the tourism business should open for the livelihood of the workers associated with it. I believe that trekking and mountaineering in Nepal will be restored soon. Everyone should join hand in hand.



Santa Bir Lama
President
Nepal Mountaineering Association

Leading In Difficult Times

Mr. Santa Bir Lama was born on 29th March 1958, Kattike Deurali-6 in Kavre District, Nepal. He is now serving as the President of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) since 2017. He has gained the trust of mountain lovers and cooperation from them. He has been working in NMA as an active member and served as an executive official, executive board member, convener and member of various committees since his involvement in this organization. He has contributed his lot of effort in coordinating various alpine clubs of Japan "SANPAKU" to generate huge amount of funds to establish International Mountain Museum (IMM). In the meantime, he was also involved in concept building for the IMM, Pokhara. He was involved in the Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee celebration of all 8000 m peaks situated in Nepal.

Mr. Lama is the Managing Director of he Everest Coffee Mill Pvt. Ltd., Everest Lauda Coffee Industtry Pvt. Ltd. and Managing Director of Lama Adventure Trek and Expedition Pvt. Ltd. He has been involved in philanthropic support for women's empowerment in Kavre and Sindhupalchowk district, Nepal.

He has a very good relationship with international alpine clubs like UIAA (International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation), UAAA (Union of Asian Alpine Association), and Himalayan Host Countries.

Here is what he has shared his initiatives for Nepal Mountaineering Association and mountain people with KhimGhale and VinayaShakya.

Covid-19

We are now going through a critical phase of human civilization. We could not remain untouched by the global pandemic of Covid-19. This has hit the tourism sector the hardest. During this challenging time, I would like to express my sympathy to all those directly and indirectly affected by this pandemic and appeal to all to join hands in the campaign to get rid of this dire situation.

The pandemic of Covid-19 has also affected the implementation and activities of our historic and glorious organization, the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). Some of our officials and employees were directly affected by the pandemic. However, they did not compromise on their responsibilities. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the office bearers, members, advisors, and staff for their courage and perseverance in the field of work and for always being ready to implement the programs even in such a difficult situation.

Nepal Mountaineering Association

We all know the historical role that NMA has been playing in the field of mountain tourism since its establishment in 1973 AD. It has been playing an important role in promoting Nepal's mountain tourism in the international arena and producing skilled manpower in the field of mountaineering. Besides, NMA has been advising the government and concerned stakeholders on the problems that have arisen in the field of mountain tourism and the new steps that need to be taken.

In the last three years since the formation of the new working committee of NMA under my leadership, ongoing programs of NMA from the past have been given continuity. While expanding the existing programs, we have also started some new works. I would like to mention some of those initiatives here:

The initiatives

- Even before the beginning of our tenure, the issue of amending the constitution of NMA was being raised. However, due to various reasons, the constitution could not be amended. We put it first, considering that the amendment of the constitution is necessary to increase the faith and trust of the entire mountain tourism sector towards the organization, we have been able to amend the constitution.

- We have also completed the strengthening of the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara with priority. We have included it in the global alliance of International Mountain Museums.

- The Central Office building has been completed and taken over



in the same period. Now, NMA is able to operate from its own building.

- We have succeeded in renewing the mountains managed by the NMA. With the establishment of the new federal system, problems also arose in the renewal of the peaks managed by the Union. In this regard, we have succeeded in renewing the mountains as a long-term joint effort of NMA and the personalities of the field.

- During this period, the Government of Nepal entrusted NMA with the responsibility of profiling Nepal's peaks. This work has reached its final stage. I would like to thank the government for entrusting us with the responsibility of profiling the country's mountains. This work will become historically important in the field of mountain tourism in Nepal and will help in the promotion of Nepal's mountain tourism in the international arena.

- During this period, we took a joint ascent of Paldor Peak on the occasion of the Union of Asian Alpine Association(UAAA) day. We have felt that this has further promoted Nepal's mountain tourism in the international arena.

- We have held a series of consultations with the government agencies for the relief and facilities to those affiliated with the mountain tourism sector, which has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Although not all the demands were fulfilled, the government provided some relief packages through the budget.

- The plan for strengthening the Manang Mountaineering School, which was established 45 years ago with the help of Yugoslavia, has reached the stage of implementation. An agreement has been reached with Um Hong Gill Human Foundation, founded by renowned South Korean mountaineer Um Hong Gill, to build a modern school with the needs and expectations of 21st-century mountaineering.

- We have built a toilet in the highest base camp to make mountaineering easier, which is being managed by the Nepal Mountaineering Association. The work was praised at UIAA and UAAA conferences.

- In 2019, in collaboration with various government agencies, NMA carried out the biggest ever cleaning campaign on Mt. Everest. That campaign has even set world records.

- For the development and promotion of Nepal's mountain tourism, NMA has also collaborated with the federal, state, and local governments. As a result of the collaboration, an annual ice climbing festival is being held in Manang and it has also started in Solukhumbu this year.



- NMA is developing the peak profile of Nepal Himalaya peaks under the Nepal Government.

- The association has a high priority on human resource training in the mountaineering field. We have regular training in mountaineering as Basic Mountaineering Training, Advance Mountaineering Training, Aspirant mountain guide, and helped to produce international professional mountain guides in Nepal.

- Annapurna Rescue Centre was established with his initiation with the cooperation of Korean Telecom.

- He has shown his concern forthe mountain environment, cleaning campaigns, global warming, mountain education, and awareness campaign.

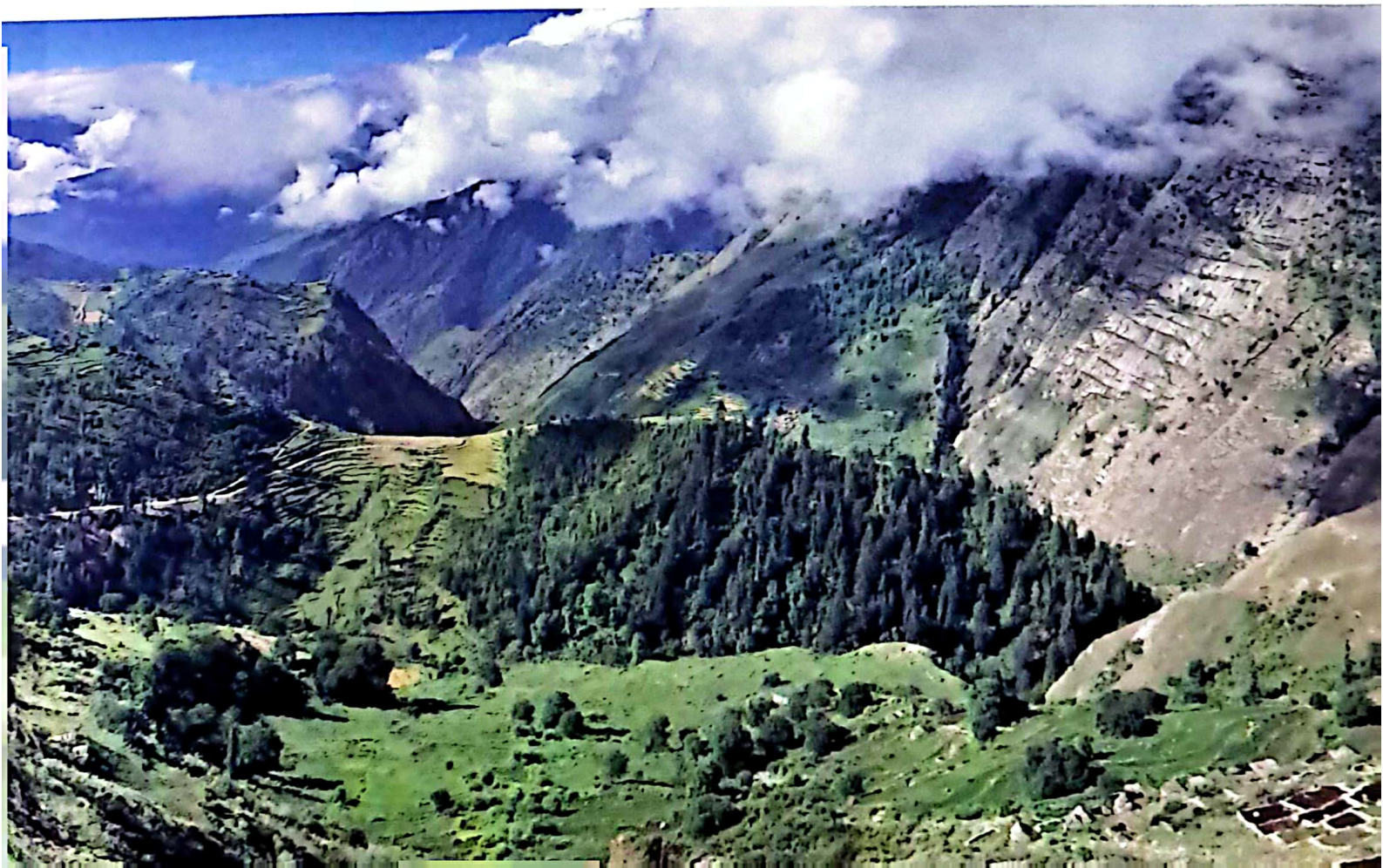
Present scenario

Currently, studies in the tourism sector around the world have mentioned that trekking and mountaineering will be the major tourist activities in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. In such a situation, we now need some innovative initiatives to attract more tourists, revitalize and boost mountain tourism that has been devastated by the pandemic. For this, the Government of Nepal needs to take some steps. Many of our mountains are not yet open for climbing. More and more mountains should be opened for climbing. In the first few years, we have asked NMA to be responsible for the promotion of new mountains.

Not only is Nepal a mountainous country, but its geographical, biological, natural, and cultural diversity is also invaluable for the development of tourism products. If we can create and promote these menus, it will take our tourism to new heights. For that, the state and stakeholders need to work together to find, identify and promote new destinations and products.

Similarly, like all other subjects, tourism has also undergone many changes in recent years. Tourism started after the arrival of foreign tourists in Nepal in the 1950s, and we have for a long time considered only foreigners as tourists. But over time, that is likely to change, as the number of domestic tourists has increased in recent years. This has shown signs of change in Nepali tourism as a seasonal business. Similar plans should be made for the promotion of domestic tourism and increasing the participation of domestic tourists in mountain tourism. It is seen that by changing the condition of seasonal labor in this sector, the workers will get job opportunities throughout the year.

Finally, time is of the essence. Like other sectors mountain tourism has undergone many changes over time. The recent development of technology has also affected mountain tourism. Therefore, the Nepal Mountaineering Association has to make itself and the capacity-building programs it has been conducting and those involved in this field have to refine and refine themselves accordingly. Through this message, I would like to express my best wishes that Nepal's mountain tourism can move forward along with the changing situation.



NMA and its Relationship with Foreign Alpine Clubs



Kul Bahadur Gurung
General Secretary
Nepal Mountaineering Association

Management Committee Member
International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) was established on 1 November 1973 (2030 Kartik 16). It is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political organization working as a 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 27 mountain peaks (Above 5850m – Below 6500m) of Nepal. It also serves a technical wing of Mountaineering to the Government of Nepal.

Nepal Mountaineering Association's role as the national alpine club of Nepal has always been to strengthen ties between international alpine clubs. NMA is the pioneer member of UIAA (International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation) from the Asian Subcontinent in 1975. NMA is the founding member of UAAA (Asian Climbing and Mountaineering Federation) and member of IFSC (International Federation of Sports and Climbing) in 2007 and member of IMMA (International Mountain Museum Alliance) in 2019. NMA became the newest member of the International Tourism Alliance in 2020. NMA's representation in UIAA was firstly represented by Past President of NMA, ZimbaZangbu Sherpa who was elected in the management committee in October 2020, General Secretary of NMA, Kul Bahadur Gurung was elected in the management committee of UIAA. This has added synergy to extend the international relations to the world.

Affiliation & Protocol

- International Mountaineering and Climbing federation (UIAA) - General Member
- Asian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UAAA) - General Member
- Tibet Mountaineering



Association, Tibet, China - Protocol signed

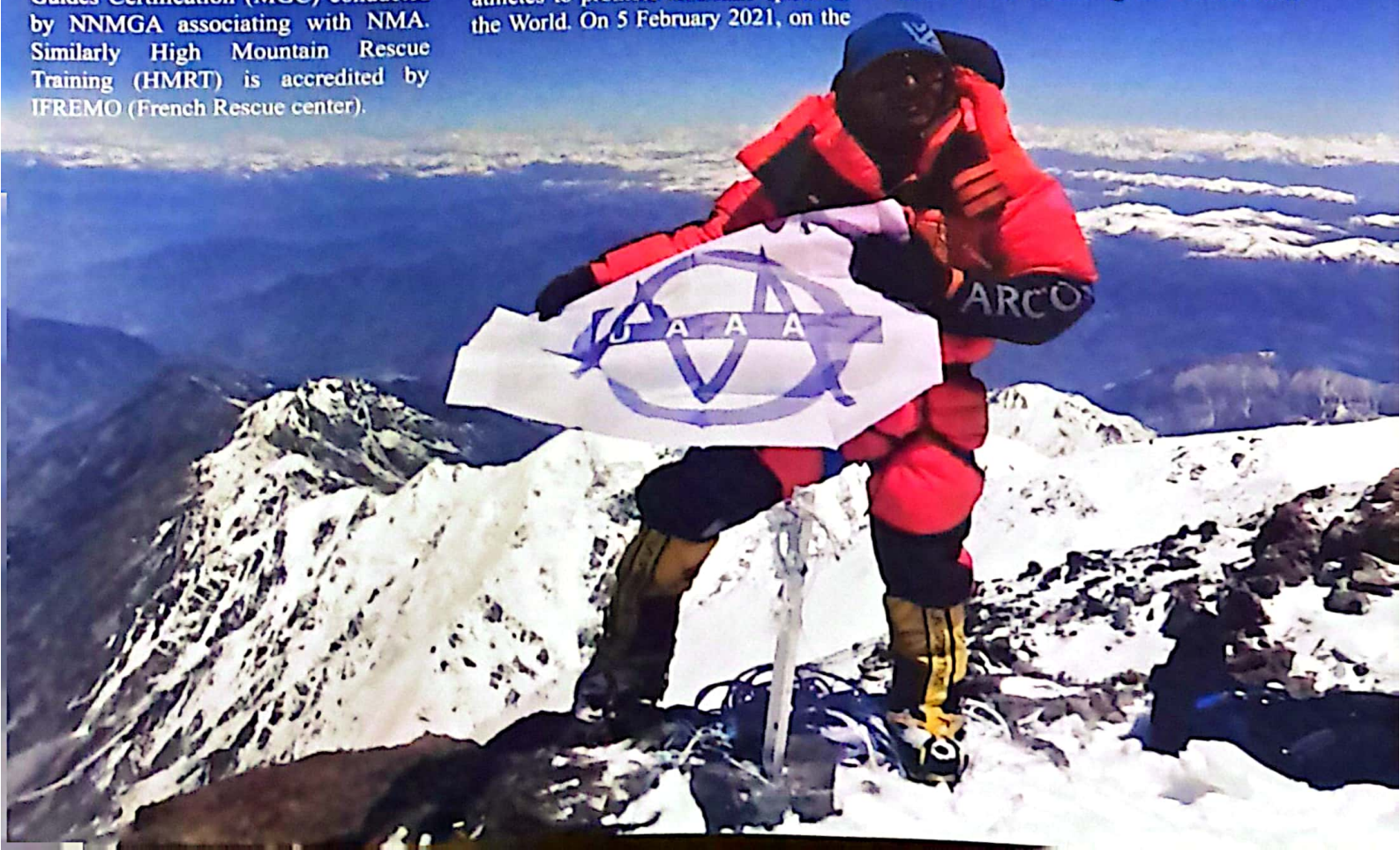
- Sichuan Mountaineering Association, China - Protocol signed
- NAGANO- Mountaineering Associations, Japan - Protocol signed
- PZS- Alpine Club of Slovenia, Slovenia - Protocol signed
- ENSA- EcoleNationale de Ski et d' Alpinisme, France - Protocol signed
- Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation, USA - Protocol signed
- Jojiju Alpine Club, Korea – Friendship –protocol signed

International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations' (IFMGA) has accredited the Basic Mountaineering Training (BMT), Advance Mountaineering Training (AMT) solely conducted by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) and Mountain Guides Certification (MGC) conducted by NNMGA associating with NMA. Similarly High Mountain Rescue Training (HMRT) is accredited by IFREMO (French Rescue center).

Similarly Mountain Leader Training (MLT) conducted by NMA is accredited by UIAA. These are the certain benefits as a National Alpine Club (NAC) NMA has achieved keeping itself the relationship with foreign Alpine Clubs.

The Himalayan country Nepal possesses utmost possibilities for adventure tourism. The geographical and topographical terrain provides immense opportunities for ultra sports arena. Nepal has the world's longest and highest trekking trail- the Great Himalayan Trail which is in the bucket list of the world's extreme adventurers. Nepal is a cradle to the most successful athletes in the world for extreme mountain sports. Nepal was a destination for the world's most renowned trail running competition 'Golden Trail Series 2019'. The finale of the competition was held at Annapurna Region of Nepal. Renowned and top ranking athletes around the world came to Nepal for the Golden Trail Series. It set Nepal as a destination for Trail Running in the Global Ultra Trail Running Map. Nepal Mountaineering Association was proud to be associated with the Final Edition of Golden Trail Series 2019. NMA also works with world class national athletes to promote mountain sports in the World. On 5 February 2021, on the occasion of 18th IMM Day (International Mountain Museum Day), Mira Rai, Ultra trail Runner and Sky Runner was appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador to the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara.

Mountaineering is a global sport and hobby which has been flourishing at a rapid pace. The interest for mountaineering as leisure ranges to all age groups from all around the world. The year 2020 was devastating for all, for Nepal it was very promising as the Bahrain Royal Team visited Nepal to ascend Mt.Lobuche (6,119m, NMA managed peak) and Mt. Manaslu (8,156m) in September 2020. It sent a positive message to the entire world during the pandemic that following the safety protocols Nepal's tourism opened up to the world and its possible. The expedition was even enticing as the Expedition Crew belongs to a country which doesn't have a single mountain. The news went across the world and allured mountaineering enthuse to visit Nepal. On 16 January 2021, 10 Nepali Sherpas stood tall on the summit of Mt. K2 in Pakistan being the first ones to summit during winter making a history. K2 winter ascent was applauded by the entire world including the UIAA and



UIAA. The team were felicitated by the Government of Pakistan, which was a result from the coordination with the Alpine Club of Pakistan and NMA. This further spiked Nepalese Mountaineers and Mountaineering in Nepal into the global picture. NMA felicitated the entire team of K2 summiteers and even awarded an honorary membership of NMA to the entire crew. NirmalPurja was also recognized as the Goodwill Ambassador of Nepal Mountaineering Association for 2021 in a ceremony held at NMA Secretariat on 2 February 2021. NirmalPurja was also awarded as the Sherpa of the Year 2020 by UAAA.

Mountaineering furthermore presents immense possibilities for international cooperation. In April 2019, NMA and UAAA hosted a joint expedition of Paldor peak (5,903m) on the occasion of silver jubilee of the establishment of UAAA. The president and general secretary of UAAA were at Kathmandu to mark the event with 16 crew members from Korea and Nepal. This remarkable event was highly welcomed by the Government of Nepal which extended mountaineering prospects for Asian Mountaineers. NMA participates in the global conferences, general assemblies, seminars and programs.

In 1982 Nepal Mountaineering Association initiated its mountaineering training in technical support from National School of Ski and Alpinism (ENSA), France. Since then NMA has produced more than 1500 skilled human resources for mountaineering. Various mountaineering experts and trainers around the world have contributed to the skill development for mountaineers of Nepal via NMA. NMA received various support for the construction of Nepal's one and only Mountaineering School at Humde, Manang. The initial support was provided to NMA by Alpine Association of Yugoslavia. The trust and support by various alpine clubs around the world for the development of Mountaineering in Nepal has been appreciable. NMA has maintained relationships with the Embassy of Nepal in different countries via them the promotion of Mountain Tourism in Nepal has further flourished.

NMA still can conduct different types of bridge course/s either by itself or by associating with NNMGA and NMIA. We jointly can attract many Asian students and youngsters for those training sessions. A bit income can generate and also basic knowledge of mountaineering can be shared. Joint expedition, training, workshop, interaction, FAM trip, destination explore, study and research as well as promotion can be doneassociating with international alpine clubs.

During the COVID pandemic among the world wide Alpine Clubs, so many virtual discussions about the mountain tourism survival, revival and arrival, new plan and strategy, idea and knowledge sharing discussion program have been collectively conducted, which was a very useful, constructive mutually beneficial. It was only possible by the pro-activeness of NMA. In our tenure (2017 to 2021), NMA and NMA's mountain activities reached the best height known by the federation members of UIAA and UAAA. On the other hand, it helped NMA easy access and acceptance of its different activities by everybody. We witnessed a historical achievement of the eclection of General Secretary of NMA Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung unanimously to the post of Member of Management Committee of UIAA on the 24th October 2020, which was virtually conducted.

NMA re-elected in 2018 as a vice president of UAAA, Coordinator of Expedition Commission and member of youth commission. Immediate Past President (IPP) of NMA Mr. AngTsering Sherpa is the honorary member of UIAA, Mr. ZimbaZangbu Sherpa was the first ever the first person representing NMA elected in 2016 the Management Committee Member of UIAA similarly Advisor of NMA Dr. Ganesh Gurung unanimously nominated the member of Mountain Protection Commission in 2018 for 4 years(2018 -2021), Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung the current General Secretary of NMA unanimously nominated as a member of Mountaineering Commission in 2019 for 4 years (2019 – 2022). Dr. SonamZangmu Sherpa (2020 – 2024) andDr. NimaNamgyal (2021 – 2025) was re-nominated for full membership in the Medical commission of UIAA for 4 years. More members will be recommended in the different commissions in the near future.



These are the main activities and relationship what NMA has been keeping withInternational Mountaineering and climbing as well as mountain sports. NMA is working and will work in the days to come to promote mountaineering and mountain sports.

1973 November 1	Establishment of NMA
1979 November 12	Manang Mountaineering School established
1982 October 16	44th General Assembly of UIAA at Kathmandu
1985 August 4	Site for International Mountain Museum at Pokhara obtained
1988 Spring	Tri- Nation Mount Everest Expedition: Nepal- Japan-China and first time live telecast worldwide
1991	NMA acquires Central Secretariat building, Nagpokhari, Naxal, Kathmandu
1992	Participation in a meeting to establish UAAA in Japan
1992 May 8-10	UAAA First General Meeting in Kathmandu
1995 December 1	Foundation of International Mountain Museum laid at Pokhara
1996 May 29	First Felicitation program to honour Nepalese Everest Climbers by NMA
1997 May 28-30	International Climbers Meet
1998	Nepal Government provided site for IMM Park at Kakani
2000	First time Basic Mountaineering Training conducted for foreigners (Singaporean school students) by Nepalese instructors
2001	Spring: Nepal-Mongolia Joint Expedition to Mongolian Peak, later named as Tenzing Norgay Peak (Mongolia) after the successful ascent by Nepalese & Mongolians
2002 May 26-30	UAAA Council Meeting at Pokhara
2002 May 29	Initiation of International Mountaineers' Memorial Park at Kakani
2002 June-2003 May	Mt. Everest Golden Jubilee Celebration
September 12, 2002	Government authorized to issue mountaineering permits for more than 17 peaks
2003 May 28	IMA 2nd General Meeting
2004 February 5	Grand Opening of International Mountain Museum at Pokhara
2004 October 19	Cho Oyu Golden Jubilee Celebration

2005	UAAA Council Meeting in Kathmandu
2005 May	Makalu & Kanchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration
2005 October 31	30th Jubilation of first woman summit on Mt. Everest
2006	Mt. Makalu and Mt. Lhotse Golden Jubilee Celebration
2006	Nepal- China Friendship Expedition to unnamed peak and later named Nepal- China Friendship Peak on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relation between Nepal and China
2010	Mt. Dhaulagiri Golden Jubilee Celebration
2011 October 4-8	UIAA General Assembly in Kathmandu
2011 October 9	UAAA General Assembly in Kathmandu
2012 August 8	MrAngTshering Sherpa was awarded the honorary member of International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation(UIAA)
2013	Mt. Everest Diamond Jubilee Celebration
2014	Mt. Cho Oyu Diamond Jubilee Celebration
2015	Celebration of 40th Anniversary of First Woman Everest Summiteer, Ms. Junko Tabei
2016	Mt. Manaslu and Mt. Lhotse Diamond Jubilee Celebration
2016	Mt. Kanchenjunga and Mt. Makalu Diamond Jubilee Celebration
2016 October 16	NMA IPP ZimbaZangbu Sherpa elected for UIAA Management Committee
2017	Foundation Stone of NMA new building laid
2017 Oct 23	Participation in Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA) and Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA) GA 2017 at Iran
2018 March 23-24	Management Committee of Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA) on 23rd and 24th March 2018 at Hotel De' Annapurna
2018 July 5	Construction of toilet at Merapeakhigh camp 5800mts

2018 July 8 - 21	Chain Anchor Fixing, installation of signage and Cleaning Campaign in Yala Base Camp, Naya Kanga Base Camp and Ganjala area of Langtang Region
2019	7- 15 April 2019, UAAA Paldor Peak (5903m) Joint Expedition.
2019	14th April – 29th May 2019, Mt. Everest Joint Cleaning Campaign In the coordination of MoCTCA and DoT association with at least 8 organizations 11 tons of garbage and 4 human death bodies collected from the mountain and Guinness World record certificate achieved.
2019	29th April 2019, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between International Mountain Museum, Pokhara and National Mountain Museum (NMM) Sokcho, Gangwon Province, South Korea.
2019	ICAO flag stood up on 23 May 2019 on the top of Mt. Everest by NMA's board member Mr. PasangTendi Sherpa.
2019 June	Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association welcomed NMA in their General Assembly
2019	NMA established the Annapurna ICT Rescue Center in Machchapuchhre Base Camp by the support of Korean Telecom (KT) in the leadership of Um Hong Gil Human Foundation, Kathmandu on 31October 2019
2020 January 20	Search and Rescue operation inAnnapurna Avalanche with Korean rescue team.
2020	23and 24 October 2020 UIAA Annual General Assembly. Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung the General Secretary of NMA elected in the post of Management Committee (MC).
2020	In November 2020, NMA became a member of the International Tourism Alliance.

Kathmandu Declaration on Mountain Activities

Preamble

The International Union of Alpinist Association UIAA met in Kathmandu from the 10th October to 16th October, 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. Hundred and thirty five delegates from twenty six countries exchanged ideas and experiences on various problems related with mountaineering activities.

On evaluating the problems pertaining to the mountains, a new consensus has emerged in the conference. The UIAA General Assembly has resolved to adopt the following principles and guidelines as a programme for concrete action to be henceforth called the Kathmandu Declaration on Mountain Activities.

Articles of the Declaration:

Preamble

The International Seminar on Mountains, held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 6-8 March 2002, was inaugurated by His Majesty King GyanendraBirBikram Shah Dev and was addressed by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal. It was organized by the Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST) in cooperation with Ev-K2-CNR of Italy and with the co-sponsorship of the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN- the World Conservation Union, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The seminar witnessed intensive interactions by 224 participants representing over 75 national and international organizations from 20 different countries, including major mountain systems such as the Himalaya, the Alps, the Rockies, the Andes and other independent chains. The meeting was permeated with a sense of hope for a better mountain environment in the future, but it was also not shy of addressing problems head on. Mountains are many things, recreation to some, resources to others, sacred places of pilgrimage and aesthetic landscape to some more ¬ but the most important is that they are home to many people of varied heritages. Recognizing that diversity is the hallmark of mountain regions and their people, the seminar makes the following declarations:

by the Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST) in cooperation with Ev-K2-CNR of Italy and with the co-sponsorship of the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN- the World Conservation Union, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The seminar witnessed intensive interactions by 224 participants representing over 75 national and international organizations from 20 different countries, including major mountain systems such as the Himalaya, the Alps, the Rockies, the Andes and other independent chains. The meeting was permeated with a sense of hope for a better mountain environment in the future, but it was also not shy of addressing problems head on. Mountains are many things ¬ recreation to some, resources to others, sacred places of pilgrimage and aesthetic landscape to some more ¬ but the most important is that they are home to many people of varied heritages. Recognizing that diversity is the hallmark of mountain regions and their people, the seminar makes the following declarations:

1. Support for Earlier Declarations:

This International Seminar on Mountains-Kathmandu 2002 recalls the earlier declarations, viz. Kathmandu Declaration 1982 on Mountain Activities, Declaration of Merida of the Andes 2001, and Declaration from the United Nations University International Symposium on Conservation of Mountain Ecosystems 2002. We support these earlier pronouncements to conserve the mountain environment and express our concern for their effective implementation.

2. Mountain Education:

The mountain regions of the world have serious problems that need urgent attention from governments, academics, civil society as well as business leaders. Mountains also present immense prospects for the material and spiritual benefits of all the residents of this planet. Recognition of the problems and prospects of mountains has to be assured at all levels, from grassroots service delivery and activism, to policy planning and decision-making. Such awareness can arise only if mountain issues are included expressly in the formal and informal educational curricula and special efforts are made to provide effective information to the mass media. For this purpose, modern information technology, if judiciously implemented, can bring significant benefits to the mountain communities. This seminar recommends setting up and strengthening a repository of mountain knowledge and making it accessible to mountain dwellers and scholars, locally as well as internationally between mountain regions.

The seminar witnessed intensive interactions by 224 participants representing over 75 national and international organizations from 20



different countries, including major mountain systems such as the Himalaya, the Alps, the Rockies, the Andes and other independent chains.

3. Ethics and Mountains:

Past development discourse has focused on mountains as a resource-base to be exploited for the general well-being. While recognizing the need to improve resource use in the mountains, this meeting strongly appeals for an approach that also gives something to the mountains. It is time that those who live in and depend upon mountains as well as those that visit it, think of, and act on, what they can do to preserve and protect this inherently fragile ecosystem that sustains our material and aesthetic needs. Sadly today, many mountain areas are theaters of armed conflicts and violence. Without peace, there is no development in the mountain regions. This seminar appeals for peace in the mountains.

4. Agriculture Practices:

Most mountain areas are already at the limit of extensive agriculture relying on diverse traditional

techniques. This meeting understands the challenge today to be the improvement of agriculture production without further damage to biodiversity, prevention of soil and plant nutrient loss, and reversing degradation of the environment. Biotechnology tools such as tissue culture, embryo transfer, molecular biological techniques and organic farming with effective use of macro and microorganisms can, if judiciously used, provide mountain agriculture with new means to improve productivity in an environmentally sound manner. Since mountain agriculture is symbiotically interlinked with agro-forestry and upland pastoralism, the challenge of harmonizing highland agriculture with environmental concerns lies in recognizing and strengthening community forestry and livestock practices, and integrating them with the sustainable development of non-timber forest products.

5. Conservation of Biodiversity:

The basic challenge of biodiversity conservation in the mountains is to reverse the loss of forests as well as wetlands and aquatic habitats, and to make them safe for all forms of life. This seminar, based on reviewing policies on biodiversity conservation, makes a strong appeal for consolidated efforts of national parks and conservation areas to promote effective habitats and corridors between habitats to sustain endangered flagship species as well as other flora and fauna. The seminar also supports the concept and practice of biodiversity registration including that of codified and uncodified knowledge systems in mountain regions as a means to prevent biodiversity loss as well as to protect the rights and indigenous knowledge systems of mountain communities. The seminar appeals to the business and industry leaders to jointly work out and implement a "green audit" of production together with the conservation community.

Efficacy of Provincial NMA Committees



Tika Ram Gurung
Secretary, NMA

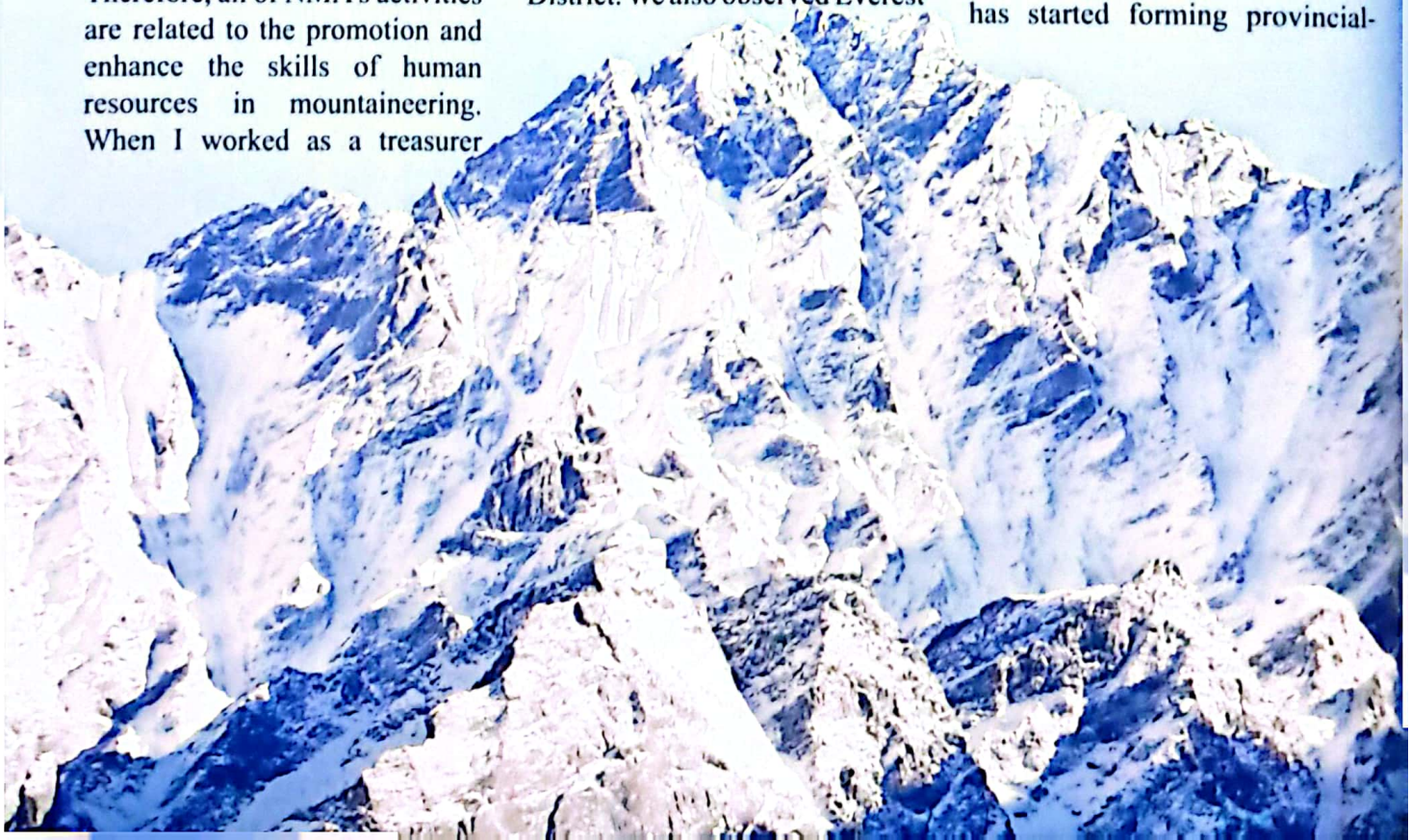
After the proclamation of the new constitution and the establishment of a new state structure, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) also adapted the provincial structure in an amended constitution. According to the new provision of the NMA's constitution, we have to form the provincial level chapters, which is effective to promote the NMA activities at the provincial level and to co-ordinate with provincial governments.

NMA is the only national organization that works for the promotion of mountaineering and capacity building for the technical human resource in the field. Therefore, all of NMA's activities are related to the promotion and enhance the skills of human resources in mountaineering. When I worked as a treasurer of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) for nearly three and half years, we celebrated various anniversaries such as golden jubilee and diamond jubilee of mountains at the central to local level. Before that, the previous NMA officials had concentrated the celebrations in the center.

NMA celebrated Kanchenjunga and Makalu diamond jubilees in the local area. Makalu diamond jubilee was celebrated by inviting President Bidya Devi Bhandari and we also accomplished the Kanchenjunga diamond jubilee by inviting then Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal to Taplejung District. We also observed Everest day in Kathmandu by inviting the President and celebrated Dhaulagiri and Annapurna day in Pokhara and Manaslu day in Kathmandu also by inviting President Bhandari.

Formation of Province Committees

As a secretary of NMA, Everest summiteer and expedition operator, what I have learned from my experiences is that promoting NMA activities at the local and provincial level is quite difficult and costly from the center. In this regard, the NMA has started forming provincial-



level committees to look into the promotion of mountain tourism at the local level by initiating mountain-related trainings too. However, after Gandaki provincial-level committee formation, the entire task of forming other provincial-level committees to promote mountain tourism was halted after the adverse impact of Covid-19 in the country.

Gandaki Province Committee has been doing a very good job. Recently, these committees organized the Dhampus peak expedition in collaboration with the local and provincial government and all the organizations related to tourism in the state.

Notwithstanding the prevalent adverse circumstances, such committee formations to promote mountains will be continued in the future at provincial levels. Such committees are to be formed in Province 1, Bagmati then in Karnali and Sudurpaschim province, and the committee will mainly work for local level coordination for promotion and publicity of mountains at the local level to give basic training to local youths which include, ice climbing and rock climbing among others.

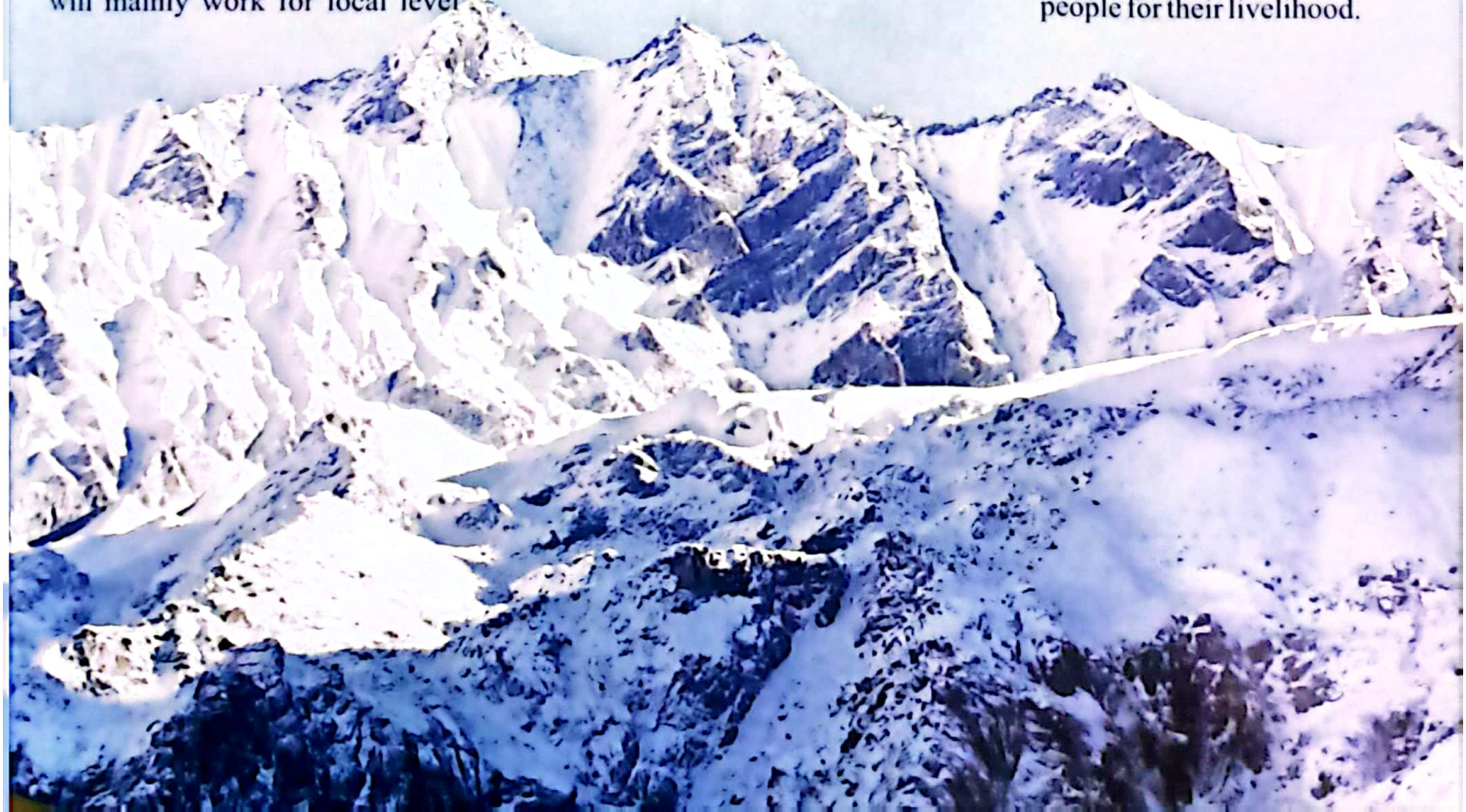
In the second phase, we are preparing to form a committee in Province 1. Province 1 is also the province with the highest number of climbing activities and the highest mountains in Nepal. In a total of Nepal's expedition royalty, 80 percent come from province 1. Province 1 has the highest peaks, including Mount Everest, Lhotse, and Makalu, etc.

After that, we will form a provincial committee in Bagmati. In Bagmati province, Rasuwa, Dolakha, and Sindhupalchowk have high mountains. After that, we will go to the Karnali and Far Western Provinces as well.

NMA has an objective to form the local level chapters too. The local chapters of the NMA will hold various seminars, awareness programs, training about mountain tourism which can expose the name of mountains and showcase the significance of mountains in Nepal and create more jobs for hotels, youths, porters, climbers, and guides at the local level with more tourism products and more opportunities explored at the local level because the tourism industry is one of the biggest industries that we can rely on.

The Objectives of the Province Committee:

- To conduct mountaineering activities at the provincial and local level.
- To promote mountain peaks in coordination with the provincial and local governments, and other stakeholders.
- To attract youths to mountaineering activities by conducting training, orientations, and other activities.
- To support the mountain people for their livelihood.



Nepal Mountaineering Association and Corporate Social Responsibility



Sudarshan Neupane
Treasurer, NMA

It is a well-known fact that the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has a dignified history and is a common body of climbers, mountaineering managers, and experts in mountaineering activities trusted by the Government of Nepal.

The NMA is the only non-governmental body that the state trusts for raising the revenue from 27 mountain peaks.

The main responsibility of this organization is to propagate, promote and manage Nepal's mountains in the international arena, to prepare skilled manpower required for climbing, and to assist the Government of Nepal in regulating mountain tourism policy.

After the government recently arranged for the local body, the state government, the NMA to waive the climbing fee, the limited fee forced NMA to curtail the annual program expenses including difficulties faced in daily administration, staffing and national and international publicity.

It has become a major challenge for the NMA to move forward with the activities of the union. The association has been working not only for the promotion, management, and human resources for the mountains but also for the construction of museums and social responsibility to keep the history of mountaineering intact.

After the distribution of royalty, the coronavirus pandemic started and the number of climbers dropped rapidly. One of the major achievements of the Pokhara-based association is to be able to widen the field of social responsibility by maintaining regular activities related to museum observation and visits.



The NMA is well aware of its corporate social responsibility to contribute financial support for black topping Munal Marga in Pokhara around international mountain museum, raising salary of teachers in Kakani Ganesh Secondary School for the education of children of climbers who died in the course of mountaineering or in various accidents in the mountains.

One of the examples of NMA's corporate social responsibility is to provide financial assistance annually to the mountaineering trainers who are injured during the training.

In a situation where income has decreased but liabilities have increased, we have proposed to the financial institutions (banks) with which we have collaborated to undertake financial transactions to spend the funds under the heading of social responsibility.

First of all, last year only Nabil Bank has started providing financial assistance to around 12 children of deceased climbers under the NMA Welfare Fund.

Similar sponsorship agreement is also being signed with Siddhartha Bank Limited and Mega Bank Limited. Despite Coronavirus pandemic, the NMA has been able to continue the welfare program even though it has not been able to collect the mountaineering permit fee and the museum entry fees.

We have also made concrete proposals with banks and financial institutions, national and international companies related to mountain tourism and associations to make social and institutional responsibilities more effective.

The Annapurna Rescue Center has been set up with the support of the Om Hung Gil Human Foundation and the construction of DPR of an international level mountain training college at Humde in Manang has reached its final stage.

In the budget of the last Fiscal Year 2076/77, we had set up a revolving fund of around Rs 25,00,000. A strong welfare fund will be created by depositing an additional amount in the same fund every year. We have also started a journalist welfare fund that contributes to adventure tourism, keeping in mind the risk of accidental cases while reporting and making documentaries on mountain tourism.

We have set up a resource member welfare fund keeping in view of the fact that the resource member who manages the climbing by promoting the mountaineering may not be able to get treatment following an accident during the journey.

We all need to understand that the mountains belong to everyone and the NMA belongs to climbers, businessmen, experts, and alpinists. The NMA is committed to the corporate social responsibility while pursuing its professionalism.

All vested personal interests and the dirty political games should be kept away from the NMA periphery. The NMA should be promoted as one of the oldest, proudest and largest mountaineering organizations in the world by putting an end to the malpractice of recruiting additional staff than necessary by providing jobs to close relatives.



The UIAA in The Time of Covid-19



Peter Bourne
Communication Manager, UIAA

The current pandemic has had a profound impact on everybody's lives. For international organisations like the UIAA – International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation – significant changes to the way the federation has communicated and operated have been implemented in the context of an ever-evolving situation.

The UIAA's response to Covid-19 has been proactive and has taken on many different aspects. Below is a breakdown of some of the key initiatives and changes:

Office

From mid-March, the staff at the UIAA Office in Bern, Switzerland worked remotely, returning only when conditions allowed towards the end of June. The UIAA is accustomed to agile working so there was no great cultural change in terms of the Office environment. The team held weekly catch-up meetings to ensure regular communication and the delivery of key projects.

Management Committee & Executive Board





COVID-19 & MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

12 JANUARY, 2021

The UIAA Management Committee was due to host its in-person meeting in North Macedonia in May. This was cancelled and replaced, for the first time, by an online meeting. The format proved successful with more delegates attending than otherwise would have made the in-person meeting, particularly those from outside of Europe. There was also a follow-up Management Committee meeting and an online meeting of all Commission Presidents. During the virtual MC meetings, it was decided that the 2020 UIAA General Assembly would be held online. A first for the federation in its nearly 90-year history. In an effort to ensure the UIAA remains efficient and meets its targets, the UIAA EB has held virtual meetings on an even more regular basis than the pre-pandemic.

Covid-19 Portal

One of the UIAA's first tasks was to direct all Covid-19 related updates to a dedicated website Portal. Like similar bodies, whether in the sports world or NGOs, the UIAA's exclusive focus was on the impact of Covid-19 on its operations, projects, and member federations.

The Portal has proved to be one of the most successful initiatives launched by the UIAA in recent times, bringing significant traffic to the federation's website and acting as a precious guide and reference point through these troubled times.

Initially, the focus of the Portal was on supplying updates from individual UIAA members. The pandemic has impacted different parts of the world at different times. Learnings from initial outbreaks in Asia and then in Europe proved crucial for countries yet to be impacted.

The UIAA has published over 70 articles from members in over 40 countries. Over half of its membership has contributed to the platform. There has never been such a significant, coordinated campaign of this nature. Members were able to use the platform to share learnings, general rules and regulations, and approaches to dealing with issues such as huts, climbing gyms, access, and implementing social distancing.

As the pandemic evolved, the UIAA focused more on common themes and answering global questions. Dedicated articles were published about the opening of accommodation in Europe, worldwide travel restrictions, and where people could climb. There was also specific information on climbing during Covid-19, regulations to follow particularly in relation to equipment and climbing with other people.

The platform also offered an insight into the impact on UIAA Commissions and the progress of their work. For example, both the annual UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award and UIAA Mountain Protection Award were postponed until 2021. Other Commissions, like the Training Panel, used the lockdown period when outdoor activity was not possible to work on new literature and material.

The Portal also acted as a forum to share core information from wider climbing media – including mental and physical health articles and general opinion pieces on the economic impact of Covid-19 on the climbing world.

CCC Taskforce

At their 7 April e-meeting, members of the UIAA Executive Board unanimously decided to create a Covid-19 Crisis Consultation (CCC) Taskforce. Its mission was to provide fast responses to queries and Covid-19-related issues that may arise in the coming months. The CCC enabled the UIAA to have a dedicated structure in place. When approached, the UIAA would be able to provide swift answers and guidance, mainly by promptly referring the question for a consultation to a government authority, to a crisis management body, to a competent national federation, or to a relevant UIAA Commission.

By late August, the CCC Taskforce had held four online meetings. With the support of exports from different UIAA areas (EB, MC, Commissions, and well as medical professionals), this group has been able to provide leadership on a number of subjects as the nature of the pandemic evolve. Each meeting addresses the situation across a number of different countries with reports and findings shared on the UIAA website.

Initiatives to come out of the meetings include a dedicated UIAA position statement on responsible climbing, an online form for UIAA members to address concerns and share news, a donation/fundraising resource as well as articles on core subjects of interest – access to huts and general rules for returning to sport and the mountains.

Future

Mass in-person international meetings are unlikely to take place in the near future meaning, as a global organisation, the UIAA anticipates conducting its affairs online for the foreseeable future.

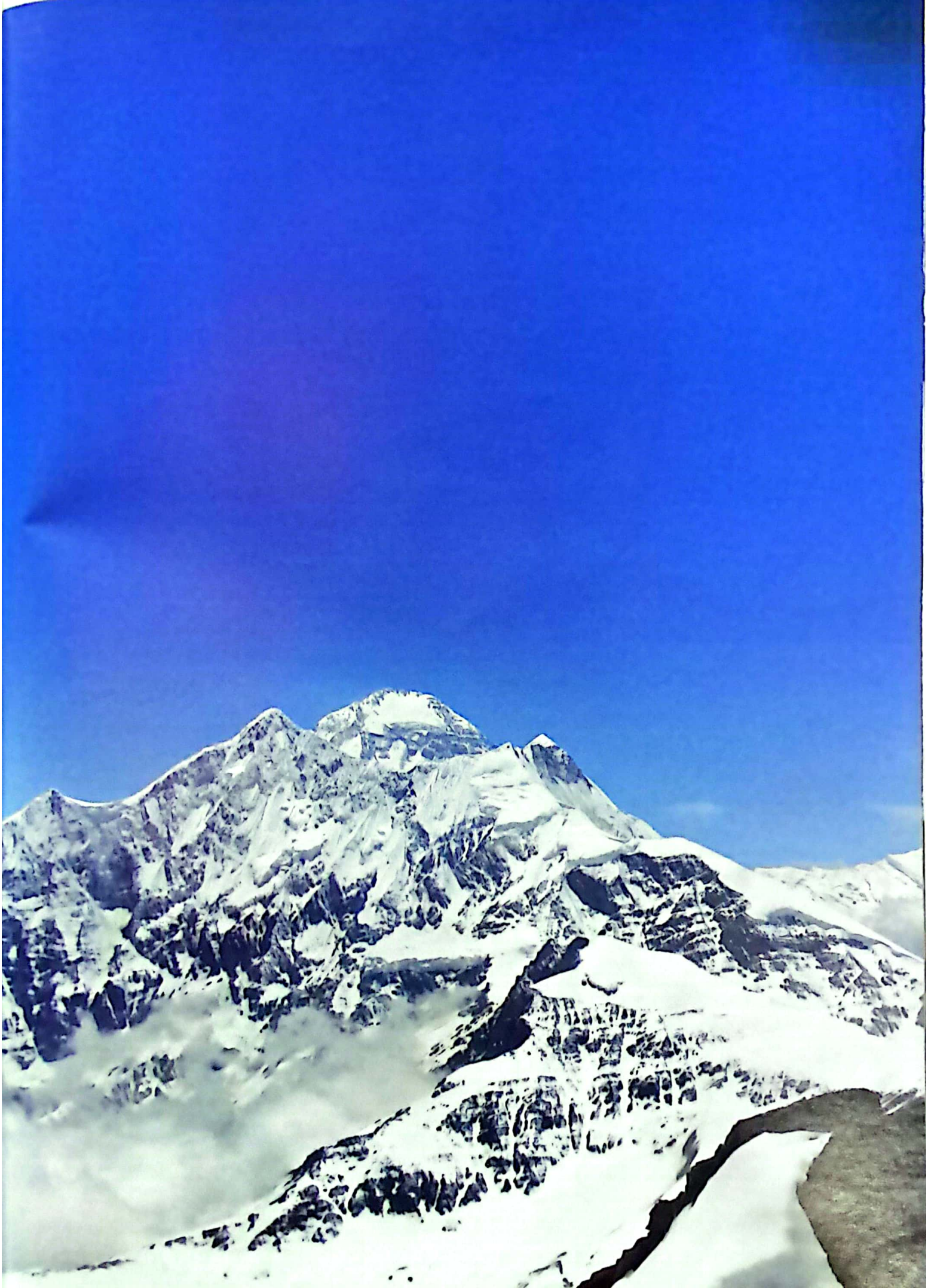
The impact on UIAA projects such as the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, with competitions on three continents and athletes from nearly 30 countries, the Mountain Protection Award, and Commission projects which require physical meetings and workshops, are key considerations for the coming months.

The UIAA has welcomed initiatives such as the one recently put in place by the Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) to run online seminars and workshops, through the umbrella of the UIAA, to foster a greater sense of community. The UIAA will continue to encourage this kind of concept to help bring the climbing world closer together.

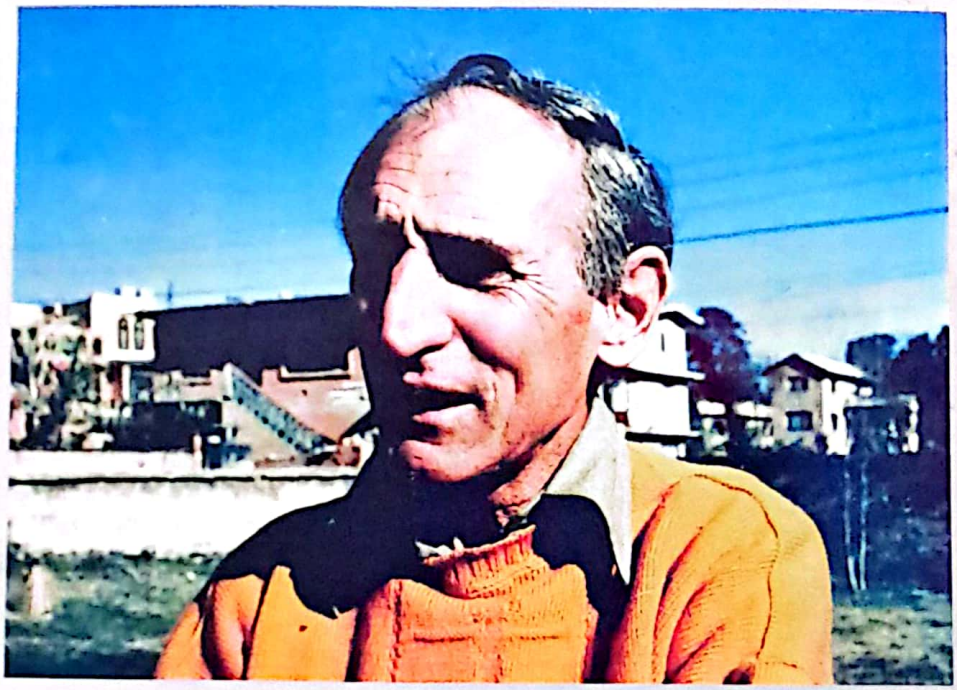
The UIAA recognises that the current pandemic will have a significant impact on its member associations whether in retaining and attracting their own members, on sports competitions, safety and training programs, sustainability initiatives, sponsorship and donations, huts, and tourism. The UIAA itself will have to absorb the consequences of the current pandemic while continuing to fully represent and support its members at a global level.

For everything related to the UIAA and Covid-19 please check: https://www.theuiaa.org/





Michael (Mike) Cheney and his Contribution to Trekking in Nepal



- Karma Sherpa Lama

Michael John Cheney, known as Mike to all his acquaintances was one of Nepal's best-known expatriate Britons and a leader in its trekking and mountaineering scene. Born in 1928, he died in Kathmandu in 1988 at 59 years of age. He is buried in the hillside cemetery maintained by the British Embassy in Kathmandu. His tombstone is as flamboyant as Mike and consists of a white cross along with a miniature Buddhist stupa.

He kept his ties to his family back in England and considered Beckford Grange, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, one of his homes but he spent the last 22 years of his life in Nepal. After obtaining his school certificate, Mike served in the British Army from 1946 to 1957 in the Royal Armoured Corps and the 10th Gurkha Rifles. During these years, he was on active service in Korea, Kenya, and Malaya and rose to the rank of Captain. He then became a tea-estate manager in Darjeeling area of north-eastern India. In 1965 he moved to Nepal and spent two years in tea estate, there before ill health forced him to stop working for two years.

When he was able to resume work, Mike returned to Nepal and joined Lt. Col. Jimmy Roberts in Mountain Travel, the world's first trekking agency, which had begun sending mountain lovers on treks in Nepal. He remained in the trekking business till the last day of his life as that was his passion. He left Mountain Travel in 1976 and founded Sherpa Co-operative and various other trekking agencies. His last company was Rover Treks & Expeditions.

Mike worked for many years with Purna Lama Sherpa and they became the champions of the poorly paid porters who carry heavy loads under difficult conditions for expeditions and trekking groups.

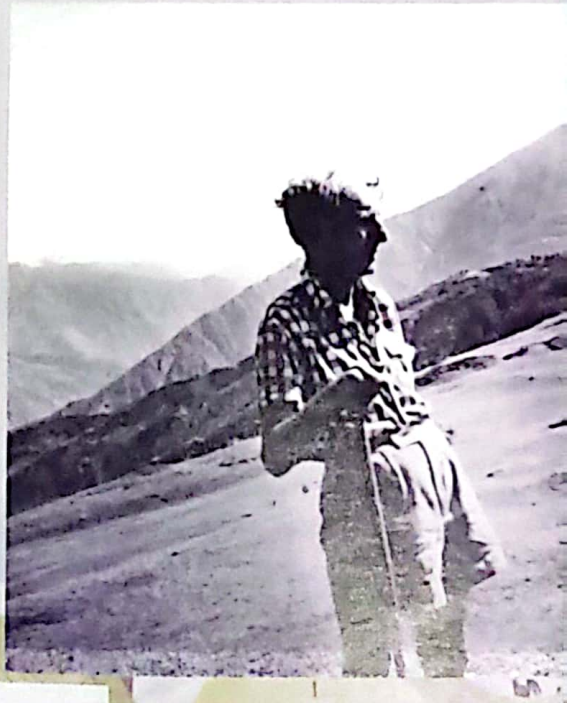
Since the first ascent of Mt. Everest, the Sherpa ethnic group had done very well in the trekking industry and Mike had trained many of them. Mike then started to actively promote the employment and training of other ethnic groups such as Tamangs, Gurungs, Rais, and Limbus. He was certainly no desk-bound trekking organiser. He spent many weeks each year out in the hills scouting new trekking routes in central and eastern Nepal for clients who wanted to travel away from the paths that have become greatly overcrowded in the Everest and



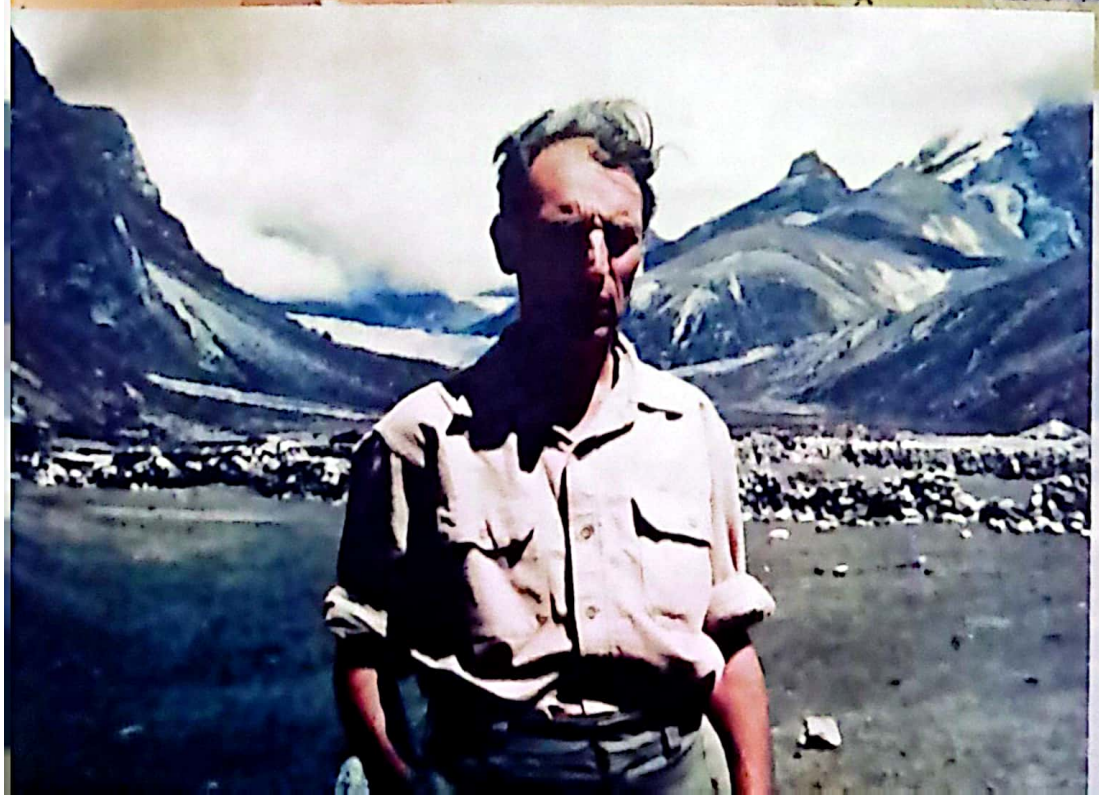


Annapurna areas. And he sometimes went with the mountaineering expeditions whose, logistics he helped to arrange, most notably as a member of Chris Bonington's 1975 British Southwest Face Mt. Everest Expedition, where he was a base-camp manager and Purna Lama Sherpa was the cook. They were both very proud of having been actual members of that historically successful team.

Mike was an active member of the Trekking Agents Association of Nepal and of the Himalayan Rescue Association in Kathmandu, the Local Hon. Secretary of the Himalayan Club, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a member of The Alpine Club. He followed the mountaineering scene in Nepal closely and was correspondent for several alpine journals and mountaineering magazines in Europe and the United States.







International Mountaineers Memorial Park, Kakani

Nepal Mountaineering Association has always bestowed deep respect and has kept its tradition of honoring mountaineers. However, the hazard of mountain climbing is always there. It needs no mention that tragedies do occurs on the high mountains which sometimes is unavoidable. Many mountaineers have met unfortunate death while on the mountains. They need respect and honor.

With this objective in mind, Nepal Mountaineering Association established an International Mountaineers Memorial Park (IMMP) in Makai Bari, Kakani in the north of Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal. Kakani is one of the most scenic sites in Nepal and such a park here would offer solace to the bereaved families of mountaineers and their friends. The foundation laying ceremony was held on 28 May 1998.

The Mountaineers Memorial Park is instrumental in attracting tourists from around the world so that they would be able to learn the risk that mountaineers face while on mountaineering and expedition. They will also realize that Mountaineering and climbing involve great dangers and those who face them must be respected.

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



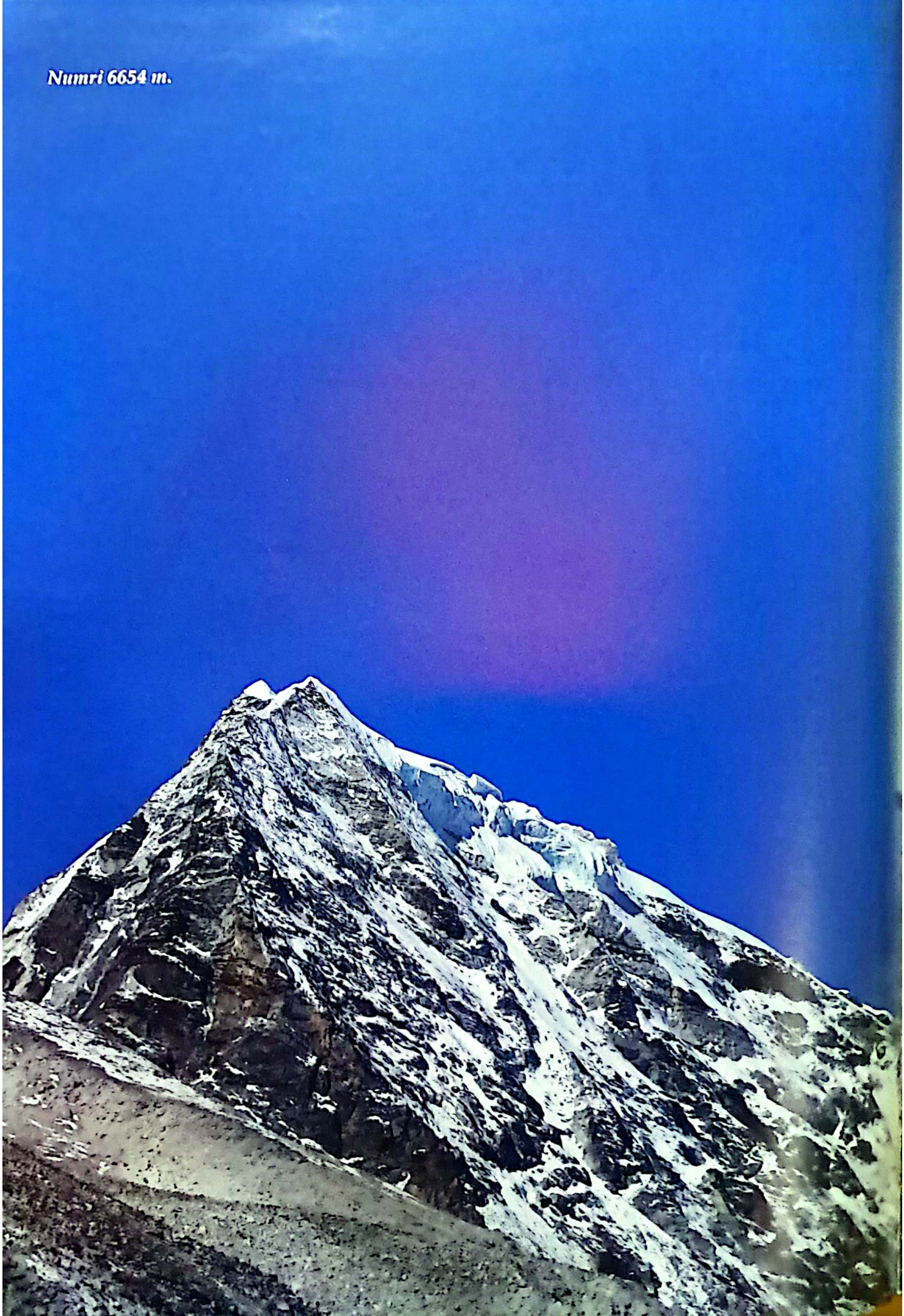
NMA is happy to be invited to set up their own memorial garden with their own theme at the monument zone. This zone is dedicated to the mountaineers and is visible from all over the site. Near the prime side area, there is a climbing wall constructed with the help of mountain lovers from the people of France.

As Nepalese love to go for a picnic especially in the winter months Kakani has dedicated some picnic spots. In order to experience the quietness of the mountains and face the serenity of the wind and cold, a good night out in the tents can be enjoyable.

- Compiled by Vinaya Shakya






Numri 6654 m.

Impact of COVID-19 on Tourism Workers



Dipendra Pandey (Kapil)
Secretariat member, NMA
President, NETWON

According to the facts given by the Department of Tourism, there are 4,200 Tourist Guides and 17,325 Trekking Guides. Other workers that are not included in the data system are trekking supporters, workers that do not need a license like support guides, porters, cooks, waiters, local workers, unofficial transportation workers, local heritage guides, nature guides, support mountain guides, support rafting guides, canoeing guides, museum workers as well as workers from courier areas, workers from airlines and airports, workers from hotels, motels and restaurants, workers in travel and trekking companies, workers in different organizations working actively in the tourism sector. It is estimated that there are about 9 lakh directly related and 11 lakh indirectly related workers in the tourism sector.

Nepal's tourism industry is heavily dependent on international tourists which comprises of about 90 percent and the remaining tourists are domestic. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all business associated with tourism is now at zero and how long will it continue is uncertain.

In the fight against COVID-19, different tourism related labor unions and organizations have been actively working together. Different organizations and political parties, tourism board, related ministries and government officers have conducted several formal and informal dialogues, discussions, and meeting to come forward with two kinds of relief packages to meet the demands and needs of workers in the tourism field. They are of immediate and long term relief packages.



In one hand, millions of workers were deprived of immediate relief because of the irresponsible behavior of the Nepal Government, on the other hand, the Government has shown its reluctances until now. During the formal discussions with the concerned government officials and concerned ministers on various dates and times for long-term relief, the government promised to create employment opportunities for about 10,000 mountain workers or the guides who have received NMA's training like Basic Mountaineering Training, Advanced, and International Mountaineering Training and support guides. However, there has been delays in materializing those promises. Moreover, the Government had promised to create employment for around 20,000 trekking workers in cleaning the routes and developing the airport, however, Government's interest and action towards that direction is also missing.

Despite united efforts of trade unions, organizations, organizations affiliated to the tourism sector and trade union federations to draw attention of concerned ministry and government officials, their demands have not been addressed. Various agencies have urged the concerned government agencies and ministries to take this golden opportunity by giving vocational training to the hotels, motels, restaurants, canoeing, rafting, museums and couriers, airlines and airport, travel and

trekking, local and heritage guide, and nature guides to commercialize Nepal's tourism sector.

Due to the increased effect of COVID-19 and collapsing of Tourism industry, in the current fiscal year, Government budget speech has mentioned: "Facilities of reducing tax charges, interest, etc. will be provided to air services, hotel, travel, trekking, mountaineering, and service sector keeping in view the negative impact on the tourism sector due to the global traffic disruption due to the risk of Corona infection." Although the tourism sector comprises of the tourism industry/ enterprises and other workers in the sector, Government has only addressed tourism entrepreneurs in the budget speech. The other tourism workers have not been not mentioned. It only seems that the tourism sector issues are being addressed through the monetary policy of the Government for the fiscal year 2077/78. Following are some of the policy points that Nepal Rastra Bank has tried to cover in the tourism sector:

- Policy No. 90 - Priority will be given to resurrection capital loans, concessional loans, and refinancing flows for the revival of the aviation business, transport, hotels, restaurants, and other tourism businesses that have been severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

- Policy No. 91 - In case of lack of capital to complete the construction of projects related to the tourism sector, the provision will be made for easy availability of loans from banks and financial institutions for such projects.

- Policy No. 93 - Concessional loan - The existing concessional loan program for productivity growth, job creation, and entrepreneurship development will be implemented in a simple manner keeping in mind the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Such a loan will be available to the borrower at 5 percent interest rate in the area specified by the bank and financial institution.

- Policy No. 95 - Miscellaneous - Arrangement will be made for the Development Bank to disburse at least 20 percent of its total loan investment and the finance companies to disburse at least 15 percent of the loan to the specified sectors including agriculture, cottage, and small industries, energy and tourism sector by end of Ashad 2081 BS.

- Policy No. 100 - Special programs aimed at economic recovery Refinancing- The provision has been made to provide refinancing up to 5 times of the available funds for refinancing by modifying the existing system of refinancing to provide loans at concessional interest rates for job holders, business ventures and business affected by covid 19.

- Policy No. 103 - Miscellaneous - An arrangement has been made to provide an ordinary refinancing limit of Rs 20 crore.

- Policy No. 104 - Highly affected professional business operation loan by COVID-19 - To facilitate the smooth running of industries and businesses most affected by the COVID-19, arrangements will be made for the concerned banks and financial institutions to disburse additional loan up to a maximum of 20 percent of the current capital loan



limit established in Chaitra-2076 based on the need of the borrower and the feasibility of the project/ business.

• Policy No. 105 - Highly affected profession/business operation loan by COVID-19 - According to the budget of the Government of Nepal for the Fiscal Year 2077/78, Corona-affected tourism and operation of domestic, small, and medium enterprises and other businesses based on certain criteria will be established through the mobilization of funds of Rs. 50 Arab, the arrangement will be made to provide a 5 percent interest rate loan from banks and financial institutions to allow developing entrepreneurship to those who have lost their jobs.



• Policy No. 106 - Extension of the loan repayment period, loan restructuring, and rescheduling - Due to the measures taken to control and prevent COVID, all professions, industries, and businesses, including tourism, industry, education, health, communication, entertainment, etc., have difficulty in repaying their loans and interest during the moratorium period. Arrangements will be made for the extension of the loan repayment period, loan restructuring, and rescheduling.

• Policy No. 110 Extension of the loan repayment period, loan restructuring and rescheduling - Arrangements will be made for an extension for the payment of loan installment and interest till Ashad 2078 who has to pay by Ashad 2077 for the highly affected Profession/ businesses by COVID-19.

Arrangements will be made to provide additional time as required for repayment of loans in the most affected industries and businesses, including the tourism sector, which will take time to recover due to COVID-19.

• Policy No. 111 - Miscellaneous - If the borrower submits a written action plan by Push 2077, the banks and financial institutions will analyze it and make arrangements to restructure and reschedule the loan once and for all by charging a minimum of 10 percent interest.

• Policy No. 114 - Extension of the loan repayment period, loan restructuring, and rescheduling - Arrangements will be made to extend the grace period once in case of non-completion / operation of industry or project within the grace period due to COVID-19, maximum 2 years in case of tourist level hotel, 1 year in case of the loan in the worst affected area, 9 months in case of the loan in the moderately affected area and 6 months in case of the loan in the low affected area.

• Policy No. 173 - Institutional, good governance, financial literacy, and customer protection- No penalty, interest, fee, or compensation will be charged from the customer for extension of payment of loan and interest due to COVID -19.

Despite the above-mentioned policies and plans, the possibility of immediate and long-term relief to address workers' rights is almost nil. Although some efforts have been made in Policy 105 to address the tourism sector workers in the Budget Speech and Monetary Policy, the implementation aspect seems to be very complicated and weak.

As the nature of tourism industry demands equal roles of tourism entrepreneurs and tourism workers for its proper operation, it is very important to monitor and recognize the condition of tourism workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To revive the workers working in the tourism sector it is important to provide two types of relief packages, immediate and long term. For immediate relief, different relief packages for the concerned field workers such as mountaineers working in the mountaineering area should be provided with various types of relief, including mountain cleaning, for tour and trekking workers to search routes, research, and promotion, and road cleaning is necessary. For a long term relief package Nepal Rastra Bank through the budget statement of the Government for the Fiscal Year 2077/78, policy no. 105 of the monetary policy of Nepal Rastra Bank is mentioned to provide access to all types of tourism workers to the 50 billion rupees funds and it is essential to provide a loan of 15 Lakh at an interest rate of 2% for at least 5 years. There is an urgent need to register all types of formal and informal tourism workers under the Social Security Fund. Similarly, for the protection of the long-term rights of the workers in the tourism sector, the Tourism Bill 2077 needs to be tourism worker-friendly. In this regard, an amendment proposal has been prepared on behalf of the Tourism Workers Union and the organizations active in the tourism sector and submitted to the concerned government offices and to the Tourism Minister. While the impact of the Covid-19 has already injured Tourism Industry, further neglecting the tourism workers will lead to its collapse. So, it is important to commit and draw the attention of all stakeholders.

Political Changes Brings no Changes in Mountaineering



Shiva Bahadur Sapkota
Secretariat Member, NMA
Mountaineer (Everest Summiteer)

In 2012, we politically active ten people initiated the 'Lumbini to Mount Everest Peace expedition.' The expedition team led by Krishna KC and Prakash Dahal "Sagar", Yub Raj Dulal "Sarad", Saral Sahayatri Paudel, Shiva Dagi, Bina Magar, Maheshwar Phuyal, Madan Kumar Chudal, Shiva Bahadur Sapkota, and Ishu Bhatta were the team member. The objective of the expedition was to get attention from the national and international community on the peace and constitution in Nepal. The expedition was successfully concluded and we have learned a lot about mountaineering and mountaineers. In the meantime, we have learned and observed the suffering, hardship, and problems of the mountaineers. In this context, in the leadership of Prakash Dahal, we have initiated to solve the problems and issues of the mountaineers and mountain tourism but unfortunately, Prakash Dahal's demise gave a setback on the initiative. Even though, we have been continuously, working on this.

Our main voice from the mountaineering sector is that there has been no change in the rights of mountaineers though several political transformations have come in between 2007 BS and 2062/ 2063 BS in the country. While climbing the Mt Everest I have witnessed that how much the mountaineers struggled from the base camp to the top of the summit point to achieve their lifetime goals.

Review of mountaineering policies

Mountaineers are the mountain warriors, so the government should develop updated policies for their rights, welfare, and facilities including their remunerations.

I think, if some changes are not done in the policies of government regarding the facilities given to the family members of the mountaineers which pertain to education, health, social security, etc then we can say that the political changes have no meaning in the mountaineering field.

It means, there must be some changes in the tourism acts also. Mountain tourism is one of the risks taking profession. So, something must be done for those mountaineers. Otherwise, no more mountain guides will be found in Nepal after two-three generations. Therefore, NMA should chalk out some major policies and government should review mountain tourism-related policies regarding the social security and education of the mountaineers with high priority.

What should the government do?

The NMA should produce more trained human resources to deal with the safety of mountains. All mountaineers who climb the peaks below 6500 meters peak should also be recognized for their contribution. All these can be done only [illegible] NMA acts can be rev[illegible]

coordination with the government. This includes providing the children of mountaineers a good education in the reputed educational institutions.

In this regard, even experts should be consulted to go forward so that mountaineering can progress and can be promoted, otherwise, most of the mountaineers might migrate to foreign countries. To promote all these, the NMA should be enlarged with its working fields. It must be extended to even university level. The NMA has been given the right to collect the royalty of only 27 peaks which should be increased in the future to expand the royalty areas of the NMA and expand its working areas. The NMA should be able to give training to maximum peop[illegible] 1000 to 3000 annually to prevent[illegible]



ongoing mountain accidents that are now limited to 2 to 5% which can be further reduced in the future.

There are other mountaineering-related associations in Nepal, such as the Everest Summiteers Association. All associations related to mountaineering should be integrated to work in unity for the welfare of the mountain guides and Sherpas which include Tamangs, Rais, Gurungs, and other ethnic communities.

Mountain Rescue Team

When I worked as a liaison officer of the Nepal government in 2016 at the Everest base camp, I found that the rescue team had rescued around 200 climbers of which some had died. Mingma David Sherpa along with Anthony Gordon from Australia was also involved in the rescue mission. During my tenure as a contact person, I had taken permission for the operation of rescue flights as well.

So, I think the government should arrange one rescue team at every peak above 8000 meters annually with a rescue team of about five to seven persons with provisions made in the acts related to mountaineering. ropeway quality also matters must be checked for how many screws to be fixed into it for safety. All rope fixing must be done by the rescue team. The Everest base camp should at least have a group of 15 persons to deal with the rescue matters.

Garbage at the mountain

The garbage at Everest is increasing because of the increasing number of the mountain guides and expedition teams. Therefore, it must be made mandatory to levy some charges to such expedition companies to use the money in collecting the garbage in the Himalayas. If we go to other parts of the world the waste, fecal matters are brought back from the peaks and not just left there while climbing them.

It is suggestive that the NMA should make clear policies about what and how to offer appropriate facilities as per the time and space. The other thing I saw in India, America, and Europe is that most of the comforts and facilities of mountaineers and guides are being offered in those foreign lands. In case of any urgency, they must be relied upon. They are the ultimate sources for support in the mountains. Mountaineers and guides are the goodwill ambassador for the country. They must be recognized by the state.

We have observed that recently even the prince of Bahrain came to Nepal to climb the peaks here. So, foreigners have developed the trust on mountain guides, we, expect the same from government of Nepal to the guides and mountaineering-related professionals. The government should also give recognition to veteran mountain guides as they are responsible for enhancing the GDP of the country.

Now all mountaineers should be united to go forward to fetch their rightful rights by approaching the tourism ministry.

CHRONOLOGY OF NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION



Kul Prasad Rai
Chief Executive Officer
Nepal Mountaineering Association

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan organization working towards the development of the mountain tourism of Nepal. NMA is contributing significantly for the promotion of mountain tourism and the conservation of the mountain environment. It was established as a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization on November 1, 1973. It was established as the first alpine club of Nepal. NMA performs mountain cleaning campaigns, assists entrepreneurs involved in the mountain tourism and professional mountaineers, promotion of the Himalayas, coordinates work related to mountaineering and the mountain environment and strengthens bonding with regional and international organizations.

Himalayan Society used to do the work of institutionalizing and promoting mountaineering activities in Nepal before the existence of NMA. The mountaineering permits were issued by a branch of the Foreign Ministry, and the Himalayan Society acted as a liaison agency. The Ministry of Tourism was established in 1977 which later issued mountaineering permits. Until 1973 Himalayan Society issued mountaineering permits. From 1978 NMA was authorized by the Government of Nepal to collect the service charge for 18 Himalayan peaks. In 2002, NMA was authorized to issue mountaineering permits for 15 more peaks. At present, NMA is authorized to collect royalty fees for 27 peaks between 5849m to 6584m in the Manang, Annapurna, Langtang and Khumbu regions.

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) was established with the following 7 broader objectives:

- Explore Mountain peaks and promote for mountain climbing tourism
- Issue the climbing permits as agreed with the Government of Nepal
- Protect and promote mountain people, culture and heritage
- Develop and promote skilled human capital for supporting mountain climbing
- Develop Sports climbing tourism in Nepal
- Emergency Rescue, Rehab and Humanitarian support for needy individual/community
- Preserve the natural environment in the mountain region for a sustainable future.

The Founder Members were as follows:

Mr. Kumar Khadga Bickram Shah- President

Mr. Tek Chandra Pokhrel- Member

Mr. Shambhu Tamang- Member

Mr. Nitya Man Singh- Member

Mr. Ang Kaji Lama- Member

The First Executive Board Members (1973-1983) were:

Mr. Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah (President)

Mr. Tshering Tenzing Lama (1st Vice President)

Mr. Tek Chandra Pokharel (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Shailendra Raj Sharma (Secretary)

Mr. Bharat Prasad Parajuli (Joint-Secretary)

Mr. Narsingh Man Pradhan (Treasurer)

Mr. Sonam Gyalze Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang Kaji Lama (Member)

Mr. Netra Bantawa (Member)

Mr. Mingma Tenzing Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Prem Raj Joshi (Member)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (1984-1990)

Mr. Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah (President)

Mr. Tshering Tenzing Lama (1st Vice President)

Mr. Tek Chandra Pokharel (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Shailendra Raj Sharma (Secretary)

Mr. Bharat Prasad Parajuli (Joint-Secretary)

Mr. Kunga Sherpa (Treasurer)

Mr. Shambhu Tamang (Member)

Mr. Sushil Bhattarai (Member)

Mr. Basanta Thapa (Member)

Dr. Harka Gurung (Member)

Mr. J.B. Singh (Member)

Mr. Pertemba Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Dawa Norbu Sherpa (Member)

Mr. P.P. Prasai (Member)

Representative, Tourism Ministry Ex-officio (Member)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (1990-1992)

Mr. Tek Chandra Pokharel (President)

Mr. Lama Pasang Sherpa (1st Vice President)

Mr. Shambhu Prasad Poudyal (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Basanta Thapa (Secretary)

Mr. Kunga Sherpa (Joint Secretary)

Mr. Narhari Bhandari (Treasurer)

Mr. Bharat Parajuli (Member)

Mr. Madan Bahadur Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Bikram Pandey (Member)

Mr. Shanta Subba (Member)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (1993-1996)

Mr. Dawa Norbu Sherpa (President)

Dr. Ramesh Raj Kunwar (1st Vice President)

Mr. Sonam Gyalzen Sherpa (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Bhumi Lal Lama (Secretary)

Mr. Ang J P Lama (Joint Secretary)

Mr. Tashi Jangbu Sherpa (Treasurer)

Mr. Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (Member)



Mr. Santa Subba (Member)

Mr. Basanta Thapa (Member)

Mr. Narhari Bhandari (Member)

Mr. Lhakpa Dorjee Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang Phuri Sherpa (Member)

Mr. J B Singh (Member)

Mr. Hiranya Prasad Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Mingma Dorjee Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Pertemba Sherpa (Member)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (1996-1999)

Mr. Dawa Norbu Sherpa (President)

Mr. Sonam Gyalzen Sherpa (1st Vice President)

Mr. Mingma Dorjee Sherpa (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Ang Karma Sherpa (Secretary)

Mr. Pemba Tshering Sherpa (Joint Secretary)

Mr. Narahari Bhandari (Treasurer)

Mr. Lama Pasang Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Pertemba Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Pasang Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Bhumi Lal Lama (Member)

Mr. Lhakpa Dorjee Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang J P Lama (Member)

Ms. Yankila Sherpa, Ex-Officio Member, TAAN (Member)

Mr. Janardhan Nepal, Ex-Officio Member, MoCTCA (Member)

Mr. Ang Phuri Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Jhalak Thapa (Member)



CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (1999-2002)

Mr. Tashi Jangbu Sherpa (President)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (1st Vice President)

Mr. Bikrum Pandey (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Bhumi Lal Lama (General Secretary)

Mr. Ang Dendi Sherpa (Secretary)

Mr. Girdhari Sharma (Treasurer)

Mrs. Ngimi Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Zimba Zangbu Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Phur Gyalje Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang Phurba Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang J.P. Lama (Member)

Mr. Pasang Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang Phuri Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Lhakpa Dorjee Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Sonam Gyaljen Sherpa (Member)

Representative, TAAN - Ex-officio (Member)

Representative, Tourism Ministry - Ex-officio (Member)

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (2002-2005)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (President)

Mr. Tashi Jangbu Sherpa (Immediate Past President)

Mr. Zimba Zangbu Sherpa (1st Vice President)

Mr. Bikrum Pandey (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Bhumi Lal Lama (General Secretary)

Mr. Krishna Kumar Aryal (Secretary)

Mr. Narhari Bhandari (Treasurer)

Mr. Ang J.P. Lama (Member)

Mr. Ang Phurba Sherpa (Member)

Mr. R.P. Pant (Member)

Mr. Santa Bir Lama (Member)

Mr. Da Gombu Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Ang Babu Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Lhakpa Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Kaji Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Narayan Sundar Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Dinesh Gurung (Member)

Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Nima Nuru Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Apa Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Deepak Poudel (Member)

Mr. Mingmar Dorjee Sherpa (Member)

Representative, MoCTCA Ex-officio (Member)

Mr. Deepak Mahat President, TAAN - Ex-officio (Member)

Mr. Ang Kaji Sherpa President, HRA - Ex-officio (Member)

NMA Advisor Committee (2005 - 2008)

Prof. Dr. Soorya L. Amatya

Mr. Pasang Lama Sherpa

Ms. Yankila Sherpa

Mr. J.B. Singh

Mr. Buddhi Narayan Shrestha

Mr. Shambhu Tamang

Mr. Harihar Dahal

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (2005 - 2008)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (President)

Mr. Tashi Jangbu Sherpa (Immediate Past President)

Mr. Zimba Zangbu Sherpa (1st Vice President)

Mr. Bhumi Lal Lama (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Deebas Bikram Shah (General Secretary)

Mr. Narhari Bhandari (Secretary)

Mr. Ang Kaji Sherpa (Treasurer)

Mr. Ang J.P. Lama (Member)

Mr. R.P. Pant (Member)

Mr. Santa Bir Lama (Member)

Mr. Narayan Sundar Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Ang Babu Sherpa (Member)

Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Deepak Poudel (Member)

Mr. Da Gombu Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Hari Bahadur Kadel (Member)

Mr. Pemba Dorji Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Bijaya Gurung (Member)

Mrs. Kamini L. Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Diwas Pokhrel (Member)

Mr. Sarki Tamang (Member)

Mr. Ngawang Nima Sherpa (Member)

Representative, MoCTCA - Ex-officio (Member)

Mr. Narendra B.C President, TAAN - Ex-officio (Member)

Mr. Bikram Neupane President, HRA - Ex-officio (Member)

NMA Advisor Committee (2010 - 2013)

Mr. J.B. Singh

Mrs. Yankila Sherpa

Mr. Shambhu Tamang

Mr. Nawang D. Sherpa

Mr. Basanta Bahadur Basnet

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (2010-2013)

Mr. Zimba Zangbu Sherpa (President)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (I. P. President)

Mr. Nima Nuru Sherpa (1st Vice President)

Mr. Santa Bir Lama (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Deebas Bickram Shah (General Secretary)

Mr. Diwas Pokhrel (Secretary)

Ms. Asha Gurung (Treasurer)

Mr. Dawa Steven Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Sonam Tshering Sherpa (Member)

Ms. Maya Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Rajendra Man Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Angdawa Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Om Man Shreshta (Member)

Mr. Pasang Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Thaman Singh Tamang (Member)

Ms. Usha Bista (Member)

Mr. Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa (Member)

Mr. B.B. Thapa (Member)

Mr. Ngawang Ngima Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Devendra Wagle (Member)

Mr. Iswari Adhikari (Member)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (Member)

Rep., MoCTCA (Member)

President, TAAN (Member)

President, HRA (Member)



NMA Advisor Committee (2014 - 2017)

Ms. Yankila Sherpa

Mr. J.B. Singh

Dr. Ganesh Gurung

Mr. Buddhi Narayan Shrestha

Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha

Mr. Bikram Pandey

Mr. Jagat Man Lama

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (2014-2017)

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (President)

Mr. Zimba Zangbu Sherpa (I.P. President)

Mr. Santa Bir Lama (1st Vice President)

Mr. Deebas Bickram Shah (2nd Vice President)

Mr. Thakur Raj Pandey (General Secretary)

Mr. Rajendra Man Shrestha (Secretary)

Mr. Tikaram Gurung (Treasurer)

Ms. Chhurim Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Pasang Sherpa (Member)

Dr. Nima Namgyal Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Lakpa Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Da Gelje Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Dhan Bahadur Gurung (Member)

Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha (Member)

Mr. Pemba Dorje Sherpa (Member)

Mrs. Kamini Lambi Lama (Member)

Mr. Padam Ghale (Member)

Mr. Mingma Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Pasang Bhote (Member)

Mr. Pasang Tenzing Sherpa (Member)

Representative, Dept. of Tourism (Member)

Mr. Prem Bahadur Gurung (Member)

Mr. Bimal Naharki (Member)

Mr. Cheban Devkota (Member)

NMA Advisor Committee (2017 - 2020)

1. Mr. Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa



2. Mr. Mahadev Gurung
3. Mr. Shambhu Tamang
4. Dr. Ganesh Gurung
5. Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha
6. Mr. R.P. Panta
7. Mr. D. B. Koirala

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (2017-2020)

Mr. Santa Bir Lama (President)
Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa (I.P. President)
Mr. Deebas Bickram Shah (1st Vice President)
Ms. Maya Sherpa (2nd Vice President)
Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung (General Secretary)
Mr. Tikaram Gurung (Secretary)
Mr. Sudarshan Neupane (Treasurer)
Mr. Tul Singh Gurung (Member)
Mr. Pasang Tendi Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Vinaya Shakya (Member)
Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha (Member)
Mr. Mingmar Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Da Gelje Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Ang Tshewang Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Singi Lama (Member)
Mr. Sanjib Gurung (Member)
Mr. Pasang Bhote (Member)
Mr. Mingma Gyabu Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Nawang Narbu Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Dipendra Pandey (Member)
Mr. Ang Dawa Sherpa (Member)
Representative, Dept. of Tourism (Member)
Mr. Wangchu Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Lhakpa Tsiring Sherpa (Member)
Mr. Shiva Bahadur Sapkota (Member)

NMA provincial Committee

- Province number – 1
- Province number – 2
- Province number – 3 (Bagmati Province)
- Province number – 4 (Gandaki Province)

Board Members of NMA Gandaki Provincial Committee

Mr. Shes Kanta Sharma (President)



Mr. Lakpa Dhundup Lama (Vice President)

Mr. Sudeep Gautam (Secretary)

Mr. Bikash Gurung (Treasurer)

Mr. Tulasi Prasad Subedi (Member)

Manshanta Ghimire (Member)

Pasang Gyalgan Sherpa (Member)

Dikki Karki Chhetri (Member)

Mukhya Lama (Member)

Ganga Bahadur Ghale (Member)

Puspa Tilija Pun (Member)

Dipesh Babu Subedi (Member)

Sane Gurung (Member)

Tashi Pasang Gurung (Member)

Gunaraj Bastola (Member)

- Province number – 5 (Lumbini Province)
- Province number – 6 (Karnali Province)
- Province number – 7 (Sudurpaschim Province)

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

International Mountain Museum

NMA has established the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara. The museum officially opened on February 4, 2004. It provides information about mountain life, culture, flora and fauna, vegetation, geology etc. The museum showcases "Man, Mountain and Mountaineering" under one roof.

IMM Advisor Committee

Mr. Dinesh Gurung

Mr. J. B. Singh

Mr. Akinobu Otsu

Mr. Kamal Man Gurung

Mr. Palden Tamang

Mr. Narayan Sundar Shrestha

Mr. Mingma Gelu Sherpa

Mr. Ram Chandra Karki

Mr. Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa

International Mountain Museum Committee:

Mr. Santa Bir Lama

Mr. Bijaya Gurung

Mr. Shiva Kumar Ranjit

Mr. Hari Lamichhane

Mr. Jeevan Raj Sapkota

International Mountaineers Memorial Park

Similarly, NMA received the International Mountaineers Memorial Park at Kakani in 1997 from the government, North West of Kathmandu, the foundation was laid during Visit Nepal Year 1998. The Park has been established in memory of and to respect the mountaineers who have lost the theory of life in the high Himalayas. It has also developed the park by installing the statues of the departed world famous mountaineers in their memory, and has also done construction of a climbing wall and a picnic spot.

International Mountaineers Memorial Park:

Mrs. Bina Magar (Chief Advisor)

Mr. Ang Dorje Sherpa (Advisor)

Mrs. Maya Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Nawang Ngima Sherpa (Member)

Mr. Guna Bahadur Lama (Member)

Mr. Ravi Paudel (Member)

Mr. Bir Singh Tamang (Member)

Mr. Phal Bahadur Gurung (Member)

Manang Mountaineering School

Manang Mountaineering School is another valuable project of NMA. It was established on November 12, 1979 with the objective to provide theoretical as well as technical knowledge to young mountaineers of Nepal and foreign countries. The school is situated at an altitude of 3,400m in a remote area of Manang district in West Nepal. The school was founded with the cooperation of Yugoslav Mountaineering Federation of former Yugoslavia. The school building was inaugurated by former Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa on Kartik 29, 2037 (November 14, 1980).

Manang School Committee

1. Mr. Santa Bir Lama
2. Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung
3. Mr. Sudarshan Neupane
4. Mr. Wangchu Sherpa
5. Mr. Nawang Ngima Sherpa

1. TRAINING & EXPEDITION COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Ian Wall	Advisor
2.	Mr. Tul Singh Gurung	Convener
3.	Mr. Shiva Bahadur Sapkota	Co-Convener
4.	Mr. Phurba Namgyal Sherpa	Member
5.	Mr. Narendra Shahi	Member
6.	Mr. Lachhuman Tamang	Member

2. ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Ganesh Saha	Chief Advisor
2.	Mr. Kushal Gurung	Advisor
3.	Mr. Sarki Tamang	Convener
4.	Ms. Muna Basnet	Co-Convener
5.	Mr. Awades K. Das	Member
6.	Mr. Konchyok Palden Lopchan	Member
7.	Mr. Prakash Adhikari	Member

3. MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE

1.	Dr. Buddha Basnyat	Advisor
2.	Mr. Pemba Geljen Sherpa	Convener
3.	Mr. Mingma Gyabu Sherpa	Co-Convener
4.	Mr. Ang Dawa Sherpa	Member
5.	Mr. Padam Bahadur Tamang	Member

4. PUBLICATION & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Vinaya Shakya	Convener
2.	Mr. Hari Gopal Pradhan	Member
3.	Mr. Bijaya Sigdel	Member
4.	Mr. Karna Tamang	Member
5.	Mr. Shiva Shankar Gautam	Member

5. MOUNTAIN DISASTER RELIEF EDUCATION SUPPORT FUND (MDRES) COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Santa Bir Lama	Convener
2.	Mr. Da Gelje Sherpa	Member
3.	Mr. Wangchu Sherpa	Member
4.	Ms. Mira Neupane	Member
5.	Ms. Urga Devi Shresth	Member
6.	Mr. Yedu Lamichhane	Member
7.	Mr. Gupta Bahadur Bhandari	Member
8.	Mr. Durga Bahadur Basnet	Member
9.	Brajesh Tamang	Member
10.	Mr. Yuva Raj Lama	Member
11.	Mr. Neeraj Mishra	Member
12.	Ms Devi Gurung	Member
13.	Mr. Bishnu Tamang	Member
14.	Mr. Narayan Prasad Gautam	Member
15.	Mr. Dawang Dorji Lama	Member
16.	Ms. Bindu Gurung	Member
17.	Mr. Prabin Gurung	Member
18.	Mr. Shyam Sharan Karki	Member
19.	Sonam Chhiring Lama	Member

6. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Bodh Raj Bhandari	Convener
2.	Mr. Sanjib Gurung	Co-Convener
3.	Mr. Saput Man Tamang	Member
4.	Mr. Lal Bahadur Jirel	Member
5.	Mr. Rankesh Gurung	Member

7. CHAPTER COORDINATION COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Tikaram Gurung	Convener
2.	Mr. Krishna Hari Khatri	Co-Convener
3.	Mr. Ghanendra Shrstha	Member
4.	Mr. Sarbajit Thapa Magar	Member
5.	Mr. Mingma Kami Sherpa	Member
6.	Mr. Rishi Bhandari	Member
7.	Mr. Marich Man Lama	Member
8.	Mr. Dilliram Pangeni	Member
9.	Mr. Krishna Kafle	Member
10.	Mr. Jitendra Jhakri	Member
11.	Mr. Saral Sahayatri Poudel	Member
12.	Mr. Madan Kumar Chudal	Member
13.	Mr. Ram Bahadur Pahari	Member
14.	Mr. Yog Bahadur Tamang	Member
15.	Mr. Nim Dorjee Sherpa	Member

8. CODE OF CONDUCT MONITORING COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Sitaram Sapkota	Convener
2.	Mr. Lhakpa Tsiring Sherpa	Co-Convener
3.	Mr. Rajendra Prasad Sapkota	Member
4.	Mr. Karna Lama	Member
5.	Mr. D.B. Koirala	Member

9. SPORTS CLIMBING COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Deebas Bickram Shah	Convener
2.	Mr. Jwalanta Gurung	Member
3.	Mr. Tshering Pandey Bhote	Member
4.	Mr. Sonam Tshering Sherpa	Member
5.	Mr. Tenzeeng Sherpa	Member

10. PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Santa Bir Lama	Convener
2.	Mr. Rajendra Man Shrestha	Advisor
3.	Mr. Chetup Tamang	Member
4.	Mr. Rajendra Lama	Member
5.	Mr. Lhakpa Tsiring Sherpa	Member
6.	Mr. Rakesh Dhamala	Member
7.	Mr. Harka Gurung	Member
8.	Mr. Gyanendra Shrestha	Member
9.	Mr. Padam Kumar Dualal	Member
10.	Mr. Jit Ram Lama	Member
11.	Ms. Sumi Lama	Member
12.	Mr. Ramesh Thapa	Member
13.	Mr. Raj Kumar Moktan	Member
14.	Mr. Milan Lama	Member
15.	Mr. Gyanendra Basnet	Member

11. CASUAL EVENT & IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Ang Tshewang Sherpa	Convener
2.	Mr. Pasang Bhote	Co-Convener
3.	Mr. Rishi Nepal	Member
4.	Mr. Khandu Sherpa	Member
5.	Mr. Phuri Gyaljen Sherpa	Member
6.	Mr. Gokul Sapkota	Member
7.	Mr. Dhan Prasad Gurung	Member
8.	Ms. Nima Diki Sherpa	Member
9.	Ms. Pancha Maya Sherpa	Member
10.	Mr. Mingma Sherpa	Member
11.	Mr. Ram Tamang	Member
12.	Mr. Shari Sharan Kharel	Member
13.	Ms. Manju Devi Koirala	Member
14.	Mr. Ram Kumar Tamang	Member
15.	Ms. Nima Jangmu Lama	Member
16.	Ms. Namrata Neupane	Member
17.	Mr. Laxman Gurung	Member

12. MANANG MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL REPAIR & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Pasang Tendi Sherpa	Convener
2.	Mr. Dhan Bahadur Gurung	Co-convener
3.	Mr. B.B. Thapa	Member
4.	Mr. Krishna Lama (Manang)	Member
5.	Mr. Mulal Gurung	Member

13. BIDHAN SAMSODHAN COMMITTEE

(Statute Amendment Committee)

1.	Mr. Santa Bir Lama	Convener
2.	Mr. Nima Nuru Sherpa	Co-Convener
3.	Mr. Tilak Lama	Member
4.	Mr. Chandra Prasad Rijal	Member
5.	Mr. Devendra Wagle	Member
6.	Mr. Nabraj Pandey	Member
7.	Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung	Member
8.	Mr. Tikaram Gurung	Member
9.	Mr. Sudarshan Neupane	Member
10.	Mr. Padam Kumar Dulal	Member
11.	Representative - MoCTCA	Member
12.	Representative-Dept. of Tourism	Member
13.	Legal Advisor of NMA	Member

14. PEAK PROFILE SUB-COMMITTEE

1.	Mr. Santa Bir Lama	Convener
2.	Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang (DG, DoT)	member
3.	Ms. Mira Acharya (Director, DoT)	Member
4.	Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung	Member
5.	Mr. Tikaram Gurung	Member
6.	Mr. Sudarshan Neupane	Member
7.	Mr. Nima Nuru Sherpa	Member
8.	Mr. Ang Norbu Sherpa	Member
9.	Mr. Dipendra Pandey	Member
10.	Mr. Sanjib Gurung	Member
11.	Mr. Shiva Bahadur Sapkota	Member
12.	Mr. Pasang Bhote	Member
13.	Mr. Dipak Sharma Dahal	Member
14.	Mr. Sudarshon Karki	Member
15.	Mr. Saroj Neupane	Member
16.	Representative	MoCTCA
17.	Mr. Sunil Singh Rathour (Colonel)	Nepal Army
18.	Representative	Nepal Tourism Board
19.	Representative	Member Nepal Police
20.	Representative	Member APF
21.	Representative	Survey Department
22.	Mr. Kul Prasad Rai (CEO-NMA)	Member
23.	Mr. Vinaya Shakya	Member Secretary

24. International Relations

NMA has had friendly and encouraging relations with various international associations. They include Union International des Association (UIAA), Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA) and International Federation of Sports Climbing (IFSC). NMA had its first international relationship with the Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA) in 1975 A.D.



Tourism Reviving strategy



Deepak Mahat
Former President
Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal

Covid-19 has come unexpectedly and has adversely affected various sectors across the nation and world. It has affected every sector including our tourism sector and mountain tourism.

Actually, the tourism sector does not have actual data about the reality of the adverse impact of Covid-19 in Nepal. For example, the current data about tourism says it contributes to 3% of GDP while its direct and indirect impacts have not been taken into account.

To exemplify the instance, we can say that if a tourist pays $1000 to a tour operator, then nearly $100 goes into his pocket, but more than 80% goes to other beneficiaries who are unseen and whose facts are not on record. And we do not have a satellite accounting system for all these things.

In my opinion, I think it must be a minimum 8% and maximum 10% GDP contribution of tourism in the market including benefiting even farmers. So Covid-19 has impacted the sector of around at least 10% of the total GDP.

The currently available data of the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism sector has been exposed and documented as 3% GDP is only related to taxpayers. World Tourism Organization (WTO) also states that Nepal's tourism contributes to at least 8% of GDP.

Nepal tourism board has conducted an online survey about tourism in travel, hotels, restaurants, and trekking in which hardly around 860 entities have responded affirmatively (which are mere samples) to give data about Covid-19 adverse effects, but there are more than three hundred thousand employees of tourism operators that have lost their jobs because of the pandemic and this is why we cannot trust such sample data.

According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO) facts, we can be sure that Nepal's tourism which contributes to at least 8% of GDP is affected. This includes the professionals or even a MOMO maker (street vendor) who is exempted from VAT and taxes and other retail sellers that have been affected by tourists.

Many people talk about reviving the tourism sector but it is uncertain. While talking about Covid-19 related vaccination available in the market, we know that Covid-19 vaccination has come into the market for the health and frontline workers, but it is not sure if the inoculated person is free from Covid-19 or not. In several developed countries, they have the system of unemployment allowances. But the people in those countries have spent their savings in this



period. Hence, we need to wait for the next one year or maybe more to travel soundly and revive tourism.

In the tourism sector, there are two types of people. One type is thinking of alternative ways to go forward to cope up with the harsh effects of Covid-19, while the other type has not found any alternative way forward. The latter type might never return to this sector again as they cannot invest in this field where they have suffered a heavy loss.

The limited group of people who got the chance to carry on with the business during Covid-19 can continue their business, but those larger group of people who could not do this has to remain famished and poverty-stricken. Many will incur bank loans. Some might fall into depression and even think of committing suicide. They remain bankrupt. This will affect the country both socially and politically.

Strategy to be taken

What will happen in the future? Will such persons return to the tourism sector after getting such a setback? In my view, firstly, the state and private sectors should promote domestic tourism to cope immediately. We have seen the rise in the tempo of domestic tourism in Dhulikhel and Chandragiri where you won't find rooms at the present time. This is because of the suffocative of the Covid-19 environment. It is like being under house arrest. So people would like to come out of their suffocation period in the post-Covid-19 period. But we have to think about how long the domestic tourism will sustain after the suffocation. There are some activities like, rafting, paragliding, bungee jump to attract domestic tourists. But it's not sufficient.

In order to promote domestic tourism, the government should give at least one week's holiday to the civil servants just like it is done in India. Last time our government highlighted the "Desh Darshan" program but nothing was done for budget. So, the state should allocate a budget to promote domestic tourism. Though post-Covid-19 is not declared, we have to take into consideration about border cities of India for the source of the cross-border tourists creating hill stations near the border cities. In the border area, also need to manage Casino which might be good for cross-border tourists for one night. We need to bring in quality hotels in the south.

We also need to focus on neighboring countries in China and India. China and India have a larger population as they can come here in one or two hours of flights. Nepal Airlines and Himalayan airlines should coordinate with various businesses and create promotional packages in coordination with other tourism-related service sectors. We can focus on Dubai flights as there are many expatriates in Dubai whom we can fetch. We should go for operational cost in flights too. If our packages are low and cheap then only we can compete with other rival markets.

We have waited for over one year and seen negligible revenue for the government, then why not waive taxes and VAT from the government to the tourism operators at the policy level to bear the burden of tourism for sustenance and revival.

We also need to provide soft loans to the tour operators which the government can get from outside for the sake of tour operators. The government should promote the capacity of tour operators in the sustenance of their business.

Royalties of mountains, national parks, and peaks should be declared free for some time to bring more tourists which can bring indirect business. The tax revenue may not come but this can promote in reviving the tourism sector.

This is how tourism can be promoted by creating opportunities and not by waiting on the pandemic to end around the world. If the current trends in tourism continue for an elongated period of time, then it is feared that in the future the tourism sector will be in the hands of a very few people.



Impact of COVID-19 on Tourism in Nepal



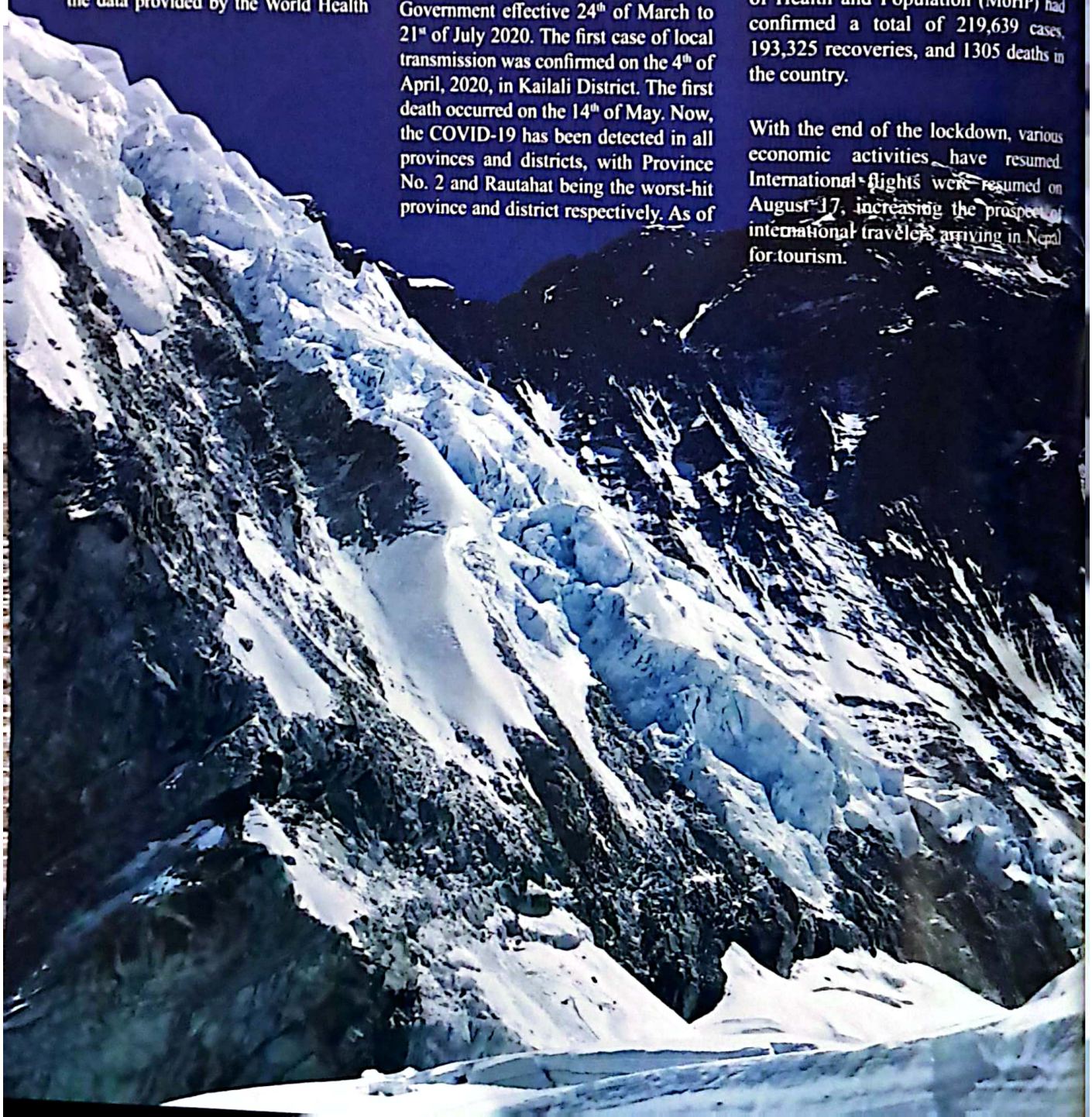
Chandra Prasad Rijal

Former President
Tourism Agencies Association of Nepal

Nobody had expected that a virus, first discovered in the Wuhan Province of China, would impact the whole world at such a scale. Reportedly, the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first seen in Wuhan on 17th of November 2019 and as of 21st of November 2020, there were 1,361,847 deaths globally according to the data provided by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 has put global health, social and economic status at a great risk once WHO declared it a global pandemic with 188 countries reported to have COVID-19 patients.

In Nepal, considering it as one of the most vulnerable country, a country-wide lockdown was declared by the Government effective 24th of March to 21st of July 2020. The first case of local transmission was confirmed on the 4th of April, 2020, in Kailali District. The first death occurred on the 14th of May. Now, the COVID-19 has been detected in all provinces and districts, with Province No. 2 and Rautahat being the worst-hit province and district respectively. As of 21st of November, 2020, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) had confirmed a total of 219,639 cases, 193,325 recoveries, and 1305 deaths in the country.

With the end of the lockdown, various economic activities have resumed. International flights were resumed on August 17, increasing the prospect of international travelers arriving in Nepal for tourism.



The Nepali government's fifteenth development plan recognizes tourism as a major source of foreign exchange and investment and a key driver for reducing poverty and improving the living standard of people by generating employment and business opportunities. The plan also recognizes the role of the tourism sector in driving prosperity, reducing inequality, and empowering women and marginalized groups of the society.

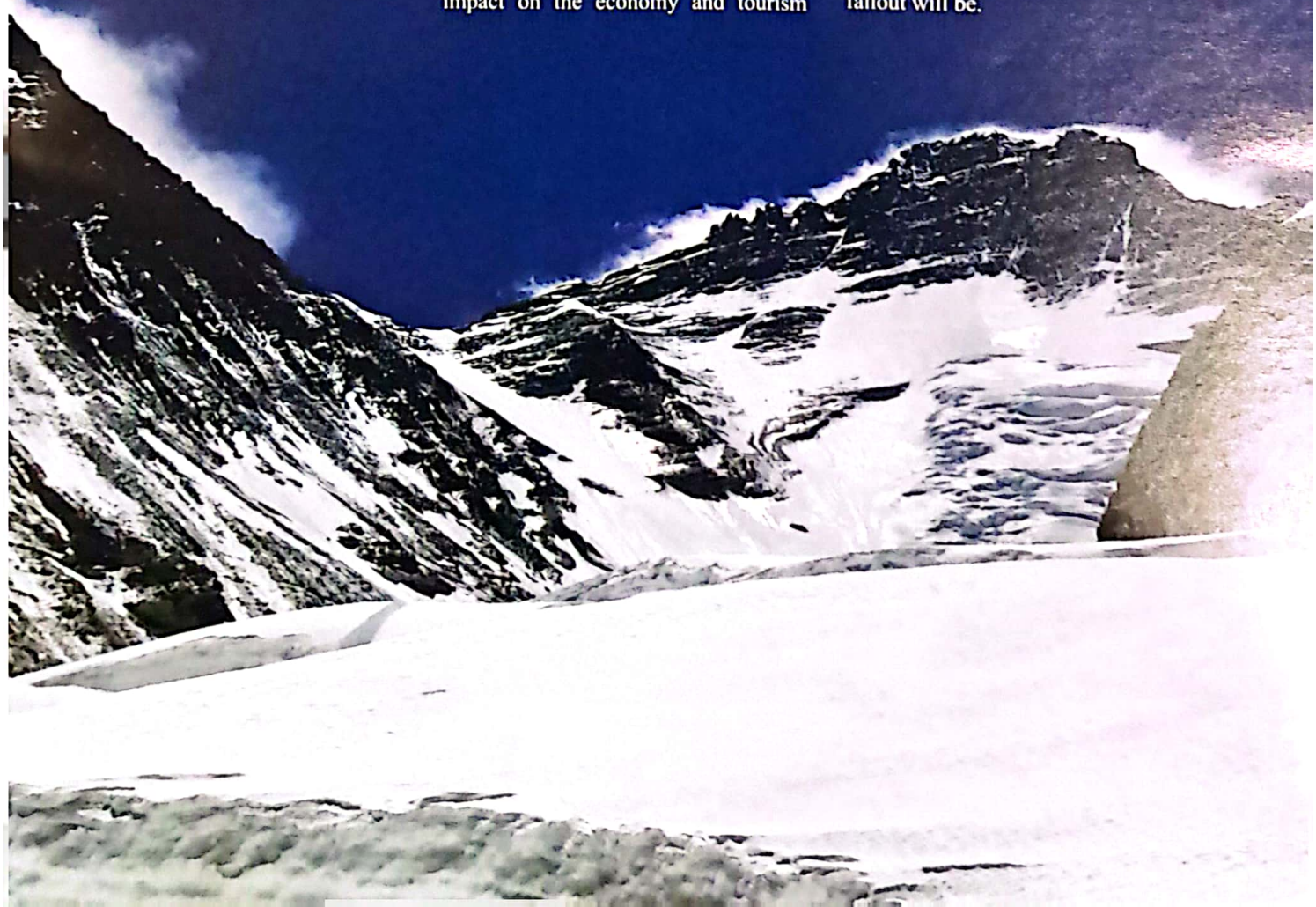
The Government of Nepal, acknowledging the significance of the tourism industry, announced 'Visit Nepal 2020,' committed to promote the tourism industry. Formally launched on January 1, 2020, Visit Nepal 2020 intended to draw in 2 million travelers, produce an income of up to $2 Billion and create thousands of new jobs. In 2019, the contribution of travel and tourism to the GDP (% of GDP) for Nepal was 7.9 %. Though Nepal's contribution of travel and tourism to the GDP (% of GDP) fluctuated substantially in recent years after the pandemic hit Nepal the contribution from travel and tourism to GDP was estimated to degrade drastically.

The country was in the hope to attract two million visitors, but due to the pandemic the campaign got canceled which has shattered the hospitality and tourism-related business sector. Due to the disease, the tourist arrival rate has declined to less than 10 percent, there used to be more than 70 percent arrival before the Covid-19outbreak. The tourism sector being one of the largest industries, there has been a significant loss incurred in the overall economy of Nepal. The cancellation of all spring mountaineering expeditions, including Everest ascents, resulted in job losses of around 13,000 tour, trekking, and mountain guides. The outbreak has affected people's lives as well as the private and public sectors.

As per the analysis by the Asian Development Bank, the outbreak of this deadly disease will hit almost every sector of the Nepalese economy, reducing up to 0.13 percent off the gross domestic product and rendering up to 15,880 people jobless.

The sudden halt in tourism arrivals and receipts caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 will have a devastating impact on the economy and tourism enterprises in Nepal. Based on the previous pandemic data, the World Travel & Tourism Council projects that tourism is likely to recover more slowly than other industries, taking perhaps as long as 19 months. In the meantime, the pandemic will have a long-term impact on both supply and demand for tourism. Thus, it is imperative that the Nepalese government supports the tourism sector beyond the existing 'relief package' (postponement of debt servicing and liquidity support), by enabling tourism enterprises to bring about transformative changes in the industry. Such a recovery package may include support on the use of new digital technology, digitalization of Micro-Small-Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), investment in green infrastructure, and development of a professional tourism industry workforce.

The situation is alarming. Though we have yet to experience the full impact and aftermath of the pandemic, this worldwide threat has already created economic uncertainty amongst all of us. People are worried as still we don't know much about this deadly virus and how deep and widespread the economic fallout will be.



Adventure tourism after Covid 19



Nava Raj Dahal
Immidiate Past President
Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal

Adventure tourism is that sort of tourism which involves traveling or doing sports activities that include a certain degree of risk and may also require special skills and physical fitness. According to the USA based Adventure Travel Trade Association, adventure travel may be any tourist activity that includes physical activity, a cultural exchange, and connection with nature. In the context of Nepal, adventure tourism explicitly represents Mountain Tourism. Adventure sports like rafting, bungee, paragliding, skydiving, canyoning, mountain biking, zip-lining, etc. have been possible in Nepal because of the mountains. The mountains have provided a huge potential for adventure tourism in Nepal. Therefore, mountains are an integral and indispensable part of Nepalese tourism.

Nepal is a mountainous country with numerous snow-capped peaks along with the world's tallest peak Mt. Everest. It is the only country in the world having 8 eight-thousanders. Mountain expeditions in Nepal began after the discovery of the height of Mt. Everest and other mountains. Measurements of the mountains' heights were initially carried out by the Royal Geographical Society under the British Indian government. Multiple attempts were made to conquer Mt. Everest before Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay successfully scaled it on 29 May 1953. After the first successful Everest expedition in 1953, mountain tourism began to take shape in Nepal. It opened the door to climb other mountains as well. Mountaineers and adventure enthusiasts then started to consider Nepal as one of the most preferred destinations for adventure activities.

The entire tourism industry has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide. The aviation industry, hotel/ resort/restaurant business, and tour/ trek/ expedition operators have lost their businesses and their employees have become jobless. Covid-19 has halted the lifeline of millions of people in Nepal depending on tourism. The World Bank has projected Nepal's economic growth for 2020-21 at



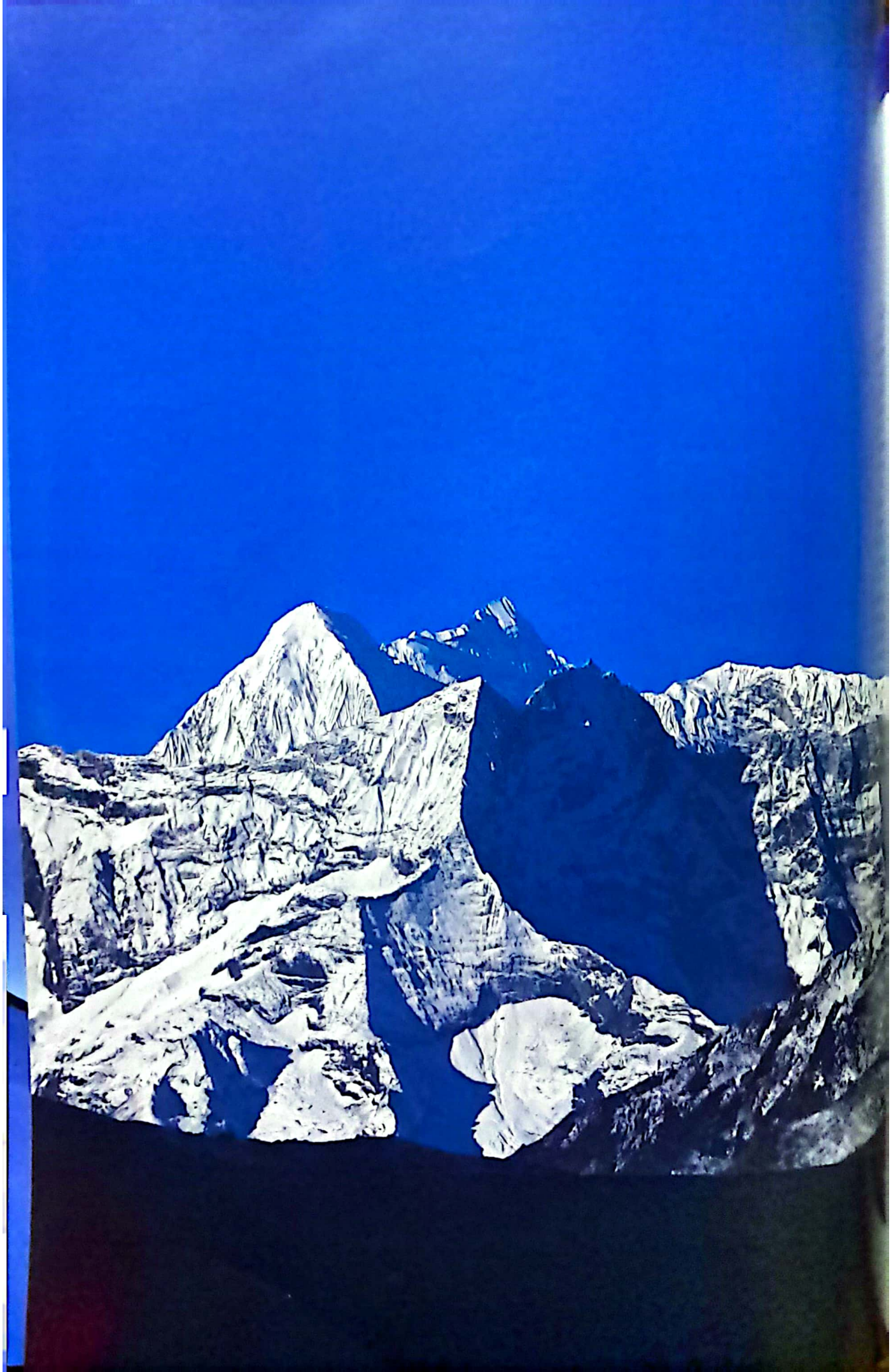
0.6%. It clearly shows the devastating impact of Covid-19 on Nepal's national economy. Millions of people who are directly or indirectly benefiting from tourism have been massively impacted by the decline of Nepal's national economy.

Though the Nepalese tourism sector has been deeply affected by Covid-19, adventure tourism in Nepal has great potential and future. If we all contribute to promote locally and globally, adventure tourism will certainly boost in Nepal after Covid-19. In fact, lockdown and restrictions imposed to control Covid-19 have allowed us enough time to plan and prepare for future improvements. This is the time to consider sustainability in adventure tourism in Nepal. Tourism entrepreneurs and employees should take patience and work efficiently and appropriately for the promotion and diversification of adventure tourism. Government and other stakeholders should focus on infrastructure development, building capable human resources, and replacing inappropriate and expired tourism policies with newer improved ones. The Government of Nepal should immediately start tourism diplomacy by utilizing its diplomatic missions to the full extent. Adopting the world's best tourism practices, maximizing technology uses, and creating a tourism-friendly environment are prerequisites to promote Nepalese Adventure Tourism after Covid-19.

There are some challenges to minimize the impacts of Covid-19 in adventure tourism in Nepal. These challenges can be tackled through joint efforts from the private, public, and government sectors. Fruitful cooperation between the private and government sectors can yield better results. Together we can create a safe environment and give a positive message to the world about our adventure tourism. The government can announce some attractive schemes or do some interesting things that can grab the headlines in international news channels and magazines to give a positive impression about Nepal. Currently, many countries have restricted travel of people from certain countries based on their nationality rather than individual health. Nepal should give more emphasis on those countries where we can immediately grab public attention as a viable destination for adventure activities. If we can improve health and hygiene conditions and train and educate our people for safety and cleanliness, our adventure tourism will certainly take momentum shortly after Covid-19.

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has been relentlessly working towards promoting adventure tourism in Nepal since its inception in 1973. NMA was established to promote mountain tourism, climbing sports, protect mountain environments, and preserve and promote the cultural heritage of people living on the mountain. NMA is also responsible for climbing permits for 27 peaks in Nepal. NMA should collaborate with Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) and other tourism-related associations in order to achieve its prime objectives in the future. NMA should also focus on enhancing the capabilities of its member agencies and their employees through different kinds of training. NMA's role should be increased in the future for effective promotion and improvement of adventure tourism in Nepal as well as to maximize benefits.





History of NMA Training



Tul Singh Gurung
Executive Member, NMA
Co-ordinator, Training & Expedition Committee

Nepal Mountaineering Association(NMA) received the UIAA membership in 1975. The climbers team of Yugoslavia now termed as Slovenia realised that the climbers of Nepal are capable and strong enough to climb the mountains but due to lack of proper training and support they are lacking behind. Therefore, in 1979, in Sabjikhola, Humde, Manang Mountaineering School was established with the great effort and unselfish help of Mr. Ales Kunaver, Yugoslav Alpinist and leader of many expeditions. By 1979, NMA started to conduct Basic Mountaineering Course (BMC) in collaboration with Planinska Zveza Slovenije-PZS (Alpine Association of Slovenia). The courses were delivered by instructors in support of volunteers. At the same time PZS supported the construction of Mountaineering school at Humde, Manang to develop Mountaineering skills for Nepalese Mountaineers. in 1985, NMA started to conduct Advance Mountaineering Course (AMC) in Collaboration with French Instructors - École Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme (ENSA). Later, from 1986 Nepalese Climbers and Mountaineers were welcomed to ENSA, France to upgrade the Mountaineering Course/Instructors. From 1990 Nepalese Climbers started to conduct the BMC and AMC courses as instructors.

In 1995, NMA applied for the International Federation of Mountain Guide Association-IFMGA Country membership, but was rejected for being the Alpine Club. Thus, the Nepal Mountaineering Instructors Association (NMIA) was formed. The reason behind forming the Instructors association was to unite the instructors to reduce the difficulty of finding the instructor during the course as it was very tough to find the instructors to operate the courses. In 2002, Nepal Mountaineering Instructors Association (NMIA) was founded and applied for membership for IFMGA but still could not get it as a country member of IFMGA as country must have a Mountain Guide Association. So it was again decided to form Mountain Guide Association among the Instructors and according to it in 2005, Nepal National Mountain Guide Association (NNMGA) was formed in order to get membership of IFMGA. After that NNMGA and NMA worked together to run the Mountain Guide Course in Nepal and finally in 2012, integrated as a country member of IFMGA. Since then Nepal is also giving standard education on Mountain Guide Course. The accident ratio in the mountains has become comparatively less due to the training given under IFMGA certified Guide Leadership.



In 2012, NNMGA and NMA initiated the Nepal Government system of Vocational skill of Mountain Guide course and finally in 2019 under CTEVT level-4 Mountain Guide skill test program was successfully completed. As NMA is a UIAA member, in 2007 UIAA proposed the Trek Guide Course with the international standard education in collaboration with UIAA and PETZL Foundation to NMA which is a soft skill based course. Since then NMA is continuously conducting the Course

named as Mountain Leader Course. In 2007, NMA also got a country member from International federation of sports Council -IFSC. After that many national wall climbing competitions were being organized by Nepal Mountaineering Association. Mountain climbing always bears high risks. Without the support of highly skilled and experienced support staff/Sherpas, mountain climbing is almost impossible. So, to promote mountain climbing activities with higher safety, production of skill in human resources was the 1st condition. Based on this reality, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) started Basic Mountaineering Training (BMT) with 20 trainees in 1979 in cooperation with Yugoslavia Alpine Club. Only after 2000 AD, Nepalese instructors have been conducting the training independently. By now, Nepal stands in second position (preceded by Japan) in producing international standard mountain guides (affiliated with International Federation of Mountain Guide Association(IFMGA)). NMA has produced 60 International Mountain Guides till now. Until 2017, NMA provided BMT for 1,304 individuals and Advance Mountaineering Training (AMT) for 392 individuals. Now, NMA provides BMT in every July and AMT in November.

BMT produces skilled supporters who engage in lower altitude climbing, supporting the climbers and minimizing different kinds of risks. AMT produces skilled supporters who engage in high altitude climbing regions thus supporting the climbers, minimizing different types of risks. AMT trained professionals are capable of leading any type of national and international expedition group. BMT trained professionals can be involved as support staff in the expeditions led by the AMT graduates.

Objectives of Mountaineering Training:

1. To produce skilled supporters and leaders in national and international mountaineering activities
2. To promote mountaineering tourism
3. To minimize risks in mountaineering
4. To prepare human resource for immediate search and rescue activities
5. To create job opportunity for the Nepalese youths in mountaineering sector
6. To educate climbers regarding mountain environment and overall mountain issues.

First BMC (Basic Mountaineering Course, 1979 A.D)

Instructors:

Dr. Joze Andlovic (Slovenia)

Danilo Cedilnik (Slovenia)

Ales Kunaver (Slovenia)

Nejc Zaplotnik (Slovenia)

Sonam Gyalzen Sherpa (Nepalese)

Shambu Tamang (Nepalese)

Participants:

Gyalzen Sherpa
Krishna Bahadur Karki

Ang Puri Lama



Sange Sherpa

Padam Singh Ghale
Ang Kami Sherpa

Ang Chering Sherpa
Tashi Jangbu Sherpa

Ang Kami Sherpa
Ang Kami Sherpa

Kishor Prasad Bhattarai
Sonam Wongchuk Sherpa

Ms.Ang Maya Sherpa
Ang Tendi Sherpa

Ang Nima Sherpa
Nara Bahadur Karki

Jeevan Lal Shrestha
Ang Rita Sherpa

First AMC (Advance Mountaineering Course, 1982 A.D)

Participants of First AMC was held in 1982 in Gangapurna, Manang were:

Padam Singh Ghale

Tashi Jangbu Sherpa

Jimba Jangbu Sherpa

2 (Two) Representatives from Nepal Army

Instructors:

Jean Coudray

Daniel Stolzenberg

Later in 1983 those three participants became the first certified instructors of Nepal after they finished their Diploma Level Mountaineering Training (Instructor Training) in Ski et d'Alpinisme (ENSA), France. Till the date every year the participants are sent to the ENSA to be qualified as certified instructors in Nepal.

Now NMA produces many participants in different courses.

Different Trainings conducted by NMA are:

BMC (Basic Mountaineering Course)

Qualification to participate in BMC: Must complete 7 days Introductory Rock Climbing Course and 3 days Wilderness First-Aid, AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness) course

Cost: Rs. 15000 per person



Time Duration: 37 Days

Syllabus:

Theoretical Learning:

Rules and regulation of trekking and mountaineering, equipment familiarization, mountain history, mountain geography, mountain terminology, camping and bivouacking, environment, high altitude awareness, danger in mountain, avalanche, etc.

Practical Learning:

Rock craft, knots, coiling, improvise harness, self-rescue, active rappelling with auto block, camp set up and bivouacking, hill walking technique, scrambling on rock terrain, moving on a fix line (rocky terrain), lowering, anchor, walking technique on ice and glacier, glacier traverse, running belay on icy terrain, pulley system (simple pulley, z pulley), top rope glacier ice climbing, camping on glacier, high altitude cooking, probing, transceiver single victim search and navigation.

Number of Instructors: 9 (Ratio of Instructors and Participants-1:4)

Total Number of Participants: 32

Venue: Kathmandu and Manang

AMC (Advance Mountaineering Course)

Qualification to participate in AMC: Recommendation Letter from Trekking Agency registered at NMA, Certificate of Basic Mountaineering Course

Cost: Rs 15000

Time Duration: 38 Days

Syllabus:

Preparation for ascent, dangers in mountains, avalanches, weather, equipment, camping and bivouacking, environment protection - wild and ethics, mountaineering terminology, description and evaluation of a climbing ascent, mountain navigation, first aid, high altitude illness, nutrition in mountains, ropes and knots, rock climbing, snow and ice climbing, rescue technique.

Number of Instructors: 9 (Ratio of Instructors and Participants-1:3)

Total Number of Participants: 27

Venue: Kathmandu and Langtang, Rasuwa

HMRT (High Mountain Rescue Training)

First started in Year 2006 A.D

Qualification to participate in HMRT: Must Complete AMC (Advance Mountaineering Course)

Cost: Rs 18000

Time Duration: 18 Days

Syllabus: Advanced Wilderness First-Aid, AMS, Mountain medicine, CPR, Alpine Rescue and search techniques.

Number of Instructors: 4

Total Number of Participants: 16

Venue: Kathmandu and Langtang, Rasuwa

Heli Marshalling

First started in year 2016 A.D

Qualification to participate in Heli Marshalling: Basic knowledge of Trekking and Mountaineering.

Cost: Rs 1500

Time Duration: 3 days

Syllabus: Helicopter handling skills on mountain region

Number of Instructors: 5

Total Number of Participants: 50

Venue: Kathmandu and Kakani, Nuwakot

Mountain Leader Training

NMA first started Mountain leader training in 2006 A.D.

Mountain Leader Component-1

Qualification to participate in Mountain Leader Component-1 Training: Must complete Trekking Guide Course by NATHM

Cost:15000

Time Duration: 12 Days

Syllabus: Leadership, mountain navigation, wilderness first-aid, AMS

Number of Instructors: 4

Total Number of Participants: 20

Mountain Leader Component-2

Qualification to participate in Mountain Leader Component-2 Training: Must complete Mountain Leader Component-1

Cost:16500

Time Duration: 10 Days

Syllabus: Leadership, advanced ropework, worst-case navigation, problem solving

Number of Instructors: 4

Total Number of Participants: 20

Mountain Leader Component-3 (Winter)

Qualification to participate in Mountain Leader Component-3Training: Must complete Mountain Leader Component-2

Cost:17500

Time Duration: 14 Days

Syllabus: Snow, avalanche, weather, field navigation, trekking, leadership, walking on snow technique.

Number of Instructors: 4

Total Number of Participants: 20

Aspirant Guide Course:

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) signed agreement with Nepal National Mountain Guide Association (NNMGA) to work jointly to produce necessary skilled human resource through training courses - Aspirant Guide Course (AGC) & Mountain Guide Certification Course (MGCC) recognized by International Federation of Mountain Guide Association (IFMGA) in 2006 A.D. Aspirant Guide course is the first step education to be an International Mountain Guide,



which is also indicated as a transition diploma course. Aspirant guide training is consisting of three components spread out over 10 months, giving a total of 47 training days. This proposed plan does not include the approach or the return from the training venue. It is a group structured based training. The dates of the different components are to be reconfirmed internally while, in the main, respecting the accepted dates. Each component will occur in three different seasons i.e. first component in winter, second component in summer and last component in early autumn. The first and last component will be held in alpine terrain (Altitude 4000m – 5800m) and the second component will be held in a hilly region below 4000m. Each year, the training and evaluation of components will hold on the same seasons but may vary in dates.

Aspirant Guide Course Level 1

Qualification to participate in Aspirant Guide Course Level 1: Must complete AMC (Advance Mountaineering Course)

Time Duration: 23 Days

Syllabus: Rock activities, permanent glacier activities, waterfall ice climbing, snow and avalanche course, short rope technique

Number of Instructors: 6

Total Number of Participants:10

Location: Rolwaling or Langtang or Khumbu

Aspirant Guide Course Level 2

Qualification to participate in Aspirant Guide Course Level 2: Must complete Aspirant Guide Course-1

Time Duration: 14 Days

Syllabus: First aid, navigation, trekking expedition rule and regulation, metrology, rescue activities on trek, multi pitch rock activities

Number of Instructors: 6

Total Number of Participants: 10

Aspirant Guide Course Level 3

Qualification to participate in Aspirant Guide Course Level: Must complete Aspirant Guide Course -2

Time Duration: 28 Days

Syllabus: Mountain geography and history, mixed terrain, peak ascent and fixed line set up technique, peak evaluation, snow science and avalanche course, glacier, short and long rope technique and crevasse rescue

Number of Instructors: 6

Total Number of Participants: 10

Mountain Guide Certification Course

Mountain Guide Exam is the final education and evaluation system to be a certified international mountain guide (IFMGA Standard). Mountain guide exams consist of one module in the winter season, giving a total of 15 training days. The program should be conducted at 4000m to 6000m of different alpine terrain. This proposed plan does not include the approach or the return from the training venue. The dates of the courses are to be reconfirmed internally while, in the main, respecting the accepted dates.

Qualification to participate in Mountain Guide Certification Training: Must complete Aspirant Guide Course -1,2 and 3

Time Duration: 28 Days

Syllabus: All the techniques review and evaluation

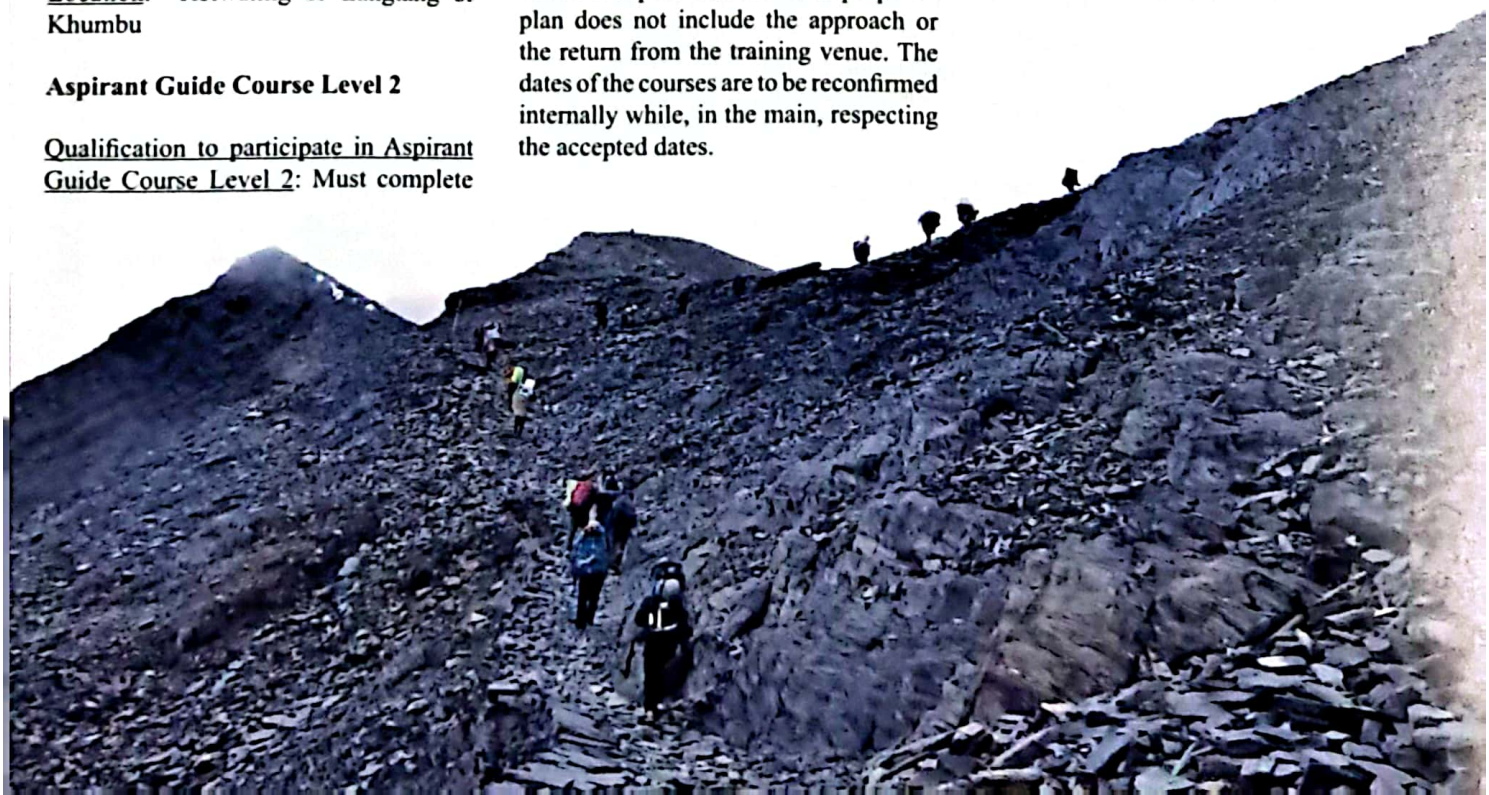
Number of Instructors: 6

Total Number of Participants:10

Why is training important?

To get knowledge of leadership, climbing, route detection, Route setting, self and second party Rescue, Wilderness First Aid, CPR, AMS, Cultural, flora, fauna, Geography, History, Trip planning, Mountain Navigation, Risk analyses, proper Decision, Environment Care. Currently in Nepal, the demand for Mountaineering courses are very high because climbers are aware of risk and safety. But NMA runs 40 pax for BMC, 27 pax for AMC and 10 pax for MG in a year. So I hereby request NMA to cooperate with the local and province government and run this skill development training all over Nepal.

It is necessary to raise the voice to the Central Government to increase the budget for training so as to provide funds to more participants because this course is very expensive as the training is conducted in mountains and Nepalese participants cannot afford it.



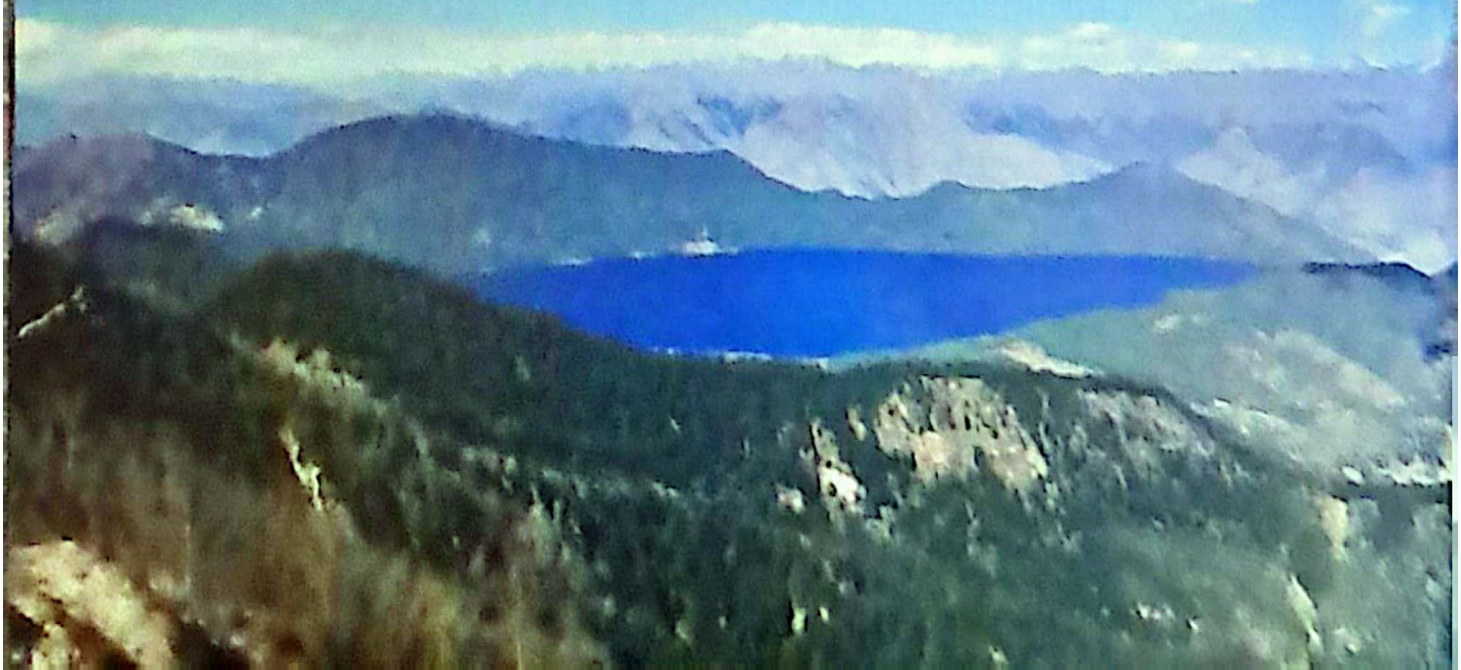
Possibilities and Challenges of The Great Himalaya Trail Nepal

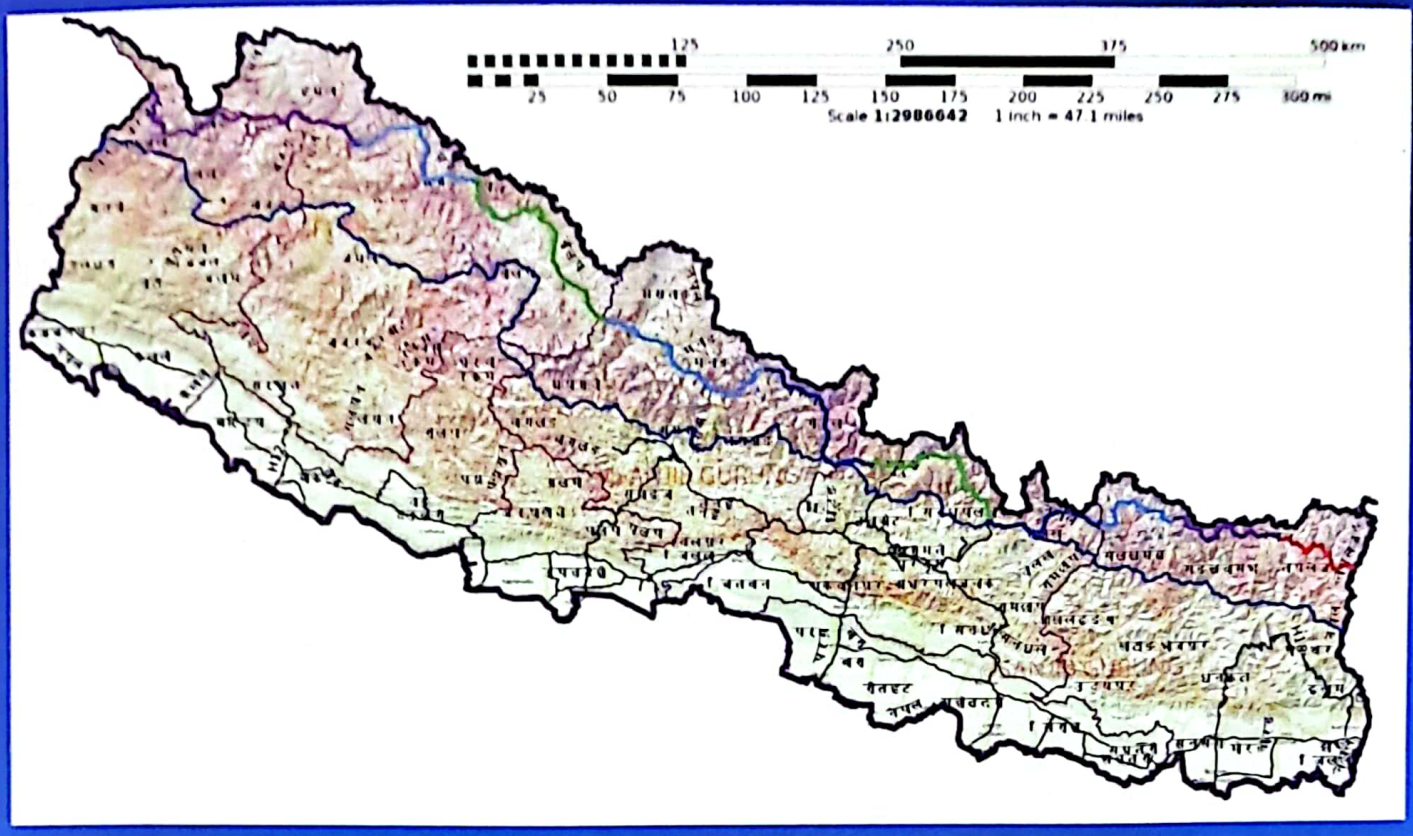


Sanjib Gurung
Executive Committee Member

The Great Himalaya Trail (GHT) is across the Himalayas route from east Namche Barwa Tibet to west Nanga Parbat Pakistan. The original proposed GHT concept of the trail was to establish a single longest and highest alpine trekking trail starting from the eastern Himalaya range and ending at the west Himalaya Range that includes a total of roughly 4,500 kilometers length of the path passing through Tibet, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Although an actual continuous route is currently only a concept, if completed it would be the longest and highest alpine hiking trail in the world.

The Great Himalaya Trail Nepal is a trekking route across Nepal Himalaya which includes a total length of roughly 1,400 kilometers from east Nepal Mt. Kanchenjunga to end west Nepal at Mt. Api Himalaya. It is one of the longest, most adventurous, and highest altitude trekking trails in the world. It passes from subtropical jungles to high altitude alpine ecosystems, through villages of Buddhists, Hindus, Sherpas, Tibetan refugees, Lhomis, Shamans and crosses many high passes as well. There are 2 routes Upper and Lower in GHT Nepal. The Great Himalaya Trail Nepal mainly focuses on the Upper route which is a technical & Adventurous trail and crosses many high passes. The upper route starts from Khang-La in Eastern Nepal that lies in the Indian border and ends at Chhangru 3000m in the West at the Indian Border (It needs to explore from Simkot to Chhangru trail via Mt. Api and Saipal Base Camp). The GHT Nepal trail links every Mountain of Nepal from Kanchenjunga to Api. It is a great chance to see 8 of 14th above 8000m mountain including the world's highest mountain Sagarmatha (Everest) too. Upper route passes through established trekking areas like Kanchenjunga, Makalu, Sagarmatha, Rolwaling, Langtang, Manaslu, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Dolpa, Rara, Humla, Saipal, and Api and it takes around 117 days to complete this trek in one season and it takes around 60 days each to complete in two seasons. The route also crosses 2 passes above 6000m, 21 passes above 5000m including Dakdong 5562m peak and glacier walk. From an adventure point of view, it can be considered the highest, longest, and most adventurous





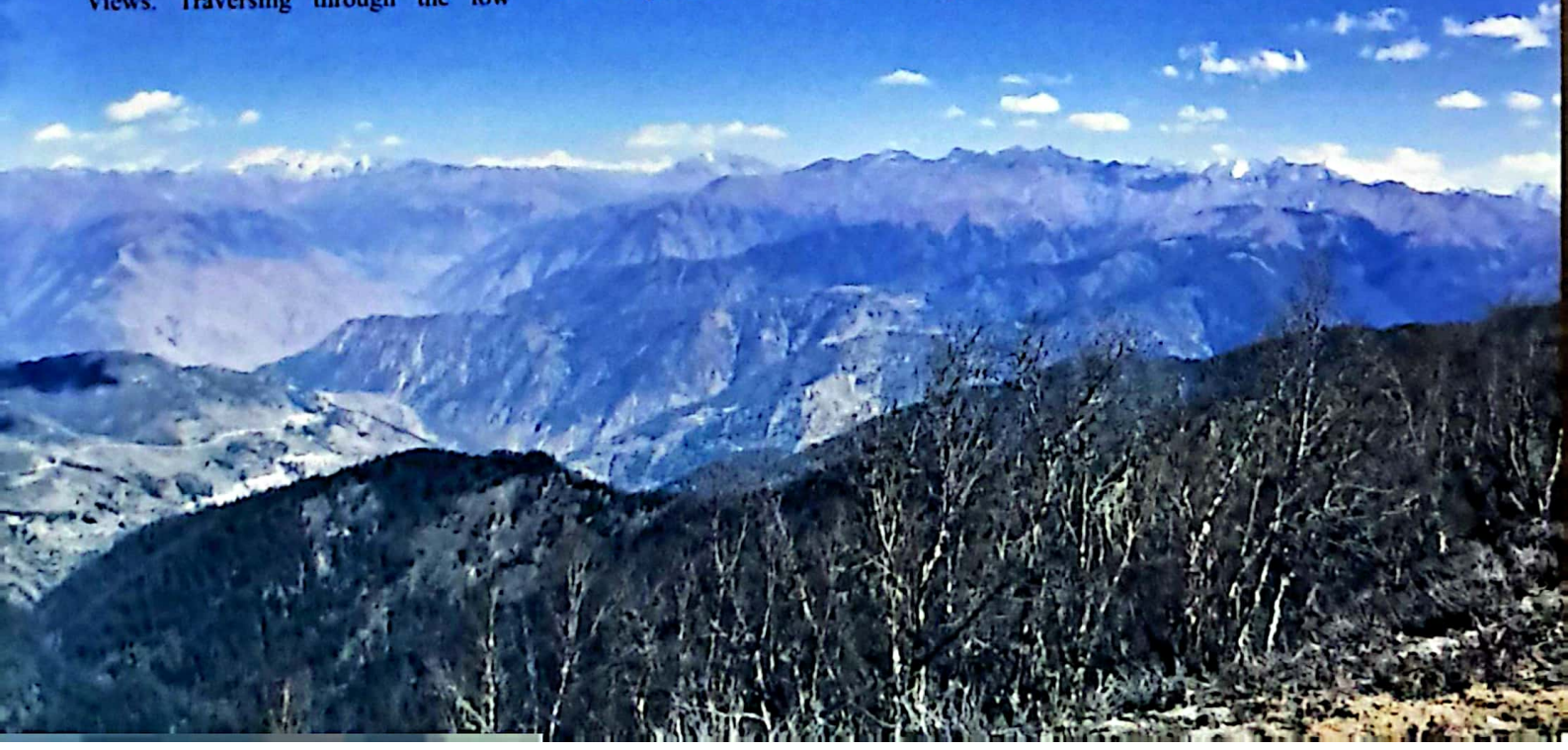
trail in the world. It can be a great attraction for tourists who are fond of adventurous destinations.

The lower route passes through the mid-hills of Nepal with an average altitude being 3000 to 4000 meters above sea level. This route is about 1300 kilometers and takes roughly about 110 days to complete the trek. This trek can be refreshing as one can blend in with nature, enjoy the diverse yet beautiful landscapes and panoramic Mountain Views. Traversing through the low GHT offers an extraordinary diversity of landscapes, cultures, and experiences.

The Great Himalaya Trail Nepal has been divided into 10 clusters and it covers 15 districts from Taplejung to Darchula in the Mountain range.

Possibilities

The Great Himalaya Trail has a big possibility in mountain tourism as the trail is all over the Himalayas. Travelers can experience mountain lifestyle and opportunity across the Himalaya that includes 8 of 14 mountains above 8000m. The Great Himalaya Trail can create jobs for local people and can generate an economy in rural areas. In the present context where Nepalese people have been forced to go to foreign countries for work due to increasing unemployment in our country, this trail can be a milestone by creating employment to Nepalese people and can help to improve the economy of our country. The Government of Nepal can



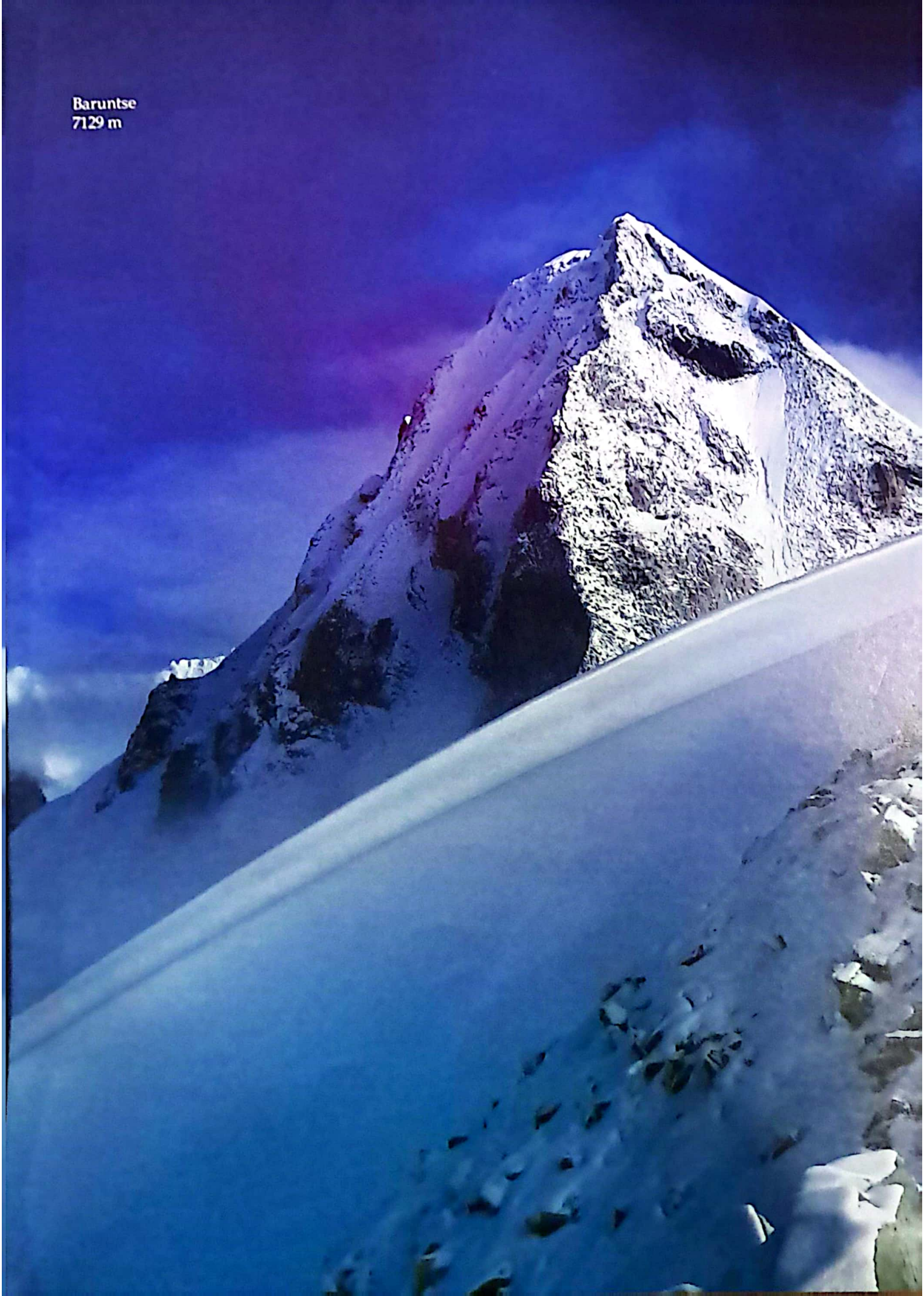
enhance their revenue by the collection of Taxes. There will also be significant growth in the income of locals. The Great Himalayan Trail revives and develops the backward communities, hidden tourist destinations and mountain ranges and culture and traditions in the Himalaya region.

Challenges

The Great Himalaya Trail Nepal is the hardest and longest trail in the world. There are many challenges to overcome while attempting the GHT Nepal. Travelers have to struggle with many high passes, glaciers, crevasses, and many more. Only the alpinists or skilled mountaineering and trekking people can successfully overcome the challenges of this trail. Weather is another major challenge in the trail. Navigating through heavy rain, foggy weather, flooding, snowfall is the challenging part of GHT Nepal. Sometimes because of heavy snowfall in high passes, travelers can't cross the passes. Roughly it needs more than 4 months for the GHT Nepal, so time and money both are needed for the GHT Nepal. Because of these constraints, fewer people are interested in GHT Nepal. Furthermore, for most parts of the trail, except for popular trekking routes, there are no walkable trails, and travelers might get confused by yak trails and cliffs. Some parts of the GHT Nepal include big glaciers and death crevasses too. Most high pass areas have rock slides & avalanche problems and no there are no rescue/ emergency shelters over there.

The Great Himalayan Trail is known as the world's longest mountain adventurous trail in the world but it is not recognized by the Government of Nepal nor by any national or international institutions. The high walking trail surpasses the entire country in the Himalayan region of Nepal passing through more than 15 high passes. The lower range passes through the communities of the hilly region of Nepal. There is always a debate about tourism as development or destruction. Some communities are dependent on tourism but not all the communities might be directly linked with tourism. The majority of the Nepali population is dependent on agriculture and roads are the basic pre-requisite for market linkages. The future of the Great Himalayan Trail remains uncertain and when the whole country is heading towards rapid infrastructural development the threat for the existence of the trails is high. There have been many cases where the popular trekking trails have been replaced by motorized roads. One of the biggest examples is the Annapurna Massif Trekking Trail which was hugely impacted by the roads which shortened the number of trekking days and also saw a huge drop in the number of trekkers in the region. Climate change and global warming add huge challenges for the Great Himalayan Trail, rapid melting of the glaciers and ice along with avalanches and landslides risk the travelers' life and even risk destroying the trail as a whole. The trails change every year and are getting riskier with the global rise in temperature.




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Um Hong Gil Human Foundation and Manang Mountaineering School



Neelam Thapa
Programme Managr

Who we are:

Um Hong Gil Human Foundation (UHGHF) is a non-political, non-governmental, non-religious and non-profit humanitarian organization, which was first founded in Korea in 2008 to support Korea's most renowned and World Record Holder climber; Um Hong Gil whoever first climbed all 14 eight thousand meter peaks in the world and ever wished to help Nepal and her people, as he always has done more than 30 years as an individual social worker even before this Foundation was registered.

On January 12, 2020, Nepal Government handed over the nation's highest recognition to Captain Um Hong Gil, The Honorary Citizenship of Nepal. He is the second person and altogether there are only 3 foreigners who have received this highly prestigious title till date.

Social Welfare Council and Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare have appreciated our efforts and support to Nepal and rewarded us as an outstanding INGO during the 38th Social Welfare Day 2017 among 240 other INGOs working in Nepal.

The Foundation was awarded Kumar Khadga Bikram Sahasik Samman 2018, National Sagarmatha Award 2019, and Prakash Dahal Sahasik Sagarmatha Samman 2019.

Um Hong Gil's wish

The mission of the UHGHF is to aid the vulnerable children of Nepal by empowering them through education and other supportive activities. Education is the key to bring change in the lives of others. UHGHF aims to help the children, schools, and communities by providing a safer, healthier, and more effective learning environment.

Giving high value to education, it has been providing technical and financial support for the infrastructure development of government and community schools of remote Nepal.



Since 2009 we have been building schools in Nepal for deprived and excluded children living in remote areas. We now have completed 16 well equipped, child-friendly, earthquake safe, modern RCC school buildings with Gender friendly toilets, drinking water, and playground facilities so far. Two more schools are also under construction.

The Mountain Medical Institute

In 2017, UHGHF supported a local community to establish a Hospital equipped with the latest medical technologies in Namche Bazaar (3,440 m) that can provide quality health services to more than 10,000 local residents along with an increasing number of trekkers and mountaineers.

Earthquake Recovery Project

UHGHF has supported the reconstruction of the ancient and holy monasteries of Khumbu Region, the Draktod Dorje Phodrang Monastery, Phakding, and Chiwang Monastery of Phaplu that were severely damaged by the devastating earthquake in 2015. We believe our support will help to preserve the spiritual, religious beliefs, and valuable social traditions of the majestic Khumbu region.

MOU with NMA

As a Mountaineer, Captain Um is always serious and committed in the development and the sustainability of the mountainous sector including nature preservation and human resource development. To institutionalize mountain-related education in Korea, a group of like-minded people lead by Captain Um lobbied with the government for a long time and finally succeeded to establish the National Mountaineering School, Korea in 2018 where he served as the first Founding Principal as well.

Nepal is the heaven of the mountains as it holds 8 out of 14 highest peaks in the world including Mt. Everest and hundreds of smaller peaks lower than 8000m. Nepal is also a center for adventure mountain climbing and trekking related activities. Therefore, the mountain-related sector occupies a large part of the Tourism industry of Nepal, and more than 500,000 people working in this sector are directly linked with it. As mountain tourism is getting bigger, related problems are also rising significantly, especially global warming-related effects, accidents, injuries, mishandling of rescues, etc. To address all these current issues and to research on future possibilities we think a National Mountaineering Training School is a must in a mountainous country Like Nepal. Relating to this, UHGHF was honored to have an opportunity to collaborate with the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) for the construction of the Manang Mountaineering School. The objective of this project is to produce skilled human resources required for the sustainable development and promotion of the Mountaineering Tourism sector and in long run to conduct research on the uplifting of this sector.

The collaboration has begun with the MOU signed between UHGHF and NMA in the 12th International Sagarmatha Day on 29th May 2019. As UHGHF is only working in the Educational, Health, and Heritage preservation sector, this is the new sector for us. However, we are excited to contribute our best to set a landmark in the mountaineering education sector of Nepal.



Women in Mountaineering

Maya Sherpa

Leading the Mountaineers' Community

Anita Gurung



Maya Sherpa is the president of the Everest Summiteers Association. She is not only a well-known Mountaineer but also an icon for women who want to enter the field. Maya, who has climbed mountains including Mt. Everest, has been working as a climbing leader for the past 17 years. She is one of the very few Nepali women who has been working as a climbing leader for such a long time.

Early Life and attraction to mountaineering

Born in Okhaldhunga district Patle VDC in 2034. Her father used to work as a trekking guide whereas her mother is a farmer living in the village. There was no one in the family as a climber, so she became the first in the family. Her childhood was mostly visiting home and Kathmandu quite frequently for education as her uncle was in Kathmandu. She took most of her education in Kathmandu although she also had some schooling in the village as well. She has studied up to proficiency certificate level (now known as Plus 2).

Since childhood, she was keen to visit various places that attracted her to the trekking profession. As she grew up by following the footsteps of her father she began to accompany her father and brothers in their trekking profession which she considers as inspirations. However, before entering into the trekking profession she also was very interested, more than education, in games and sports, particularly martial arts. Therefore, she had the opportunity to be engaged in those games for about 4 years. First, she played as a professional boxing player for about a year during which boxing was in its initial stage in Nepal, and then she became a weight lifter for about 3 years. These were like precursors to challenging works which she apparently prefers.

Early Career – a foundation towards climbing

Her entry into the tourism sector happened when she was about 18 years of age as a trekking guide assistant along with her father and brothers. During that time, it was not possible to get a guide job directly, so it was necessary to go through the phase of becoming an assistant to learn about being a guide.



She was inspired by her zeal to travel to various places while earning at the same time, meet different people including foreigners, and being able to learn different languages. She wanted to do something different as she saw that there were very few women guides at the time and thought that it could turn out to be a big opportunity. She felt proud of being a trekking guide

as she was one of the very few women among a huge number of trekking guides that were mostly men.

Before moving on to the climbing profession she only did the trekking guide job for 2 years. She took up the climbing profession in 2003.

But she was still doing work that involved her accompanying clients up to the base camp. Particularly, the husbands of her clients would go climbing the mountain whereas she would take the women up to the base camp and return them back. After several trips to the base camp, her interest to climb the mountain increased. Some of the women climbers proposed to her team leader if Nepali women are given the opportunity for climbing it might be useful for climbing operations in the future. So, her team leader asked her about her interest in climbing and gave her an opportunity without knowing whether or not she would be able to climb. Then, she took part in training in Manang and after a week of training completion she set out for climbing Ama Dablam.

After 2003, she worked as a climbing Sherpa until 2008. She established a trekking company and working as an assistant group leader. After her successful career in mountaineering, she started to motivate young people as a motivational speaker. She works for the rights and welfare of climbers through Everest Summiteers' Association.

Mountaineering Career

The first experience of climbing for her was quite hard as she did not have good equipment and she suffered frostbites to some extent, but the climbing was successfully completed. The client was from Australia who said she was the youngest lady to climb Ama Dablam and interestingly, Maya became the first Nepali woman climbing the same peak at the same time. She came to know about the record only after she returned to Kathmandu.

After the first summit to Ama Dablam, her journey as a climber continued almost every year. In 2004, she climbed Mt. Pumori in the spring season as a guide and in the autumn of the same year, she also summited Mt. Cho Oyu (above 8000 m) without oxygen which set another record among Nepali women. During this expedition, she would find her would be husband, a man from the Netherlands (Holland). Later he came to Nepal as a group leader which was even more helpful as they could climb together. After their marriage in 2006, Maya and her husband climbed Mt. Everest from Nepal side together in the spring of the same year and again climbed from Tibet (China) side. With this, she became the second Nepali woman that successfully climbed Mt. Everest from both faces, while she also became the fifth Nepali woman to climb Mt. Everest.

After her marriage, she mainly did climbing supporting her husband's team. But in 2008 she opened her own trekking company.

She also climbed mountains in foreign countries including the world's second-highest peak Mt. K2 in Pakistan, the second-highest peak of Kyrgyzstan, Elbrus of Russia, and Mt. Kilimanjaro of Africa (Tanzania). The experience of foreign expedition shows that the



service of the guides are not like what Nepalese guides do.

Personal Views

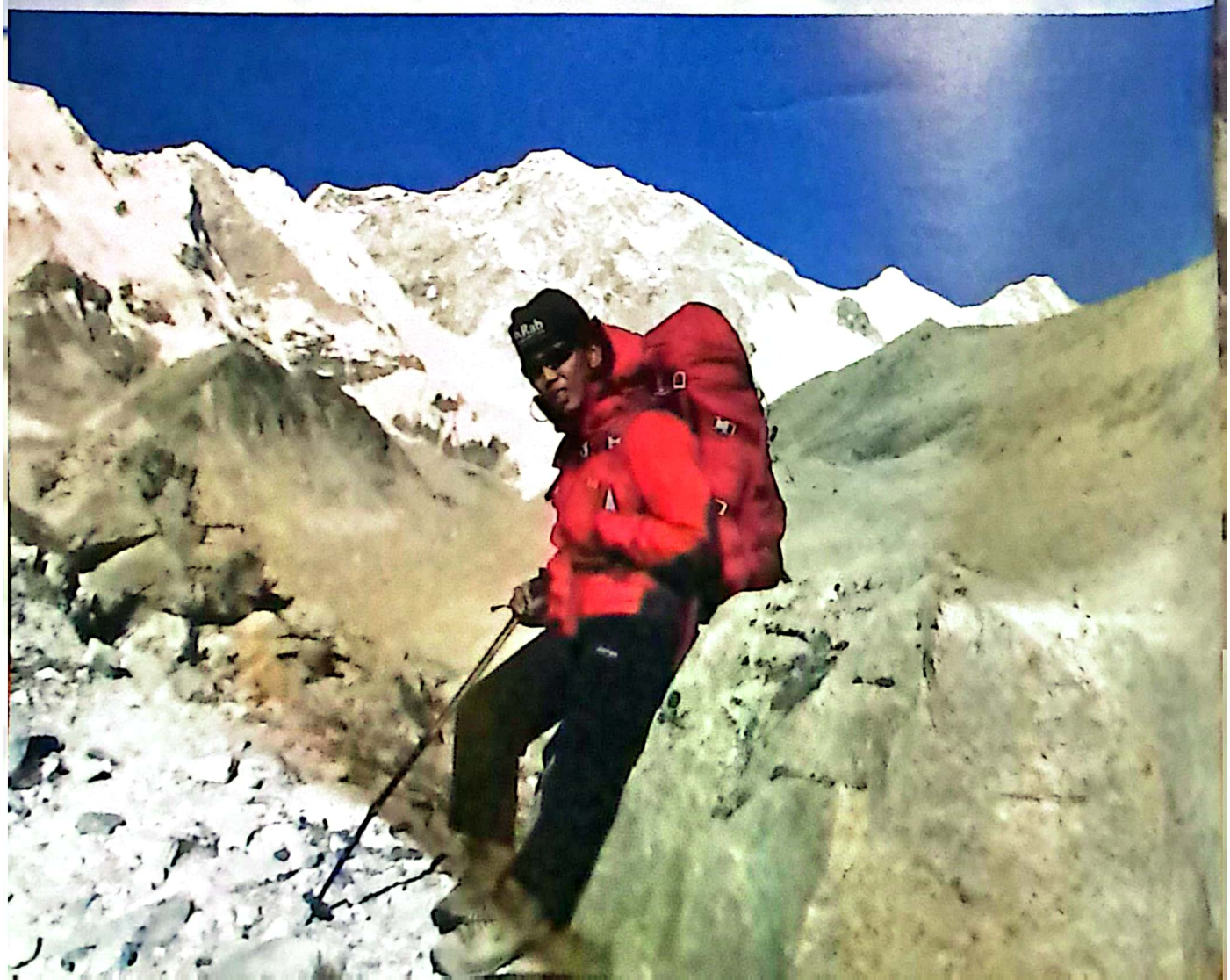
Based on her long experience, she identifies some key problems in mountaineering as i) lack of clarity in rules and regulations, such as, salaries based on experience & skill of language, rate according to Himalaya, etc.; ii) lack of experienced guides; iii) language barrier among guides; iv) unhealthy competition leading to poor quality of service and raised the level of risks and negative impact on the reputation of companies; v) management of garbage on the basis of mountain type and cleaning, and vi) strict monitoring and actions.

She notes that guides in Nepal almost do everything for the client like carrying stuff, cooking, and helping in many ways which cannot be found in other countries. This means that the guides in Nepal need to be mentally and physically strong. They also have to be dedicated to hard jobs which is a disincentive for some and this discourages them to stay in Nepal and work as they try to find easier jobs outside of Nepal. When they go out of Nepal, they normally don't want to return. As long as the workers are strong up to the age of 45 to 50 companies give them work. But once their strength begins to decline they are out of a job, and there are no retirement or social security packages made available by the companies or the government.

She shares that almost 95 percent of the mountaineering guides are from the Sherpa community but their social security is an important issue that has not been paid due attention by the state. This can lead to a troublesome situation of decline in the number of mountaineering guides in the future as it is a dangerous profession. Moreover, at present, the less educated guides are doing all hard works like carrying a load of clients and so on but their children are now getting better education and the children may not opt for such hard jobs as they get older. All these may lead to some change in the mountaineering of Nepal and the clients may have to change their position. The children of Sherpa may be well trained but they may not carry loads like their parents. To encourage more mountaineering guides there is a need for some incentive from the government such as insurance.

She considers these important points to become a mountaineering guide as i) self-confidence, and ii) open to speaking.

If someone asks her what did she get out of climbing, then her answer would be that she could live her life as she wanted which is not possible for many. She was able to achieve a lot in life through climbing. She had dreams to have her own life and travel to many countries in the world and those dreams did come true.



Women mountaineer – societal views and challenges

It has been 17 years since she has been in this profession now. By then, people didn't know much about the mountain climbing profession and they used to think that this profession was only suitable for men. If women were interested in this profession they were frowned upon. Society would think negatively of women who left the house and went on climbing trips for months with other men. People at that time thought that the women would not be able to find good husbands if they had chosen the mountaineering profession. Now the time has changed and there are a lot of female leaders in the mountaineering profession. Society now is very understanding, accepting, and appreciative of women in the mountaineering profession.

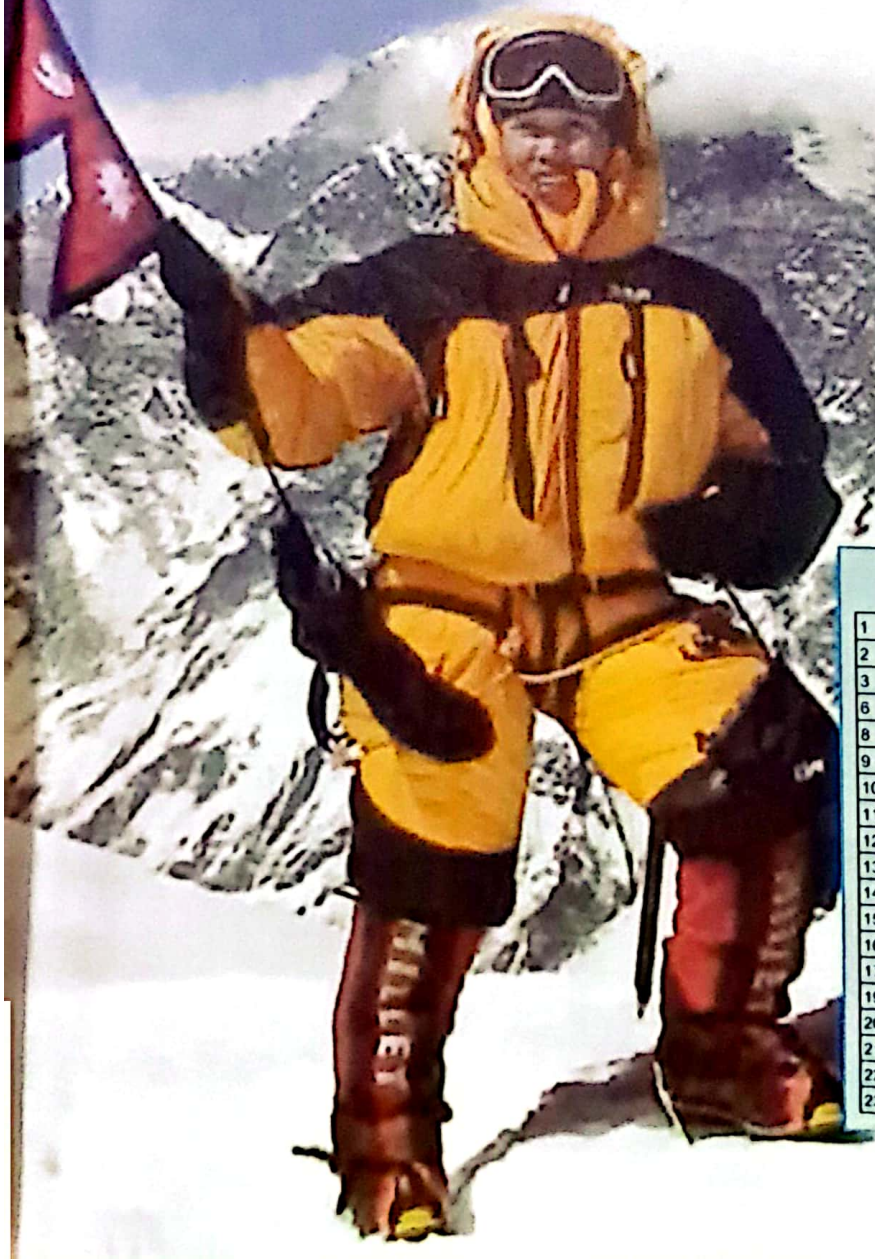
She thinks that there are quite a few challenges for a woman in this profession. The first challenge is the physiological challenge, particularly menstruation makes a woman somewhat weak and causes disturbances. Despite that as a climber one cannot stop but has to take medicine and continue the hardship. Using the toilet during the period is another difficulty for the women. In the trip, some fellow climbing men understand while some others don't. There still exists superstition which suggests not to allow a woman under menstruation to summit the mountain considering it as unholy.

Another challenge is the sharing of tents. They usually don't get a single separate tent, so sometimes women have to share a tent with fellow men. This causes awkwardness when people have to change clothes.

Leadership roles in ESA and NMA

Currently, she is also the Chairperson of the Everest Summiteers Association (ESA). ESA is doing a number of good jobs including advocacy for appointing liaison officers from among the summiteers which are advantageous for the mountaineering industry as a whole. She became a member of NMA being a summiteer and her focus has been mainly on the summiteers' matters. Since NMA also depends on summiteers, her suggestion to the NMA is that the NMA should fight for the rights and wellbeing of the summiteers along with its development as an alpine club. Among the board members so far she is the only woman member representing summiteers for which she is very happy, but she believes more women should be represented in the future. Likewise, she thinks that NMA should be doing for mountaineering professionals rather than being involved in politics.

After she got elected IInd vice presedent to the NMA board three years ago, her interest was to change the constitution of NMA to facilitate membership of summiteers which was very difficult in the past. Likewise, NMA is doing school building in collaboration with foreign donors, mountain cleaning, and so on. Although she is not a hundred percent satisfied by the work, she certainly appreciates the change that was possible to bring over the last three years.



The key achievements of Maya Sherpa,

1	Mt. Ama Dablam	6812 m	Autumn	2003 (Summit)
2	Mt. Pumori	7161 m	Spring	2004 (Summit)
3	Mt. Cho Oyu	8201 m	Autumn	2004 (Summit)
6	Mt. Everest South	8848 m	Spring	2006 (Summit)
8	Mt. Everest North	8848 m	Autumn	2007 (Summit)
9	Mt. Lhotse/ Everest	8516 m	Spring	2008 (Summit)
10	Mt. Khan Tingri	7010 m	Summer	2008 (Summit)
11	Mt. Lhotse	8501 m	Autumn	2009 (Summit)
12	Mera Peak	6470 m	Autumn	2009 (Summit)
13	Mt. Baruntse	7244 m	Autumn	2009 (Summit)
14	Mt. K2	8611 m	Spring	2014 (Summit)
15	Mt. Everest South-side	8848 m	Spring	2016 (Summit)
16	Mt. Manaslu	8168 m	Autumn	2016 (Summit)
17	Mt. Himlung	7126 m	Autumn	2016 (Summit)
19	Island Peak	6189 m	Spring	2019 (Summit)
20	Labuche Peak	6119m	Spring	2019 (Summit)
21	Mt. Kanchenjunga	8586m	Spring	2019 (Summit)
22	Mt. Elbrus	5642m	Spring	2019 (Summit)
23	Mt. Kilimanjaro	5895m	Spring	2019 (Summit

Eight–Thousanders Summiteer

Nirmal Purja Magar

After Nirmal and his team's successful ascent of the K2 in winter season, he was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA).

Ganga Devi Gurung



Mountains Climbed

Annapurna (8,091m, Nepal, April 23, 2019)

Dhaulagiri (8,167m, Nepal, May 12, 2019)

Kanchenjunga (8,586m, Nepal, May 15, 2019)

Everest (8,848m, Nepal, May 22, 2019)

Lhotse (8,516m, Nepal, May 22, 2019)

Makalu (8,481m, Nepal, May 24, 2019)

Nanga Parbat (8,125m, Pakistan, July 3, 2019)

Gasherbrum I (8,080m, Pakistan, July 15, 2019)

Gasherbrum II (8,035m, Pakistan, July 18, 2019)

K2 (8,614m, Pakistan, July 24, 2019, Jan 16, 2021)

Broad Peak (8,051m, Pakistan, July 26, 2019)

Cho Oyu (8,188m, China/Nepal, September 23, 2019)

Manaslu (8,163m, Nepal, September 27, 2019)

Shishapangma (8,027m, China, October 29, 2019)

NirmalPurjaMagar, 38, conquered Mt. K2 at 8,611m, the world's second-highest mountain, without supplemental oxygen on 16 January 2021. Nirmal accompanied by his nine climbing teammates became the first team to conquer K2 in the winter. They took the last few steps together by singing the Nepalese national anthem on top of K2.

His teammates were Mingma David Sherpa, MingmaTenzi Sherpa, Galjen Sherpa, PemChiri Sherpa, Dawa Temba Sherpa, Mingma G, DawaTenzing Sherpa, Kilu Pemba Sherpa, and Sona Sherpa.

Till then, K2 was only one of the world's 14 highest peaks never conquered in winter. Therefore, it was a big challenge for all of the climbing team. K2 has been considered the toughest and most dangerous mountain to climb, with the nickname "Savage Mountain".

After he and his team's successful ascent of the K2, Nirmal was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), the only national alpine club in recognition of his achievements, holder of multiple mountaineering world records. Before this, he was awarded "Sherpa of the year–2020" by the Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA), which is a prestigious award for the mountaineering community in Asia.

NirmalPurjaMagar, a former British Gurkha and originally from Myagdi, had completed his school level education in Chitwan. His elder brothers were British Gurkhas. But they thought their younger brother and sister should get a good education and hence Nirmal along with his sister went to Chitwan for a good education.

Nirmal didn't have any thoughts on the Himalayas and climbing until he noticed the livelihood, lifestyle, and physical fitness of his lahure (British Gurkha) brothers. Then Nirmal's childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor turned into a becoming a soldier as well as it was considered a big pride for most of the people in his community. So he joined the Brigade of Gurkhas at the age of 18. Nirmal highly appreciated his brothers' contribution and what they had done for his boarding school education. Nirmal knew that it was a great opportunity for him.

Nirmal is the first Gurkha in 200 years of history that has passed the Special Forces course, which is considered as one of the highest-ranked jobs among the British Gurkhas.

Being a member of Special Forces, Nirmal traveled many places around the globe. During his travel, most people used to ask him where he was from. When Nirmal replied with 'Nepal', they all asked him whether he had seen Mt. Everest or not. Eventually, Nirmal did decide to visit Nepal to see the Mt. Everest.

In his early 30s, Nirmal planned to trek in Nepal for the first time. Nirmal recalled the moment when MingmaDorje as his guide. He remembers that the journey with him was a very good and pleasant one. Though Nirmal's initial plan was to trek to the Mt. Everest base camp, they decided to climb Mt. Lobuche. They managed to climb it in Dec 2012 after doing a few days of practice in Lobuche village.

While serving in the Special Forces, Nirmal used to think that is everything for him but after climbing the Himalayas, Nirmal started to think that Nature has a bigger thing to say, it is very simple and humble. So he was very much pleased with nature.

Nirmal says that Special Forces means



whatever the famous Hollywood star James Bond does in reel life, Nirmal along with his colleagues in Special Forces has to do the same things like sky diving, submarine pilot, hostage rescue, a top mission with medical operations, etc. in real life.

He started to climb the mountains through his expenses whenever he got leaves from his Special Forces services. Nirmal had climbed Mt. Dhaulagiri at 8,167m, the world's seventh-highest mountain, in 14 days in 2014. It was his first time above 8,000 m height peak in his life. Before it, he had climbed Denali, the USA in 2013. Nirmal couldn't come to Nepal for climbing in 2015 due to some reasons.

Nirmal completed the summit of Mt. Everest during his operational break from Special Forces in 2016. During that time, he also did a rescue of Swami Goshwami from an altitude of 8,450m.

After that, Nirmal was very much interested to climb the Himalayas regularly. In 2017, the Gurkhas also planned for climbing. Nirmal was the main instructor of the Gurkhas expedition team that year.

During the ascent, the official fixing team couldn't set the line so Nirmal fixed the line with the help of his own Gurkhas team and then the Sherpa team fixed the line so that it can be used by all climbing teams attempting the summit of Mt. Everest.

Up until then, Nirmal was still undercover though he was already a holder of three-world records in 2017. He had summited Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse, and Mt. Makalu in five days' duration.

The second record that he held was his record of Mt. Lhotse summit in 10 hrs 15 mins.

The other record was of summiting Mt Everest twice along with Mt. Lhotse and Mt. Makalu in 10 days' duration. Nirmal was the first climber to complete this feat.

Nirmal had received the Guinness World Record but it was not exposed upon Nirmal's request for his privacy as he was serving in the Special Forces of British Gurkhas.

Nirmal also holds a cherished world record for climbing the 14 highest mountains in the shortest time. He accomplished this feat in less than seven months.

In 2019, Nirmal quit from the British Gurkhas' Special Forces to start the "Project Possible" in coordination with the British team. In the beginning, they were reluctant to work with Nirmal as they hadn't seen or heard anything of his climbing experience openly.



They didn't know of Nirmal's mountaineering capabilities and hence they didn't trust him. But Nirmal was determined in climbing and he even quit the British Gurkhas' service thinking 'nothing is impossible.' That was the bigger picture for Nirmal while talking about the layers and he believes that different layers have their motivational factors.

Nirmal says, "Most of my colleagues and friends have houses in Kathmandu but I don't have any. I was more focused on climbing the mountains so I invested in climbing."

According to Nirmal, he was born in a very poor family and he served in a very highly prestigious Special Forces, which is not easily accessible to anyone upon their interest and choice. Nirmal thinks that it is not necessary to have your relatives or cousins or kinship to fulfill your dream. As long as you don't give up, and work hard, you will achieve your dream.



He adds, "There are eight billion people in the world. If you want to come out on top, you have to work harder than these eight billion do."

"Well, everyone sees and says that Nirmal has been able to achieve success. But people don't know how much and how hard Nirmal worked to achieve this name and fame. Nobody had seen his struggle", Nirmal says. "Not even one percent. People have seen his success only".

"Not only the discipline is enough. One should have self-discipline. Likewise, the motivation but not only from others, one should have self-motivation capacity. If you want to achieve, you can but there should be a determination from within.",Nirmal added.

Nirmal wanted to break the wrong perception of most of the people that Nepalese are only the porters for summiting the highest mountains. So he decided to show the world that the Nepalese also can conquer the highest and toughest mountains and he proved it handsomely. Nirmal says he is proud of his achievements.

Nirmal says that he quit the British Gurkhas Special Forces for climbing to give some sort of justice to the Nepalese people.

"Project Possible" the big mission, bigger than his own family. The first challenge for him was finding the funding for it. In the beginning, people didn't believe him. Also, he didn't have any sources of funding but he was determined to conquer K2, so he tried his best to summit it by financing on his own. He started a 'gofundme', an online fundraising campaign, thinking it might bring in more funds from around the world for his project.

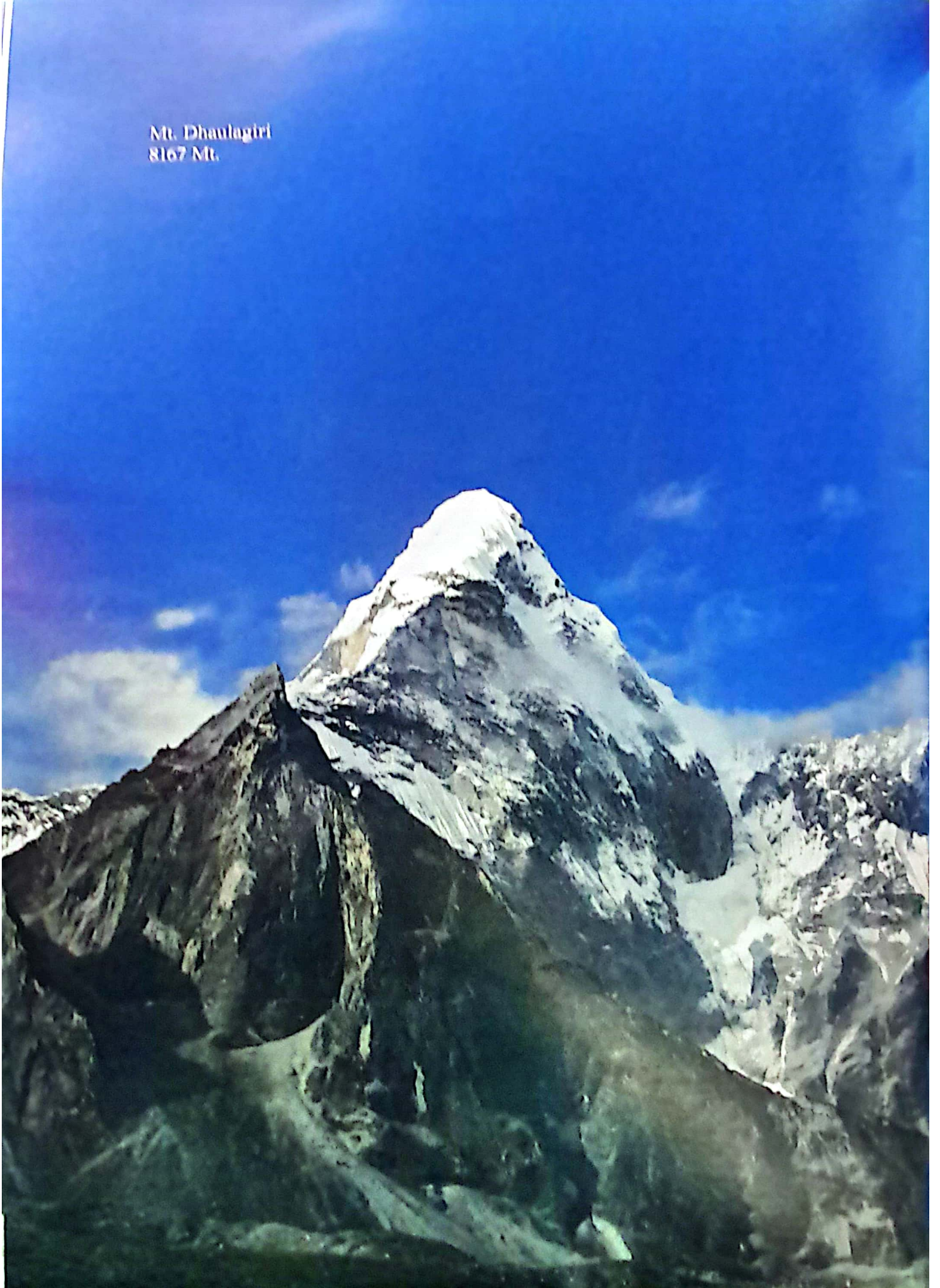
Later the Nepalese diaspora did help a lot. Receiving positive messages from the younger generation, Nirmal continued on his mission. For him, to achieve the goal, the mindset should be strong and self-determination is of the utmost importance.

Nirmal says, "Critics also help. I can't make all the people happy. I should only focus on my aim, objective, and goal."

"As human beings, we have got an amazing talent. We have to use it as far as we can. We have to explore more and use it in our lives. It is the best thing we can do for our people and country", he added.

Most importantly his message to the younger generation is, "My success is not a coincidence. It is not a coincidence at all. It came with blood, sweat, tears, and hard work up. I keep saying it. The amount of suffering I have gone through, only I know."

NirmalPurjaMagar has successfully climbed all the 14 mountains above 8,000 meters in less than seven months. They are as follows:


Mt. Dhaulagiri
8167 Mt.

Record Holder

Kami Rita Sherpa

24 times Mt. Everest Summiteer

Khim Ghale



Kami Rita Sherpa, a world-renowned mountaineer, was born in Thame, a remote village of the Himalayan district of Solukhumbu on January 17, 1970. He has spent 26 years of his life climbing mountains. During this period, he has earned fame, not only for himself but also for the nation.

He has three Guinness World Records to his name. However, he says, "I came to know about the World Records that I achieved only after I received the first certificate in 2018 after climbing Mt Everest for the 22nd time. I had never dreamed of it and had never worked for records."



Kami Rita was born in the village where Tenzing Norgay Sherpa was born, the guide of Sir Edmund Hillary. Both Tenzing and Hillary were the first people to step on the summit of Mt Everest for the first time in the world on May 29, 1953.

Kami Rita's father Mingma Chhiri Sherpa was also one of the first-generation mountain guides in Nepal and a team member of the Tenzing–Hillary Mt. Everest expedition as a porter. However, tourism in Nepal was not developed at that time and the profession of the guide was also not as lucrative as it is now.

The boy, who grew up hearing stories of mountaineering from his father, had started working as a porter at the age of 12, carrying heavy loads to support his family that could not make their ends meet with the meager income of his father. He recalls his days saying, "On the one hand, there was no school in the village to study. I had to walk for three hours to reach school. On the other hand, my father's income was not enough for our big family."

He had studied up to grade four in the village and had also learned Buddhism in the local monastery for some time. Shortly after he started his job as a porter, he got a chance to work as an assistant guide. As he grew older, his work also upgraded. He became a guide and had the opportunity to climb the mountain in 1992 as an assistant mountain guide. But he was not allowed to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. In 1992 and 1993, he traveled several times to the South Col of Mt. Everest as an assistant guide.

At that time, one needed to have the experience of having reached on the peak of a mountain at least 8000 meters high in order to be eligible to climb Mt.Everest. In his opinion, it was done so that there would be no problem for the guide and the climber.

Finally, in 1994, at the age of 24, he was permitted to climb Mt. Everest and he succeeded. At that time there were not many ascents, 5-6 in the spring season, and 3-4 in the autumn season and guides had to struggle to get a job. So, when Kami Rita stepped on the top of Mt. Everest, the first thing that came to his mind was, "Now it's easier for me to find work."

After climbing Mt. Everest for the first time in 1994, it became easier for him to find work. The company sent him to Mt. Everest every year. The success rate of his team was also good. Except for a few intervening years, he continued to climb Mt. Everest as a guide almost every year. After setting the Guinness World Records by successfully climbing Mt. Everest for the 22nd time in 2018, he has been the brand ambassador of Seven Summit Treks Pvt. Ltd. After Kami Rita climbed Mt. Everest for the 21st time in 2017, his fame started spreading in the country and in the world.

Earlier, Appa Sherpa had set a world record of climbing Mt. Everest 21 times, while Phurba Sherpa had also climbed 21 times.

Since both of them had retired from climbing, many had speculated that Kami Rita might break the record, which proved to be true. The following year, he successfully climbed Mt. Everest for the 22nd time, setting a record for the highest number of times in the world.

In 2019, he won two world record certificates. That year, he climbed Mt. Everest twice in a month and counted the 24th time. The world record for climbing Mt. Everest for the 24th time came in the same year when he also made the world record for stepping 36 times in the region above 8,000 meters. After climbing Mt. Everest for the 24th time, he said that he would climb it for the 25th time in the spring of 2020. He also told some media outlets, "I will turn 50 in 2020. I will retire from climbing after I conquer Mt. Everest for the 25th time." His wish could not be fulfilled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.



However, Kami Rita said that he did not know about the world record and did not go for it. According to him, if he had to work for the record, he would have done it when he had got many opportunities before. But he ignored them all. He always put his client in his priority, and not his records or numbers.

"It's not about climbing for oneself, it's about helping others to climb, it's about guiding the way," he says. "I must fulfill the dream of a person who has spent millions of rupees rather than climbing for me."

He has given up that thought for two reasons. Firstly, all the climbers who are preparing to climb the mountain in the spring of 2020 will come in 2021. Secondly, after he talked about retiring, some climbers said that they were coming because of him. If he would not be in the field, they will not come. Kami Rita said, "If it is because of me that someone will come to climb, I have to climb for them too."

Guru Mantra: Concentrate on work

Kami Rita's world record shows that he is not only the person to climb the highest peak many times but also the person to reach the highest regions many times. One can easily guess about his success from this. I asked him about the secret of his success. He said, "Concentration on the work."

According to Kami Rita, going to the mountains is like going to war. Anything can happen. So the climbers usually make insurances for the sake of their children, it is to ensure their family in case of any mishappenings. It works even if the climber is mutilated. "If you're going to the mountains, you have to focus on it. If you start thinking about your home and family, you may not be successful," he says.

Kami Rita spends time with his family during the off-season and does exercises and training to keep his body healthy and fit. As the mountaineering season approaches, he checks the mountaineering gears, from mountain clothes to shoes. If the old one does not work, he buys a new one. If it can be repaired and operated, he does it himself.

"When I leave my home for work, I think about work and concentrate on it. I don't think about home and family," he says. "You have to prepare yourself physically and mentally and focus on your work."

His emphasis is on training for new climbers. "We didn't have a place to get training when we started to climb mountains. I took the training much later", he says. "Now you can take the training before climbing the mountain and the risk can be reduced to a great extent. Climbing a high mountain during our time could have been fatal due to lack of training beforehand." In his views, it's not just about being strong; the biggest thing is that the body has to be able to fight the altitude.

Moments of joy and sorrow

Kami Rita goes to war every season. He encounters many happy and sad moments. Is the success in climbing the mountain and earning the records a happy moment? No, Kami Rita's statement is slightly different. He is happier when his climbers, guides and other staff reach home safely after climbing the mountain. "I'm not going to climb a mountain for myself, I'm going to help a person who dreams of climbing a mountain come true. I always have to keep this in mind," He says, "I am not happy when the dream of the climber I took was not fulfilled, but I am very happy to hear that the climbers, guides, and staff have returned home safely."

As Kami Rita says, in this profession, moments of sorrow come time and again. It is a pity that for some reason the climbers he has taken could not be successful. Sometimes, for some reason porter abandons the journey in the middle of the trek and they will have to carry double their load. But his heartbreaking moment of grief happened in 2014 and 2015 at Mr. Everest. In 2014, 16 Sherpa guides were killed in an avalanche at Khumbu Icefall on Mt. Everest. That included his friends and relatives too. And even during the 2015 earthquake, 12 people had died at the Mt. Everest base camp. These two incidents are heartbreaking for him. He says, "Even now when I reach Khumbu Icefall, I get disturbed by that incident. I want to walk there without stopping."



Suffering of mountaineers

Kami Rita knows that climbing is only possible when one is strong. Then he worries about his future and the future of his family members. This is because he knows about the condition of climbers senior than him who have retired.

According to him, earning a name and fame for oneself by climbing is not only a personal matter but also promoting the nation and the tourism sector in the international arena. Climbers are working for the country but the government has not looked after them. The condition of the renowned climbers who are unable to work is critical. "The government should give such people a respectable role," he added.

In Kami Rita's view, guides have a big role in the tourism sector. Some tourists come to climb mountains because of the guides but ignoring those experienced guides and formulating new tourism policies will not give the right result. And just calling the guides to meetings without any remuneration and asking questions just don't work. Hundreds of experienced mountain guides have left the country because they do not see a secure future in their homeland. No one wants to live in a land where their future is not secure. That is why he has seen a lack of good guides in Nepali mountaineering.

"The good and experienced guides have left the country and are living abroad. The new generation does not want to suffer," he said. "There was a time when a guide would go looking for a job. Now the company operators are looking for a good guide." He adds, "I have rejected the offers given by foreigners to settle there. Not everyone will do that. The government must pay attention to these guides and ensure their social security to save and promote mountaineering, the backbone of tourism in Nepal."

Eight-Thousanders Summiteer

Mingma Gyabu 'David' Sherpa



✍ Khim Ghale

What would a normal person do at the age of thirty? Start a job, a profession, or a business and move forward. However, Mingma Gyabu 'David' Sherpa, a mountaineering guide and famous rescuer, has two world records at the age of 30. The Guinness World Record awards titles to those who accomplish what others cannot. He has accomplished two such things at this age.

Mingma, who won the Gorkha Dakshin Bahu III in 2020, has set two world records while working honestly in his profession. "I did not work to set a record, but to work honestly in my profession," he said. He also received the Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAEA) Sherpa Category the Piolet d'Or Asia Awards in 2019. Mingma is the first Nepali to receive this prestigious award in the mountaineering field. The UAAA has stated that this award has been given to him for his commitment to technical climbing and positive environmental stewardship.

Mingma set the first world record in 2019 by climbing the highest peak, Mount Everest (8848 m), and the second-highest peak, K2 (8611 m) in Pakistan, in the shortest time. He had climbed these two mountains within an interval of 61 days. His second world record also was set in 2019 when he climbed all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter-high mountains at the age of 30, making him the youngest person to ever do so.

Born on May 16, 1989, in Sermthang, Lele, Taplejung, to father Chheten and mother Futi Sherpa, Mingma's childhood was like many other Sherpa children born and raised in the highlands. His daily routine was to go to school about an hour away, to help his parents in farming and to collect firewood. But despite all the struggles, a learning environment in his village could not be established. During the conflict period, on the one hand schools were closed for months and on the other hand teenagers who grew up were unable to live in the village.

Like other teenagers in the village, he left the village in 2007 at the age of 16 and came to Kathmandu, the capital city. "At first, I thought, I will stay in Kathmandu for a while, and then I will go back and continue my studies" Mingma said. But the time was not right. The day for him to return home never arrived. The schools did not open, the airplanes did not fly. He got stuck in Kathmandu but started trekking as a tea house porter. In this way, he entered the tourism sector, as a simple tea house porter. Just at the age of 16/17, it was not easy for him to carry 35 kilograms of luggage for two tourists who went for trekking in Pun hill. Still, he had no choice, but to continue his work.

After working for some time as a porter, he got a job as an assistant guide. In 2009, he got a chance to join the Manaslu Expedition team as one of the support staff. He stayed at the Manaslu base camp for a month.

The opportunity to stay in Manaslu base camp was like a mountaineering school for him. He learned a lot about mountaineering and he also got the courage to dare to climb the mountain too.

After returning, he requested an uncle, who had climbed Mt. Everest three times, to give him a chance to climb the mountain. Mingma thought that as the year 2011 had been declared the Nepal Tourism Year, more tourists will come and he too will get a chance to climb the mountain. However, he got a chance to climb Mount Everest in 2010. His uncle gave him an opportunity to go with the Mt. Everest expedition team.

His fondness for education was not dead. While he was involved trekking, he was preparing to appear for a private SLC exam as well. However, the time period of the Everest Climb coincided with his SLC Examinations. Leaving behind the examination of four subjects in his SLC, he went to Mt. Everest base camp for climbing. It was his dream to climb Mt. Everest when he started trekking. He knew that climbing Mt. Everest would open up many avenues for him in the field. He felt bad about his decision to leave his SLC exam. "I took it as a challenge," he says, "So I decided that what I needed to do was to learn how to do it right."

In the spring season of 2010, he successfully ascended Mt. Everest from the Northern Side. Earlier, he had only one month of experience at

Manaslu base camp, and no further mountaineering experience. "My first expedition was the highest peak in the world, Mt Everest. I was excited. I was determined too. As I reached on the top I felt that I also could do something. Now my road has broadened," he said.

The successful ascent of Mt. Everest became a turning point in Mingma's life. From an assistant guide, he was now promoted as a Mt. Everest climbing guide. "If I hadn't been able to climb Mt. Everest, I would probably be heading for the Gulf States," he said. "I didn't have the environment to study at that time and if I failed here too, I had no choice but to go abroad."

After climbing Mt. Everest, he took basic and advanced training provided by the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). Some said that why should one take training even after climbing Mt. Everest. But in his understanding, it was necessary to take the necessary training to climb the mountains. "It helps to reduce the risk to a great extent," he said.

Then, he became popular as a climbing guide. He climbed Cho-Oyu in autumn of 2010 and Amadablam too. In 2011 and 2012, he climbed Mt. Everest once again from the Northern Side. So far, he has climbed Mt. Everest six times. He then joined Nirmal Purja's expedition team in 2019 to climb eight mountains above 8000 meters. He also became the youngest mountaineer to climb all 14 mountains above 8000 meters.

"I did not do the work to set the record, I set the record by doing my job honestly," said Mingma, who now holds two world records. He also said that he does not like to risk others' life to create a world record.

He is not only active in mountaineering, but also in rescuing those trapped in the mountains. He would reach out for help when someone was in trouble. The same habit has also identified him as a famous rescuer.

His unforgettable rescue mission in the Dhaulagiri Mountain is probably the highest Helicopter Flight Rescue ever. In the year 2013, he had just descended to the Everest Base Camp after an expedition. As the weather deteriorated, 18 climbers, including Spaniards, were reported to have been trapped in Dhaulagiri. He, along with three Spanish climbers of the base camp, boarded a helicopter and headed for Dhaulagiri via Kathmandu-Pokhara.

The weather was slowly clearing up. Helicopters were used to evacuate those who were trapped. But they did not find the Spaniards, they were searching for. At that time, GPS tracking systems were not as good as they are now. The missing climbers contacted Spain directly but were unable to locate them. The day was falling. And so they returned to Camp 1.

Helicopters had never been used on a rescue operation from such a high altitude before. As the Spaniards were people with a heavy physique, everyone pushed Mingma for the longline rescue. In this type of rescue, the rescuer jumps from the helicopter while attached to a long line to enter most terrains where simply a helicopter would not be able to go. He and a Spaniard took turns in a helicopter to the third camp at an altitude of 7,400 meters. The other two Spaniards came on foot. A team of three more Nepali Sherpas was also deployed in the ground for search.

When they reached about 8,000 meters high, they met the trapped man. "The Spaniard, we were looking for was dead. Another Nepali was alive" he said, "We rescued the surviving Nepali."

The trapped people had struggled for four days at that height without food and water. Although one was dead, he is satisfied that he was able to rescue guide Keshav Gurung of Gorkha. This was the experience of Mingma's Longline Rescue. After that, he was given continuity to the rescue operations. He has rescued not only in Nepal but also in the mountains of Pakistan too.



"We don't have a separate rescue team in Nepal. If someone is in an emergency, those who want to go and have time should go and rescue" he says, "If there is a well-trained and special rescue team, many lives can be saved in the mountains."

One of his rescue works drew the world's attention. It all started with a marathon run by a New Zealand high altitude runner in Nepal in 2014. An Australian came to film the marathon. He was a former climber later who became a filmmaker. One evening, he said that he would do another project together with Mingma. Mingma jokingly said, "There is no need to say it again or another time." He was surprised and began to ask. Mingma further explained his joke, "I am a mountain guide, we don't have a good rescue system in the mountains. I can't say where or how anything may happen."



The filmmaker got emotional. They decided to make a film about "dead bodies' recovery" in the mountains. He took the responsibility to look for sponsorship and Mingma took charge of local logistics. Preparations were underway, when in 2015 there was an earthquake. That project was postponed.

Later, the same team got changed into a rescue project. The two-month project was sponsored by a travel channel and insurance company in the United States with fifty percent sponsorship from each. They conducted rescue operations and filmed the real events for the TV show. During those two months, they rescued 52 people, about ten percent were villagers. The base was in Lukla and operated all around Nepal wherever they wanted to rescue.

In Mingma's view, many things depend on which mountain is difficult and which is easy. Yes, some mountains are technical however, the condition of the climber, weather, and many other things affect it. Many people call K2 a difficult mountain but it is difficult for Mingma to climb any mountain other than K2. Therefore, he says that it depends not only on the mountain but also on the condition of the climber.

There have been many ups and downs in his 10-year mountaineering journey. There were many moments when he narrowly escaped death and has exchanged happiness after kissing success many times. One of the most memorable incidents took place in the Nangla Parwat in Pakistan. It took him almost a week to recover from the incident. In the summer of 2019, they went climbing the mountain. As they were informed, the teams of climbers who had reached before them had been able to hang the rope up to Camp 2, so Mingma's team was asked to hang ropes afterthat point.

Accordingly, they made a plan and climbed up from the base camp. They were going from Camp 1 to Camp 2. The rope was not hung and the weather didn't help either. There was also a rock of about 145 meters, it was also called 'King of Wall'. When they reached there, their eyes were covered with snow falling from above. They decided to return. On the way back, Mingma fell and went adrift where the snow was falling.

He has swept away for about five meters. At last, anyhow he managed to get hold of a small piece of ice which he tightly held with his little finger. He tried to come out of this trap with all the tricks he had learned from training and learned from his experience but could not succeed. At last, a friend came and picked him up. What if he didn't get that little piece of ice? He could've fallen as much as 2000 metres from that point. "I couldn't sleep for about a week after that. After climbing the mountain and coming back to the city, it was like coming from the dream," he said.

According to Mingma, mountaineering is his profession. Although initially compulsive, he has gained experience and expertise. He has earned a name and made a living for his family. But in his opinion, the work of climbers like him is not only for the individual. The records they keep are not just for them, it is for the country. However, the government does not look after the climbers. Climbers as Nepal's mountain tourism ambassadors have done a lot for the country, but their condition is still deplorable. His mind sometimes becomes restless to think about the deplorable situation of mountaineers.

Mountains climbed

S.No.	Peak (height)	Year (season)
1.	Everest (8848).	2010 (spring)
2.	K2 (8611 m).	2014 (summer), 2018 (summer), 2021 (winter)
3.	Kangchenjunga (8586 m).	2019 (spring)
4.	Lhotse (8516 m).	2018 (spring)
5.	Makalu (8485 m).	2014 (spring)
6.	Cho Oyu (8188 m).	2011 (autumn)
7.	Dhaulagiri (8167 m).	2019 (spring)
8.	Manaslu (8163 m).	2012 (autumn), 2019 (autumn)
9.	Nanga Parbat (8125 m).	2019 (summer)
10.	Annapurna I (8091 m).	2019 (spring)
11.	Gasherbrum I (8080 m).	2019 (summer)
12.	Broad Peak (8051 m).	2019 (summer)
13.	Gasherbrum II (8034 m).	2019 (summer)
14.	Shisha Pangma (8027 m).	2019 (autumn)

Eight-Thousanders Summiteer

Mingma Sherpa



HB Kham

Mingma Sherpa, became the first Nepali and South Asian mountaineer to summit all 14 peaks of the world above 8000 meters on his first attempt writing his name in the chronicles of mountaineering. Mingma created this world record at the age of 32.

He was born in Makalu village of Sankhuwasabha district of Nepal on June 16, 1978. He and his brother Chhang Dawa Sherpa share the world record of "World's first two brothers" to successfully summit the 14 mountains above 8000 meters.

Mingma is also the founder of Seven Summit Treks in Nepal and he has been involved in Nepal's travel hospitality for the last 18 years.

Since Mingma has in-depth knowledge and skill about the inside office and outside field expertise, his Seven Summit Treks has had the opportunity to manage the top level mountaineering expeditions including the recent Bahrain Prince's successful expedition to Mt Lobuche and Mt Manaslu.

Mingma has not only excelled and distinguished himself in creating a world record in mountaineering, he also has a master's degree in tourism hospitality which has put him in good stead in managing the best and most popular mountain expeditions so far.

Mingma has previously worked as a Product Manager for Thamserku trekking and several other travel companies. He started working as trekking officer since 2000.

He was ushered into the field of travel, trekking and mountaineering when he was a small boy by his father who had been involved in tourism for 40 years.

Mingma recalls his childhood days by saying, "I was born in a cow shed. My parents were farmers. My family was big enough so we needed no other friends to play with. I was the eldest child in the family."

He further narrated that he had studied up to class five in the village. He had worked as a porter to carry loads to Makalu base camp at first when he was around 13 years old only.

He also remembers the radio news in childhood that told how the climbers used to summit Mt Everest and how he himself felt about it. Whenever he heard the news about someone having climbed Mt. Everest, he thought of climbing Mt. Everest one day by himself when he grew up.



Coincidently, when he was 15 years old he came to Kathmandu and joined the tourism field as a porter in 1994. He was happy to be just a porter in trekking company. He had worked as porter for six years. But his mind continued to harp on his cherished dream to set his foot on the peak of Mt Everest.

Gradually from working as a porter, he also got the chances to go on expeditions and climb mountains including peaks ranging from 6000 meters to 8000 meters high in altitude. When he used to climb peaks above 6000 meters he used to feel as happy as if he had climbed Mt. Everest.

When climbing Mt. Manaslu he was the only Sherpa climber in 2000. One of the Korean climbers along with him had climbed Mt. Manaslu for the seventh time.

Korean climbers then thought of taking Mingma to climb other mountains in the following years. The same Korean team asked Mingma to go for Cho Oyu peak expedition.

Then Mingma put a condition that his brother Chhang Dawa Sherpa should also be allowed to accompany him during the expedition. The Korean team did not want to agree with his plans. But at last they agreed to take Chhang Dawa in the expedition team as they had no choice left. His brother Chhang Dawa was in the second team.

In 2001 the Korean teams wanted to go for Makalu expedition. Mingma's brother Chhang Dawa also proved himself to be stronger than any other climbers in the team.

Mingma recalls his expedition days, "In 2004 we went to climb Mt Everest. This time I took Tashi Lakpa Sherpa," his youngest brother with me to Mt. Everest. The climb was his first time for Mt Everest.

Mingma Sherpa claims that till now he has not taken any training in mountaineering which is the surprising part of his traits as a natural mountaineer.

Tashi was the strongest of all the team members in that team of 2004. Then Mingma and Tashi climbed Everest together. In 2005, Tashi climbed Everest without supplementary Oxygen as the youngest climber. He still holds the world record of Everest climber as the youngest climber.

Mingma recalls his past days about how he created the world records, "In July, I climbed K2 peak. Then I went to Japan with my wife. I stayed in Japan for four years. I had climbed 9 peaks above 8000 m before going to Japan. Next, I wanted to climb the remaining five peaks of 8000m after returning from Japan. Then I was 32 years old and when I climbed all 14 peaks of 8000 meters I created the world record of being the youngest climber to climb the 14 highest peaks above 8000m."

It is usual for all Nepali climbers to go abroad after climbing peaks. But Mingma never thought of his future in that way. So, he thought of opening his own company called Seven Summit treks in 2010. In 2011 he operated the bigger expeditions successfully.

Most of the Sherpa members of Mimnga's village now have climbed Mt. Everest and have changed the roofs of their houses with the money earned from mountaineering.

"Now, I feel my aim is fulfilled. I had climbed all other nine highest peaks above 8000m with my own expenses," says Mingma.

When Mingma had opened up the Seven Summit Treks, well known friends that trusted him came to him as he knew everything about peaks and climbing. He did not focus on trekking much. He kept his focus on mountaineering because he is the expert in this field.

Referring to the accidents during climbing, Mingma says the government



should pay attention towards the education and livelihood of families those killed in accidents during climbing. He says the accident insurance for climbers should be at least Rs. 50 lakhs. The current amount of Rs. 15 lakhs is not sufficient for the family members of the deceased climbers.

When asked on how government should respond to the pitiable conditions of the older Sherpa climbers who had contributed to the name and fame of the nation by creating world records in the past, Mingma suggested that the government could make an international museum and mobilize the world record holders either to speak few words about climbing experience or pose for photographs. Such activities can bring in money for the country. The same money can be used to pay to the world record holders who have retired. There can be a separate block of record holders too, if proper management can be done.

Talking about his own company Mingma says, "I am also a worker even if I am the owner of the company. Since 2011 our Seven Summit Treks has paid the highest revenue to the government. Trust and honesty are the main basis for flourishing a business. Action speaks better than speech."



It is no wonder that Mingma's Seven Summit Treks has contributed to the highest revenue for Nepal Government from 2012 to 2020 as Seven Summit Treks was awarded with the Government's Best Revenue Generator title in 2019.

The best moments in Mingma's life came when he became the world record holder as the world's youngest climber to climb 14 peaks above 8000m and his worst moments as he recalls, were his memories of the tragedies he saw in K2.

Mingma has also been deeply engaged in social undertakings. He has contributed substantially to development of the villages. He recently invested around Rs. 10 million for preventive measures against Covid-19.

"Around 1000/1100 people are working for my company. I am happy that my company is famous worldwide. I feel proud that Bahrain's prince also saw my website," adds Mingma in gleeful mood.



Chronicle of mountains Mingma scaled follows:

1. Mt Everest (8848m) in 2004 (Spring)
2. K2 (8611m) in 2004 (summer)
3. Kanchenjung (8586m) in 2011 (spring)
4. Lhotse (8516m) in 2002 (spring)
5. Makalu (8463m) in 2001 (spring)
6. Cho Oyu (8201m) in 2000 (autumn, 2002 –autumn)
7. Dhaulagiri (8167m) in 2010 (spring)
8. Manaslu (8163) in 2000 (spring)
9. Nanga Parbat (8125) in 2010 (summer)
10. Annapurna I (8091m) in 2010 (spring)
11. Gasherbrum (8068m) in 2010 (summer)
12. Broad Peak (8047m) in 2003 (summer)
13. Gasherbrum II (8035m) in 2003 (summer)
14. Shishapangma (8027m) in 2001 (autumn)

Eight-Thousanders Summiteer

Chhang Dawa Sherpa

HB Kham



Chhang Dawa Sherpa is a legendary climber as well as a successful tourism entrepreneur in Nepal. He and his brother Mingma Sherpa have jointly set a world record for successful climbs of the highest 14 peaks in the world above 8,000 meters. Chhang Dawa is also the youngest world record holder for climbing 14 mountains at an altitude of 8,000 meters, the earlier record holder by 2019 it was Mingma David Sherpa. He is also the second Nepalese and South Asian to summit all the 14 highest peaks in the world.

Childhood

Born in Makalu-1 of Sankhuwasabha, Chhang Dawa spent his childhood in a remote village. Born on July 30, 1982, Chang Dawa never got a chance to go to school. In a village at an altitude of about 2000 meters, his parents raised cows and yaks and he spent his childhood shepherding them. "We were born and raised in a farmhouse," he says.

Interest in climbing

At that time, there was no television in the village but Radio Nepal was the only source of news. From time to time news would come on the radio that the legendary mountaineers Aang Rita Sherpa and Appa Sherpa's expedition and records. Chhang Dawa was thrilled to hear such news. He used to look at Mount Makalu at the forefront of his village and believed that it could be climbed.

As he was entering into his youth, he wanted to go to Kathmandu and start climbing mountains. His brother Mingma, had already been engaged in the climbing sector. So he thought that he should tell his brother about his desire to climb mountains. However, he did not have to contact Mingma in the first place. His two youngest brothers arrived at the cowshed at a two days' journey from the village to report that Mingma had requested for him. He left his brothers there and returned to the village to get ready for Kathmandu.

This is around the year 2000. Mingma had invited him to join the expedition team but he had not yet climbed any mountain. The first time, he had to go climb Mount Cho-Oyu from China side, which is more than 8,000 meters high. "I didn't know much about climbing, I didn't know how to dress, I didn't know how to wear boots, I didn't know how to use gears," he said.

His first mission in 2000 was not successful. The expedition team was divided into two groups. His brother Mingma was in the first group and he was in the second. The first group was about climbing anyway, but the second group was about to climb if it was favorable. The first group successfully submitted the Cho-Oyu and the second group returned after reaching the third camp.

Even after that, the ascent for Chhang Dawa continued. Then, in 2001, he tried climbing Mount Makalu again with the same group. This time he was very happy, he was going as a mountain guide of his village. He also met the villagers. He did not have much difficulty in climbing Makalu. 'I climbed very easily. This was my first successful ascent, a mountain above 8,000m," he says.

After this success, he was a prime choice for expedition groups. The client started saying that they needed Chhang Dawa. He also began to enjoy climbing. He was also accompanied a lot by his brother Mingma.

Foreign employment

Thus, while the brothers were guides in mountaineering, Mingma decided to go to Japan for foreign employment. In 2005, Mingma moved to Japan. Chhang Dawa didn't want to stay in the country either. After returning from Mount Everest in the spring of 2005, he followed his brother's footsteps and went to Japan. This was his second ascent of Mount Everest. He lived in Japan until 2008 and returned back to his Homeland.

When he returned, he started climbing again. Before going to Japan, he used to guide the expeditions from Thamserku Trekking Agency which he rejoined after return. "They told me to go with the group. I agreed," he said. "It was Makalu again."

14 peaks climbing

In 2009, Mingma also returned to Nepal. Then in 2010, Mingma planned to climb all 14 mountains in the world above 8,000 metres. Until then, Chhang Dawa had not even thought about it. He was enjoying climbing mountains as a climbing guide.

In 2010, Mingma climbed Annapurna and Dhaulagiri mountains. After that, Chhang Dawa also got the courage to climb all the 14 mountains above 8,000 meters. He went to Pakistan with Mingma and they climbed two mountains above 8,000 meters. By that time, Chhang Dawa had climbed seven mountains above 8,000 meters. 'I started climbing the mountains with my brother Mingma, and then I kept adding more to the list. My enthusiasm was also growing. I thought this was the time to name it', he says.

In this way, in 2014, he climbed all the 14 mountains in the world above 8000 meters. He had finally climbed Mount Dhaulagiri. Therefore, the brothers who have climbed 14 peaks above 8000 meters in the name of Mingma and Chhang Dawa have a joint world record.

Allowing the new and young

As soon as Chhang Dawa set foot on the ascent, he gave credit to his elder brother Mingma. If Mingma had not given him this opportunity, it was not certain whether he could have made his own place in mountaineering.

So maybe he is always adamant that even the new ones should be given a chance. "I want to bring juniors to the field by teaching them, everything I've learned," he says. He argues that companies seek experience but one cannot become experienced without being given the opportunity. So from the very beginning, he used to convince the directors of trekking companies he worked for and hire the young people from the village.

Finally,

According to Chhang Dawa, the ascent and record is not only personal property and honor, it is for the country. When the flag of the country is seen in the database of 14 peaks above 8,000 meters, he feels proud. Therefore, it seems that the government and related organizations have focused on making the expedition more systematic.

He understands that the climbing training being conducted by the Nepal Mountaineering Association is important. "We didn't even have training in our tent, we didn't even know it," he says. "It's much easier if newcomers come with training."

Mountains summited

S.no	Name of mountain	Year	Height (m.)
1	Makalu	2001, 2008	8485
2	Lhotse	2002	8516
3	Cho-Oyu	2002	8188
4	Mount Everest	2003,2004, 2005	8848
5	Broad Peak	2008	8047
6	Nanga Parbat	2010	8125
7	G-I	2010, 2011	8080
8	Manaslu	2010, 2011, 2020	8163
9	Kanchanjunga	2011	8586
10	G-II	2011	8034
11	Annapurna I	2012	8091
12	Dhaulagiri I	2012, 2014	8167
13	K-2	2012	8611
14	Shisha Pangma	2013	8027



Eight-Tousanders Summiteers

Sanu Sherpa

Khim Ghale



The mountaineer Sanu Sherpa, 45, is known less in Nepal but is well known among foreign mountaineers. The simple reason for his worldwide popularity is because of the great mountaineering feat that he achieved in climbing the world's all 14 mountains above 8000 meters, which is a lifetime achievement for a climber. This is an incredible job which is not easily attainable by the ordinary.

Childhood and life in Village

Sanu was born in a remote village in Sankhuwasabha, Makalu– 1 on 14 April 1975. His father Galzan was a poor farmer who used to maintain his living by rearing yak and sheep in a remote hilly village, far away from Kathmandu. He did not get the chance to go to school as the school teachers did not speak the Sherpa language and it was very difficult for Sherpa students to understand the language of Nepali speaking teachers in the school in those days.

His wife Diki still lives in the remote village of Sankhuwasabha, taking care of ancestral lands and home, while his children live and study in Kathmandu for Sherpa thinks that his children should be nurtured well in education as he could not attain the proper education in his life.

Sherpa recalls his old memories and admits that after living a village life for





around 31 years, he had decided to do something by coming to Kathmandu as he had heard about his neighbors having achieved financial success after coming to the towns and involve in the trekking field.

Mountaineering Career

He also thought coming to town will bring him fortune and opportunities. And to a great extent, it did happen so.

Despite having no formal education, Sherpa arrived in Kathmandu in 2005 and started working as a porter in the trekking agencies. After working as a trekking porter for nearly a year, he got a chance to work as a Sherpa guide for climbers when one of his old acquainted person in the trekking agency allowed him to join the company as a porter.

Then, fortunately, he got a chance to climb Mt Cho Oyu in 2006 (8188 meters). It was his first ascent that was successfully concluded. This success opened a wider door in the mountaineering field for him. Though he had no formal climbing training, he also got a chance to climb Mt. Everest in 2007.

In most of his mountaineering career, he remained as a Sherpa guide for the Korean expedition team and a few years he spent his time as a guide for Chinese climbers too.

Ascent peak and year:

Annapurna – 2016
Broad Peak – 2014, 2017
Cho Oyu – 2006, 2008
Dhaulagiri – 2019
Everest – 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017
Gasherbrum II – 2019
Gasherbrum I – 2013, 2019
K2 – 2012
Kanchenjunga – 2014
Lhotse – 2008
Makalu – 2019
Manaslu – 2010, 2011, 2016
Nanga Parbat – 2017, 2018
Shishapangma – 2006, 2011

On being asked how he was able to climb Mt Everest and other 14 peaks above 8000 meters without the formal training of climbing, he points out that perhaps he was born to be a natural-born climber because he had all that energy, courage, and adventurous spirit to challenge the insurmountable barriers of higher mountains of the world.

He claimed that he never had a difficulty in climbing peaks, had never had an altitude sickness such as nausea, giddiness while many of his friends suffered from those problems. He also said that he never felt any difficulty in climbing the peaks of higher heights for which other climbers would think twice to attempt. Indicating towards the climbing training provided by Nepal Mountaineering Association (MNA), Sherpa said the NMA trainings are useful for the fresh climbers on how to use the ice axe and how to walk through the ice.

Sherpa also said that he also provides climbing training to the fresh climbers for about two weeks in Kathmandu. For him, climbing all 14 higher peaks above 8000 meters for double-time is his passion and cherished dream. Out of 14 peaks above 8000 meters, he has already climbed 7 peaks without supplementary oxygen.

Sherpa also recalls how he was suddenly popular after climbing Mt Everest and he had also got the chance to join several other expeditions after scaling Mt Everest. Opportunities came to him after his successful ascent of Mt Everest. His expeditions continued from 2006 through 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2019.

On being asked what the Nepal government should do for the mountaineers, he opines that at least the government should arrange to provide special pass or identity cards to them so that they can enter the airports and other important venues, where they may not be mistreated.

Pointing out to some of the guides and expedition companies who usually swindle the tourists, Sherpa said, "The real test of altitude begins in between 6000 and 8000 meter high peaks. So, it is not good to beat about the bush on the part of the companies that their Sherpa guides have experience in climbing Mt Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, and Mt Everest without actually doing it, just to cheat the clients."

Sherpa also divulged that few climbers had obtained achievement certificates without climbing the peaks which thwarted many authentic guides and climbers to get the certificates after the facts were proven to be fraudulent enough.

TAKASHI MIYAHARA



Sonia Miyahara



My father used to say, "If there are two paths in front of you, one an easy route to your destination and the other a more roundabout, difficult path, be sure to take on the difficult path as you will learn more." In essence, this was his life's motto, always choosing to do what nobody had done before, daring to dream feats that were near impossible, and then actualizing his dreams. My father Takashi Miyahara was a pioneer, a visionary, and an adventurer at heart. This was accentuated not only by what he accomplished in his lifetime, but also because of his core belief of having the courage to do what needs to be done, even if you are standing alone with the odds stacked against you.

Born in Japan's Nagano Prefecture in March 1934, Takashi Miyahara graduated in chemical and mechanical engineering from Nihon University. Takashi Miyahara first came to Nepal in 1962 on a Japanese Alpine Club expedition to climb MukutHimal in Western Nepal. It was then that he fell in love with Nepal and was determined to come back to do something meaningful and impactful for the country. However, at first, he did not know what exactly that would be.

Four years later, he returned to Nepal and acquired a two-year contract for a job in the Department of Cottage Industries. After some time working in this field, Miyahara did not see much potential for small and medium enterprises in Nepal. Cheap Indian imports were a problem for such enterprises. In his opinion, the better path for economic growth at that moment for Nepal was through tourism. Continuing on the belief that tourism rather than manufacturing goods was going to be the real champion in growing Nepal's economy, he went on to establish Trans Himalayan Tour and Hotel Everest View.

A mechanical engineer turned into a tourism entrepreneur, his desire to create and build perhaps stemmed from his educational background. His family ran a hot spring inn business in Nagano, which helped instill qualities of hospitality in him. "The people who live in high altitudes of Nepal, who manage to run successful lodges and have visitors who love the hospitality they provide, shows that will and character are equally important to running a successful hospitality business" he used to say. His mentality combined with creativity and strong determination, proved to be essential for the success of his following ventures.

Miyahara started building the Hotel Everest View in 1968, a hotel which was then the highest located hotel in



the world (also in the Guinness Book of World Records in 2004) at 3880m. The location of this iconic hotel would be in Syangboche, above Namche Bazaar in the Solukhumbu district of Nepal. 2021 marks the 50th Anniversary of Hotel Everest View, and throughout the years, the hotel has been featured in numerous magazines and TV shows around the world. We are working on publishing the English version of his book 'The Ray of Light in the Himalayas' this year, which details the adventure of how the hotel was built back in the late 1960s.

In the early days, the hotel has also served as a rescue center in the Everest region as it was equipped with oxygen cylinders and a satellite communication system. This was also the start of creating the Himalayan Rescue Association in Nepal, an idea he shared with his Japanese friends who helped actualize this association.

Realizing that he needed a more effective way to get guests to the hotel from Kathmandu, Miyahara went on to build the airstrip in Syangboche, with the help of the Nepal government. He also set up TransHimalayan Tour, a travel agency, in Kathmandu in 1968 and it was one of the first five travel agencies to open in Nepal.

The arduous task of completing the construction deep into the remote areas of the Everest region warranted rigorous effort. Hotel Everest started in 1968 and was completed in 1971. It took 200,000 hours to build the hotel. 25,000 hand cut white stones have been used to raise the walls of the hotel. Everest and the surrounding mountain ranges can be seen from every room of the 12-room hotel. The large stones seen during the construction of the hotel were not broken. Instead, it is kept as it is and serves as the back wall of the main dining room.

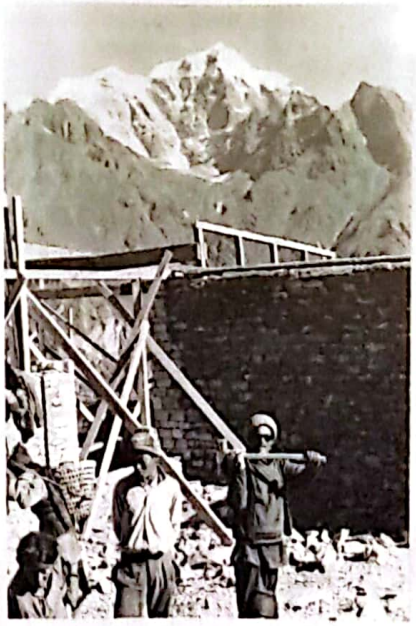
The hotel not only has a beautiful architectural design that blends in with the natural surroundings, it also draws strength from the solace it finds from helping the local people. Water pumps were not installed to help local women who carried containers of water up to the hotel from Khumjung receive continued income. The airstrip at Syangboche helped in increasing visitors and carrying cargo to the region as well. Miyahara believed that foreign aid was not the solution to help a



country alleviate poverty but to provide economic opportunities in order for the locals to rise themselves.

As part of a side project, Miyahara had acquired land in a place called Chumua (5-6 hours above Lukla) and had a vision of growing green vegetables despite the cold and dry climate of the Khumbu. Khumbu was known for potatoes but even the locals still remember how Miyahara's experimental and organic farm in Chumuwa started the growth of green vegetables in the region.

Realizing that he needed a base in Kathmandu to run effective trips to Hotel Everest View, Miyahara set up to build Hotel Himalaya in Patan, a 4-star hotel which opened its doors in 1987. It was the first foreign direct investment in the tourism industry by a Japanese company, (Mitsui Fudousan) in Nepal, which was another monumental achievement. A flight to view the mountains in a tiny Pilatus porter aircraft persuaded the president of Mitsui Fudosan to help build the hotel. Hotel Himalaya became one of the renowned hotels in



Kathmandu Valley. Miyahara's passion of being involved in the construction and overseeing the building of the hotels himself and his foresight in choosing the best locations was truly remarkable.

The lack of economic progress ailed my father as a longtime admirer of the nation and an enthusiast of development. After decades of experience living and working in Nepal, my father felt deeply that the only way to fix economic problems was to have strong political leadership and vision, and he went on to create a manifesto titled 'Aiming at the Building of a Prosperous Nation' in 2006, changed his citizenship from Japanese to a Nepali, and set to establish a new political party called Nepal National Development Party (NNDP). In this manifesto, he wrote about his visions for the east-west railway with north-south branches in Nepal, dam lakes to be built into tourism products (boating, cable car) similar to that of Kurobe Dam near his hometown in Japan, shifting the capital from Kathmandu to Narayangadh in Chitwan, and many other exciting plans to bring economic prosperity to Nepal. Adding to this were other master plans for tourism, hydropower, and water supply. His conclusions were not just based on staying in Kathmandu but through his experience of traveling more than a cumulative 1,000 days across areas of Nepal in his lifetime. Looking at Nepal from a third-person perspective for a long time as a foreigner, he took it





upon himself to help bring a change in a country he dearly loved. Although the party did not win votes, it helped create a sensation and Miyahara's manifesto has been admired by several Nepali politicians.

Age and illness took a toll on his health but never on his mind. Even in the last moments of his life, he was eager and happy to see through the soft opening of Hotel Annapurna View in Sarangkot, Pokhara, another one of his brainchild and pioneering ideas brought to life in collaboration with keen individuals. The Annapurna Cable Car was also started by Miyahara in collaboration with Nippon Cable, as it was his dream to create a truly world class hotel that looks out to the Annapurna Range and the cable car leading up to the hotel.

Takashi Miyahara passed away on 24 November 2019 at the age of 85. He first came to Nepal in 1962 and this was his spiritual home. His body was taken to Syangboche and cremated with Tibetan Buddhist rituals, overlooking Mt. Everest, Amadablam, Thamserku, Khumbila and the whole range in a place that he loved. Sherpas from the villages nearby gathered to bid their farewell as well as all the staff from the hotel, and it was as though it was not only me who lost a father, but also for so many people who had loved and respected my father as their own.

Miyahara brought to life so many ideas for Nepal's tourism sector, that I don't think one article would be enough to cover it all. My father was a legend, a visionary, a pioneer and an adventurer because of the things that he did and the values he held on to. He was always interested in doing things that nobody had done before but always keeping in mind how it would benefit the local people first and foremost. He used to say that his life was shaped more by his failures than by his successes. He always felt a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility towards all those who helped him achieve his dreams and he worked hard all his life to be able to repay that debt. Underneath the accomplishments lied a simple man who lived a simple life, but was gifted with extraordinary vision, passion and sheer determination. As his daughter, I hope to respect his legacy and build upon the foundation he created, and ensure that his name and contributions will always be remembered.



History of NMA Mountain Leader Training



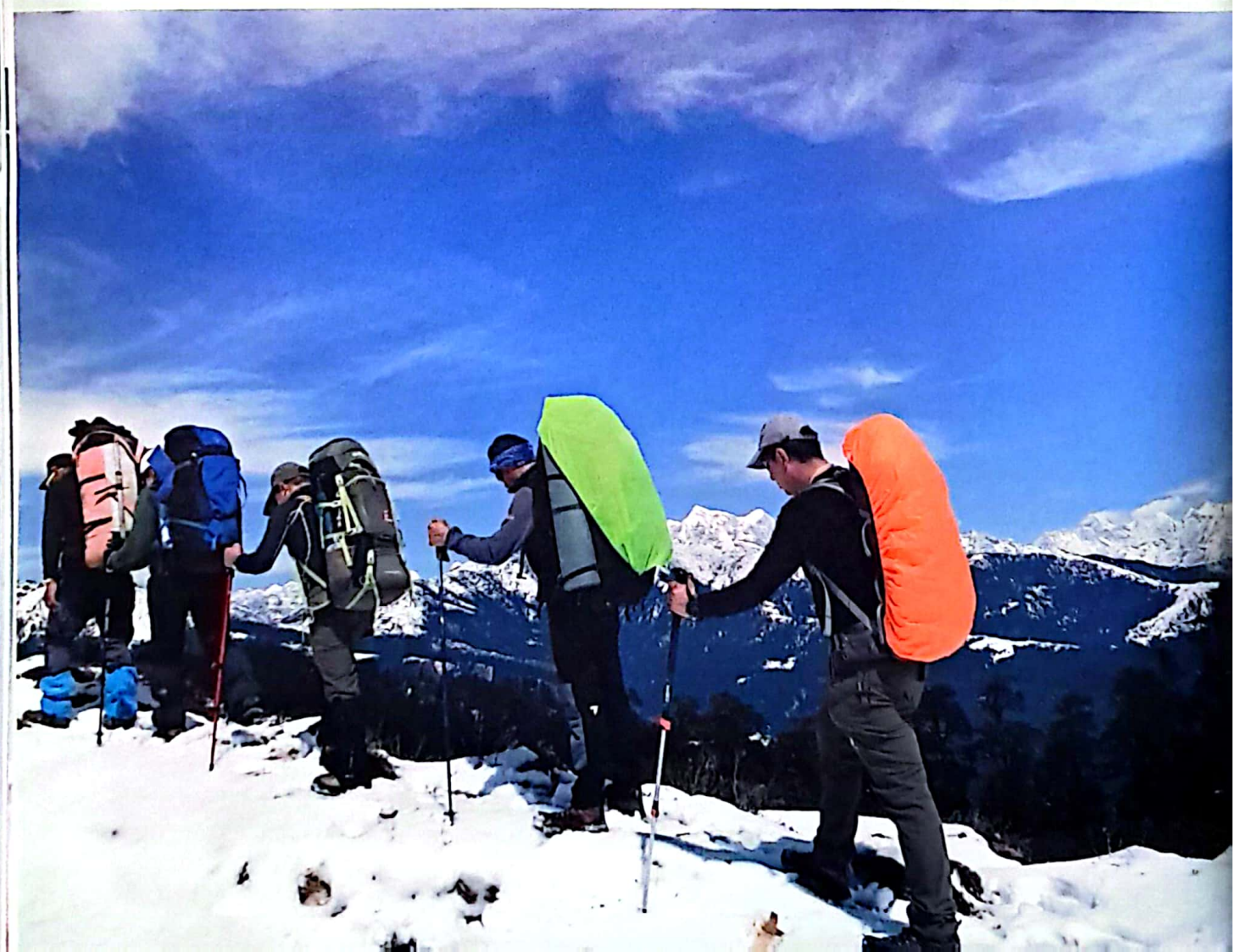
Lachhuman Tamang
Mountain Leader Training
Coordinator and Instructor

Background

Our country Nepal is endowed with geographical, natural and cultural diversity. Due to these special features hundreds of thousands of tourists come to Nepal every year to observe the fascinating ranges of mountains, captivating lakes and cultural heritages. The tourism sector covers a larger area of Nepal's economy. It has a meaningful contribution to entrepreneurship and jobs. The lack of expert human resources in tourism sector is being felt in the changing context of the world. To resolve this problem, the mountain leader training is needed in Nepal. Keeping the need to fulfill capable human resources of mountain leaders in view, NMA, ever since its foundation has been conducting various capacity building trainings. This organization has been conducting special Mountaineering training and Mountain Leader Training as per its annual action plan. Of the two trainings mentioned above, I will brief about Mountain Leader Training.

In the present context of quality tourism business, the importance and popularity of this training is gaining momentum day by day as the components of this training comprise of map reading and navigation, possible risk pre-assessment prevention, effective knowledge and weather skills.

According to documentation of NMA the Mountain Leader Training was first introduced in 2008. The training was imparted with financial and technical



assistance of PETZL Foundation of France and coordination of Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA). The training was given by two French Nationals (Pratic Magnier and Eric Lescarcelle) and one British National (Steve Long) to 27 trainees in Kathmandu and Kakani. The same training could not be conducted for two years in 2009/10 due to some technical reasons such as financial problems, more expenses to hire foreign trainers, and lack of time for foreign trainers.

The training has resumed since 2011 and since then they are being conducted regularly to produce the required expert human resources for the country's mountain tourism.

Initially, the training was considered as the basic training for mountaineering. It was divided into three components.

1. 15 days theoretical training at Kathmandu and Kakani.
2. 12 days advance and refresher training at Kakani.
3. 6 days trainers' training at Kakani.

Twenty trainees had participated in the training held in 2011/12 when UK's Steve Long was the training assessor and French trainer Eric Lescarcelle had come to Nepal. All three sessions were completed within a short period of times as the trainers did not have much time left with them and the trainers were assigned with the responsibility to produce master trainers for Nepal and to hand them over to NMA for future trainings.

Therefore, for the last session training of 2011/2012, for the first trainers' training three Nepalis (Mani Kumar Rai, Binayak Jay Malla and Man Bahadur Khatri) were selected and thus began a new chapter of Mountain Leader Training.

Lachhuman Tamang, Keshar Shrestha and Sarki Sherpa in 2013 and Dawa Tashi Sherpa in 2014 were selected as trainers. The trainings of 2012/13/14 were conducted by one foreigner (Steve Long) and other Nepali trainers.

The need for upgrading the training was felt after the assessor course was done from 2-3 January 2015 under the training committee coordinator Tul Singh Gurung, UIAA, Training Standards President, and Steve Long's assessment. The training modules and syllabus are prepared as per the guidelines and standards of UIAA.

Mountain leader training was introduced in Nepal to protect and safeguard the destinations of the Himalayan region. This training provides the trekking guides with the essential practical knowledge to lead the mountain tourists' groups. The training teaches all about the possible challenging situations that can be faced in mountain tourism and ways to experience it and evaluate the situation too.

The ultimate objective of Mountain Leader Training is to produce expert and capable mountain leaders as per the international standard of UIAA and UIMIA.





Mountain Leader Training is categorized into three components. To participate in this training the participants must submit the minimum required documents.

Every component of the training is conducted annually and the participants can't take part in the next training component until they pass the preceding component. Thus, the Mountain leader trainers produced in this way are not only the trainers of national level, but also of international UIAA standard trainers.

The same mountain leader trainers of NMA have imparted the mountain leaders training in India and Cyprus of Europe at the recommendation of UIAA. Besides, the mountain leader trainers produced by NMA have already won the best awards of international evaluation. One American national is said to have participated in such training in 2018 which was adjudged the best.

History of Mountain Leader Training in Nepal:

Although the concept of conducting Mountain leader training was initiated under the leadership of Sunar Bahadur Gurung in 2008 in Nepal, to this day the training is being conducted annually since 2011. The training was conducted by NMA with the financial assistance of PETZL Foundation and coordination of Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA).

This training until 2014 was also known as PETZL course due to financial support received from PETZL foundation and most of the trainers were foreigners. Besides, the best participants of the training were also awarded PETZL awards according to the observers.

NMA is an organization formally recognized and permitted by Nepal government to conduct mountain tourism related trainings and because of this the PETZL foundation had handed over this training fully to NMA in 2013. Since then the training has come under the full ownership of NMA.

Steve Long had played the role of a representative and chief trainer for UIAA for the trainings. Trainers like Pratic Magnier and Eric Lescarcelle had played a significant role on behalf of PETZL foundation. However, since 2012, trainers such as Mani Kumar Rai, Binayak Jay Malla and Man Bahadur Khatri as Nepali trainers were assigned with the responsibility of Nepali trainers. Then in 2013, Lachhuman Tamang, Keshar Shrestha and Saki Sherpa were selected as trainers. Similarly, in 2014, Madawa Taschi Sherpa was enlisted as trainer. The evaluation of Nepali trainers was done in Langtang of Rasuwa district in 2014.

After 2015, only the Nepali trainers were assigned the responsibility of conducting the entire training session. This was followed by selection of Sheshkanta Sharma, Krishna Kumar

Magar and Ram Kaji Tiwari as trainers in 2018.

In 2015, the NMA decided to conduct this training as an international training to emulate the training model of UIAA and introduced it in its annual action plan. Since then the training has been conducted annually. This training has been given recognition by UIAA.

Training Module for Mountain Leader Training in Nepal

The training was conducted in summer component and winter component from 2011 to 2014. In 2015 the training module was changed to three components.

1. Summer component is annually conducted between Asar to Bhadra. This training component is done with theoretical and practical knowledge for 15 days in Kathmandu and at Kakani.

2. Second Component training is conducted six months after completion of first component in winter at an altitude of 4000 meters during which 15 days of practical is done.

Winter component, which is conducted after the completion of first component, is conducted at 5000 meters above sea level for 15 days of practical training. Only after completing these three phases of training components are national mountain leaders produced. NMA is also making final preparation to conduct the international level training in Nepal. As many as 20 participants can participate in the yearly training for mountain leader.

Responsibilities of Mountain Leader

1. To play a coordinating role between tourists, travel agencies and government to conduct mountaineering and trekking with ease.

2. To guide the tourists during trekking and mountaineering.

3. To lead the team of trekkers and mountaineers.

4. To narrate the stories about the local cultures, vegetation, wildlife, trekking and mountaineering.

5. To safeguard the groups of trekkers and mountaineers and tell about safety measures.

6. To manage the logistics and food for the groups of trekkers and mountaineers.

7. To know about possible weather forecast.

Merits of Mountain Leader Training

1. Promotes mountain tourism by producing Mountain leaders for the development of mountain tourism.

2. Helps in minimizing the risks of accidents during trekking and mountaineering.

3. Creates jobs for mountain tourism through production of expert human resources for the development of mountain tourism.

4. Attracts the tourists in trekking and mountaineering by producing mountain leaders.

5. Helps in consolidating the position of Nepal in the world tourism market.

6. Helps in bringing quality oriented tourists from the world tourism market.



Criteria and qualification for participants for Mountain leader training

For Nepali Participants

1. Photocopy of citizenship
2. Recommendation from a trekking company affiliated as member of NMA and an experience of five years.
3. Holder of a trekking guide license issued by government of Nepal, having completed three years and an evidence of having completed 10 trekking expeditions.
4. Experienced in first aid.
5. Capable of reading, writing and speaking English and Nepali.
6. If the applicant fails to participate in the second component of training within three years of completing the first summer component training then the applicant has to start from the first summer component of the training.
7. The participants must pass the phase of evaluation after completing the first phase of summer component and before joining the second component training.
8. Current Training fees:

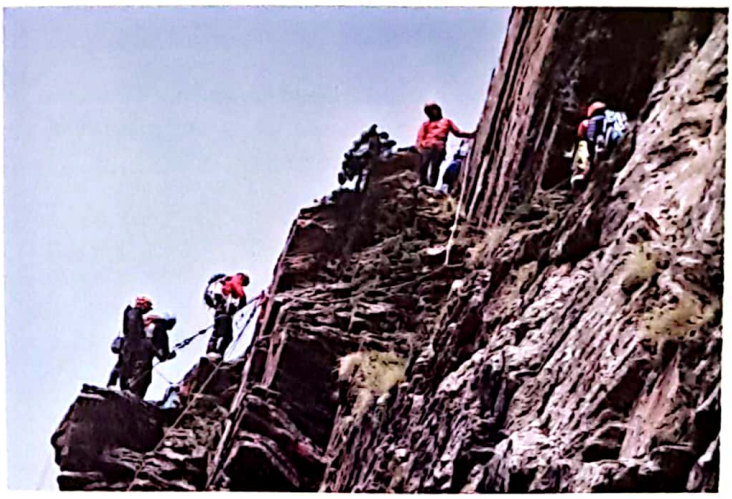
a) Component I= Rs 17000

b) Component II= Rs 17500

c) Component III (Winter component)=Rs 18000

For Non-Nepali Participants

1. The non-Nepali participants interested to go through Mountain Leader Training should have a valid visa and valid passport.
2. Must have an experience of mountaineering and trekking for three years.
3. Trainees should manage their own insurance, visa or other expenses incurred.
4. Training fee= USD 600 (for all components).



Mountain Leader Trainers' Capacity Building and Evaluation (Assessment Course) related facts:

Present Situation of Mountain Leader Training

Nepal Mountain Leaders' Association has been established under the aegis of NMA to produce national and international level Mountain leaders and trainers by keeping in view of the international destination of the Nepal Mountain Leaders.

There is a provision for an umbrella organization of trainers who had Nepal's Mountain Leaders' training to conduct international standard training for Mountain leaders which is the main necessity. So the Nepal Mountain leaders' Association was established to produce international standard mountain leaders according to the guidelines and standards of Union of International Mountain Leaders' Association (UIMLA) in Nepal. NMA produces the national level mountain leaders and Nepal Mountain Leaders' Association produces Mountain leaders of international standards.

Nepal's Mountain leaders have received the Aspirant membership of Union of International Mountain Leaders' Association (UIMLA). Nepal Mountain leaders' next destination is to gain the full membership of UIMLA.

Nepal's mountain leaders will be recognized as trainers of international standard once the Mountain leaders get full membership of UIMLA.

History of World Mountain Leaders

In the decade of 1950s, skill development training was conducted to travel, read maps, lead groups, and manage food and logistic arrangement for a group of alpinists interested in adventure tourism in Upper Ireland and Britain.

Since the concept of trekking started from Europe, that training had speedy development. The training that began from Britain and Ireland gradually spread to middle Europe. The European countries such as France, Italy, Germany, Spain and Switzerland had played a significant role in making this training intensive.

This essential training for an adventure trekking was extended widely and named as Mountain Leader Training later. A total of 25 countries around the world are conducting this training and all those 25 countries are affiliated to Union of International Mountain Leader Associations (UIMLA).

What is Union of International Mountain Leader Association (UIMLA)?

UIMLA is an organization that conducts mountain leaders training as per the requirement of international standard by integrating the mountain leaders spread all over the world. It was established in November of 2004. The mountain leaders associations of a total of 25 countries are affiliated to it. One mountain leader association of one country has provision to get associated with this organization.

UIMLA has 19 full members and 6 countries including Nepal are aspirant members of this union. The headquarters of UIMLA is in France.

In conclusion, the Mountain leader training which is under the ownership of NMA is gaining its effective momentum in Nepal and at an international level. There is also the need to publicize this training. NMA has indeed played a historic role in this regard.

Mountain Leader Training Data:

SN	Year (AD)	Female (total)	Male (total)	Total Number	Training fee	Training coordinator UIAA/foreign trainer
1	2008	1	26	27	Rs 3000	SunarBahadurGurung
2	2011	0	20	20	Rs 5000	Lakpa Sherpa/Steve Long PraticMagnier
3	2012	2	18	20	Rs 5000	
4	2013	1	19	20	Rs 5000	
5	2014	0	20	20	Rs 5000	Tul Sing Gurung/ Steve Long
6	2015	1	19	20	Rs 5000	
7	2016	0	20	20	Rs 8000	
8	2017	1	19	20	Rs 8000	LachhumanTamang
9	2018	2	19	21 (one American)	Rs 17000	
10	2019	3	17	20	Rs 17000	

Mountain Leader Trainers Training related data:

SN	Year (AD)	Female (total)	Male (Total)	Total	Training Coordinator/foreign trainer
1	2012	0	1. Mani Kumar Rai 2. Binayak Jay Malla 3. Man BahadurKhatri	3	Lakpa Sherpa/Steve Long
2	2013	0	1. LachhumanTamang 2. KesharShrestha 3. Sarki Sherpa	3	Lakpa Sherpa/Steve Long
3	2014	0	1. DawaTashi Sherpa	1	Tul Sing Gurung /Steve Long
4	2018	0	1. Shesh Kant Sharma 2. Krishna Kumar Magar 3. Ram KajiTiwari	3	LachhumanTamang

Mountain Leader Trainers' Capacity Building and Evaluation (Assessment Course) related facts:

SN	Year (AD)	Female (Total)	Male (Total)	Total No	Training Coordinator/foreing trainer (UIAA)
1	2014	0	1. Mani Kumar Rai 2. Binayak Jay Malla 3. LachhumanTamang 4. DawaTashi Sherpa 5. LakpaThinle Sherpa 6. RidarLwamiBhote	6	Tul Sing Gurung/Steve Long

Centennial of Exploration of Nepalese Himalaya and Conservation of Mountain Environment

Prakash Adhikari
Abadesh K Das
SarkiTamang
Muna Basnet
Member ECC-NMA

Nepal's high Himalayas have been a matter of central attraction for the courageous and adventurous people of the world after the British Indian Surveyor Andrew Scott Waugh measured and identified Mount XV and later named it Mount Everest as the Highest Peak in the world with a height of 29002ft(8839.2m).In his survey of 1619 Miles Himalayan region from Sunakoda to Deharadun with the final result published in 1856 after survey, calculation, verification, and approval from the concerned authorities, RadhanathSikdar of his team who was known as a human-computer in 1852 had told him that he had seen a higher mountain then Kanchanjungha leveled as mount XV.

Though mountaineering activities in the Nepalese Himalayas increased rapidly after the successful ascent of Mount Annapurna in 1950 by French mountaineer Maurice Hergoz and the conquest of Everest in 1953 by mountaineer Edmund Hillary(New Zealand) and TenzingNorgay(Nepali), early Mountaineering activities took place since George Herbert Leigh Mallory's first three British expeditions to Mount Everest, in the early 1920s. George Mallory was a Cheshire-born rock climbing and mountaineering student at Winchester Collegeand a teacher at Charterhouse School who had served in the British Army during the First World War and fought at the Somme. After the war, he returned to



Charterhouse before resigning to take part in the 1921 British Mount Everest Survey expedition. In 1922, he took part in a second expedition to make the first ascent of the world's highest mountain, in which his team achieved a record altitude of 26,980 ft (8,225 m) without supplemental oxygen. His desire to top the summit again dragged him in the third expedition in 1924. During this unfortunate attempt Mallory and his climbing partner, Andrew "Sandy" Irvine, disappeared on the north-east ridge of Everest. The pair were last seen when they were about 800 vertical ft (245 m) from the summit. Mallory's body was recovered after 75 years, on 1 May 1999 by an expedition that had set out to search for the climbers' remains.

Even after the disappearance of George Mallory, exploration of these pristine Himalayas didn't stop. In 1933 Hugh Ruttledge (leader) and his team consisting of Captain E. St. J. Birnie, Lieutenant Colonel H. Boustead, T.A. Brocklebank, Crawford, C.R. Greene, Percy Wyn-Harris, J.L. Longland, W.W. McLean, Shebbeare (transport), Eric Shipton, Francis S. Smythe, Lawrence R. Wager, G. Wood-Johnson, and Lieutenants W.R. Smyth-Windham and E.C. Thompson (wireless) attempted to ascent Everest and reached camp IV at 27,400 ft(8350meters).In 1933, a series of airplane flights were conducted over Everest to take photographs of the summit and surrounding landscape.

In 1934 Maurice Wilson attempted to climb Everest alone and unfortunately, he died during the

In1935 an expedition led by Shipton attempted to explore the mountains and discover about monsoon conditions. Other members of his team were L.V. Bryant, E.G.H. Kempson, M. Spender (surveyor), H.W. Tilman, C. Warren, and E.H.L. Wigram. They were able to campon the North Col but were compelled to descend due to an avalanche.They tried again upto North Col and found the body of Wilson and his diary was recovered.

In 1936 Ruttledge (leader), J.M.L. Gavin, Wyn-Harris, G.N. Humphreys, Kempson, Morris (transport), P.R. Oliver, Shipton, Smyth-Windham (wireless), Smythe, Warren, and Wigram attempted to scale Everest but due to heavy snowfalls immediately after the camp set up, they abandoned the attempt to climbing the upper part.

Again in 1938 Tilman (leader) made a team with P. Lloyd, Odell, Oliver, Shipton, Smythe, and Warren. The team reached upto camp IV at 27,200 ft(8290 metres) but was compelled to drop due to heavy snowfall.

After attempts of 1938, the second world war began and exploration stopped till 1950 when a first French team got permission from the government of Nepal for exploration of Annapurna.

Annapurna accent a Historic Event

The 1950 French Annapurna expedition, led by Maurice Herzog, reached the summit of Annapurna I at 8,091 metres (26,545 ft), the highest peak in the Annapura Ridge. After failing to climb Dhaulagiri I at 8,167 metres (26,795 ft), the higher peak nearby to the west, the team attempted Annapurna with Herzog and Louis Lachenal, reaching the summit on 3 June 1950. Annapurna became the highest mountain to have been ascended till that date. It was the first eight-thousander to be climbed.

It was a great achievement for French



mountaineering and caught the public attention with front-page coverage in a best-selling issue of Paris Match. Herzog wrote thebook Annapurna full of vivid descriptions of the heroic attempts and painful suffering.

Continued efforts on Everest

After the end of World War II in 1945, exploration in the world's highest mountain revived.In 1951 Nepal Government permitted to explore mountain expeditions from the south. Shipton (leader) T.D. Bourdillon, Edmund Hillary, W.H. Murray, H.E. Riddiford, and M.P. Ward reached Namche Bazar on 22nd September. They watched and concluded that it was possible to scale the great icefall seen by Mallory from the west. They were stopped at the top by a huge crevasse but traced a possible line up the Western valley to the South Col, the high saddle between Lhotse and Everest.

In 1952 a Swiss team led by E. Wyss Dunant and comprising of J.J. Asper, R. Aubert, G. Chevalley, R. Dittert (leader of the climbing party), L. Flory, E. Hofstetter, P.C. Bonnant, R. Lambert, A. Roch, A. Lombard (geologist), and A. Zimmermann (botanist) set foot on the Khumbu Icefall on April 26. Some members of the team reached upto the south col.

In 1952 Members of the second Swiss expedition led by Chevalley, comprising J. Buzio, G. Gross, Lambert, E. Reiss, A. Spöhel, and Norman Dyhrenfurth (photographer) reached up to 90 meters further than south col.

The historic ascent of 1953

In 1953 a British team led Colonel John Hunt (leader; later Baron Hunt) and sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club comprising G.C. Band, Bourdillon, R.C. Evans, A. Gregory, Edmund Hillary, W.G. Lowe, C.W.F. Noyce, M.P. Ward, M.H. Westmacott, Major C.G. Wylie (transport), T. Stobart (cinematographer), and L.G.C. Pugh (physiologist) again tried to accent the world's highest Mountain.

After three weeks' training on neighbouring mountains, a route was worked out up the Khumbu Icefall, and it was possible to start ferrying loads of supplies to the Western valley head. Two forms of oxygen apparatus, closed and open-circuit types, were tried. Hunt decided that Bourdillon and Evans, experts on closed-circuit, should make the first attempt from the South Col. Hillary with Tenzing Norgay as Sardarwere to follow, using open-circuit and a higher camp.

On 22nd May, 13 Sherpas led by Wylie, with Hillary and Tenzing ahead, reached the col and dumped loads. On 24th May the first summit party, with Hunt and two Sherpas in support, reached the col. On the 26th May Evans and Bourdillon climbed to the South Summit of Everest. Hunt and Da Namgyal Sherpa left loads for a ridge camp at 27,350 feet (8,335 metres).

On the 28th the ridge camp was established at 27,900 feet (8,500 metres) by Hillary, Tenzing, Lowe, Gregory, and AngNyima, and Hillary and Tenzing passed the night there. The two set out early on the morning of May 29, reaching





the South Summit by 9:00 AM. They then reached the final obstacle, about halfway between the South Summit and the summit of Everest, now called the Hillary Step. They crossed the barrier of steep55 feet (17 metres) high rock and reached the summit of Everest at 11:30 AM. Hillary turned to Tenzing, and the men shook hands; Tenzing then held Hillary in a hug. Hillary took photos. Tenzing made an offering of food for the mountain; Hillary left a crucifix Hunt had given him. The two men ate some sweets and then headed down. They had spent about 15 minutes on top of the world.

On the day their returning they met Lowe and Noyce and Hillary said to Lowe, "Well, George, we knocked the bastard off." By June 2 the whole expedition had reassembled at the Base Camp.

A correspondent for The Times, James (later Jan) Morris, had hiked up to Camp IV to follow the story more closely and was on hand to cover the event. Morris wired his story to the paper in code. It reached London in time to appear in the June 2 edition. A headline from another London paper published later that day, "All this, and Everest too!" referred to the fact that Elizabeth II was being crowned on the same day on which the news broke about the success on Everest.

After years of privation during and after World War II and the subsequent loss of empire, the effect of the successful Everest ascent was a sensation for the British public. The feat was also celebrated worldwide, but nowhere like in Britain and the Commonwealth, whose climbers had been so closely associated with Everest for more than 30 years.

The announcement coincided with Coronation Day of Queen Elizabeth II and it got big publicity in Britain. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing with their team members were honored and the event is taken as one of the defining events of the 20th century.

NMA and Environment Concern

Nepal Mountaineering Association was established on 1 November 1973 (2030 Kartik 16) Thursday as a national alpine association of Nepal to promote mountain tourism, climbing sports, protect mountain environments and preserve and promote the cultural heritage of mountain people. The government has authorized NMA to issue climbing permits for 27 mountain peaks of Nepal and collect royalties.

The prime objective of NMA is to protect the mountains, mountain environment, mountain people and attract tourists in these areas with various activities such as mountaineering, trekking, sports. In course of fulfilling the objectives of the organization, NMA has to handle environmental issues seriously. After the Rio Earth Summit in 1991, environmental issues were raised worldwide and it is associated with the future of earth due to the depletion of the ozone layer in the atmosphere and the greenhouse effect. Later Global warming and climate change issues



came to the surface. NMA felt a separate committee was necessary to handle these more complicated and critical issues and therefore, Environment Conservation Committee came into existence.

Though Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), the national alpine club of Nepal has been involved in the conservation of mountain environment since its inception in 1982, realizing the importance of nature made the high Himalayas which are a source of fresh water and lifeline of millions of people living downward in the Mountain and Terairegion of Nepal and wide plain made by Ganga River in India, NMA established a separate Environment Conservation Committee to deal with the Environmental issues associated with mountains and mountain people.

Environment Conservation Committee of Nepal Mountaineering Association is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. During these two and half decades, lots of works were conducted ranging from environmental awareness and education programs, plantation, cleaning the mountaineering and trekking trails, base camps, and rope clearance in the various mountains.

The charter of NMA has guided the Environment Conservation Committee to furnish its job properly. The broader objective of NMA clearly spells its concern over the environment. Almost all the objectives of NMA are related tothe environment directly or indirectly such as preservation of natural environment in the mountain region for sustainable future, protecting and promoting mountain people, culture and heritage. Emergency Rescue, Rehab, and Humanitarian support for needy individuals/community show its concern with the environment.

Following the charter's objective and Environment Conservation Committee has developed its vision, core value and formulated strategy and working principles, and updated from time to time to achieve the desired goals. The vision of the committee states, 'This Committee will make NMA world Leader amongst international Alpine Clubs in Environmental Protection. The degradation of our natural environment is clear to see due to human action(that is climate change and Pollution) and NMA will be showing the light for Nepal to follow in these dark Issues.'

To transform its vision into reality the committee has further developed its core values putting the mountain environment at the center. The committee defines its values as follow:

- The future of Nepal remains in Clean mountains and Mountain Environment.
- The sustainable future of the Nepalese Tourism Industry remains in Mountain Tourism.
- Climate Change is the primary cause of concern of Mountain and Mountain Community
- To be successful in the environment and climate activism, local communities haveto be motivated and mobilized

Honoring its core values NMA ECC has been working in the following areas:

a) Cleaning the mountains

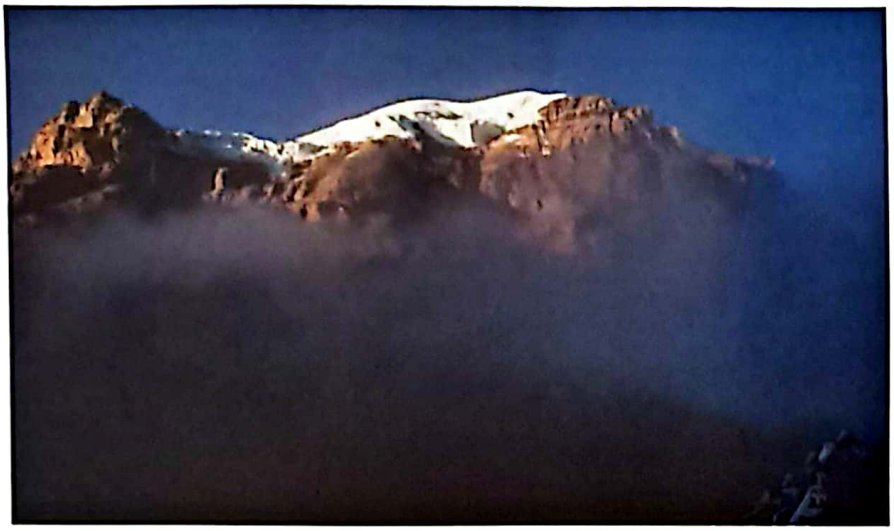
b) Plantation

c) Environment awareness and education programs among the school children and youngsters

d) Networking with similar organizations and institutions devoted to protectingthe environment.

e) Making NMA an exemplary resource center for scholars and researchers to study the causes and effects arisen in the Mountain and Himalayan region due to climate change, global warming, and environmental degradation.

As NMA is a pioneer organization of Nepal established to promote mountaineering activities throughout the country, it is her duty to protect these mountains. Geologists and Geo Scientists consider Hindu Kush Himalayas as young Mountains. These Himalayas and Nepalese Mountains are not mature as the mountains that lie in Europe, American, and other parts of the earth. They indicate that the high Himalayas and other Mountains which reside in Nepal are yet to be gone through the natural process of stabilizing their shape and sizes i.e. earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, natural fires, etc. Hence, our mountains are fragile and full of risks of natural calamities. It is our duty to protect them from the adverse conditions that can arise from either manmade activities or natural ones.



Clean Himalaya campaign

Since her inception, NMA has given high priority to clean up the mountains to which it issues the permit. For the other mountains,the Government of Nepal issues permits for expedition and mountaineering activities. NMA has conducted Clean Everest Campaign many times. The first being ...and the last conducted in 2019 may-June. It had conducted clean Everest and dozens of Himalayas during these years. Cleaning Lobuche, Imatse, Mera Peak, Pisang peak, Island, Kwangde, KusumKangroo, Pokhalde, Koimasi, Yala Peak, PisangChuli,NayaKhang campaign were successfully conducted.

Cleaning campaigns were conducted with local participation in Island, Mera Peak, Kwangde, KusumKanroo, Lobuche,Pokhalde, Khoimasim, Chulu East, Pisang, YalaGangala. Collected garbages were brought toPhirechc, then toChurikharkaSurkhe. NMA-ECC jointly conducted Yala Peak and NayaKhang cleaning with UNITRAV, a labor union of Trekking and Rafting workers of Nepal. During Cleaning Lamtang program in 2053 Khangla base camp, high camp and LamtangRi were incorporated.

In this process, NMA-ECC constructed toilets in Mera Peak, Island, Lobuchebase camps and transferred them to the local management committee. NMA ECC conducted a Rope clearance and cleaning campaign in Amadablam. Weakened and tornropes were transferred to Sagarmatha Pollution control committee(SPCC). This Campaign collected 95 KG of Garbage and 5500metersof ropes were fixed at different routes of Amadablam Peak. Few meters of such ropes were brought even in Kathmandu to keep it in IMM-Pokhara.

Cleaning campaigns are not only limited tothe high Himalayas, NMA-ECC initiated theseworthy tasks even in major touristic, religious, and archeologically important heritage sites. In this process, NMA-ECC conductedClean Campaign in Kakani, International Mountain Musum situated in Pokhara, Sabjikhola Mountaineering School, and at Changunarayan Temple, one of the most important heritage sites in Kathmandu valley. NandikesharMahadev temple and Nag Pokhari site of its secretariat neighborhood. Jamacho cleaning near Nagarjun and Bajrabarahi and Indrani in Lalitpur.

Partnership with other organizations

During her existence of nearly five decades (47) years, NMA has expanded her hands throughout Nepal. It is working to promote mountain tourism activities across the Himalayan range from Mechi in the east and Mahakali in the west. As the trekking and mountaineering activities increase, natural environment protection activities must also be explored. Hence environmental awareness and protection programs extended almost all touristic centers.

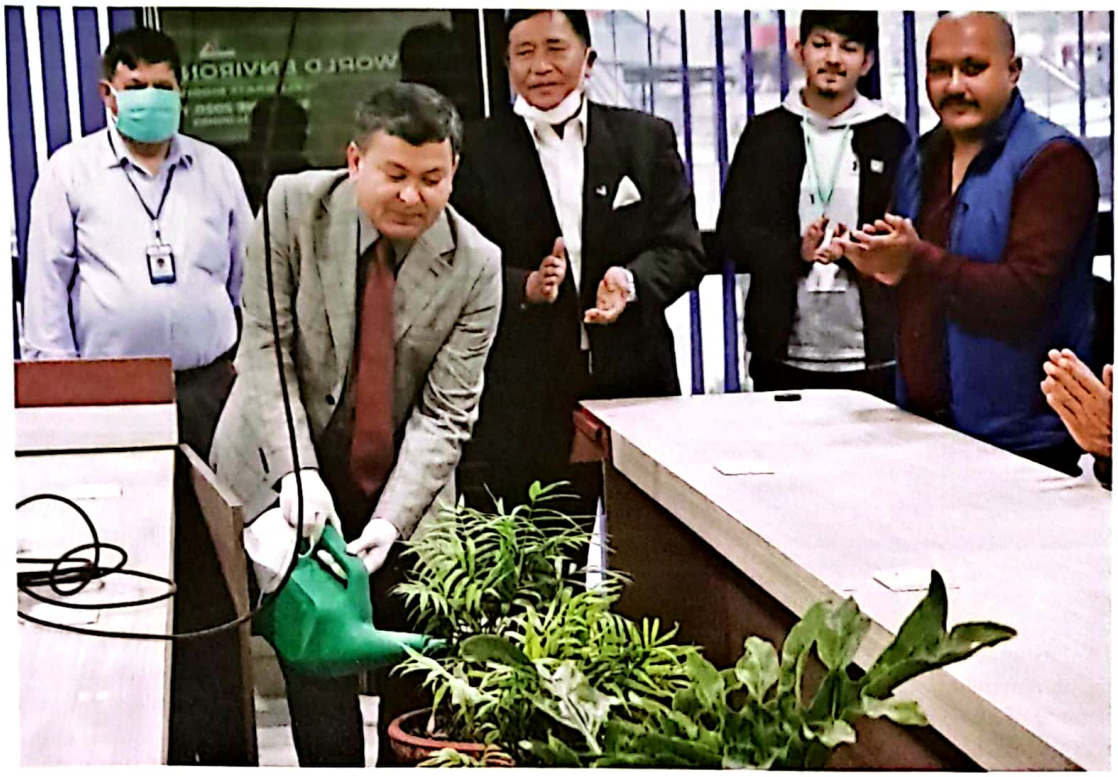
NMA-ECC has adopted sustainable ways of environment awareness and management programs. under these programs, NMA-ECC extends her hands to the local organizations and conducts programs on a partnership basis. In her 25 years of formal existence, NMA-ECC has established working relations with dozens of institutions. NMA-ECC has jointly worked with Trekking Agents Association, The Union of Trekking Travels Rafting Workers Nepal (UNITRAV), Himalayan Adventure Trust, Nepal(HAT, Nepal), Mesodeshiyan Climbing Association, Kathmandu Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Kathmandu Environment Education Project(KEEP),Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee(SPCC),Eco-Himal,World Wildlife Fund for nature conservation(WWF), MOOATASN,SPIKIT, Clean Kanchanjungha, and Tourism Awareness Campaign, Transformation of Nepal, Mera High Himalayan Conservation Committee, Sankhuwashabha Tourism Development Society, Mountain Everest Summiteers' Club Rolwaling, Nubri Cultural and Youth Promotion Committee, Mera Alpine Conservation Committee, SiddeshworToleSuhdarSamiti, Jamacho.

Nobel Idea for sustainable Environment protection

To protect all the Himalayas from the adverse effects caused by human activities, NMA-ECC in 2059 proposed a noble idea to NMA central committee to generate fund to clean up the Himalayas and base camps that are polluted by garbage and wastes deposited by climbing teams piloting from Island, Mera, Lobucheexpedition and expand and explore in other regions after its successful implementation.

Environment Awareness Program

NMA-ECC has played a greater role to raise environmental awareness among touristic destinations of Nepal.It has designed and initiated an awareness program for the school and college students, tourism entrepreneurs, policymakers, and all stakeholders involving them in special workshops and seminars. It has designed and conducted targeted programs for trekking guides, cooks, Sherpas, climbers, and hoteliers.



Such programs are regularly conducted in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Lukla, Namche, Khumjung, Langtang,Manang, and Mustang.

NMA-ECC also conducts a Plantation event of various species of plants on the occasion of Environment Day. NMA regularly organizes World Environment Day, declared by United Nation on June 5 and Environment Conservation Day announced by UAAA on September 1.

Since its inception, NMA-ECC has conducted plantation campaigns in IMM premise Pokhara, International Mountaineers Memorial Park Kakani, Changunarayan, Chaurideurali.

NMA-ECC has printed and distributed Posters, Pamphlets, Stickers, and booklets for environmental awareness. It has tied up with Solu 101.2 MHZ community FM Radio to increase environmental awareness.It has been supporting KEEP eco Leadership Training, It has been supporting Himal Association for her Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival(KIMFF) which is being organized to conserve and protect mountain culture and uplift their livingstandard.

NMA-ECC has been chosen as a partner in trekking for the Himalayan Climate Initiative on the 1700 KM long Great Himalayan trial to increase awareness on climate change and environment protection. It has supported to develop the PK trekking trail.

NMA-ECC has been supporting to establish memorial parks ofthe legendary Mountaineers and people who have contributed to explore mountain tourism activities in Nepal. In such an endeavor, NMA-ECC has supported to Bhoomi-MandaliDevisthan Community Forest Consumers Committee Gorkha to establish Iman Singh Gurung Memorial Park and conserve a Sami Tree and similarly supported to construct Dr. HarkaGurung Memorial Park in BesishaharLamjung.

To bring policymakers and other stakeholders underone umbrella and to find suitable ways to protect the Himalayas, Himalayan people and the Himali environment NMA ECC organize Seminars and find the appropriate ways. It has conducted such seminars in Kathmandu and Pokhara and sometimes it organizes talk programs on relevant topics.

Way Forward

NMA-ECC has set its Vision to make NMA world Leader among international Alpine Clubs in Environment Protection of the Himalayas and mountains.

To transform its vision into reality NMA-ECC has set its goals, strategies, and action plans as well. Our ultimate goal is to protect the beauty and natural environment of the Himalayas despite human accent and other sports activities by adopting sustainable approaches.

We have realized that the beauty of Nepal lies on snow-capped high Himalayas whose existence is at high risk due to the effect of climate change and global warming, To protect these precious nature gifts Nepal must plead with the world community to cut carbon emission. The Himalayas are the lifeline for the millions of people of Nepal and India hence both countriesmust draw the attention of the world community to protect the Himalayas.

Nepal's tourism depends on mountain tourism whether it is mountaineering or trekking or sightseeing or rafting or sports tourism all are dependenton the beauty of the Himalayas and her snow. Snowless mountains will loseall charms of tourism. Hence, it is urgent to aware all concerned authorities on the mountain environment and stop the adverse effects of climate change. The Mountain environment directly affects the sustainable future of the Tourism Industry in Nepal.

NMA-ECC has Proposed NMA Executive Committee to establish a research and resource center to monitor the effects of climate change in the Himalayas. It has urged other international and national organizations to make NMA a national nodal agency to work on Climate change in the Mountain and Himalayan regions of countries of the world. In this regard, NMA-ECC is ready to work with Nepal Government and United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Programs.

Nepal Himal Peak Profile

- Deepak Dahal -

Nepal is a country with plenty of beautiful mountain peaks. Government of Nepal has opened 414 mountain peaks for expedition till date. Detailed profiles of open mountain peaks are still not published by the government. Peak profiles of peaks managed by Nepal Mountaineering Association are published and appreciated by mountaineering agencies and individuals interested in mountaineering.

Mountain Peak Profile Preparatory Committee (MPPPC) was formed by the Government of Nepal on 2070/09/17 to prepare a peak profile of 326 open peaks and 165 potential peaks which are proposed to open for expedition. On 2070/11/14 Mountain Peak Profile Sub Committee MPPPSC was formed under Mr.Ang Tshering Sherpa's convenorship.

On 2075/01/27 Committee was restructured under the convenorship of NMA president Mr.Santabir Lama.

The purpose of the preparation of Peak Profile was to give information online for the promotion of mountain tourism in Nepal. The purpose is also to share necessary information with the expeditioners and mountaineers of various countries of the world. Peak Profiles help the government to make decisions to promote mountaineering activities and open virgin peaks and attract expeditioners to climb virgin peaks. To increase the amount of royalty to the government.

Database of Peak Profile is created digitally by GIS technique. Height of the Peaks is based on Topographical Maps published by the Department of Survey, Government of Nepal. Information regarding 1st ascent are based on the Himalayan Database and Records of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. Royalty pieces of informationare also obtained from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.



The name of the Peak profile assigned by MPPPSC is Nepal Himal Peak Profile. The MPPPSC decided the format and contents of the peak profile. Peak Profile with maps of all 414 open peaks and 71 potential peaks are proposed to open.

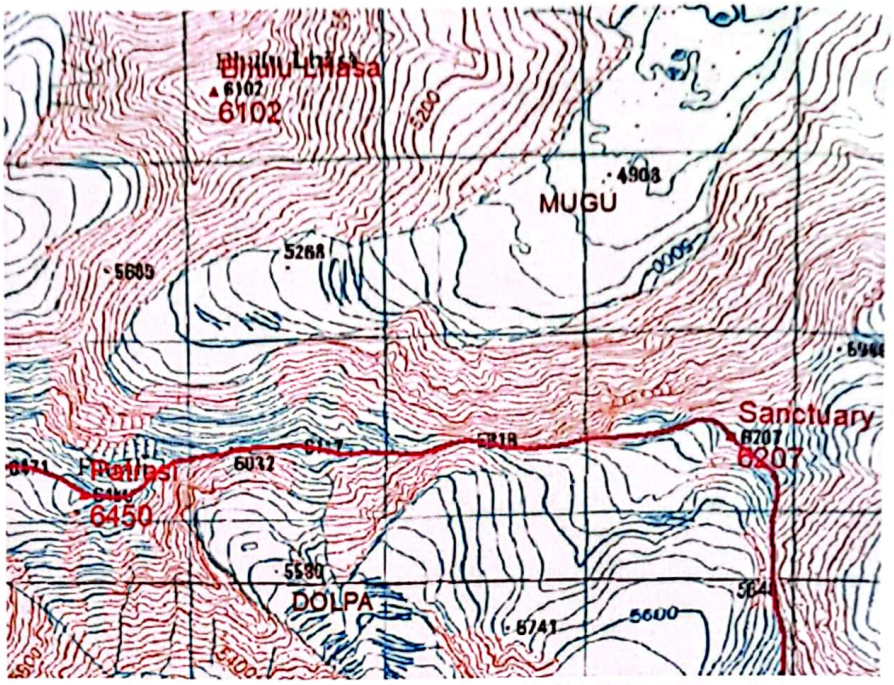
Nepal Himal Peak Profile -Contents

Name of the mountain: Name (English, Nepali, local if any)

Height of the mountain peak: Vertical Height in Meter (Feet), based on the Topographical map / cross-check by Google image / neighboring countries map / Peaks and pinnacles (Dr. HarkaGurung)

ID Number of Peak: 4-character unique ID will be prepared forevery open peak.

Photograph of the Peak: The photograph should show the mountain range and should indicate the peak with its name. It should include the photograph of all faces of the peak, if possible. It should also mention the place from where the photo was taken or its source.



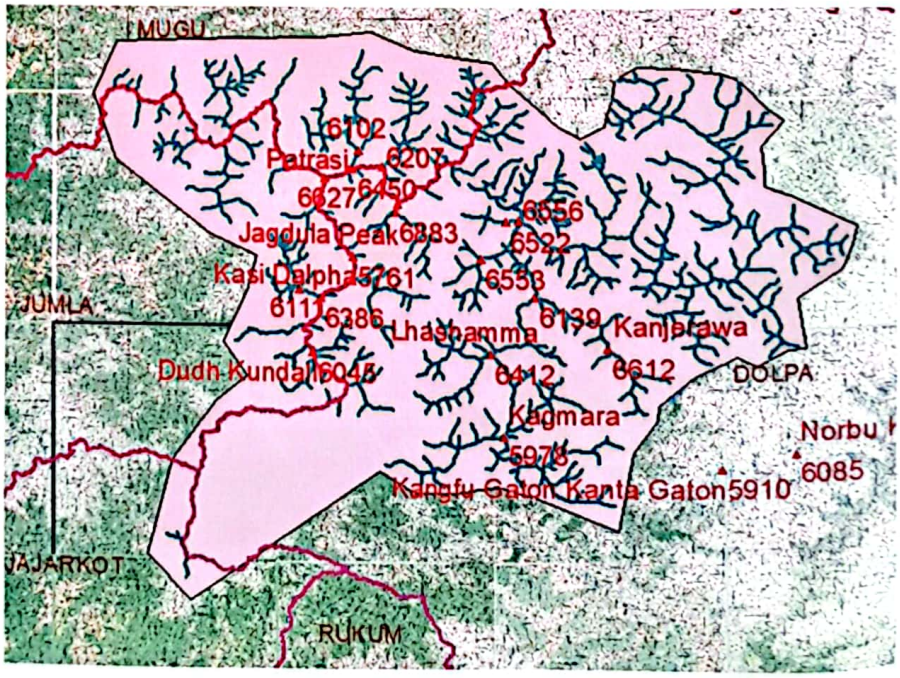
Identification of 485 Mountain Peaks was done on the map with the help of mountaineering experts and available documents.

Location of the Peak: Name of the Range, Geographical Co-ordinate (Latitude, Longitude, Height), based on the data of Department of Survey, Government of Nepal. Descriptive location (District, VDC) based on the data of the Ministry of Local Development.

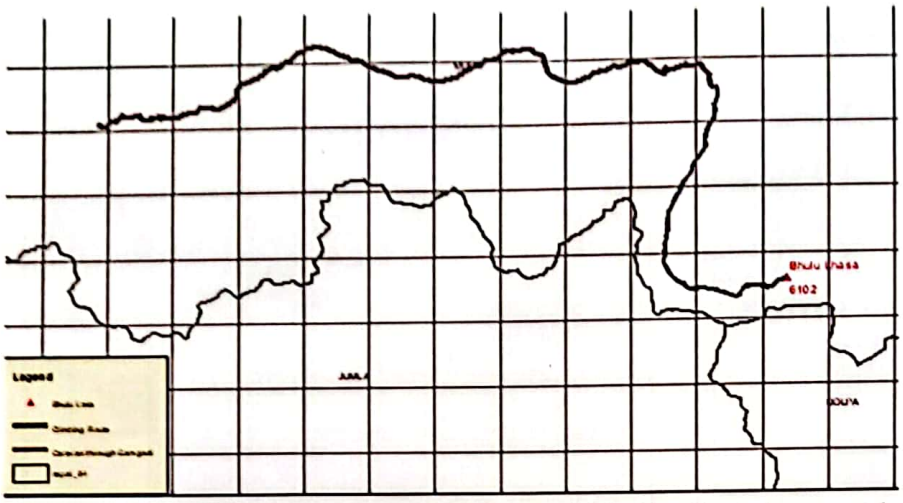
Climbing Route: Normal Route from Base Camp to the Peak. Description of the routes. (Route from Kathmandu to the last air-field and then motorable road or Caravan route onward up to the Base Camp). The route should be marked on the attached Topographic Map, if possible.

Unique Four letter ID is prepared for every Peak. Internationally adopted ID is assigned, as far as possible.

S.No.	peak name	peak ID
1	Abi *	ABIM
2	Agole East	AGLE
3	Aichyn	ACHN
4	Ama Dablam	AMAD
5	Amotsang Himal	AMOT
6	Amphu Gyabjen	AMPG
7	Amphu I	AMP1
8	Anidesh Chuli	ANID
9	Annapurna I	ANN1
10	Annapurna II	ANN2
11	Annapurna III	ANN3
12	Annapurna IV	ANN4
13	Annapurna South	ANNS
14	Api	APIM
15	Api West	APIW
16	Araniko Chuli	ARNK
17	Ardang	ARDN
18	Asajya Tuppa	ASJM



Digital database of 28 Mountain Ranges area and ridges is prepared, the base of this database was the study done in 1994 by late Dr. Harka Gurung.



Digital database of Caravan Route and the proposed Climbing Route is prepared on the basis of database of Department of Survey, data provided by Department of Tourism and the discussions held with the number of experts of mountaineering sector.

History of Peak: It should include the date of the first ascent, the name of the 1st successful Team Leader and his nationality, andthe number of successful/unsuccessful teams with dates, if possible. It should also include the number of successful Nepali climbers and foreign climbers.

Royalty Rate (Climbing Fee): Per head /Team in US$ (Nepali Rs.) in main Spring season, Per head /Team in US$ (Nepali Rs.) in Autumn season, Per head /Team in US$ (Nepali Rs.) in Winter and Summer seasons.

Provision of garbage collection: Deposit of garbage in US$ (Nepali Rs.) refundable, Amount of garbage (in kilograms) to be brought to the Base Camp.

Duration of expedition: Number of days to be taken to and from Kathmandu

Geological construction of the mountain: Sedimentary rock or Metamorphic or others

Glacier: Name of the nearest glaciers related to the mountain, Speed of the glacier (annual / ten yearly), if possible

Community perspective: Name of the nearest settlement from the Base Camp. Distance in km from the last settlement to the Base Camp.

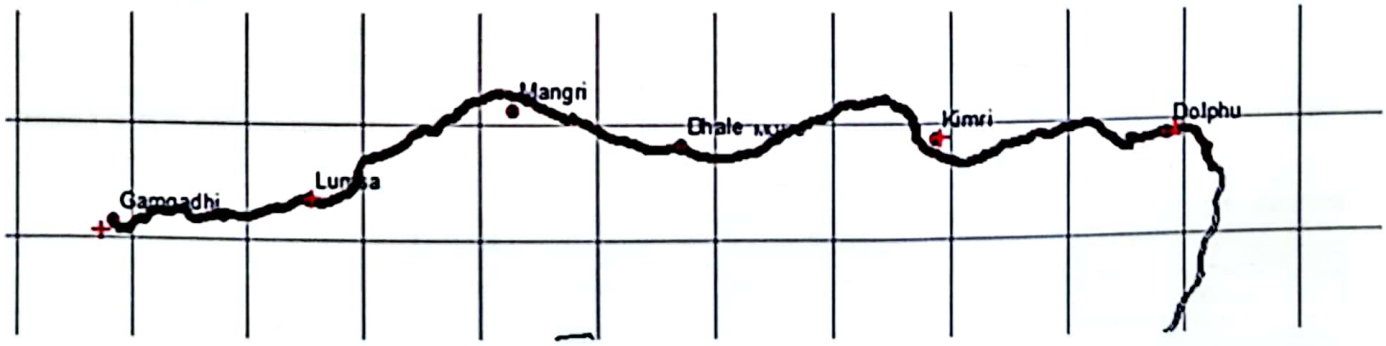
Other miscellaneous information (if any):

For the preparation of Peak profile, Base working materials like 115 Topographic Maps of 1: 50000 scale and the Digital Topographic Database of 115 Map sheets prepared by the Department of Survey, Tourist Maps, GHT Maps, index of Geographical Names were collected.

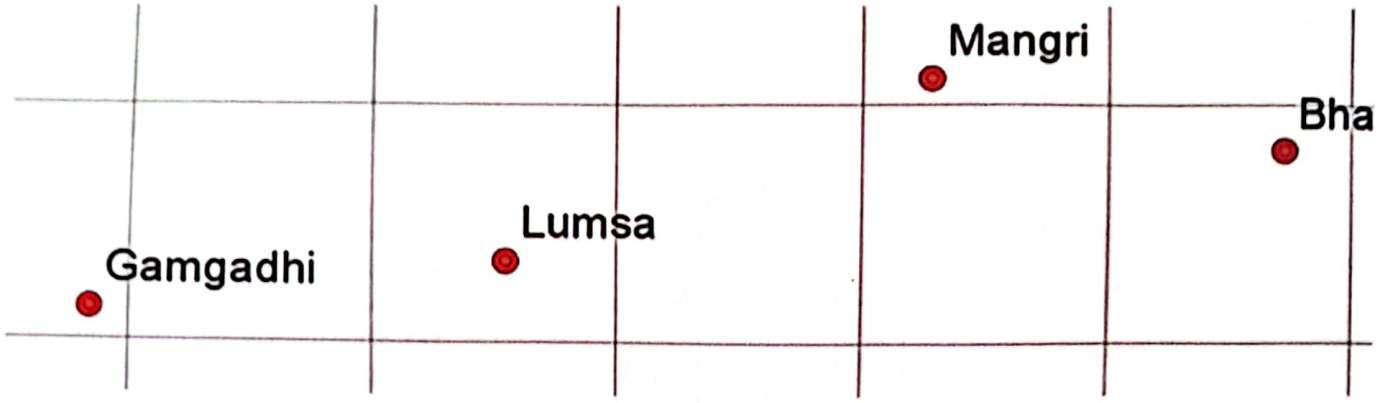
The number of Topographic Map Sheets required to cover the mountainous area of the country was 115, some topographic maps were divided into four sheets during the preparation of the topographic database by the Department of Survey. So in fact, the total number of map sheets becomes 185. The topographic database of each sheet contains 9-10 layers, e.g. Contour, transportation, elevation, Settlement, Hydrography, Land use, etc. Database of Department of Survey was prepared in Arc Info format. The database is converted to the shape file format. Department of Survey data was projected, and the data is converted to degree decimal with Nepal Nagarkot Geographic Coordinate System. The collected database was prepared using 3 Central Meridians. For the preparation of Peak Profile, all database is converted to 84° Central Meridian. The acquired sheet-wise database has latitudinal and longitudinal lines in the database and further some map sheets consist of four parts like A, B, C, D as mentioned earlier. Data has to be cleaned and then was merged.

Literature for all open peaks is prepared.

Digital database of Health Centre/ Health Post/ Army Post/ Police Post/ APF Post/ Tourist Police Post/ Airfield of Himali District is prepared. Informations of these districts were provided by the concerned authorities and collected from the related websites.



Database of Prominent Locations along the Caravan Route is prepared.

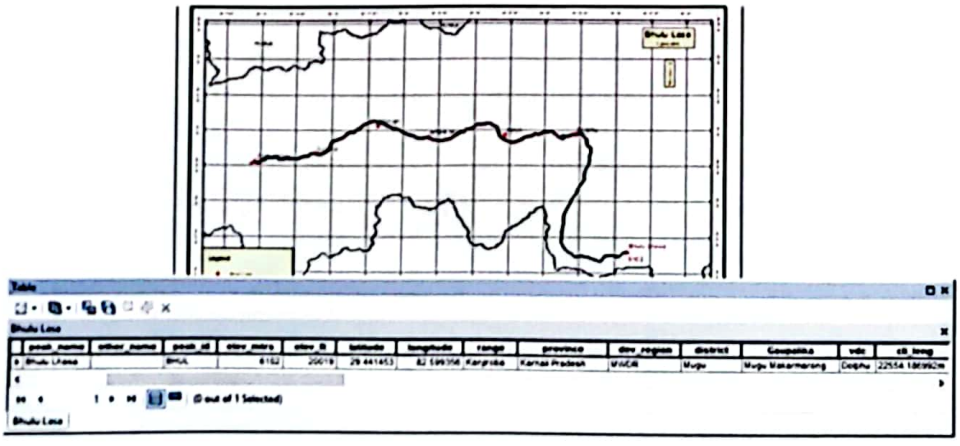


Database of 1st summiter and the date of 1st summit are prepared with the help of Himalayan Database by Ms E. Hawley.

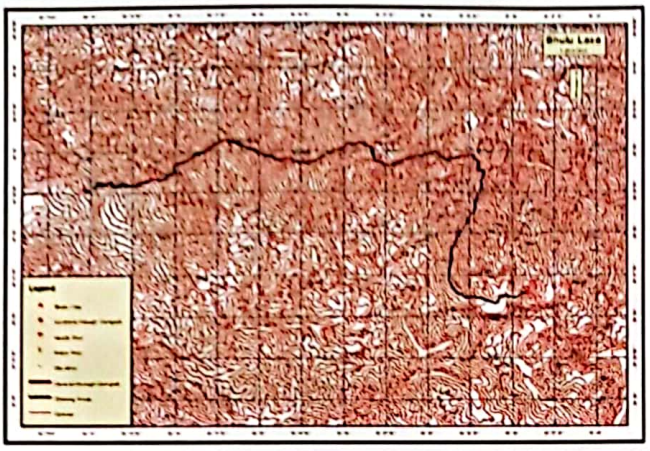
peak name	1st ascent on	1st ascent by
Ama Dablam	March 13,1961	Mike Gill, Wally Romanes, Barry Bishop, Michael Ward
Amphu Gyabjen	April 11,1953	John Hunt (UK), Tom Bourdillon (UK)
Amphu I	Oct 9,2013	Ahn Il-Evn, An Chi-Young, Kim Young-Mi, Oh Young-Hoon (S Korea)
Annapurna I	June 3,1950	Maurice Herzog (France), Louis Lachenal (France)
Annapurna II	May 17,1960	Richard Grant (UK), Chris Bonington (UK), Ang Nyima Sherpa (Nepal)
Annapurna III	May 6,1961	Mohan S. Kohli (India), Sonam Gyatso (India), Sonam Girmi (India)
Annapurna IV	May 30,1955	Heinz Steinmetz (W Germany), Harald Biller (W Germany), Juergen Wellenkamp (W Germany)
Annapurna South	Oct 15,1964	Shiochiro Uyeo (Japan), Mingma Tsering Sherpa (Nepal)
Api	may 10,1960	Katsutoshi Hirabayashi (Japan), Gyaltsen Norbu Sherpa (Nepal)
Araniko Chuli	July 10,2002	Tamotsu Ohnishi (Japan), Ang Phurba Sherpa (Nepal), Dikki Sherpa (Nepal)

Database of Peaks elevation in meters and feet, latitude and longitude, mountain range and name of province is created.

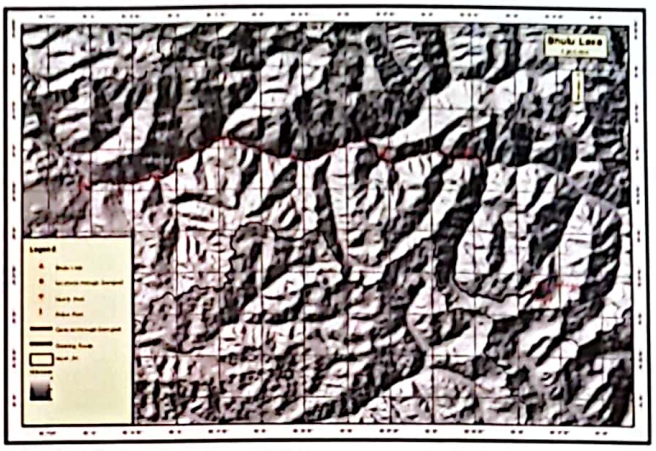
S.No.	peak name	other name	elevation in metres	elevation in feet	latitude	longitude	Mountain Range	province
1	Abi		6043	19826	27.9836	86.7236	Mahalangur	Pro I
2	Agole East		6675	21899	27.8545	86.5689	Rolwaling	Pro I
3	Aichyn		6055	19865	30.2709	81.8598	Chandi	Karnali Pradesh
4	Ama Dablam	Amai Dablang	6814	22365	27.8611	86.8639	Mahalangur	Pro I
5	Amotsang Himal	Amatson	6393	20974	28.8347	84.1725	Damodar	Gandaki Pradesh
6	Amphu Gyabjen		5630	18471	27.8811	86.8708	Mahalangur	Pro I



With the cooperation and suggestions provided by the experts from NMA the database of Caravan Route, Proposed Climbing Route, Proposed location of Base Camps, Identification of Peaks in map, trip days is prepared.



Map of BhuluLasa with elevation and contour



Digital Elevation Model of all open peaks is prepared.



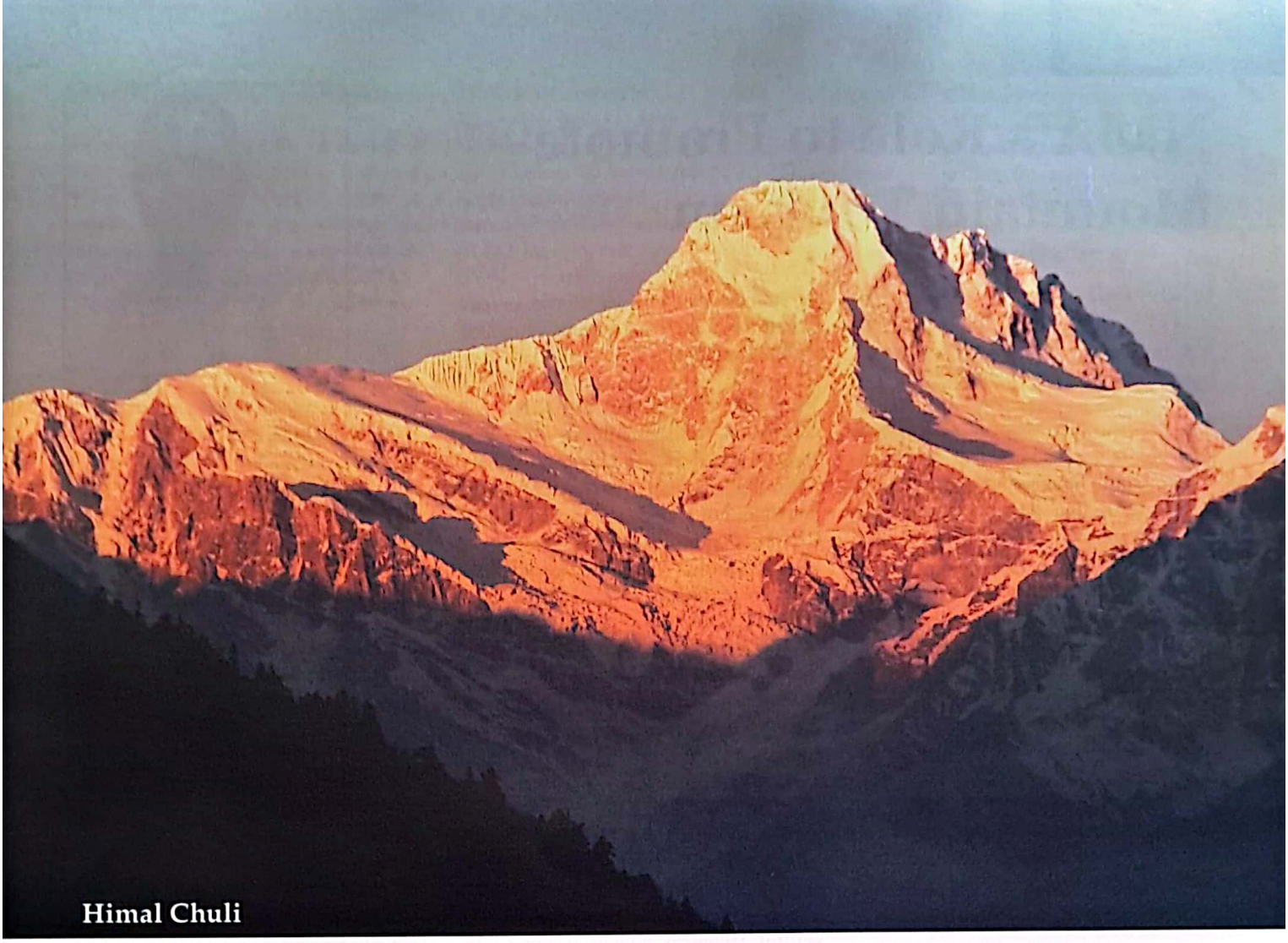
Kml files of all open peaks are prepared, these files are compatible with Google Earth.

An example of Peak Profile

BHRIKUTI SHAIL

Bhrikuti Shail is located in the Damodar mountain range of Himalaya in Nepal. The elevation of Bhrikuti Shail is 6364m above mean sea level. Bhrikuti Shail is on the boundary of Nepal China, Manang and Mustang district. Bhrikuti Shail is 4.1km east of Kang Kuru. Bhrikuti Shail is 3.2kms west ofLugula and 8.9kms north of Pokhar Khang.

Peak Name	BhrikutiShail
Other Name	
Peak ID	BHRS
Mountain Range	BhrikutiShail is in Damodar Mountain Range
Elevation In Metres	BhrikutiShail is 6364m in height
Elevation In Feet	20879
Latitude	The latitude of Bhrikuti Shail is 28.8939°
Longitude	The Longitude of Bhrikuti Shail is 84.2283°
Province	Bhrikuti Shail is on the boundary of Nepal and China and falls in the Gandaki Province of Nepal
Development Region	WDR/NC
District	Bhrikuti Shail is on the boundary of Manang District, Mustang district and Nepal-China boundary.
Gaupalika/Nagarpalika	Bhrikuti Shail is on the boundary of Dalome, Nar Phu gaupalika and Nepal-China boundary.
V D C	Bhrikuti Shail was on the boundary of then Phu, Surkhang VDC, and Nepal-China boundary.
Status	Bhrikuti Shail is open for expedition.
Trip Days	24 days are required for a trip of Bhrikuti Shail from Kathmandu
Approach	By flight to Pokhara and Jomsom or by drive to Jomsom or Bydrive to Besi Shahar
1st Ascent On	May16,2005
1st Ascent By	Paulo Grobel, Denis Flaven, Bikram Singh
Caravan Route	There are two Caravan routes for Bhrikuti Shail. One Caravan starts from Jomsom and passes through Kagbeni, Chhusang, Ghami, Charang, Yaragaun and Damodar Kunda to the Base Camp. The other Caravan starts from Chame and passes through Meta, Chyako, Phu and Nagoru to the Base Camp.
Caravan Route Length In Kms	Length of the caravan route through Jomsom is 89.4 kms. and the length of the caravan route through Chame is 44.4 kms.
Climbing Route Length In Kms	Length of the climbing route through Jomsom is 12.1kms. and length of the climbing route through Chame is 5.3 kms.
Nearest Settlement In Kms	The nearest settlement from the Base Camp on Jomsom side is Yaragaun 25.7 kms. and the nearest settlement from the Base Camp on Chame side is Nagoru 6.9 kms.
Nearest Police Post In Kms	The nearest police post from the Base Camp on Jomsom side is Kagbeni 80.5kms. and The nearest police post from the Base Camp on Chame side is Chame 44.4 kms.
Nearest Army Post In Kms	The nearest army post from the Base Camp is Jomsom 89.4 km and the nearest army post from the Base Camp is Chame 44.4kms. through Chame.
Nearest Health Post In Kms	The nearest health post from the Base Camp is Surkhang 29.6 kms. and the nearest health



Himal Chuli

	post from the Base Camp is Phugaun 12.3 kms. through Chame.
Nearest Tourist Post In Kms	The nearest tourist police post from the Base Camp is Jomsom 89.4 kms.
Fee For Nepalese In Nrs	Nepalese have to pay Nepal Government NRs 4000 in spring season, NRs 2000 in autumn season and NRs 1000 in winter and summer for expedition of Bhrikuti Shail.
Fee For Others In USD	Foreigner has to pay Nepal Government USD 250 in Springseason, USD 125 in autumn season and USD 70 in winter and summer for expedition of Bhrikuti Shail.
Topographic Map	Bhrikuti Shail is in 288401 topographic map

References

Himalayan Database by Ms. E. Hawley

Himalayan Inventory by Dr. Harka Gurung published in 1994

Facts and Figures published by Department of Tourism

Topographic Maps published by Department of Survey

Topographic Digital Database prepared by Department of Survey

Information provided by Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, and Department of Tourism

Maps published by Himalayan House

Various online information

NMA's Role to Promote Mountain Tourism



Suman Prasad Prajuli
Chairman, UNITRAV

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), established in November of 1973 AD, is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-political organization.

The organization was established long before I was born and has been working for mountain tourism, climbing sports, protection of the Himalayan environment and protection of the Cultural Heritage of Himalayan People. It has taken action as a National Alpine Association.

This is the only National Alpine Club in Nepal that issues Expedition Permits for 27 mountain peaks as per the directions of the government.

The organization has played a very instrumental role in discovering new peaks to climb and to publicize and disseminate information about mountain tourism.

There is no question regarding the efficiency of the organization. The role played by the NMA is appreciable and its human resource development and human resource management is indeed well known across the world.

We have realized that the NMA has contributed substantially to adventure sports such as mountain tourism. The organization also partakes in humanitarian work such as Emergency Rescue Operations and Rehabilitation Programs for the people of the Himalayan Region.

NMA has also worked for the sustainable future of the Himalayan Region's natural environment. Mountaineering training school in Manang, International Mountaineering museum in Pokhara, Mountaineering Memorial Park in Kakani, Nuwakot are some of the significant initiatives of the NMA. NMA regularly organizes meetings among mountaineers, conducts basic, advance, rescue training to develop skillful technical human resources in mountaineering.

The NMA has been constantly working for all possible things related to development of mountain tourism and its preservation. However, much work needs to be done in the midst of lots of possibilities. NMA has taken up this responsibility as well.

NMA is also facing additional challenge of global warming and industrialization due to which there is an increased need to protect the mountain environment and the community.

We need to expose Nepal to the people worldwide who are lovers of Nepal. NMA must play a creative role because Nepal can be a center of destination for the world in mountain tourism and adventure sports. NMA here has not



been able to do as it is expected to do.

We might have to enhance the quality of human resource development, although NMA has already worked a lot in regards to this. The organization has been initiating steps to coordinate with the international partners like UIAA, UAAA, IFSC to share the skills and knowledge from time to time.

This work can be further improved for sustainability of tourism by connecting with all agencies for which UNITRAV will always keep the NMA alert and conscious of its creative role.

Professional tourism and regular monitoring is another important part of Nepali tourism. NMA's role will be important in giving full satisfaction to the tourists. Now, let's talk about 30 years of mutual cooperation between NMA and the world's only Labor Union – UNITRAV. More cooperation and coordination are required in the days ahead. I wish for success of NMA and hope that it will be able to take the support of all. There may be some demerits despite NMA working most efficiently. UNITRAV's indication about alertness to an organization may further enhance the working capacity of the organization.

UNITRAV believes in Nepal's big tourism labor force. UNITRAV believes that the political intervention has cropped up inside the NMA. This organization should not be fettered into any political ideology. We want to see this organization free from any political interference. It must become a common platform for all and it must gain its height accordingly. NMA should carry out its all responsibilities without any external interference to achieve its targeted goal.

We have also felt that NMA is not able to achieve its goals due to the politically biased stance it has taken. Whatever has been done for the mountain tourism while this stance is taken is not sufficient.

While NMA has been able to create a charity fund for the education and welfare of the children of deceased climbers, it has yet to think of welfare of all labors associated with tourism.

There are more than 1500 guides working for tourism and we think we should go hand in hand with NMA. UNITRAV also believes that NMA would be able to get the cooperation of all trekking guides to further its work.

Now, the NMA has worked out for the insurance of Rs 15,00,000 for the working labors in tourism. But we believe that this amount should be increased to as much as Rs 25,00,000. A mountain guide is getting Rs 2,100 which is not sufficient according to present situation. NMA and laborers should go together. Let's hope NMA will move forward with this process.

NMA has not only exposed climbers to the mountains, but also exposed Nepal to outside world through mountaineering. So, the role of MNA is as significant as that of the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).

We believe that NMA from now should hold its meetings at the premises of its central office and think about the welfare of common tourism laborers.

NMA holds a prestigious place as Nepal government also has 25% investment in it as it is the only organization that imparts mountaineering training to the climbers and is famous all over the world.

We wish that NMA in the forthcoming days will develop its relation with tourism laborers like nail and flesh and hold refreshing training for the climbers and work towards sanitation for the working tourism laborers at high altitudes and construct proper shelter besides creating public awareness about mountain climbing.



Dedication to the Rights of Tourism Workers



Ram Chandra Dhungana
President
All Nepal Tourism Workers Union.

All Nepal Tourism Workers' Union was registered with the Department of Labor in 2006 A.D. as per the law of Nepal. The union is affiliated with the All Nepal Trade Union Federation and has been raising its voice for a long time fighting for the rights of tourism workers. It is well known that the All Nepal Tourism Workers' Union (ANTWU) is an organization working for the rights, interests, and entitlements of the workers working in the tourism sector of Nepal.

Nepal is a country full of snow-capped peaks where everyone knows that the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, is also there. Adventurous tourists from all over the world have been visiting Nepal for several decades. Adventure Workers in Nepal have been working to help the adventurous tourists observe the mountains, help them climb the mountains, and they play a significant role in the economic growth of the state. ANTWU is also a member of NMA, and is here to work for the rights and interests of these workers. We, All Nepal Tourism Workers' Union, have been cooperating with the NMA from the very beginning especially to work on behalf of the tourism workers. ANTWU, in collaboration with NMA, has been arranging various stages of training for adventurous workers and mountaineers, creating employment opportunities for trained mountaineers, and capacity building training.



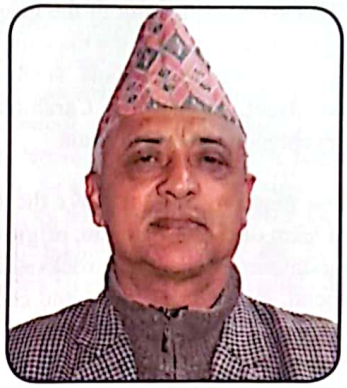
Our union has demanded proper arrangement of daily wages and remuneration of mountaineering and adventure workers, accident rescue insurance for them, provision of medical treatment expenses by the company itself, and its implementation has to be good. NMA has also given priority to this demand of the workers and has honored our union and the overall adventurous workers and climbers by arranging to allow the company to ascend only after submitting all these proofs to the NMA. The arrangement of giving books to the mountaineering and adventurous workers according to their ability and practice in the Mountaineering, having at least one labor representative in the secretariat member has also been done at the initiative of our union.

We are working to explore new mountains, finding a way to climb them, demanding new mountains to be opened to climb with the help of the government through NMA and creating more jobs for the workers to the benefit of the state. We, the workers, have the problem of getting employed only during the season and at other times. We have been urging the government and the NMA to take the initiative to create alternative employment for the workers so that the workers working in mountaineering and adventure tourism can be able to work even in the off-season. We have always been urging the Government of Nepal and the NMA to create employment by involving the tourism workers in mountaineering, trekking, and travel trail cleaning and monitoring as well as tourism promotion activities.

We have been making repeated demands to the government saying that the government should provide a fair definition for the workers working in the mountaineering sector. We have been demanding that the workers working in the field of mountaineering be allowed to get international recognition. We are also urging the government to provide fair wages and service facilities to the workers who are the backbone of tourism. Our union has been urging all workers to be enrolled in the social security fund announced by the government and has requested the NMA to help as much as possible. ANTWU has been and will continue to strongly demand the state to provide respect and special services to the workers who have been working in mountaineering and adventure work for more than 10 years.

ANTWU is a trade union that plays an invaluable role in the direction of radical change as well as the rights, interests, and entitlements of all workers working in tourism-related organizations. We will always be active for the rights and interests of the tourism workers. We are expanding the organization by uniting the tourism workers scattered all over the country. We believe that success can be achieved if all the workers are united and then we can move forward in a united manner for their rights and interests. We, All Nepal Tourism Workers Union urge all tourism workers to unite.

Impact of IMM on Promotion of Tourism in Pokhara



Hari Bastola

For the first time in the history of mountaineering, the team of Maurice Herzog, a French citizen who successfully climbed Annapurna I (8091) on June 3, 1950 had stayed in Pokhara before and after the expedition.

At that time, tourist infrastructures had not been built in Pokhara. A decade later, with the arrival of hippie tourists in Pokhara in 1960, tourist activities increased. In 1966, when world hiker Eric Shipton trekked to the Annapurna base camp, he had chosen Pokhara as the place to stay for his to and fro movement.

The development of tourism infrastructure in Pokhara, which started after the arrival of hippie tourists, has been flourishing since the 1980s. The trek to the periphery of Annapurna Himal, known as the oldest mountain in the field of mountaineering, is one of the best treks in the world.

The height of Annapurna I, which was climbed by the French team, is 8091 meters. Following this success, on May 29, 1953, the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, was summited for the first time by Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary.

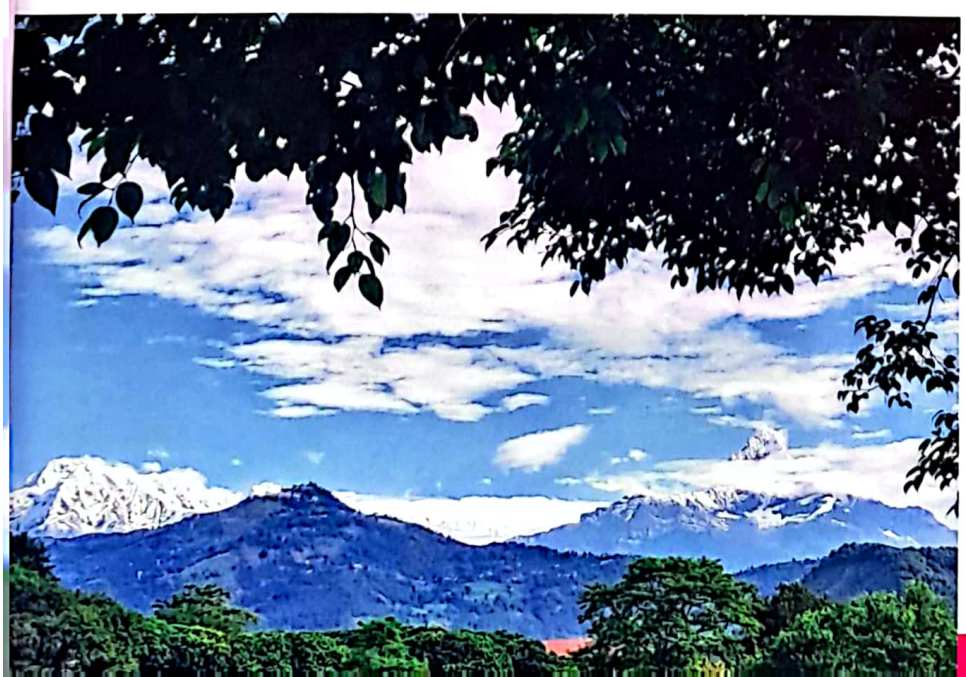
Since then, a lot of interest and discussion about mountain tourism has been mounting. Along with the glorious history of mountaineering, the city of Pokhara located in the foothills of the mountains such as Machhapuchche and Annapurna was based on mountain tourism.

Even though the elevation of Annapurna I is less than that of Mt. Everest, it is regarded more difficult to climb than Everest.

Annapurna, popularly known as the 'oldest mountain' in the world, has become a pillar of mountain tourism. Annapurna trekking route is one of the ten best trekking routes in the world and that has also enhanced the glory and importance of this region.

Although Annapurna circuit trail has earned a reputation as one of the best trekking routes in the world and a unique destination for trekking, it has become challenging as the previously stated normal of 21 days trekking routes have been shortened to 7-8 days due to the recent trend of road expansion.

Colonel Jimmy Roberts, a British citizen, is the planner of the Annapurna trail to Base Camp. He wrote about the trekking route to Annapurna base camp in 1965-66. Eric Shipton was the first hiker on the Annapurna base camp trekking route situated 4,130 meters above sea level. He had trekked to Annapurna base camp in 1966. It is estimated that 70 percent of the foreign tourists visiting Nepal come here for trekking, 10 percent for mountaineering and 20 percent are other tourists who usually visit this region.



The International Mountain Museum in Pokhara is becoming an attractive destination for anyone interested in mountain tourism as a place to study and observe the world's mountains and Himalayas under one roof.

The museum, built on 100 ropanis of land and located at Pokhara Metropolitan-17, Ratopairhya was purchased by the Nepal Mountaineering Association at a cost of Rs. 12 lakh 11 thousand 805. The museum has proved to be a milestone for the promotion of Pokhara tourism as well.

Some tourists come to the mountain museum only to study and observe. According to the statistics of the museum, the attraction of internal and external tourists has increased recently. According to the statistics, the number of students visiting the museum after buying tickets is the highest. Some foreign students have also come to visit the museum, which can be assumed to have helped in the publicity of the museum.

Within the museum building, which covers an area of 6.5 ropanis, information can be found in 12 sub-rooms of four large halls that showcase the 14 mountains above 8,000m in the world.

The current collection of the gears used in mountaineering in the museum shows how the climbing tools such as Ice axe, Boot, Jumper and Carabiner have developed in course of time.

The museum also displays the images of team of the association, origins of the mountains, avalanches, rocks and other social, cultural, religious and economic activities of the people living on the slopes of the mountains.

Records of the origin of the world's mountain ranges, geological significance, wildlife, flora and fauna including minerals found in the mountain range have been well documented and kept in the museum.

The rooms showcase important historical aspects of human activities such as mountaineering, trekking, skiing, hunting and research in the world's mountain ranges. The museum exhibits wildlife animals including frogs, lizards, moths and butterflies from the Annapurna Conservation Area (NTNC). The archiving of various materials including collection of various equipments used in mountain tourism has been continued.

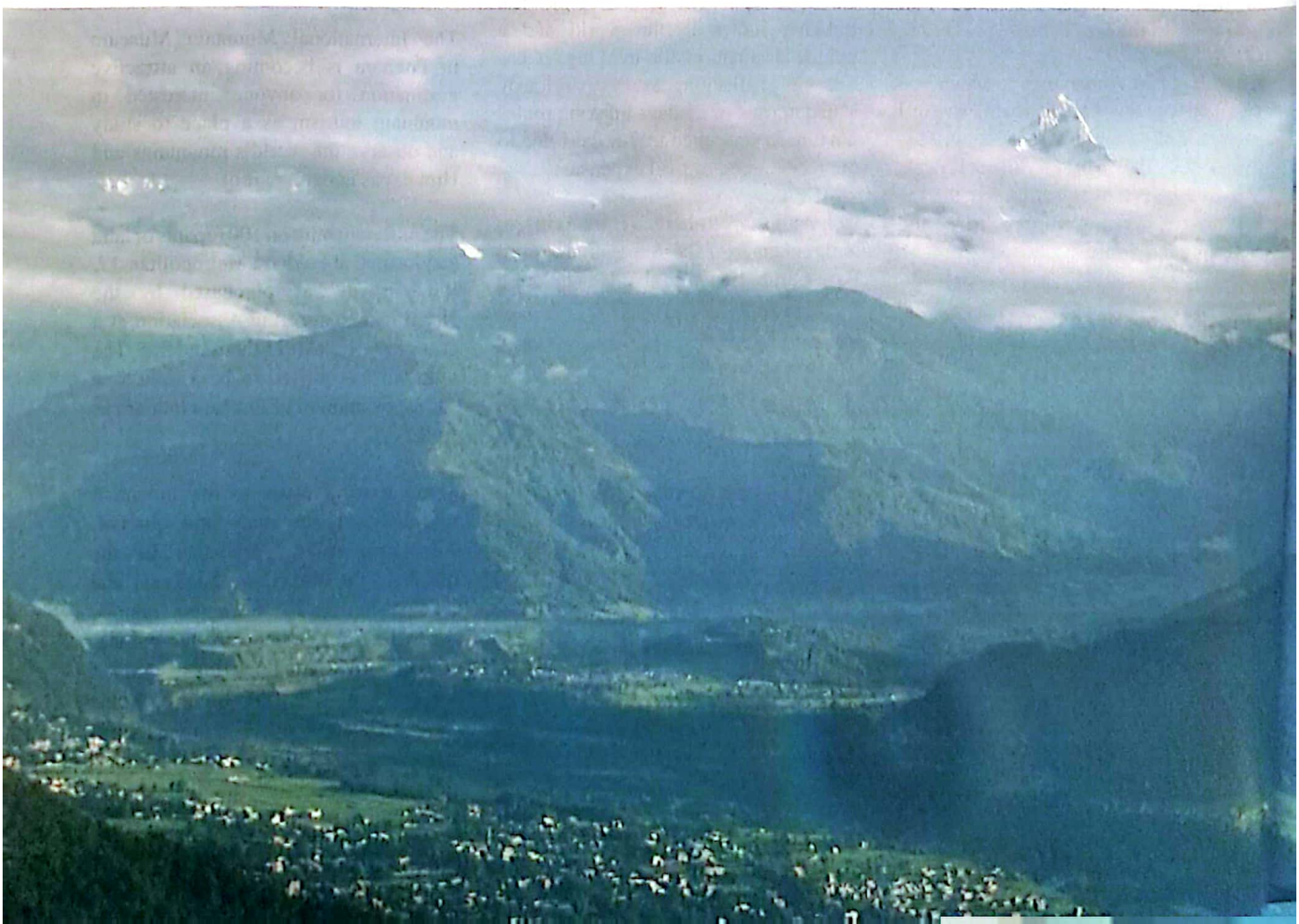
Tourists can learn about the customs, dress, art and culture, as well as the geography of the mountain tribes. The museum houses information on a total of 1,913 glaciers and the inhabitants of the region, including 14 of the world's highest altitudes of more than 8,000 meters high, 40 of 7,500 to 7,999 meters, 603 of 6,000 to 6,999 meters.

The costumes, culture, various materials used have been collected and displayed. Ticket sales are the main source of revenue for the museum. The museum has been collecting money by classifying the tickets into different categories. Rs. 50 for Nepali students, Rs. 100 for Nepali nationals, Rs. 250 for SAARC Tourists and Rs. 500 for the other tourists. While constructing the museum in 2060 BS, Rs. 3 million was received from the Government of Nepal, Rs. 14.58 million from the Government of Japan, Rs. 3.7 million from Spain, Rs. 669,300 rupees from South Korea, Rs. 336,750 from China and Rs. 320,000 rupees from India.

In recent days, Rs. 40 million has been received from various other countries, organizations and individuals for construction work. A total of Rs. 105.12 million was invested in the construction of the museum.

The International Mountain Museum has its own significance as Pokhara is located in the lap of the mountains and is the main base for climbing Annapurna. Be it a domestic tourist or a foreign tourist, they don't dare miss the chance to visit the museum while in Pokhara.

The museum has become a must-visit destination for those who study and research in the Himalayan region. The museum is acting as another jewel of Pokhara's tourist glory and importance. It has the experience of tourism entrepreneurs that is playing a crucial role in prolonging the stay of tourists coming to Pokhara.



The museum has served as a place for tourists to understand and know about the mountains of the world even if they have not visited or climbed the important mountains of the world directly.

In the museum premises, it is indispensable to build a mini- model of ice peaks that are 8,000 m high. Models could be made for Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, and Annapurna I, the first mountain to be climbed, which would help boost tourism, increase museum revenue, and, to a lesser extent promote employment too.

Visitors will be able to experience the mountaineering of more than eight thousand meter heights in one place with full preparation in mountaineering gear. A different kind of tourism can be believed to be developed from it. The fact that the Mt. Manaslu model built inside the museum has increased the attraction of the visitors is proof that by constructing other similar models of mountains, the aspirations of the visitors can be fulfilled.

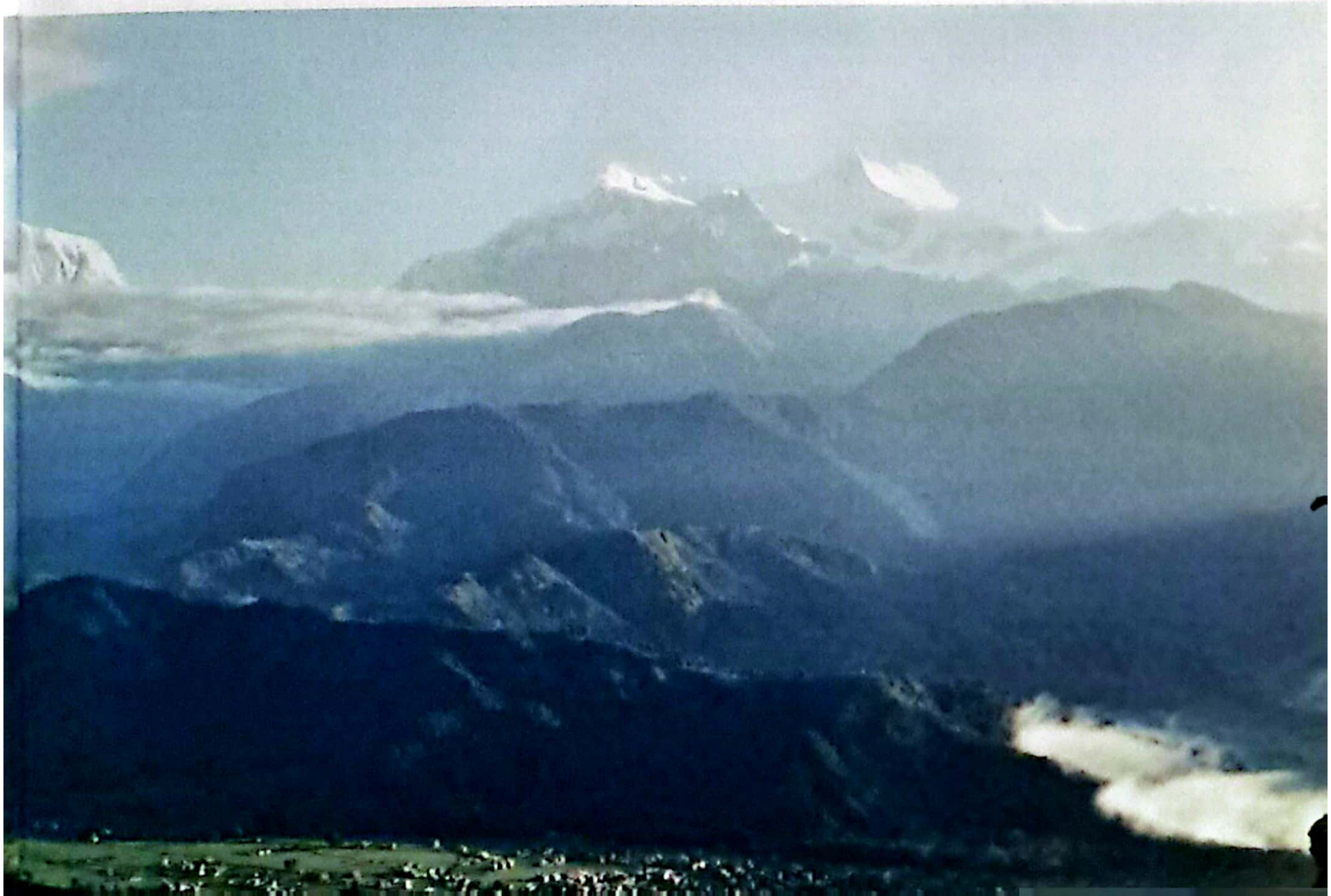
The establishment of the museum, which has attracted the attention of tourists from all over the world, has helped in the promotion of tourism in the country. But it is essential to create an environment that will bring tourists to Nepal and even more so to Pokhara. Even now, some tourists who come to the lakeside of Pokhara do not seem to visit the museum.

It is necessary to discuss about why they did not visit museum and what has caused them the inconvenience. The present age is the age of information, so there is an urgent need to manage it properly and make preparations to bring tons of tourists to the museum.

The role of museums in local development

The museum located in Pokhara, the capital of Gandaki province, has played an important role in the development of the area. Along with the development of the area around the museum, which is located near the office of the Dean of the Hariyali Ratopaihra Community Forest and Tribhuwan University, Institute of Forestry on the banks of the Seti River, it has also created jobs for some local people.

The museum has also been assisting in the physical development of the region. However, locals have been saying that the assistance that should have been provided to the museum from the federal government is incomplete. With the influx of tourists, trade and business around the region has flourished and substantially contributed to the overall development of the region.Since the establishment of the museum, 1.775 million Nepalis have visited, of them, 1 million 14 thousand 841 are students. One lakh 88 thousand 851 from SAARC and two lakh 71 thousand 44 from third countries have also visited the museum. So far, there are 23,006 people visiting the garden without entering the museum. It is recorded that the Nepal Mountaineering Association has earned Rs. 223.91 million from all these visitors. Based on the above mentioned statistics, it is clear that how much this organization has contributed to the promotion of tourism. The museum, which is a tourist heritage of the country for its vitality and continuity, has been hoping for continuous support from all three levels of government in the development, dissemination, collection and display of materials.



Mountain Tourism in Post Covid-19 Situation

Nepali mountain tourism is likely to revive, though the high risk of the virus in Europe and increased infection rate may delay the process of revival.



Julee Gurung

Nepal's mountain tourism which has remained crippled due to the Covid-19 pandemic for nearly one year is about to revive. The government has paved the way to open mountain climbing which was closed since last March due to Covid-19.

The government's decision to open the peaks for climbing has been good news for all concerned with the Nepali mountain tourism sector. Those Sherpa guides and trekkers whose livelihood relied mainly upon the Himalaya region have been locked up inside their houses for one year as their source of income has been exhausted.

The entire tourism sector of Nepal remained devastated after the Covid-19 pandemic, just as it happened during the disastrous earthquake of 2015.

The Covid-19 pandemic had crept into the country when the Nepal government and tourism entrepreneurs were preparing for Visit Nepal 2020.

This epidemic has damaged the whole revenue sector of Nepal as the Nepali tourism sector, which was the main source of foreign dollars, remained crippled for a long time.

All workers related to the tourism sector including mountain guides, icefall doctors, climbing supporters, Expeditions, Trekking and Tour as well as other tourism business operators, hotel owners have expressed their happiness at the government's decision to revive mountain tourism after a long hiatus.

All actors of tourism have started their efforts to bring in more tourists by opening their respective offices. Despite these ongoing efforts, it may still take some more time to put the derailed mountain tourism in the right track.

Covid-19 infection still out of control

Bahrain prince and his expedition team arrived in Nepal recently and successfully climbed two mountain peaks and there after the government decided to open the peaks.

Bahrain Prince Mohamed Hamad Mohamed Al Khalifa and his 18 members expedition team arrived in Kathmandu on September 16, 2020, and successfully scaled Mt. Lobuche (6,119) and Mt Manaslu (8,156) on October 3 and 15.

That was the time when the risk of Covid-19 was still not under control. This phenomenon created a kind of positive ripple in the tourism sector which has paved the way for mountain tourism to take to the path of gradual revival.

However, as most of the foreign tourists and climbers who were supposed to arrive from America and Europe were restricted due to the high risk of Covid-19 and that caused the mountain tourism sector to remain secluded and forlorn.

It has almost been one and a half years since the Covid-19 appeared in Wuhan province of China last December 2019 which has spread to almost all the countries in the world.

It is good news that more than a dozen vaccines produced against Covid-19 have been given permission to be inoculated around the world and most of the countries are engaged in inoculating their citizens to protect them against the harmful effects of Covid-19. However, meanwhile, the deadly virus has taken the lives of more than 2 million people across the world and it has been spreading to various countries of Europe and Americas with a higher acceleration rate which has saddened the world.

The world is still struggling against this invisible enemy but has not been successful so far. It has been a big challenge for the world as well for Nepal's mountain tourism because the tourists and climbers whom we expect to come from America and Europe are already struggling against this pandemic.

They have also lost their jobs and lost their income sources. So, when they are struggling against the aftermath effects of Covid-19, how can we expect them to come to Nepal and promote our mountain tourism in this critical situation?

Problem in flight services

Most of the countries are still imposing lockdown due to the risk of Covid-19. They have already put a travel ban and even restricted their internal tourism to some extent. Because of these reasons, even those foreigners who have the financial capacity to travel are unable to come to Nepal and enjoy mountain tourism.

Besides, most of the countries do not have direct flights to Nepal. Some

countries have even stopped their flights following the Covid-19 pandemic and even those airline companies operating flights have not been able to operate flight services to many countries.

This situation has caused many tourists to come to Nepal by taking other alternative flight routes such as via India which incurs more expenses and distance for the tourists aspiring to arrive in Nepal. So, this is a challenge for Nepal's tourism.

Internal Problems and Suggestions

We have our internal problems which have posed a major challenge to Nepal's mountain tourism. For example, the Nepal government's mandatory policy for quarantine for seven days, US$5000 Covid insurance, restriction in online and arrival visa facility set for tourists in Nepal and need to bear the cost of staying in quarantine individually puts the cost burden on the individual. Similarly, the monetory policy is not functioning properly for the tourism entrepreneurs and the tourism workers during this pandemic which has created even more frustration. Directly and indirectly nearly 150,000 mountain tourism workers (mountain guides, Icefall Doctors, and climbing support staffs) have been affected as they have lost their jobs since 24th March 2020 (when lockdown started in Nepal) and till date not a single penny has been supported by any of the concerned authorities hence those workers have suffered from stress, frustration, and even depression.

Such policy not only increases the financial burden of the tourists arriving in Nepal but also discourages the potential tourists to come to Nepal as they have to arrive in Nepal by taking the flight route of long-distance and higher expenses which hamper Nepal's mountain tourism revival.

Therefore, as per the demands of the tourism-related organizations and entrepreneurs, the quarantine days for the foreign tourists should be limited to three days and the tourists arriving here with a negative PCR report should not be forced to stay in mandatory quarantine which can only make the mountain tourism more comfortable.

Similarly, the Nepal government can manage to provide a "Free Visa" or reduce the visa fee for the tourists arriving in Nepal for mountaineering at least for a year. The climbing royalty also can be exempted. Such common facilities can enable the ailing mountain tourism to revive.

Besides, the Nepal government can collaborate with all private sector and umbrella organizations of the tourism sector in creating different unique packages and expedite publicity of such packages to promote Nepali tourism in and abroad with a new technique of marketing.

Airlines, hotels, restaurants aligned with Nepal's tourism sector will also be associated with this campaign in arranging separate packages for the tourists along with appropriate publicity like strong media campaign, make very active social media publicity, create a short and sweet national and international media FAM trip, make videos and promote a special package program for international celebrities to visit Nepal. As Nepal is the best and foremost mountain tourism playground, mountain tourism media campaign must be initiated by MoCTCA and NMA in this period which can truly enable mountain tourism to progress forward.



Pokhara, Tourism and International Mountain Museum



Jayanti (Anisha) Shrestha

Pokhara is the favorite place of Swiss geologist Tony Hagen, who came to Nepal six decades ago. Arriving in Pokhara for the first after a 10-day trek from Kathmandu, Tony was thrilled to see Kumari Machhapuchhre swimming in the Kancham water of Fewa Lake. Unable to control his mind, he swam until he died. That's all there is to and Anjuli got up and drank a lot of water.

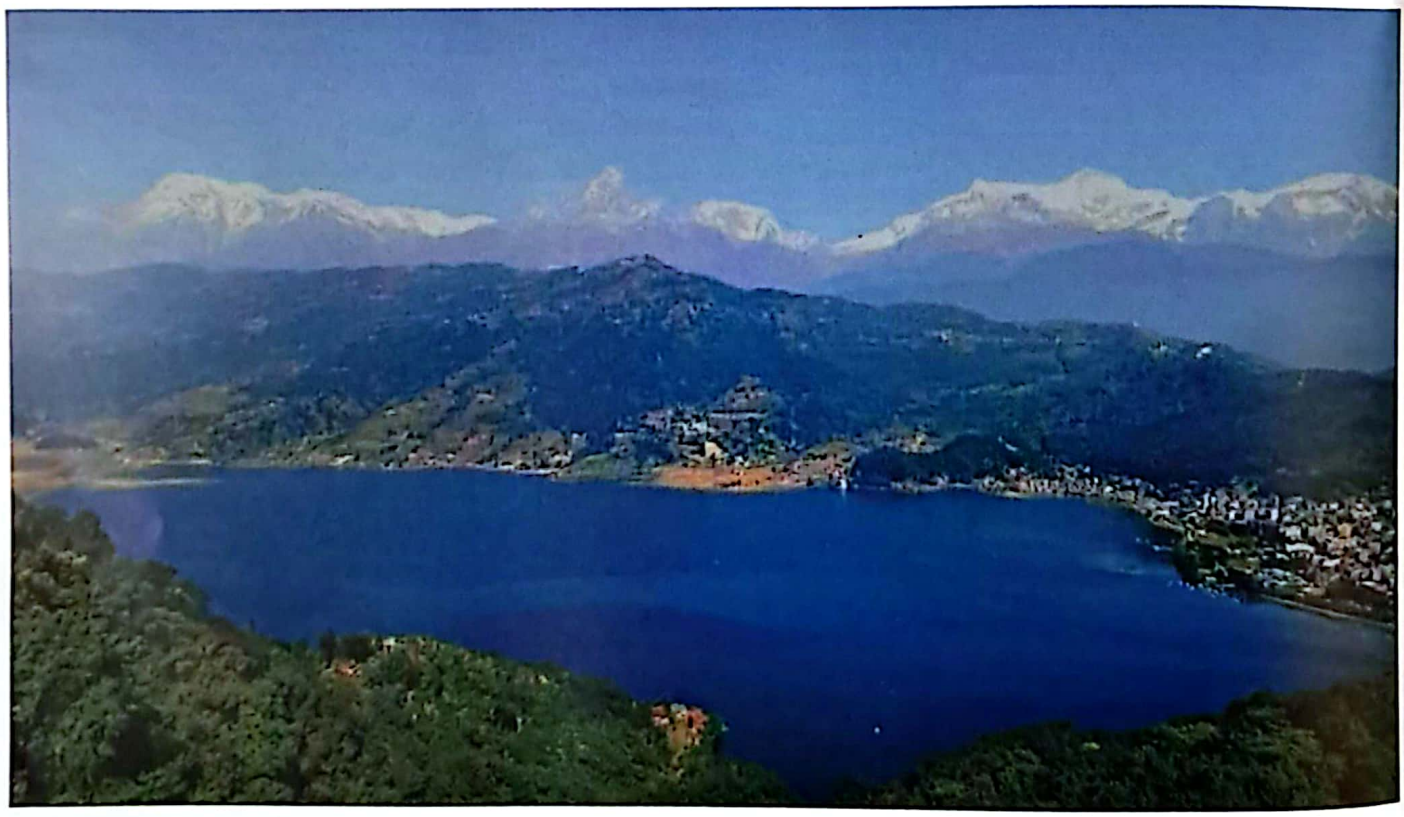
Yes, these same foreign guests like Tony Hagen told their friends about the beautiful view of the Fewa Lake and the reflection of the fish tail peak in it. Wrote a book about Nepal. That is why tourists started coming to Nepal. Pokhara would not have become a tourist destination without Fewa Lake and nearby mountains. Tourists come to Pokhara not only domestically but also from overseas to enjoy.

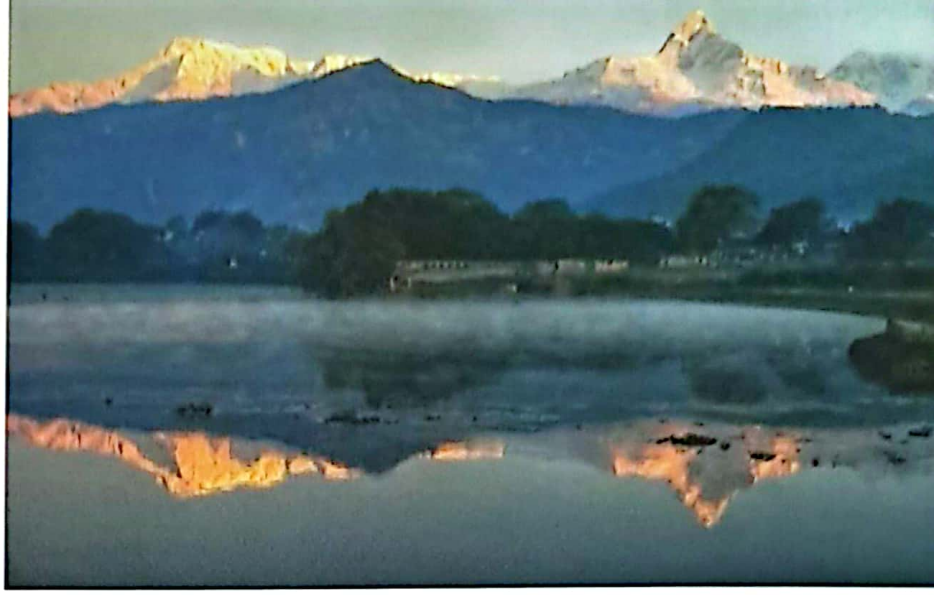
No tourist comes just to visit Pokhara only. Tourists stay in Pokhara for some time to visit the surrounding tourist areas such as Annapurna round, Annapurna Base Camp, Machhapuchhre/ Base Camp. At the same time describing the beauty of Pokhara, Tony Hagen writes: the Pokhara region represents a landscape of maximum diversity. There is no place in the world where the joy of 8,000 meter high mountains can be seen from so close, through the Aulia valley, which is not touched by the low hills. Pokhara is truly one of the most unique and beautiful places in the world.

When did the tourist activities start in such a beautiful Pokhara? According to Dr. Harka Gurung, in 1950, a French team climbed Annapurna Himal via Butwal, Tansen, Baglung and Tukuche. Team leader Maurice Herzog's fingers and toes were damaged by frost bites and he was hurried back. If the successful climbers of the team looked south from Annapurna peak, they would be the first tourists in the Pokhara region. According to various books written by Dr. Gurung, in 1957, 119 tourists visited Pokhara. At present, no government or non-government body has kept a record of the number of tourists visiting Pokhara. It is estimated that more than 500,000 foreign tourists visit Pokhara every year.

Tourism has created employment, which has helped boost the national economy. After the country went into federalism, Gandaki has considered tourism as the main basis of state prosperity.

International Mountain Museum is a piece of paradise. The taste of mountains surrounding Pokhara can be taken





closely. The place in Pokhara to learn about mountains and mountaineering is the International Mountain Museum. Opened in February 2004, the museum has become a popular destination for domestic and foreign tourists. The museum has four main galleries. All are open to the public. The museum showcases the life of the people living in the mountainous region, as well as the activities that take place in the mountains, the effects of climate change, rocks and wildlife.

The museum building, which covers an area of about four and a half ropanis, has an exhibition of important historical aspects of mountaineering, trekking, snow hunting, research, human activities, collection of equipment and informational materials. A replica of Mt. Manaslu has been constructed on the outside of the museum spread over 100 ropanis of land purchased by the Nepal Mountaineering Association. The Mt. Manaslu model has become a special attraction for tourists.

From the museum site in the southern part of Pokhara, one can see the museum peaks of Machhapuchhre, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and Lamjung. The museum displays various materials used in mountaineering as well as pictures reminiscent of the past. The museum preserves the details of world-famous climbers, the materials they used and all the materials used in the early stages of mountaineering.

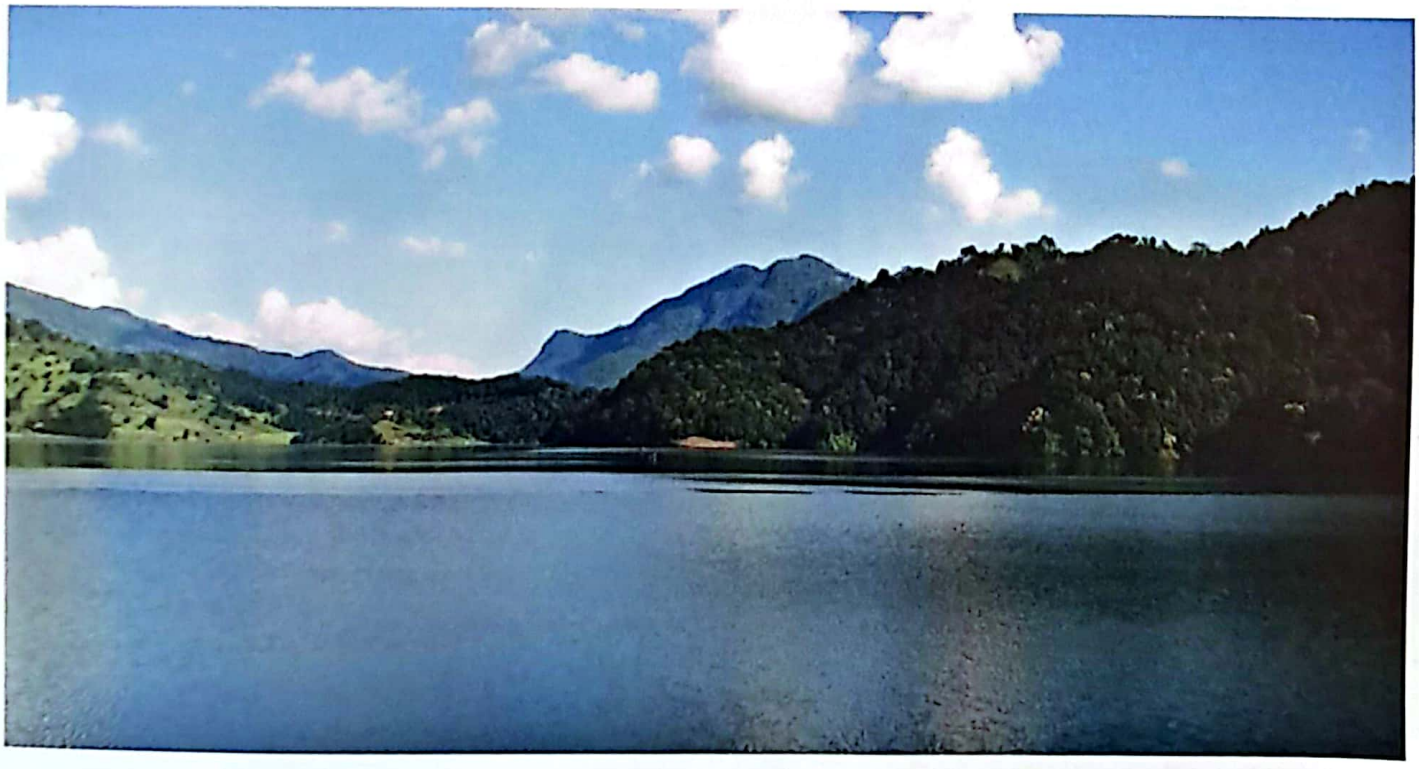
Mountain Festival

The International Mountain Festival has been held at the Mountain Museum premises with the objective of providing information about various activities including the geographical structure of the mountainous region. Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) has been holding the festival.

The festival which is being held with the objective of presenting the attractions and livelihoods of the Himalayan region in world tourism, has succeeded in making a different impression. As the United Nations has declared December 11 as World Mountaineering day, NMA has been celebrating the International Mountaineering Festival on the same day.

The government has identified 414 mountains. There is no charge for climbing 11 of these mountains. The government has decided not to charge any fee if the height of the mountain is less than five thousand seven hundred meters. The remaining 403 mountains have been allowed to be climbed with revenue.

The festival has helped to further promote these mountains. Being a major tourist destination Nepal attracts lots of tourists each year. The government had set a target of attracting 2 million tourists by 2020.



Mountain and Cultural Tourism in Nepal



Arjun Tamang

Nepal is a world-famous country known for its mountains, hills, and plains that can also be seen as a paradise. Along with its geographical diversity, its religion, culture, and language make it even more beautiful. Nepal is known as the land of the high Himalayas.

The mountains, streams, waterfalls, lakes, and ever-smiling mountains prove that the self-esteem of Nepali is stronger and more resilient. The beauty of the Koshi and Karnali rivers, which start from the mountains and flow through the heart of the hills, have not only amazed but also fascinated the tourists. This enchanting natural beauty not only adorns the story of the mountains, but also the life of the new youth flourishing in the mountain. These are the mountain trails where tourists from all over the world want to enjoy, forgetting sorrow, pain, deprivation, and creating hope, faith, and perception of life.

The life and culture of the indigenous people living in these mountains strengthen and beautify the natural beauty. Enjoying in the lap of the mountains and hills, the original culture shown in the context of time and date has still attracted the tourism of the hilly and mountainous region. Therefore, tourists who want to visit Nepal want to visit the mountains.

Nepal is a mountainous country. Of the 14 mountains in the world above 8,000 meters, eight are in Nepal, including the highest peak, Mount Everest. All eight mountains are major attractions for climbers around the world. Besides those, there are many other mountains in Nepal. They have been providing great support to mountain tourism. Similarly,







Nepal's ethnic and cultural diversity has become a topic of interest for tourists. The tourism industry is developing and expanding in Nepal day by day. And, the government has also been giving priority to the tourism sector.

The Himalayan region is a natural boon where according to Hindu scriptures, Nepal is the land inhabited by Shiva and Parvati. Nepal is also the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha.

Therefore, a slogan is famous all over the world, 'Buddha was born in Nepal.' Not only that, the harmony and tolerance between every religion, culture, and ethnic community in Nepal has conveyed the message of unity in diversity to the world. It is a motto of Buddha's teachings.

At the beginning of mountain tourism, the Sherpas living around the mountain region used to climb the mountains. But later on, mountaineers from all ethnic communities in Nepal have achieved success in climbing the peaks. It has sent a message to the world that all Nepalese can climb mountains.

Culture of Nepal

Even in mountain regions, there are diverse ethnic communities with their languages and cultures. Their cultural harmony and cooperation, way of life, smiling faces, festivals, and selfless services are the main attraction for tourists.

The main festivals of Nepali people are Dashain and Tihar. Many foreigners celebrate these festivals by putting tika on their forehead with Jamara. They chose villages rather than cities for celebrating festivals. According to tourism entrepreneurs, recently, the involvement of the tourists with the local culture is increasing. And some tourists enjoy making relatives with Nepali people by marriage or making ties through brotherhood and sisterhood in Nepali style. Even in Lhochhar, which

is celebrated by Gurungs, Tamangs, and Sherpas in the hilly areas, tourists enjoy celebrating with the locals.

Foreign tourists like wearing Sherpa dresses and taking photos. This shows their appreciation of Sherpa culture. Taking photos and videos by wearing a Tamang dress can help promote the original dress of the Tamang community. Nepal's folk songs, music, and traditional art works also can be an attraction for tourists. But we much more need to be done to introduce these things in the international market.

Encroachment of the trekking routes

Until about 10 years ago, although the physical infrastructure had not yet been quite developed, the trekking routes were naturally beautiful. Tourists used to walk for months to reach their destination and enjoy nature. They used to walk through many hills and cross streams to reach the lap of the mountains. There were days when they had to reach their destination with an excited, energetic, hungry, and tired face.

However, infrastructure development and road expansions have been gradually changing in recent times have eroded many famous trekking routes. At present, the road network is connected to also every tourist destination and trekking routes have already been encroached in the name of development. In this situation, it is time for local governments, stakeholders, tourism entrepreneurs, and experts to take the issues seriously.

Cultural tourism in Nepal

It is said, ''Nepal is also a land of temples.'' There are famous religious places of pilgrimage such as Bouddhanath, Swayambhu, Lumbini, Namobuddha, Pashupatinath, etc. There are powerful Shaktipiths and religious shrines in every district. One of the famous and powerful temples of Nepal is the 'Bhimeshwar of Dolakha' which is believed to foreshadow positive or negative events in the country when it sweats.

Various fairs and festivals are held in Nepal. Tourists are fascinated by such festivals. Tourists are attracted by the vibrant culture like Kumari Jatra, Lakhe Jatra, which they have never seen elsewhere.

Despite being rich in cultural heritage, cultural tourism has not been developed in Nepal so far. Tourists have not been able to come here to see the original culture of the diverse communities of Nepal. This is because the tourism entrepreneurs and tourism-related organizations here have not been able to pay attention to this issue. It is an immediate need to promote Nepali original culture in the world tourism market to attract more cultural tourists.

One of the unique attractions of Nepali hill culture is the Bombo (Jhankri) culture, which is a renowned shamanism practice. Usually, Jhankri draws the attention of the general audience by wearing traditional costumes and playing drums.

Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, was first summited in 1953. On May 29 that year, Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal and Edmund Hillary of New Zealand made history by climbing Mt. Everest. Even before that, attempts to climb Mt. Everest had been made many times, but without success. The graph of those who want to climb Mt. Everest every year and achieve success has been rising since that first successful ascent.

New records are being set every year for climbing Mt. Everest. The fastest ascent, the longest stay at the summit, the ascent of several times in the same season, the youngest ascendant, the oldest ascendant, many records have been made and are being made. In mountaineering, climbing the peaks is one part, and performing rituals are the cultural thing. Before climbing Mt. Everest, climbers perform a 'pooja', believing that it will make climbing safe. And climbers in the Khumbu region enjoy Sherpa culture, Gurung and Magar culture in the Gandaki region, and Tamang culture in the Bagmati region. Similarly, in the other regions, tourists and climbers can enjoy the distinct culture displayed by the inhabitant ethnic groups.



The Role of FM Radio to promote International Mountain Museum



Khima Gurung

Pokhara is an attractive city for tourists where nearly all of the tourists who visit Nepal, enjoy themselves visiting Pokhara once. The International Mountain Museum (IMM) has remained one of the popular destinations in the city.

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), the only alpine club in the country established and operates the IMM. The basic objectives for its establishment were to record, document, and chronicle the past and present development of mountaineering activities in the world in general and to preserve the saga of the momentous feats in the history of mountaineering in the Himalayan peaks in particular.

The foundation stone of IMM was laid on December 1, 1995. The soft opening of IMM took place on May 29, 2002, and it was officially opened on Feb 5, 2004. All its values and mysteries are showcased in the one and only Mountain Museum in the world - the International Mountain Museum, right at the footsteps of the Himalayan range, in Pokhara, Nepal.

To maintain systematic records of the successful eight-thousanders, geographic flora and fauna, and human activities in the range, the International Mountain Museum has been established in Pokhara, situated at the footsteps of Mt. Machhapuchchhre (Mt. Fishtail) and the gateway to the mountain region.

The shape of the museum roof itself resembles the mountain skyline and any visitor can recognize this before entering the museum's main gate.

IMPRESSIVENESS

If you want to understand the Himalayas





before your trek in Nepal, or you need a mellow recovery activity after, take an excursion to the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara to understand the Himalayas.

I've read hundreds of articles about Nepal and have been living in the country, but I had never heard of the International Mountain Museum before I visited recently. This is no small, rinky-dink museum you will want to leave after 10 minutes. It provides a full explanation of the highest mountain range in the world: how it got there, who lives on its banks, the flora and fauna there. This is the only museum in the world from where you could see three mountains above 8000m named Mt. Dhaulagiri (8167m), Mt. Annapurna – I (8091m) and Mt. Manaslu (8156m).

IMM has been quite popular among the public and its management committee has been doing its best to promote and develop however publicity is still needed to enhance its image higher and wider. In Pokhara FM Radios still widely exist and it has a potential market to reach cities and areas especially in the mountain communities. I have a very positive feeling about this as IMM has been partnering in the promotion campaign with FM Radios which has supported a lot in the promotion of IMM. Half of the population in Nepal, especially in the remote areas, still does not have access to television hence they depend only on FM Radios. In order to lure more people, mountain communities and even the students and teachers from the remote area, FM Radio is the best tool for IMM.

Different media have high competition. However FM Radio has its own trend market and tendency. Promotion of IMM can be done with occasional radio programs, discussions, workshops, publicity activities through radio and live broadcasts. IMM should simply give priority to FM radios to motivate and encourage radio personalities so that better access for mountain communities can be established for its promotion. Similarly, FM Radio personalities also have a vital role to promote IMM because it's not just for NMA, it's the pride product and destination for everybody in Pokhara.

Recommendations

In the 18 years of IMM's history FM Radios got access from 2017. In this way I would like to thank the new board member of NMA (2017-2020) especially the Information officer and General Secretary Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung. I would also like to thank the IMM committee and IMM crew members for understanding the value and importance of media especially FM Radios.

Letting the media be involved with some new innovative and creative work in IMM and occasionally get together to update about IMM will be always the best key mantra for the NMA and IMM. Hence, FM Radio is always beneficial so 'win-win' and 'media together' concept should not be forgotten in the days to come.

Being a native of Pokhara, I have learned a lot about the IMM from the FM Radios since 2017. In this case, I would say NMA and IMM committee along with its staffs have been doing a fantastic job. I wish IMM can reach greater heights, and let's establish IMM as a pristine destiny in the days to come 'together'.



Nepal Mountaineering Association

A BRIEF REPORT 2017 August –2020



1. 38th World Tourism Day (27th September 2017)



On the occasion of 38th World Tourism Day Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation organized a morning procession on 25th September 2017 starting from Karmachari Sanchaya kosh Building and concluded at NTB. The main theme of this program was "Sustainable Tourism – A Tool for Development". Secretary for Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Maheshwar Neupane led the morning procession. Representatives from MoTCA,Nepal Tourism Board(NTB), Nepal Mountaineering Asociation(NMA) and representatives from different tourism related organizations participated in the program.

2. Participation in Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA) and Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA) GA 2017 (23 Oct 2017)



NMA Vice President Deebas Bickram Shah, General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung, Dinesh Bhattarai- Director General, Department of Tourism and Tek Narayan Paudel – Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation participated on General Assembly of UIAA and UAAA organized by Iran Mountaineering & Sport Climbing Federation from 19 - 23 Oct 2017 at Iran.

3.Nepal Paramedical Training 2017

(17-19 Oct 2017)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) in coordination



with Taplejung Everest Summiteers Association successfully conducted Nepal Paramedical Training 2017 on 17th October at Godavari Alumni Association (GAA), Thamel. 17 trainees participated in the three day training conducted from 17-19 Oct 2017.

4.Peace Pick-Axe handover program (23rd October 2017)



Mr.Arash Ghiasi and Mr. Ali Rahmani from Iran Mountaineering & Sport Climbing Federation (IMSCF) handed over the peace pickaxe to NMA President Mr. Santa Bir Lama for the display at International Mountain Museum, Pokhara on 23rd October 2017.

5. 44th Anniversary of NMA (1st November 2017)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) celebrated its 44th Anniversary at Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) on 1st November 2017. Mr. Maheshwor Neupane, Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoTCA)



was the chief guest of the program and Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai , Director General was the special guest of the program. High level government officials, NMA Executive Board Members, NMA Ex-Advisors, NMA Ex- executive board members, NMA Staffs and representatives from different tourism related organizations attended the program.

After the welcome speech by NMA First VP Mr. Deeba's Bickram Shah, the chief guest inaugurated the program by watering the plant. The program observed one-minute silence in memory of known and unknown mountaineers demised on mountain during mountaineering.

Mr. Shambhu Tamang, Convener of Award Selection Committee mentioned about the criteria and procedure that were followed for the selection of award receivers and announced the name of the award receivers, which are as follows:

1. Late Kumar Khadka Bikram Adventurous Award - Mr. Mingma Sherpa was chosen for being the first Nepali to climb 14 mountains above 8000m.

2. Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award – Mr. Buddhi Narayan Shrestha was chosen for his contribution in publishing different articles & books relating to mountains, mountain regions and border issues.

3. Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Journalist Award – Mr. Ballav Mani Dahal was chosen for his continuous effort since two decades in promoting mountain tourism through the publication of different articles in the national media like The Rising Nepal.

Founder member of NMA, Mr. Shambhu Tamang informed briefly about the history of NMA with special focus on the respected personnel involved in founding NMA in 1973.

The award receivers were selected by Award Selection Committee which was headed by Mr. Shambhu Tamang and other members of the committee are as follows:

Mr. Nima Nuru Sherpa,

Mr. Bodh Raj Acharya,

Mr. Raju Silwal

The award is scheduled to be distributed in the coming Annual General Assembly.

Chief Guest for the program also distributed certificates to the 44 participants, 12 instructors and 1 equipment in-charge of the 38th Basic Mountaineering Training conducted in Kathmandu and Manang from 8 June – 21 July 2017.

Director General of Department of Tourism- Dinesh Bhattarai shed light on the contribution of NMA to the mountaineering development of Nepal. He also updated the process of renewal of authority of NMA to issue permits for 12 mountains.

In the congratulatory speech of Chief Guest of the program Mr. Maheshwor Neupane, he clarifies the view of the Ministry of Finance on the recent collection of royalty introduced by some local authorities. He also informed that the ministry is totally against such illegal collection and will make a long term effect in our tourism industry, therefore, requested them for the immediate stoppage in the action. Mr. Neupane also suggested NMA to work as per the financial regulation of Government of Nepal and requested for the transparency in doing expenses from the fees collected after the issuance of climbing permit.

Finally, Santa Bir Lama- President of NMA thanked the chief guest, special guest and other guests including journalists, general members for the participation despite the short notice. Mr. Lama also requested MoTCA for the speedy implementation on the request of NMA to renew the authority to issue climbing permits. He assured that transparency in the expenses of revenue will be maintained and will definitely discuss with the ministry in this regard.

6. 4th Mountain Festival (December 11 -12, 2017)

The 4th Mountain Festival 2017 started with a cycle rally. Mr. Maheshwor Neupane, Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoTCA) inaugurated 4th Mountain Festival by lightning panas and watering the plant. The guests and the participants of the program observedone-minute silence in memory of known and unknown mountaineers demised on mountains during mountaineering. The program was organized on the occasion of International Mountain Day-11 Dec with the theme of Mountains under pressure: climate change, hunger and migration. The 4th Mountain Festival started with the cycle rally with the 40 participants starting from the premises of International Mountain Museum. The main objectives of the festival are to enhance the livelihoods of mountain communities by promoting mountain products, protect the vulnerable mountain environment and promote mountaineering, mountain culture & sports. The various events for this year's Mountain Festival mainly with the following programs are going on inside the premises of IMM.

• Exhibition stalls

• Culture shows

• Open Climbing Wall

• Chhelo competition (Traditional stone throwing)

• Taro khel (Traditional archery)

NMA in coordination with MoTCA, Nepal Tourism Board, ICIMOD, USAID, NMA Annapurna Chapter and other travel related organizations have coordinated to organize the program successfully. The program concluded with the vote of thanks of NMA President Santa Bir Lama.

The program was coordinated by Kul Bahadur Gurung, General Secretary of NMA and it concluded with the vote of thanks from NMA President Santa Bir Lama.

Conference on Mountains under pressure: climate change, hunger and migration

A conference on Mountains under pressure: climate change, hunger and migration was also organized at IMM to mark the 4th Mountain Festival. Representatives from USAID, Abhishek Shrestha-KIRDARC and Dr. Ganesh Gurung presented papers on Hariyo Ban, Climate Change and Food Security in the Mountain Region and Migration respectively. The program was moderated by Kushal Gurung- Festival Director. The presentation was followed by the discussion round on the questions raised by the participants.

In the same program, Mountain Legacy organized an award distribution program of Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal. NMA President Santa Bir Lama awarded Dr. John Reinhard, PhD with the medal for his contribution in the field of mountain and mountaineering.

NMA Executive Board members and staff also participated in the program to make it a grand success.

7. Congratulatory Program in honor of TAAN, PATA-Nepal, NARA and Nepal Magar Tourism Society- (20 Dec, 2017)



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized a congratulatory program on 20 Dec to congratulate the newly elected board members of TAAN, PATA-Nepal, NARA and Nepal Magar Tourism Society in the special program organized in Kathmandu. The major objective of the program was to strengthen the relationship among the tourism related organizations to work jointly for the betterment of Nepalese tourism industry. NMA President Santa Bir Lam chaired the program and it was conducted by General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung. NMA Secretary Tika Ram Gurung gave welcome speech followed by introducing the newly elected board members of Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA-Nepal), Nepal Association of Rafting Agents (NARA) and Nepal Magar Tourism Society and offering khada from I Vice President Deebas Bikram Shah and Treasurer Sudarshan Neupane

8. NMA's Advisory committee formed- (26 Dec 2017)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) formed an Advisory Committee headed by Mr. Lakpa Sonam Sherpa as Chief Adviser in the committee. The other advisers of the committee are as follows:

Mr. Mahadev Gurung

Mr. Shambhu Tamang

Dr. Ganesh Gurung

Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha

Mr. R.P Panta

Mr. D.B Koirala

NMA organized an introduction and congratulatory program with the newly nominated advisory committee on 26 December at its secretariat in the presence of Central Executive Board Members of NMA.

9. 27th Annual General Meeting of NMA concluded-29th December 2017



The 27th Annual General Meeting of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) was concluded on the 29th December 2017, Friday at Hotel Yak & Yeti, Durbarmarg. Former Prime

Minister K. P. Sharma Oli was the chief guest of the program. High Level Government Officials, Advisors of NMA, different representatives from tourism sectors, tourism entrepreneurs along with the general members of NMA were present in the Annual General Meeting; Program was officially started with the National Anthem of Nepal and one minute silence in the names of different national & international mountaineers who lost their life during Mountaineering. The chief guest inaugurated the program by watering the plant from the chief guest of the program.

Mr. Prakash Sharan Mahat & Mr. Pradip Gyawali , the main guest of the program gave their speech focusing on the effects due to climate change on different peaks .

The chief guest of the program felicitated the following top ten resource members during the fiscal year 2073/074 for depositing the service charge by issuing the highest number of climbing.

1. Himalayan Ecstasy Nepal Treks & Expedition Pvt. Ltd

2. Himalayan Guides Nepal Treks & Expedition

3. Summit Nepal Trekking

4. Snowy Horizon Treks & Expedition Pvt Ltd

5. Thamserku Trekking

6. Adventure Geo Treks

7. Satori Adventures Pvt Ltd

8. Asian Hiking Team Pvt Ltd

9. Multi Adventure

10. Mountain Monarch Adventure Pvt Ltd

A short description by the NMA Advisor & Convener of Award Selection Committee Mr. Shambhu Tamang regarding the criteria for selection along with the declaration of their respective names was given for Kumar Khadka Bikram Adventurous Award, Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award and Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Journalist Award. Chief guest of the program handed over Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Tourism Journalism Award 2016 to Mr. Hari Gopal Pradhan, Mr. Chet Bahadur Adhikari and Mr. Prakash Khaling Rs.10,000 cash prize each. Kumar Khadka Bikram Mountaineering Award 2017 was awarded to Mr. Mingma Sherpa along with a medal, Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award 2017 was awarded to Mr. Buddhi Narayan Shrestha along with a medal and Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Tourism Journalism Award 2017 was awarded to Mr. Ballabh Mani Dahal with a cash prize of Rs. 25, 000. The chief guest also handed over the letter of appreciation to Mr. Lhakpa Rangdu Sherpa for the exhibition of photos titled Hillary stepped to Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha) to bring out the facts about Hilary Step has disappeared or not – Controversial as evidence for all. The Chief guest of the program also launched the book published by Sian Pritchard- Jones and Bob Gibbons and map regarding Makalu – Lumbasumba & Arun valley and East Nepal Trekking Kanchenjunga- Makalu- Lhotse –Everest(Trekking Map) . These were published under the support of Nepal Mountaineering Association.

In the remarks made by the chief guest, he mentioned the importance of mountain and mountaineering for the development of our nation. He also assured his full cooperation on the agendas put forward by NMA President in his welcome speech. Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Maheshwor Neupane distributed scholarship cheques to the students supported under NMA welfare program, disable mountaineers and students supported under Mountain Disaster Relief And Education Support Fund (MDRES).

Tourism Secretary also handed a letter of appreciation to ICIMOD, WWF and Ghorahi Cement Pvt Ltd for their generous contribution in organizing the Mountain Festival in the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara since 2013. The Tourism Secretary unveiled the log books to be distributed for the participants who complete UIAA accredited training called Mountain Leader Course conducted by NMA annually.

In the 2nd Session of the meeting NMA Secretary, Mr. Tikaram Gurung welcomed all the general members of NMA. General Secretary Mr Kul Bahadur Gurung presented the progress report of the fiscal year 2073/74 and Treasurer Mr. Sudarshan Neupane presented the financial statement of the fiscal year 2073/74 along with the annual program with budget for the fiscal year 2074/75. Project manager Mr. Suman Meher presented on the work progress of newly constructing NMA Secretariat building. After the presentation, the general members deeply discussed the presented programs and budget and questioned the General Secretary, Treasurer and other members of the Executive Board on some matters related to the budget. After thorough discussion, the general meeting endorsed all the plan-programs and budget. On the same program, the NMA President handed over the log books to the participants of the Mountain Leader Course. Treasurer informed that three proposals were received for Audit of 2074/75 financial details and among them T.R Dahal and Associates was selected. Finally, NMA 1st Vice President Mr. Deeba's Bickram Shah thanked all the general members for their presence and assistance in approving the programs for the fiscal year 2074/75.

10. 26th Advance Mountaineering Course 31st December 2017-11th February, 2018



26th Advance Training organized by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) started from 31st December 2017 to 11th February 2018 in Kathmandu & Langtang. The participants who have completed Basic Training till 2016 are eligible to participate in this training. NMA Executive Board Member Mr. Tul Singh Gurung has been appointed as the Convener of the training. Following are the name lists of the instructors and participants of this year's training:

Convener : Mr. Tul Singh Gurung.

Participants:

SN Name Address

01 Prakash Gurung Dhingaon, Deurali-6, Tanahu

02 Sangam KC Dhungrekhola-7, Sarlahi

03 Dipak Mahat Hastichaur-1, Gulmi

04 Kamee Sherpa Khijiphalate-7, Okhaldhunga

05 Ms. LuckmeTamang Devitar- 2, Kavrepalanchok

06 Pasang Rinzee Sherpa Gaurishankar-5, Dolakha

07 Ashish Gurung Hatiya- 7, Sankhuwashaba

08 Tendi Sherpa Bhimeshor-1, Dolakha

09 Phuri Gelzen Sherpa Waku- 4, Solukhumbu

10 Da Rinje Sherpa Waku 9, Solukhumbu

11 Sonam Tshiring Sherpa Bantibhandar-2, Ramechhap

12 Dawa Pasang Sherpa Waku- 9, Solukhumbu

13 Pemba Nuru Sherpa Chaurikharka-2, Solukhumb

14 Bikram Karki Pakarbas-8, Ramechhap

15 Dawa Chhiring Lama Hatiya-2, Sankhuwasabha

16 Chhiring Dhenduk Bhote Chepuwa-1, Sankhuwasa

17 Ang Dendi Sherpa Dudhkoshika-9, Solukhumbu

18 Phurwa Sange Sherpa Shreechaur-8, Okhaldhunga

19 Desh Bdr Gurung Laprak-7, Gorkha

20 Pasang Gyaljen Sherpa Juving- 1, Solukhumbu

21 Lakpa Tashi Sherpa Yamphu-9, Sankhuwasabha

22 NgawaTamang Haku- 7, Rasuwa

23 LendukLhomi Chepuwa-2, Sankhuwasaba

24 AashBdrGurung Laprak -7, Gorkah

25 Ngima Dorji Sherpa Chheskam-2, Solukhumbu

26 Tsering Lama Olangchung Gola, Taplejung

27 Narbin Magar Basa-9, Solukhumbu

28 Samir Gurung Laprak- 8, Gorkha

29 Rohan Aaron Kapur United Kingdom

Instructors:

Mr. Lhakpa Kitar Sherpa - Chief Instructor

Mr. Tendi Sherpa - Instructor

Mr. Lakpa Sherpa – Instructor

Mr. Suman Gurung – Instructor

Mr. Phur Temba Sherpa – Instructor

Mr. Nima Tenzi Sherpa – Instructor

Mr. Pasang Wanchu Sherpa – Instructor

Mr. Jamling Bhote – Instructor

Mr. Lobsang Sherpa – Instructor

Mr. Pur Bahadur Gurung – Equipment In-charge

11. Mountain Leader Course-2018 Component II Kathmandu- Solukhumbu- PK Peak

(5th to 18th Jan 2018)



The Mountain Leader Course - Component II started from 5th January 2018 to 18th January 2018 this year by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) at Kathmandu &

Solukhumbu, Pikey area. Mr. Tul Singh Gurung is appointed as the convener of this training program. The first component of this training was conducted from 2nd July 2017 to 16th July 2017. The names lists of instructors & participants of this training are listed as follows:

Convener : Mr. Tul Singh Gurung.

Participants:

S.N Name List

1. Aakash K.C
2. Passang Tsering Sherpa
3. Tanzin Gyaljen Lama
4. Dikki Sherpa
5. Arjun Magar
6. Ang Gombu Sherpa
7. Ngima Kalden Sherpa
8. Yan Bahadur Thapa
9. Khadka Narayan Rai
10. Bikash Tamang
11. Dawa Gyalzen Sherpa
12. Dhana Bahadur Malla
13. Karma Sherpa
14. Nurbu Chhiring Sherpa (Lama)
15. Arjun Kumar Rai
16. Nima Chhedar Sherpa

Instructors:

1. Keshar Shrestha – Chief Instructor
2. Dawa Tashi Sherpa – Instructor
3. Lachhuman Tamang – Instructor

12. High Mountain Rescue Training-2018 (5th to 22nd Jan 2018)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) in association with Nepal Mountaineering Instructors' Association (NMIA) has organized High Mountain Rescue Training (HMRT) The training conducted in Kathmandu & Langtang started from 5th January 2018 to 22nd January 2018. All the instructors including the participants left for Langtang on 5th January 2018 from Kathmandu. The other instructors & participants of this training as follows:



Instructors:

S.No	Name of the teachers and students	Position
1	Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa	Coordinator
2	Tenzing Sherpa	Chief Instructor
3	Abiral Rai	Instructor
4	Pemba Rita Sherpa	Instructor
5	Bikash Kunwar	Equipment in-charge

Participants:

S. No	Name of the teachers and students	Position
1	Ramesh Gurung	Student
2	Prem Magar	''
3	Lhakpa Doma Sherpa	''
4	Tshering Dawa Sherpa	''
5	Min Bahadur Gurung	''
6	Gumaan Tamang	''
7	Lhakpa Kitar Sherpa	''
8	Ditesh Maharjan	''
9	Dawa Tenji Sherpa	''
10	Lakpa Yangji Sherpa	''
11	Jen Jen Sherpa	''
12	Buddhi Bahadur Lama	''
13	Gan Bahadur Tamang	''
14	Yogesh Gurung	''
15	Jen Jen Lama	

13. 5th Park Young Seok Open Climbing Competition (27th January 2018)



Nepal Mountaineering Association in coordination Park Young Seok Foundation organized 5th Park Young Seok Climbing Competition to promote sport climbing activities in Nepal. This competition was held on 26th and 27th January 2018 at Himalayan Climbing and Mountaineering School (HCMS) Dhumbarahi. The chief guest for the program was Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Former Deputy Prime Minister, Delegates from Korea, NMA Executive Board members, NMA Advisor, and NMA Staff were present during the program. There were a total of 28 participants during this competition and among them there were 7 female and 21 male participants. Result of this Competition is as follow:

Position	Male Winner	Female Winner
1St	Pemba Sherpa	Panchamaya Tamang
2nd	Kumar Gaurav	Swastika Chaudhary
3rd	David Smith	Phinjo Lama

14. Mountain Guide Course 2018 (22nd Feb to 21st March, 2018)

The trainees of Mountain Guide Course left on 22 Feb 2018 from the secretariat of Nepal National Mountain Guide Association (NNMGA). The course was conducted in Langtang region from 22 Feb to 21 March 2018 and it is jointly organized by Nepal Mountaineering Association and Nepal National Mountain Guide Association.

15. UIAA Management Committee Meeting (23 & 24 March 2018)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) hosted the Management Committee of Union of International Alpine Association (UIAA) on 23rd and 24th March 2018 at Hotel De' Annapurna. There were a total of 30 delegates from 16 federations in the meeting.

On 23rd March 2018, UIAA Management Committee Meeting started with an Executive Board meeting chaired by UIAA President Mr. Frits Vrijlandt. After the board meeting, the official inauguration of the Management Committee concluded by lighting the lamp. In the opening ceremony, government officials, NMA board members, representatives from different tourism related organizations were present. The UIAA Management Committee meeting successfully concluded on 24 March 2018 followed by the announcement and distribution of UIAA's Mountain Protection Award. Mount Everest Biogas Project (MEBP), led by project co-founder Garry Porter won the Mountain Protection Award with the cash prize of Euro 5000. UIAA President Mr. Frits Vrijlandt, NMA President Santa Bir Lama and Immediate Past President of NMA and Honorary Member of UIAA Ang Tshering Sherpa jointly distributed the award MEBP in the same program.

16. Financial assistance to Snow Leopard Ang Rita Sherpa-12 April



NMA President Santa Bir Lama handed over the financial assistant of Rs 1,50,000 to the famous mountaineer known as Snow Leopard Ang Rita Sherpa for his treatment at his residence Boudha. Mr. Sherpa has the record of ascending Everest for ten times without the use of supplemental oxygen, hence he was given the title of The Snow Leopard. NMA General Secretary Kul Gurung, Treasurer Sudershan Neupane,

Board Member Wonchu Sherpa, CAO Jinesh Sindurakar, Account Officer Megh Rah Ghimire and other staff Satya Narayan Roy were present during the program.

17. 11th International Sagarmatha Day (29th May 2018)

The Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation organized a program to celebrate the 11th International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day on 29th May 2018. The program started with the morning procession from Sanchaya Kosh Building, Thamel and concluded at Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). Then Mr. Krishna Prasad Devkota, Chairman for International Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation offered garland to the monuments of Tenzing Sherpa, Edmund Hillary and Boris Lisanevich. The Chief Guest for the program was Hon'ble Minister for Water Supply and Sanitation Bina Magar.

Mr. Krishna Prasad Devkota, Chairman for International Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, high level government officials, Everest summiteers, other mountaineers, advisors and members of Nepal mountaineering Association (NMA), and representative from different tourism related organization were present in the program.

After a welcome speech by Mr. Santa Bir Lama, Member Secretary for 11th International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day main Organizing Committee and President, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) program observed one minute silence in the memory of deceased mountaineers. During the program the CEO of Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) Mr. Deepak Raj Joshi expressed his view on the importance of mountain tourism for the development of the tourism sector in Nepal. Mr. Mingma Sherpa- the first Nepali mountaineer to climb all the fourteen mountains above 8000 m, also shared his experience of climbing 7 highest peaks of different continents. Dr. Seth Sicroff, Project Director of Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal project highlighted on Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal. This was followed by the signing ceremony between NMA and Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal project for the distribution of Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal on the occasion of International Mountain Day on 11th December at International Mountain Museum, Pokhara.

Hon'ble Minister Bina Magar, Minister for Water Supply inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. The Chief Guest also distributes the following award and cash prize to the institute and the individuals.

National Sagarmatha Award Rs. 1,00,000/- Nepal Mountaineering Instructors' Association

Tenzing Hillary Award Cash Prize Rs. 50,000/-

1. Mr. Kami Rita Sherpa First mountaineer to climb Mt. Everest 22 times

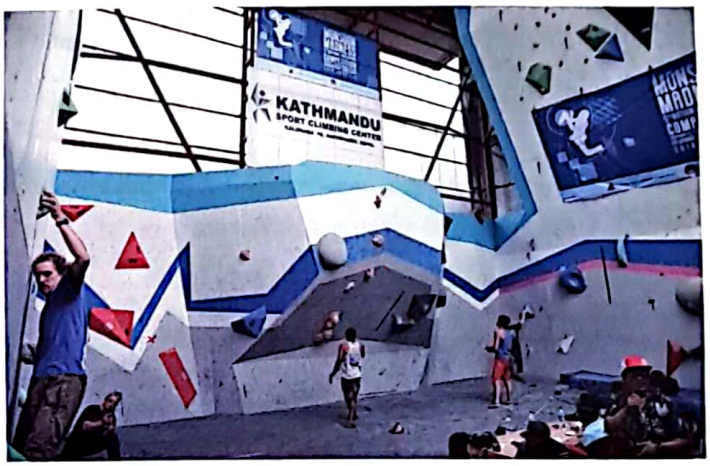
2.Ms. Lhakpa Sherpa First Nepali woman to Climb Mt. Everest 9 times

3. Captain Siddhartha Gurung

Chief Guest also handed over Guinness World Record Certificates to 61 Everest Summiteers Finally the program concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Krishna Prasad Devkota, Chairman for International Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

18.Monsoon Madness Lead Climbing Competition 2 June 2018

Nepal Mountaineering Association organized Monsoon



Madness Climbing Competition 5th National Bouldering competition to promote sport climbing activities in Nepal. The competition was held on 1sst and 2nd June 2018 at Kathmandu Sport Climbing Center,Paknajol.

Mr Sambhu Tamang was the chief guest for the program. Result of the program is as follows.

Rank Male	Female
1 Bhim Bahadur Tamang	Pancha Maya Tamang
2 Bijay Sunar	Swastika Chaudgary
3 Niraj Karki	Rusha Pradhan
4 Pemba Sherpa	Venisha Rajbahak
5 Tintin Tenzin Rai	Bimala Sunar
6 Pranil Man Shrestha	

19. World Environment Day (5th June 2018)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized a tree plantation program at its International Mountaineers Memorial Park (IMMP), Kakani on 5 June to mark World Environment Day 2018 with the slogan of Beat Plastic Pollution. The chief guest for the program was Hon'ble Minister for Water Supply and Sanitation Bina Magar. The chief guest also laid the foundation stone for the construction of the memorial pillar of



Everest summiteer Late Prakah Dahal. In the program, NMA President Santa Bir Lama highlighted the problem in carrying development programs at IMMP and requested the chief guest to initiate for the process to hand over the authority of land to NMA. The chief guest also assured her full support to NMA for the smooth implementation of programs in the park.

20.39th Basic Mountaineering Course (26 June -21st July 2018)

NMA President Santa Bir Lama along with other officials,



board members and staff of NMA was off the 44 trainees and 11 instructors of 39th Basic Mountaineering Course on 26 June 2018. The training started from 8 June in Kathmandu and it will complete on 21 July 2018. They left for Manang to complete the remaining part of BMC. Mr. Lakpa Sherpa is chief instructor for the training and Mr. Tul Singh Gurung is the coordinator of the training.

21. Construction of toilet at Mera high camp (5th July, 2018)

NMA in coordination with Mera Alpine Conservation Group built two toilets at the high camp, 5780m elevation of Mera peak.



22. Chain Anchor Fixing, installation of signage and Cleaning Campaign in Yala Base Camp, Naya Kanga Base Camp and Ganjala area of Langtang Region (8-21 July, 2018)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) completed the fixing chain anchor in Ganjala pass and cleaning campaign in base camps of Yala peak, Naya Kanga and Ganjala pass from 8 - 21 July 2018. The program was led by Central Executive Board Member Pasang Tendi Sherpa and about 650 kg of garbage was collected during the campaign. NMA hopes the fixing of anchors will definitely help for the mountaineers and trekkers during their trekking. Similarly, Central Executive Board Member Sanjeeb Gurung fixed the chain anchor in Sherpani col pass (North & south col pass) and Amphu Lapcha pass. These areas are considered as the toughest part of the trekking and hope it will ease mountaineers to clear this pass with less risk. Currently, Mr. Gurung is in Tashi lapcha, Rolwaling pass to study the possibility of fixing chain anchors.

Central Executive Board Member Singi Lama led the team to fix the 55 signage of steel in Panch Pokhari of Sindhupalchok and Tilman Pass route to Langtang region..

23. Mountain Leader Course-Component I (9-23rd July, 2018)



NMA's regular training program- Mountain Leader Course-Component I completed on 23 July 2018 at International Mountaineer's Memorial Park, Kakani. The training has the

participants of 21 and it started from 9 July in Kathmandu. NMA General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung, Central Executive Board Member Tul Singh Gurung and Chief Administrative Officer Jinesh Sindurakar participated in the closing program at Kakani on 23 July. NMA General Secretary distributed certificates of participation and log books to the trainers.

24.Review and update programs of NMA- 5 Sep, 2018



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized a program on 4 Sep to review and update programs of NMA on the occasion of completion of the first year of the current Central Executive Board. Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari was chief guest for the program. The program moderated by General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung started with the welcome speech by Secretary Tika Ram Gurung. NMA General Secretary Mr. Gurung highlighted all the programs and activities conducted in the first year. Hon' ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari shared his opinion on the role of NMA in the promotion and development of Nepal's mountain tourism. He also updated the forthcoming programs of the ministry with the target to promote Visit Nepal 2020 and urged NMA to focus its policy and programs for the same. NMA President Santa Bir Lama expressed his satisfaction for the successful completion of the first year and committed to move ahead with more constructive programs for the betterment of NMA and Nepal's mountain tourism. Mr. President also donated Rs. 98208 for Mountaineering Disaster Relief and Educational Support Fund (MDRES Fund). The fund is created for the management of support for the children of mountaineers deceased during mountaineering. Chief adviser of NMA Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa, representatives of travel related organizations, journalists, government officials were also present in the program.

25. 28th Annual General Meeting concluded successfully- 27 Sep 2018

The 28th Annual General Meeting of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) concluded on 27th September Thursday at Hotel Yellow Pagoda, Kantipath. Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari was the



chief guest of the program. High Level Government Officials, Advisors of NMA, different representatives from tourism sectors, tourism entrepreneurs along with the general members of NMA were present in the Annual General Meeting; Program was officially started with the National Anthem of Nepal and one minute silence in the names of different national & international mountaineers who lost their life during Mountaineering.

The chief guest of the program felicitated the following top ten resource members during the fiscal year 2074/075 for depositing the service charge by issuing the highest number of climbing.

1 Himalayan Ecstasy Nepal Treks & Expedition Pvt. Ltd.

2 Summit Nepal Trekking

3 Snowy Horizon Treks & Expedition (P) Ltd.

4 Asian Trekking Pvt. Ltd.

5 Mountain Monarch Adventure Pvt. Ltd

6 Asian Hiking Team Pvt. Ltd.

7 Satori Adventures Pvt. Ltd.

8 Thamserku Trekking

9 Makalu Adventures Pvt. Ltd.

10 Gravity Himalayan Excursion Pvt. Ltd.

The chief guest also distributed the certificates to the participants and instructors of Basic Mountaineering Course 2018 and Mountain leader course. A short description Convener of Award Selection Committee Mr. Nima Nuru Sherpa regarding the criteria for selection along with the declaration of their respective names was given for Kumar Khadka Bikram Adventurous Award, Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award and Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Journalist Award. Chief guest of the program handed over Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Tourism Journalism Award 2018 to Mr. Rajan Pokhrel, The Himalayan Times and Mr. Chhetu Sherpa, Annapurna Post. Mr. Sherpa also announced that Kumar Khadka Bikram Mountaineering Award and Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award 2018 was awarded to summiteer Um Hong Gil and Inn Jeoung Lee respectively. On the same occasion, NMA Staff Satya Narayan Raya was also awarded with Employee of the

year 2017.

In the remarks made by the chief guest, he mentioned the importance of mountain and mountaineering for the development of our nation. He also assured his full cooperation on the agendas put forward by NMA President in his welcome speech. The chief guest also distributed cheques of scholarship to the students supported under NMA welfare program, disable mountaineers and students supported under Mountain Disaster Relief And Education Support Fund (MDRES).

In the 2nd Session of the meeting NMA Secretary, Mr. Tikaram Gurung welcomed all the general members of NMA. General Secretary Mr Kul Bahadur Gurung presented the progress report of the fiscal year 2074/75 and Treasurer Mr. Sudarshan Neupane presented the financial statement of the fiscal year 2074/75 along with the annual program with budget for the fiscal year 2075/76. After the presentation, the general members deeply discussed the presented programs and budget and questioned the General Secretary, Treasurer and other members of the Executive Board on some matters related to the budget. After the discussion, the general meeting endorsed all the plan-programs and budget. Finally, NMA 1st Vice President Mr. Deebas Bickram Shah thanked all the general members for their presence and assistance in approving the programs for the fiscal year 2075/76.

26. 45th NMA Day (1st november, 2018)



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized a special program on 1 Nov to mark the completion of 45 years of its establishment at Nepal Tourism Board. Krishna Prasad Devkota- Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation was the chief guest of the program. Dandu Raj Ghimire- Director General of Department of Tourism, Deepak Raj Joshi- CEO of Nepal Tourism Board, representatives of travel related organizations, journalists were also presented in the program. After the welcome speech by First Vice President Deebas Bickram Shah, on behalf of NMA, the chief guest also handed over the cash of Rs 50,000 to each victims of four Nepalese mountaineers who died in the avalanche on Mt. Gurja. NMA General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung gave a presentation on the history and ongoing activities of NMA. One of the founder members, Shambhu Tamang briefly mentioned the history of mountaineering in Nepal and how NMA was established on 1 Nov 1973.In the remarks by the chief guest, he conveyed congratulation to NMA for its 45th anniversary and appreciated the role of NMA in the promotion of mountain tourism locally as well as globally. The program ended with the vote of thanks by NMA President Santa Bir Lama.

27. 5th International Mountain Festival 2018 (10-12 Dec 2018)



International Mountain Museum, Pokhara

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized 5th International Mountain (The Great Himalayan) Festival at International Mountain Museum (IMM), Pokhara from 10 -12 Dec 2018 with the theme of "Mountain Matters."

Day 1- 10 De 2018:

NMA- Himalayan Cycling Competition

On the first day of the 5th International Mountain (The Great Himalayan) Festival, NMA- Himalayan Cycling Competition was organized and it started from IMM premises. The competition was inaugurated by Ward No 17 Tirtha Raj Adhikari, President of Pokhara Metropolitan City. 25 cyclists participated in the competition and the distance of 25 km. The result of the competition is as follows:

Rank	Name (Male)	Timing	Name (Female)	Timing
1st	Laxman Malla	01:40:00:11	Laxmi Magar	02:00:16
2nd	Hikmat B.K	01:46:06	Sony Gurung	02:10:14
3rd	Suman Gurung	01:48:07	Humibuda Magar	02:21:10

NMA Toni Hagen Tourism Painting

In the memory of world class geographer Toni Hagen, a painting competition titled NMA Toni Hagen Tourism Painting was organized at the premises of IMM. 9 painters actively participated in the competition. The result of the competition is as follows:
Bouldering Competition:

Rank	Name (Male)	Prize Amount (Nrs)
Outstanding	Manoj Tamang	14000
Excellent	Gopal Darai	10000
Excellent	Jagat Pun	10000
Special	Sudin Shrestha	5000
Special	Rik Gurung	5000
Special	Akash Gurung	5000
Motivational	Jyoti Gurung	3000
Motivational	Alita Gurung	3000

Bouldering Competition:

Hon'ble Constituent Member Bindu Kmumar Thapa inaugurated the Bouldering Competition organized on the occasion of International Mountain Festival. There were 14 male and 6 female participants in the bouldering competition. On the final day of the competition, Director General of Department of Tourism Dandu Raj Ghimire, gave away certificates and cash prizes to the winners of the competition.

Rank	Name (Male)	Name (Female)	Prize (Nrs)
1st	Bhim Bahadur Tamang	Pancha Maya Tamang	50000
2nd	Bijay Sunuwar	Swastika Chaudhary	30000
3rd	Tenzing Rai (Tin Tin)	Meenisha Dhamala	10000

Cultural programs:

The three day 5th International Mountain Festival also witnessed cultural programs representing different ethnic groups and mountain communities of Nepal from different parts of Nepal.

Taro (Archery)

Tary (Archery) is the traditional game played by ethnic community Thakali and it was also organized during the festival. The participation of the local people in this category was also very impressive.

Chhelo (-put)

The competition of the traditional game of Gurung community called Chhelo (Shot-put) was also organized during the festival.

Day 2- 11 Dec 2018

NMA-Baikuntha Manandhar Himalayan Marathon Competition

NMA President Santa Bir Lama inaugurated NMA-Baikuntha Manandhar Himalayan Marathon Competition on the second day of the festival. The marathon covered the distance of 21 km (male category) and 10 km (female category). It was coordinated by legendary marathoner Baikuntha Manandhar.

Rank	Name		Timing
Ist	Hom Lal Shrestha	Tribhuvan Army Club	1:21:26
IInd	Krishna Basnet	Tribhuvan Army Club	1:21:38.2
IIrd	Khagendra Bhat	Tribhuvan Army Club	1:22:54.2
IVth	Laxman Malla	Army Police Force	1:29.28
Vth	Om Chetri	Army Police Force	1:34:43.4
VIth	Gorkhe Rai	Sankhuwasabha	1:41:33.4
VIIth	Tejendra Rai	Jhapa	1:43.56

Rank	Name		Timing
Ist	Sarita Bassi	Tribhuvan Army Club	35:21:59
IInd	Reshu Basnet	Tribhuvan Army Club	36:32.2
IIrd	Chumi Budha Magar	Pyuthan	37:43.8
IVth	Srijana Rai	Sankhuwasabha	40:47.7
Vth	Lalita Lamichhane	Pokhara	41:18.5

Inauguration program

Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari inaugurated the 5th International Mountain (The Great Himalayan) Festival by watering the plant. The official program of inauguration was conducted under the chairmanship of NMA President Santa Bir Lama. Co-convener of IMM Committee -Bijay Gurung welcomed all chief guests and all the distinguished guests followed by the national anthem and a minute's silence in the memory of mountaineers deceased on mountains. Prior to the inauguration program, the chief guest offered garland to the three major contributors of NMA-Founder President Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, Former Chief Adviser Dr. Harka Gurung and Former President Dawa Norbu Sherpa. After the visit of IMM, the chief guest and other VIPs also visited all the stalls exhibited at the IMM premises.

Hon'ble Minister also awarded the following personalities for their outstanding contribution for the development of mountain tourism through NMA and IMM:

Mr. Tashi Zangbu Sherpa- Former President NM

Mr. Bhumi Lal Lama- Former IInd VP and General Secretary NMA

Mr. Kamal Man Gurung- IMM Adviser

Mr. Hari Dhoj Tulachan-IMM Adviser

Mr. Jhalak Thapa- Former IMM Convener

Mr. Kushal Gurung- Former Mountain Festival Director

On the same occasion, veteran Korean climber Um Hong Gil was also awarded with Kumar Khadga Bikram Shahashik Award for his active contribution for the promotion of Nepal's mountain tourism globally and energetic involvement in the social sectors like education, health has also helped in the uplift of people living in the mountain regions. The official program was also followed by the handover of the The Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal to Daniel Mazur, Ph.D. for his contribution in cultural preservation and social welfare in mountain communities and in natural conservation along with responsible adventure in mountain environments.

Remarks by Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari:

The chief guest of the program, Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari appreciated the role of NMA in the promotion of Nepal's mountain tourism globally. He also recalled the historic facts of IMM and explained the positive contribution of IMM to the development of Pokhara's tourism and finally established it as one of the tourism products of Pokhara. He expressed his gratefulness for having the opportunity to honor the various legendaries in the program and wished for their bright future in the tourism field.

Remarks by the recipient of Kumar Khadga Bikram Shahashik Award- Um Hong Gil

The veteran Korean climber Um Hong Gil thanked NMA for choosing him as the recipient of Kumar Khadga Bikram Shahashik Award 2018. Mr. Gil mentioned that he was motivated very much due to NMA's recognition and committed his active involvement in the development of the mountain and its communities in Nepal in the days to come.

Vote of thanks- NMA President Santa Bir Lama

The chairman of the official program, NMA President Santa Bir Lama thanked Chief Guest Hon' ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari, high level government officials, board members of Nepal Tourism Board for their presence in the program. He also congratulated the recipients of the award and letter of appreciation and extended his request for suggestions for the betterment of NMA.

Documentary screening: "Revisiting Batulechaur after 354 years"

A documentary entitled Re-visiting Batulecharu after 354 years was screened on the second day of the festival. The film was directed by Prof. Makito Minami and it focuses on the Batulchaur- a village of Gaine (Gandharba). This film explained the changes that have occurred in the intervening years and their implications.

Day 3 -12 Dec 2018

The closing ceremony of 5th International Mountain (The Great Himalayan) Festival took place on 12 Dec 2018 and Hon' ble State Minister of Economic Affairs and Planning Kiran Gurung was chief guest of the program. The former President of NMA Annapurna Chapter and Adviser Hari Dhoj Tulachan chaired the closing ceremony. IMM Adviser Kamal Man Gurung, Adviser of 5th International Mountain Festival Kushal Gurung, IMM Committee members Hari Lamichhane, Shiva Ranjeet were also present in the program. The program was conducted by NMA General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung.

Remarks from Hon'ble State Minister of Economic Affairs and Planning Kiran Gurung:

The chief guest of the program, Hon'ble State Minister of Economic Affairs and Planning Kiran Gurung stated the importance of programs like Mountain Festival and how it can play positively for the development of tourism in Pokhara. The chief guest appreciated the endeavor of the organizer for initiating such programs and assured the necessary cooperation from the state government for the promotion of the International Mountain Museum. Finally, Hon'ble Minister thanked NMA and IMM for choosing Pokhara to organize Mountain Festival continuously for 5 years and wished the festival would become one of the major tourism activities of Pokhara in the days to come.

In the closing remarks by chairperson of the program, Hari Dhoj Tulachan expressed his thankfulness for the active participation from all the sectors in 5th International Mountain Festival. Mr. Tulachan also requested for the support from all the corners of Pokhara in future to organize this festival in a grand manner in the days to come.

28. 27th Advance Mountaineering Course (21st Dec-25th Jan)



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) annual training program 27th Advance Mountaineering Course started from 21 Dec 2018 in Kathmandu. 28 trainees including one foreigner participant from Mongolia Mr. Bat Erdene Chimedtseren participated in the training program, which will complete on 25 Jan 2019. The training will be conducted in Kathmandu and Langtang. The trainees and instructors left for Langtang on 3 Jan 2019 and they were given warm seats by First Vice President Deebas Bikram Shah, General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Tikaram Gurung and other board members. The General Secretary wished all the participants for their successful completion of the training.

Name list of instructors:

1. Mr. Narendra Shahi Co- ordinator
2. Mr. Lambabu Sherpa Chief Instructor
3. Mr. Anup Gurung Instructor
4. Mr. Tshering Pande Bhote Instructor
5. Mr. Dawa Finju Lama Bhote Instructor
6. Mr. Pasang Tendi Sherpa Instructor
7. Mr. Riten Jangbu Sherpa Instructor
8. Mr. Lhakpa Rangdu Sherpa Instructor
9. Mr. Hareram Khadka Instructor
10. Mr. Pem Chiring Sherpa Instructor
11. Mr. Kishor Gurung Equipment In-charge

Name list of trainees:

1. Mr. Pemba Gyaltsen Sherpa
2. Mr. Jen Jen Sherpa
3. Ms. Lhakpa Doma Sherpa
4. Mr. Sudash Lama
5. Mr. Ladar Sherpa
6. Mr. Chhiring Namgyal Sherpa
7. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Tamang
8. Mr. Pemba Tshering Sherpa
9. Mr. Tashi Sherpa
10. Mr. Phurba Gyaljang Sherpa
11. Mr. Tsering Dawa Sherpa
12. Mr. Min Bahadur Gurung
13. Mr. Ditesh Maharjan
14. Mr. Lhakpa Gyalzen Sherpa
15. Mr. Pasang Sherpa
16. Mr. Dawa Tenji Sherpa
17. Mr. Chhiring Lama
18. Mr. Jen Jen Lama
19. Ms. Lakpa Yangji Sherpa
20. Mr. Ges Man Tamang
21. Mr. Suk Bahadur Gurung
22. Mr. Phurba Tenjing Sherpa
23. Mr. Ram Kaji Tiwari
24. Mr. Chhiring Sherpa
25. Mr. Pimba Angjuk Bhote
26. Mr. Ramesh Gurung
27. Mr. Kusang Sherpa
28. Mr. Bat- Erdene Chimedtseren - Mongolia

29. High Mountain Rescue Training

(31st Dec 2018-19 Jan 2019)



The participants of High Mountain Rescue Training left for Langtang on 3 Jan 2019. The training was jointly organized by Nepal Mountaineering Association and Nepal Mountaineering Instructors' Association (NMIA) from 31 Dec 2018 to 19 Jan 2019. First Vice President Deebas Bikram Shah, General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Tikaram Gurung and other board members saw off the participants in the special program organized at NMA premises.

30. 6th Park Young Seok Open Climbing Competition- 20th Jan 2019

NMA in Coordination with Park Young Seok Foundation organized the 6th Park Young Seok Open Climbing Competition on 19th and 20th January 2019 at Himalayan Climbing & Mountaineering School. Director General of Department of Tourism Mr. Danduraj Ghimire was the chief guest of the program. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr. Park young Sik, President of UAAA Dr. Inn Jeong Lee, General Secretary of UAAA Ms. Christine Pae, high level delegates of Korean were present during the program. NMA General Secretary Mr. Kul bahadur Gurung hosted and welcomed the delegates whereas NMA president Mr. Santa bir Lama thanked the team.



31. Dr. Harka Gurung Parbatiya Puraskar Handover Ceremony (20 January 2019)

Nepal Mountaineering Association organized Dr. Harka Gurung Parbatiya Puraskar Handover Ceremony on 20th January 2019 at Hotel Yak & Yeti, Durbarmarg, Kathmandu. General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung Conducted the program. Hon'ble Minister for Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Rabindra Adhikari was the chief guest for the program. Mr. Krishna Prasad Devkota, Secretary for Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation, Director General of Department of Tourism Mr. Danduraj Ghimire, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr. Park young Sik, high level government officials, representatives from different tourism related organizations, President of UAAA Dr. Inn Jeong Lee, General Secretary of UAAA Ms. Christine Pae, Chairman of National Unification Advisory Council and Former Minister Mr. Deog Ryong Kim along with other high level delegates of Korean and Executive Board Members of NWA were present during the program.

Rank	Name (Male)	Timing	Name (Female)	Timing
1st	Laxman Malla	01:40:00:11	Laxmi Magar	02:00:16
2nd	Hikmat B.K	01:46:06	Sony Gurung	02:10:14
3rd	Suman Gurung	01:48:07	Humibuda Magar	02:21:10

The program observed one minute silence in the memory of the demise of all national and international mountaineers. In the program, Chief Guest and Ms. Himchhuli Gurung, daughter of late Dr. Harka Gurung awarded Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award to Dr. Inn Jeong-Lee for his effort in promoting and development of tourism in Nepal.

After the distribution of Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award,President of UAAA Dr. Inn Jeong Lee gave away PilotD'or Asia Award to NMA Executive Board Member Mr. Mingma David Sherpa for his achievement in the field of



mountaineering. At the same program Mr. Lee also donated US$ 5000 for the development of the International Mountaineering Museum (IMM) in Pokhara.

The Chief Guest handed over the token of love to Chairman of National Unification Advisory Council and Former Minister Mr. Deog Ryong Kim. This program was concluded by the remarks of the chief guest Hon'ble Rabindra Adhikari, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

32. 16th Anniversary of International Mountain Museum (IMM) celebrated- 5 Feb 2019



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized a special program on 5 Feb 2019 to mark the completion of 16 years of establishment of the International Mountain Museum (IMM) in Pokhara. Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari was the chief guest of the program. Her Excellency Elisabeth von Capeller, Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal also attended the program as the special guest of the program. The program started with the offering garland to the statues of three major contributors of IMM- Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, Dr. Harka Gurung and Dawa Norbu Sherpa. On the same day, the chief guest also inaugurated the corner of first Nepalese woman Everest climber Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, youngest climber (1973 – 2000) Sambhu Tamang and winner of the Sherpa of Year Mingma David Sherpa. The chief guest and the special guest jointly inaugurated the photo exhibition on Half Century Old photos of Photos taken by world famous geographer Tony Hagen. Mayor of Pokhara Metropolitan City Man Bahadur GC, Dr. Katrin Hagen (Tony Hagen's daughter), NMA Executive Board Members, advisers, representatives of travel related organizations were also present in the program. In the same program, the chief guest felicitated museologist of IMM Bal Prasad Rai for his outstanding contribution to IMM since its establishment followed by the award to the IMM Best Staff 2018 Saraswati Nepali. On behalf of NMA, General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung presented the report of IMM in powerpoint from the start of construction of IMM till today. The program concluded with the vote of thanks from the chairman of the program, President of NMA Santa Bir Lama.

Speech competition on IMM and its importance for the development of tourism in Pokhara for the students of higher secondary school was also organized on the same day.

The result of the competition is as follows:

Kuldeep Dahal – 1st

Saugat Ghimire 2nd

Prakash Ranjita Pun- 3rd

Hari Bhattarai- 4th

33. Mountain Guide Certification Course (MGCC)- (22 Feb to 21st March 2019)



Nepal Mountaineering Association and Nepal National Mountain Guide Association jointly organized Mountain Guide Certification Course from 22nd February to 21st March 2019. The participants on this training left for Rollowaling on 23rd February 2019. First Vice President Deebas Bikram Shah, General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung and other board members saw off the participants in the special program organized at NMA secretariat.

34. Mountain leader Course Winter Component 2019 (20th Feb-9 March, 2019)



Nepal Mountaineering Association organized Mountain leader Course Winter Component from 20th February to 9th March 2019 at Kathmandu and Gosainkunda area. The participants on this training left for Gosaikunda on 25th February 2019.

ML Instructor list:

1. LachhumanTamang
2. Keshar Shrestha
3. Dawa Tashi Sherpa
4. Sarki Sherpa

35. Refreshment training for mountaineers concluded- (7 March,2019)

NMA organized a day long training titled Refreshment Training for Mountaineers on 7 March 2019 at Gokarna House Restaurant, Thamel. The training is specially designed for Sardar, Senior Support Climber and Support Climber to refresh them with mountaineering rules and regulations, weather updates, safety security, crisis handling in mountain areas, mountain environment, high altitude sickness etc.There were 78 participants in the training. The program was coordinated by Executive member & Training Co-ordinator Mr. Tulsing Gurung.

Purpose of this training is to revitalize knowledge and confidence on the following issues:

1. Updating Trekking & Mountaineering rules and regulations of Nepal
2. Crisis management
3. Knowledge on the usage of weather apps, situation analysis;
4. Mountain medicines and high altitude sickness;
5. Snow Avalanche and related awareness, safety preparedness;
6. Behavior and Ethics of mountain walkers and information on tourist police
7. Conservation of Mountaineering Environment

36. UAAA Joint Paldor Peak Expedition – 2019 (5-19 April, 2019)

On the occasion of completion of 25th years of establishment of the Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA), UAAA Joint Paldor Peak (5903m)Expedition – 2019 was organized from 5 -19 April 2019. The main objective to organize this expedition is to increase exchange of technical knowledge on mountaineering and increase brotherhood among the UAAA member federations.

The General Assembly of the Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA) organized on 7 & 8 Oct 2018 in Mongolia decided to conduct UAAA Joint Paldor Peak Expedition – 2019. Nine climbers from South Korea, two participants from Mongolia and One climber from Nepal participated in this historic expedition.

The members of the expedition team departed from Kathmandu on 7 April 2019 and returned on 15 April 2019.

The climbing team also cleaned the trails from Somdang to Paldor Peak High Camp as well as Paldor Peak. Collected garbage brought to Kathmandu and handed over to Kathmandu metropolitan garbage management department, Teku.

Participants:

South Korea:

1. Migon Kim
2. Yong Wook Kim
3. Jin SeongKim
4. Kuk-Jin Sunwoo
5. Young Cheol Shin
6. Hai Kyun Shin

7. Yu Jeongsik

8. Jae Chang Jin

9. Shang Li Ha

Mongolia:

1. Mr. Ganbaatar

2. Mr. Elbe Jargal

Nepal:

Mr. Singi Lama – NMA Secretariat Member

Santa Bir Lama - President, Nepal Mountaineering Association

Dr. Inn-Jeong Lee - President, UAAA

37. MOU Signed between Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) and Nepal Mountaineering Association (22 April 2019)



Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) and Nepal Mountaineering Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)on 22nd April 2019 to host the flag of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) atop Mt. Everest on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of ICAO. Hon'ble State Minister for Cultural Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Dhan Bahadur Budha and Secretary for Cultural Tourism and Civil Aviation Mohan Krishna Sapkota handed Over the ICAO flag to the President of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) Santa Bir Lama in presence of members of Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal and Nepal Mountaineering Association.

38. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between International Mountain Museum, Pokhara and National Mountain Museum (NMM) – 29 April 2019, South Korea

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between

Result for the competition was as follow :

Position	Male	Female
First	TinTin Rai	Pancha Maya Tamang
Second	Niraj Karki	Rusha Pradhan
Third	Bijay Sunar	Swastika Chaudhary

International Mountain Museum Pokhara and National Mountain Museum, Sokcho, South Korea Gangwon Province on 29 April 2019 Monday during the opening ceremony of NMM in Korea. The purpose to sign MoU is for the purpose of having cooperative relations for orders and accomplishment of the contents supply business which takes advantage of the network through business alliances between IMM and NMM. Santa Bir Lama, President-NMA and Jong-min Park, Director-NMM signed the agreement on behalf of the organizations. Dr. In Jeoung Lee- President and Christine Pae- General Secretary of Union of Asian Alpine Association (UAAA), Sudarshan Neupane, Treasurer- NMA and Ram Chandra Karki- Adviser for International Mountain Museum also attended the program in Sokcho, South Korea.

39. 12th International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day -29th May 2019



The Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation organized a program to celebrate 12th International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day on 29th May 2019 with the slogan of "Our priority, clean Sagarmatha". The program started with the morning procession from Sanchaya Kosh Building, Thamel and concluded at Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). The Chief Guest for the program, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Communication Technology Mr. Gokul Prasad Baskota offered garland to the statues of Tenzing Sherpa, Edmund Hillary and Boris Lisanevich.

Mr. Mohan Krishna Sapkota, Chairman for International

Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Dandu RaJ Ghimire, Director General, Department of Tourism, high level government officials, Everest summiteers and other national and international mountaineers, advisors, members of Nepal mountaineering Association (NMA), and representatives from different tourism related organizations were present in the program.

After offering garland to the statues all the participants were welcomed to National City Hall with a welcome dance. Mr. Santa Bir Lama, Member Secretary for 12th International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day main Organizing Committee and President, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) welcomed everyone to the hall. The program observed one minute silence in the memory of deceased mountaineers. The chief guest officially inaugurated the program by lighting paanas. Different ethnic cultural programs from mountain communities were performed during the program,

The program observed the MoU signing ceremony between NMA and Um Hong Gil Human Foundation for the construction of mountaineering school in Humde, Manang. Mr. Dandu RaJ Ghimire, Director General, Department of Tourism shared detailed information about National Sagarmatha Award and Tenzing Hillary Award. The Chief Guest distributed the following award and cash prize to the individuals.

National Sagarmatha Award

Name	Cash Prize
1. Um Hong Gil,	NRS. 1,00,000/-

Tenzing Hillary Award

Name	Cash Prize
1. Mr. Anthony Gordon	NRS 50,000/-
2. Maya Sherpa	NRS 50,000/-
3. Gyanendra Kumar Ahrestha	NRS 50,000/-

The Chief Guest also awarded letter of appreciation to Ms. Saarah Hillary (Daughter of late Edmund Hillary), Mr. Dawa Tamang (for his contribution in rescuing of Taiwanese couple after 47 days in April 2017 from Tipling, Ruby valley near Pangsang Pass) and Ms. Nima Jangbu Sherpa (successful summit of Everest-14 May , Lhotse – 25 April 2018 and Kanchhenjungha 23 Nov 2018)

Director General of the Department of Tourism presented on Mt. Everest Cleaning Campaign 2019 and the chief guest handover the letter of appreciation to the organizer, sponsor, base camp management and Sherpas involved in the Mt. Everest Cleaning Campaign 2019

Organizer:

1. Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation
2. Ministry of Forest & Environment
3. Nepali Army
4. Ministry of Industries, Tourism and Environment - State No. 1
5. Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality
6. Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA)
7. Nepal Tourism Board (NTB)
8. Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC)
9. Sagarmatha National Park
10. Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee

Sponsors:

1. The Coca-cola Foundation
2. WWF NEPAL,
3. Visit Nepal 2020 year
4. Bottlers Nepal Limited
5. NMB Bank Limited
6. Prabhu Bank Limited
7. Nabil Bank Limited,
8. Tara Air
9. Sonam Gear

Everest Base Camp Management :

1. Ang Temba Sherpa - SPCC
2. Da Gelje Sherpa - Khumbu Pasang LhamuGaunPalika
3. Capt. Thaman Gurung - Nepali Army
4. Tikaram Gurung - Secretary NMA
5. Tshering Tenzing Sherpa - Base Camp Manager
6. Chitra Bahadur Gurung, Videographer

Climbers :

1. Pasang Nuru Sherpa
2. Pasang Chhiring Lama
3. Bikas Gurung
4. Pemba Nuru Sherpa

5. ChiringTasi Sherpa

6. Nima Thundu Sherpa

7. Lakpa Sherpa

8. Sange Sherpa

Ground Management from Kathmandu :

1. Mr. Dandu Raj Ghimire, Director General of Department of Tourism

2. Ms. Mira Acharya, Director of Mountaineering section of Department of Tourism

3. Mr. Santa Bir Lama, President of Nepal Mountaineering Association

4. Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung, General secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association

5. Mr. Sudarshan Neupane, Treasurer of Nepal Mountaineering Association

Hon'ble Minister Gokul Prasad Baskota for Information and Communication Technology expressed his view on the importance of tourism for the development of the country. Finally the program concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Mohan Krishna Sapkota, Chairman for International Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

40. Wilderness First Aid Course (31st May 2019 to 1st June 2019)

Nepal Mountaineering Association organized Wilderness First Aid Course from May 31, 2019 to June 1, 2019. There



were a total of 30 participants in the training coordinated by Mr. Phurba Namgyal Sherpa. Mr. Rajesh Lama was the chief instructor for the course. The certificate distribution program was organized on June 1, 2019 in presence of General secretary Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Mr. Tika Ram Gu,rung, Treasurer Mr. Sudarshan Neupane, Executive Board Members Mr. Mingma Gyabu Sherpa and Mr. Wangchu Sherpa of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA).

41. 40th Basic Mountaineering Course- 18 June to 12 July, 2019

The 42 trainees, 12 instructors, 1 equipment in-charge and 1 doctor left for Manang for 40th Basic Mountaineering Course.

NMA General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung along with other executive board members wished them best of luck for the successful completion of the training, which is scheduled to return on 12 July 2019.

Instructors:

1. Tul Singh Gurung - Training Coordinator + Instructor

2. Pasang Ongchu Sherpa - Chief Instructor

3. Hareram Khadka - Instructor

4. Lakpa Sherpa - Instructor

5. Riten Jangbu Sherpa - Instructor

6. Vinayak Jaya Malla - Instructor

7. Pasang Kaji Sherpa - Instructor

8. Lopsang Sherpa - Instructor

9. Lakpa Rangdu Sherpa - Instructor

10. Tenji Sherpa - Instructor

11. Pasang Tendi Sherpa - Instructor

12. Phurba Namgyal Sherpa - Instructor + Syllabus Observer

13. Dr. Andre Perdan

14. Manu Man Gurung, Equipment In-charge

Trainees:

1 Sujan Adhikari

2 Sajjan Ghale

3 Lhakpa Dorji Thapa Magar

4 Khadga Narayan Rai

5 Ramesh Gurung

6 Lakpa Sherpa

7 Lhawang Norbu Sherpa

8 Tsewang Kalden Sherpa

9 Nirmal Lama

10 Bikash Tamang

11 Phura Tenzing Sherpa

12 Anish Lama

13 Sonam Tshering Lama

14 Ms. Tsering Yangji Sherpa

15 Amrit Gurung

16 Rakesh Gurung

17 Sandip Gurung

18 Sujal Gurung

19 Ganesh Thakuri

20 Dipen (Nuppa) Bhote

21 Rajan Bhote

22 Manish Tamang

23 Dhandu Sherpa

24 Dawa Chhiring Sherpa

25 Pemba Norbu Sherpa

26 Fur Tenji Sherpa

27 Ms. Sangita Kumari Rokaya

28 Mahan Jung Pande

29 Lama Babu Sherpa

30 Pemba Tamang

31 Gelu Sherpa

32 Ashok Lama

33 Hasta Bahadur Gurung

34 Sujan Gurung

35 Nir Kumar Rai

36 Arjun Kumar Rai

37 chhiring Sherpa

38 Norsang Lama

39 Pemchhiri Sherpa

40 Jangchup Dorji sherpa

41 Rinje Sherpa

42 Prakash Gurung

42. Interaction and Felicitation Program
(1 July 2019, Monday)

(Issues of Mt. Everest Climbing: An interaction with climbers and other stakeholders)



Nepal Mountaineering Association organized a felicitation to the newly appointed and elected executive board members of, Nepal Tourism Board, Nepal Mountain Academy, Hotel Association Nepal, VITOF-Nepal and Thamel Tourism Development Council and interaction program on "Issue of Mt. Everest climbing: An interaction with climbers & other stakeholders" on 1st July 2019 at 1:00 pm at Naxal Banquet. The Chief Guest for the program was Mr. Danduraj Ghimire, Director General, Department of Tourism. Executive board members of NMA, advisors of NMA, representatives from different tourism related organizations, tourism entrepreneurs, climbers along with the general members were present during the program.

NMA President, Mr. Santa Bir Lama welcomed the Chief Guest by offering the bouquet and khada. The program observed one minute silence in the memory of deceased mountaineers. This was followed by the welcome speech by Mr, Sarki Tamang, Convener, Environment Conservation Committee, NMA. The chief guest officially inaugurated the program by watering the plant. After the inauguration Chief Guest felicitate the newly appointed and elected executive board members of NTB, Nepal Mountain Academy, HAN, VITOF-Nepal and TTDC.

After the first program Mr. Tikaram Gurung, Secretary handed over the Mike to Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung, General Secretary

NMA for the interaction program on "Issue of Mt. Everest climbing: An interaction with climbers & other stakeholders". Mr. Gurung highlighted the topic and requested everyone to flash the light on the traffic jam on Mt. Everest, accident at Mt. Everest and mountain environment protection. After the information about the topic views from the participants was collected for the further report preparation.

This was followed by the remarks by the chief guest and finally chairperson and president of NMA Mr. Santa Bir Lama concluded the program by his thank you note.

43. Extra Ordinary General Meeting 2019 (24th July 2019, Wednesday) (Star Venue, Narayanchaur, Naxal)



44. Building Handover Ceremony (1st September 2019)

NMA Secretariat Building handover program was organized at NMA, Nagpokhari in presence of NMA adviser, current executive board members, past executive board members, representative of Tundi construction and engineer Suman Mehar Shrestha on 1st September 2019.

45. 29th Annual General Meeting (28th September 2019, Saturday)

The 29th Central Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) was held on 28th September 2019 at Alice reception. Hon' ble Minister for Communication and Information Technology Mr. Gokul Prasad Baskota was the chief guest of the program. Dr. Chandra Bhandari, Central Member of Nepali Congress, Dr. Ganesh Gurung, Executive Chairman of Policy Research Academy, Mr. Dandu Raj Ghimire, Director General of Department of Tourism, government officers, advisors of NMA, representative from different tourism related organization and general members were also present in the program. The program observed one-minute silence in memory of the demise of known and unknown mountaineers. After the welcome speech delivered by NMA President Mr. Santa Bir Lama, the Chief Guest for the program inaugurated the program by lighting up panas and watering the plants.



The chief guest felicitated the following top ten associate members (Trekking Agencies) for issuing the highest numbers of climbing permits for NMA peaks during fiscal year 2075/076

1. Himalayan Ecstasy Nepal Treks and Expedition
2. Adventure Everest Team Trek & Expedition
3. Snowy Horizon Treks & Expedition
4. Mountain Monarch Adventure
5. Summit Nepal Trekking
6. Thamserku Trekking
7. Gravity Himalayan Excursion
8. Himalayan Guides Nepal Treks & Expedition
9. Asian Trekking
10. Satori Adventures

Mr. Nima Nuru Sherpa, Convener of Award Selection Committee briefly introduced selection criteria and declared the respective name for Kumar Khadga Bikram Shahashik Award, Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award and Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Tourism Journalism Award. Chief guest of the program handed over Kumar Khadga Bikram Shahashik Award to Ms. Dawa Yanzum Sherpa, Dr. Harka Gurung Mountaineering Award was given to late Ang Tshering Sherpa (Posthumous) and Dawa Norbu Mountaineering Tourism Journalism Award was given to Bharat Bandhu and Juli Gurung along with a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- each. On the same occasion, the chief guest handed over a letter of appreciation and cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- to Mr.Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa for his continuous involvement as instructor in the training program of NMA for decades. In the same program, mountaineer titled snow leopard Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa was also supported with Rs. 1,00,000/- for his record in the field of mountaineering. NMA staff Mr. Pushpa Raj Dhakal was awarded Employee of the year 2018.

The first session of AGM concluded with the remarks from Mr. Dandu Raj Ghimire, Director General of Department of

Tourism, Dr. Chandra Bhandari, Central Member of Nepali Congress, chief guest Mr. Gokul Prasad Banskota Hon'ble Minister for Communication and Information Technology and vote of thanks by NMA 1st Vice President Mr. Deebas Bickram Shah.

In the second session of the meeting, General Secretary Mr Kul Bahadur Gurung and Treasurer Sudarshan Neupane presented the progress report, financial statement of the fiscal year 2075/2076 with the annual program with budget for the fiscal year 2076/2077. The general members deeply discussed the presented programs and budget and questioned the General Secretary, Treasurer on the matters related with the budget. After thorough discussion, the general meeting endorsed all the plan-programs and budget. Finally, Secretary Mr. Tika ram Gurung thanked all the general members for their presence and assistance in approving the policy, programs and budget for the fiscal year 2076/2077.

46. UAAA General Assembly 2019 (11- 15 Oct 2019)

NMA's General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung and Ms. Mira Acharya- Under Secretary of Department of Tourism attended



the General Assembly of Union of Asian Alpine Association from 11- 15 Oct 2019 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Gurung also presented an expedition report in the same program.

47. Felicitation program in honor of Slovene Everest climber- 28 Oct,2019

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized a felicitation program in presence of Andrej Stremfelj to mark the completion of forty years of First Yugoslav Alpine Expedition on the world's highest mountain- Mt. Everest on 13 May 1979. Mr. Stremfelj is the member of First Yugoslav Alpine Expedition. In the same program, Mr. Andrej Stremfelj & Ms. Marija Stremfelj were also felicitated for being the first Married couple to ascend together Mt. Everest on 7 Oct 1990. Chief guest for the program was Hon'ble Minister for Water and Sanitation Bina Magar. NMA President Santa Bir Lama,



Director General of Department of Tourism Dandu Raj Ghimire, Khum Subedi President of Trekking Agencies of Association of Nepal (TAAN), Ganga Prasad Nepal President of Nepal Association of Rafting Agencies (NARA), General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung, Treasurer Sudarshan Neupane,Honorary Consul of Nepal to Slovenia Aswin Shrestha and other board members were present in the program. Program was conducted by General Secretary of NMA Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung.

48. Memorandum of Understanding signed to build Annapurna Information Communication & Technology Rescue Center - (31 October, 2019)

NMA, Um Hong Gill Human Foundation and Korea Telecom entered into the tripartite agreement on 31 Oct in Pokhara



to construct Annapurna Information Communication & Technology Rescue Center at Machhapuchhre base camp. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gandaki Province Prithivi Subba Gurung was the chief guest of the program. The main objective of the agreement is to collaboratively work on the Project to meet the vision of Digital Nepal Framework 2018, which seeks to transform the country into a digitally connected society through efficient use of information and communications technology. It will also help NMA to provide safety in the tourism industry of Annapurna and other regions. This will improve quick response against emergency situations with information technology for tourists in Annapurna and other regions of Nepal. This will enable tourists to get reliefs to travel and trek in Nepal. NMA President Santa Bir Lama, Hong-Gil Um, Chief of the mission of Um Hong Gil Human Foundation

and Jong-jin Yoon, Executive Vice President of Korea Telecom jointly signed on the agreement.

49. 46th NMA Day celebrated- 1 Nov, 2019

NMA celebrated its 46th Anniversary (NMA Day) on 1 Nov with a special program organized at its secretariat. Director of the Department of Tourism Mira Acharya was the chief guest of the program chaired by President Santa Bir Lama. NMA Advisers D B Koirala, R P Pant, President of Nepal Association of Travel & Tour Agents (NATTA) C N Pandey, Nepal Association of Rafting Agents (NARA) President Ganga Prasad Nepal, Nepal Mountaineering Instructors' Association (NMIA) President Lakpa Sherpa, executive board members were also present in the program. On the same occasion, NMA staff Draupati Shrestha were awarded with gold medal and letter of appreciation for her 30 year long service at NMA. The chief guest also distributed certificates to the participants of different training. The program was conducted by General Secretary of NMA Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung.

50. 6th International Mountain festival- 2019 (11th Dec 2019)

On the occasion of International Mountain day Nepal Mountaineering Association organized the sixth International Mountain Festival on 11th december 2019 at Kathmandu with at least 32 Tourism umbrella organizations. The rally started from Basantapur and ended at NMA Secretariat with below listed Programs:

1. Presentation about NMA approximately 15 minutes
2. Distribution of Award to Record Holder Climber
3. Distribution of Edmund Hillary Legacy Award
4. Culture program
5. Nabil Bank jointly announced the sponsorship of Children for their school education.

51. 28th Advance Mountaineering Course (16th Dec 2019 - 22nd Jan 2020)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) annual training program 28th Advance Mountaineering Course started from 16 December 2019 in Kathmandu. 26 trainees are participating in the training program, which will complete on 22 January 2020. The trainees and instructors left for Langtang on December 31, 2019 and they were given leave by President Santa Bir Lama, General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Tikaram Gurung, Treasurer Sudershan Neupane and other



board members.

Name list of instructors:

1. Phurba Namgyal Sherpa - Co-ordinator
2. Dawa Phinjo Lama Bhote - Chief Instructor
3. Pimba Tenzing Lama Bhote - Instructor
4. Pasang Kaji Sherpa - Instructor
5. Lopasang Sherpa - Instructor
6. Hareram Khadka - Instructor
7. Anup Gurung - Instructor
8. Lakpa Rangdu sherpa - Instructor
9. Nima Tashi sherpa - Instructor
10. Pema Tshering Sherpa - Instructor
11. Kalyan Gurung - In-charge

Name list of trainees:

1. Man Raj Gurung
2. Pasang Tendi Sherpa
3. Ngima Tenzing Sherpa
4. Ngima Nuru Sherpa
5. Pemba Tamang
6. Pasang Tshering Sherpa
7. Ang Dorji Sherpa
8. Phurba Sonam Sherpa
9. Namja Bhote
10. Hira Bhote

11. Sona Temba Sherpa

12. Chanit Lal Tamang

13. Raksha Raj Tamang

14. Dawa Singhi Hyolmo

15. Ms. Parbati Joshi

16. Yan Bahadur Thapa

17. Mingma Tenzi Sherpa

18. Sandesh Sherpa

19. Dorchi Wangdak Bhote

20. Tanka Gurung

21. Namgyal Dorjee Tamang

22. Pasang Temba Sherpa

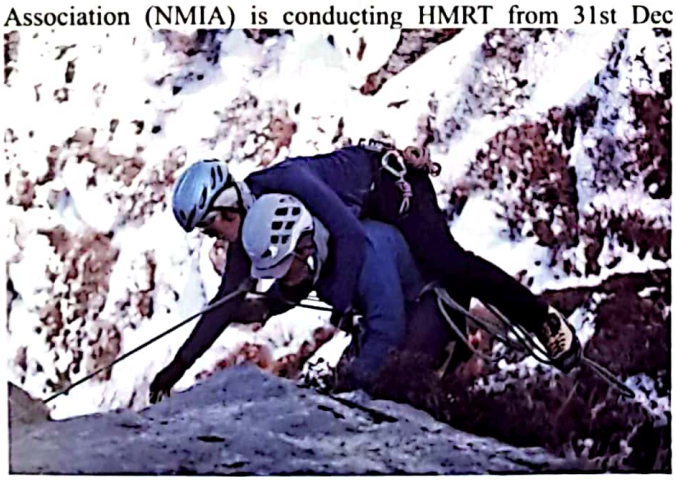
23. Ngima Tendi Sherpa

24. Ranbir Gurung

25. Subash Gurung

52. High Mountain Rescue Training (HMRT) - 31st Dec 2019 to 19th Jan 2020

NMA in coordination with Nepal Mountaineering Instructors' Association (NMIA) is conducting HMRT from 31st Dec



2019 to 19th Jan 2020. Training was held in Kathmandu and Langtang valley. Mr. Lam Babu Sherpa was the coordinator of the course where as Narendra Shahi- Chief instructor, Reten Tashi Sherpa - instructor and Pemba Rita Sherpa - instructor were involved in the course. 15 trainees participated in the course.

53 Celebration of Visit Nepal 2020 (1st Jan, 2020)

NMA organized a cake cutting program on 1st January 2020 at NMA secretariat to mark Visit Nepal Year 2020. Chief Guest for the program was Mr. Ghanshyam Upadhya, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation and Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa (Snow Leopard), NMA Board Members, NMA Advisers, representatives from different tourism related organizations were present during the program. A warm Cloth (Jacket) was contributed to Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa.

54. Mountain leader Course Component II- 2020

(9th January to 21 January 2020)



Nepal Mountaineering Association organized Mountain leader Course Component II from 9th January to 21 January 2020 at Kathmandu and Solukhumbu, PK area. The participants on this training left for Solukhumbu, PK on 13 January 2020.

Chief Instructor: Dawa Tashi Sherpa

Instructor: Sarki Sherpa

S.No.	Name
1	Ang Nuru Sherpa
2	Sonam Sherpa
3	Manish Tamang
4	Aakash Gurung
5	Lhakpa Tenzing Sherpa
6	Aananda Tamang
7	Angeli Sherpa
8	Ngima Tsewang Sherpa
9	Ms. Sumina Gurung
10	Samip Mainaly
11	Tenzi Sherpa
12	Hari Bahadur Gurung
13	Netra Bahadur Tamang

Name of Participants:

55. Search and Rescue Operation for Annapurna Avalanche (20 Jan 2020)

An avalanche on 18 January 2020 swept along the popular Annapurna circuit trekking route left at least four South Koreans and three Nepali guides missing at an altitude of 10,600 feet. A search investigation initiated by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation (MoCTCA), with the support of Nepal Army Rescue Team rescued 30 trekkers who had been trapped by the avalanche blocking the trail and flew them to safety. Weather conditions were poor, with temperature dropping in the past two days, making the operation more difficult.

It was the deadliest accident to hit Nepal's climbing community since 2015, when an avalanche set off by a series of earthquakes pummeled climbers on Mount Everest, killing 18 people. The quake killed nearly 9,000 people and injured about 5,900. On 20th January 2020, Santa Bir Lama, President of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Cholendra Karki, 1st Vice President of Trekking Agency Association of Nepal, Chaya Lal Moktan, Representative from Department of Tourism, Korean Ambassador to Nepal, Chief District Officer & Deputy Inspector General of Kaski District visited the site. NMA General Secretary Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung managed, co-ordinated and co-operated with concerned authorities for this rescue mission visiting Pokhara himself.



56. RECCO Advanced Training (24 Jan 2020)

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) organized Recco Advanced Rescue Technology training at Outdoor Adventure Center Nepal, Thamel on 24 January 2020. 80 participants (65 male and 15 female) from different member organizations of Nepal Mountaineering Association successfully completed the Recco Advanced Rescue Technology training. The training was conducted by RECCO Nepal both in Kathmandu and Gokarna Forest and led by renowned Mountaineer Tshering Pande Bhote.



57. 2nd Annual Ice Climbing Festival (1 - 10 Feb 2020)

The 2nd Annual Ice Climbing Festival was organized by the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), co organized and hosted by the Nepal Climbing Team (NCT), promoted by Visit Nepal 2020 Secretariat and the Nepal Tourism Board. The festival included a Support Team combining International Federation of Mountain Guide Association (IFMGA) leaders, along with Aspiriant Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) guides, an alpine ski instructor, doctor, photographers, a technical support team from Paradygm Pvt. Ltd., NCT organizing team members and administrative support.

Amidst significantly more snow than annually anticipated, a Recce Team of 10 set off from Kathmandu in search of the most suitable and safe setting for ice climbing and skiing 3 days prior to the arrival of the remaining Support Team and participants. With the Recce Team blazing trails from Humde and laying the groundwork, participants arrived with the scene ready for action. Adventurers, both local and international, found sunshine gracing the frozen waterfalls and surrounding rolling hills turned ski pistes throughout the festival. Each day participants, including honourable guests from the Nepal Tourism Board and the Visit Nepal 2020 Secretariat, were invited to choose an activity and, with that, an appropriate level of instruction was provided with safety the utmost priority throughout the festival.

Beginners had the opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of ice climbing including proper technique for axe swinging, kick technique, ideal ice climbing movements and equipment. Advanced climbers were able to work in teams to take their climbing higher, learn about specific anchor building and how to deal with extremely demanding situations, how to make safe judgements as well as how to avoid alpine hazards. Alpine skiing proved to be a highlight for the majority of locals who

had little or no experience with the sport. Despite no ski lift option, energy remained high as beginners progressed as rapidly as the quick descent down snow covered farm fields turned ski pistes.

The combination of having a certified instructor, limited space and equipment equated to intimate and memorable turns, jumps, carving and certainly craving more. Getting all participants safely to new heights on Annapurna ice would not have been possible without the generous commitment of sponsors who supplied technology, training tools, ice climbing gear and ski equipment and promotion of the festival.

58.7th Park Young Seok Open Wall Climbing Competition (1 & 2 Feb 2020)



Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) in association with Park Young Seok Exploration and Culture Foundation organized the seventh edition of the Park Young Seok Climbing Competition- 2020 on 1st and 2nd February at Pasang Lhamu Sports Climbing Center, Dhumbarahi in memory of Late Park Young Seok. The event was targeted to promote sports climbing in Nepal among young people. The event welcomed young athletes, professional athletes and amatuer climbers to participate in the event. The athletes ranged from 10 year old to 65 year old. Preliminary rounds in Lead and Top rope discipline took place on 1st February followed by finals on 2nd February. A total of 50 athletes in top rope and lead climbing participated in the competition.

The winners of Men and Women lead climbing competition received $250, $170 and $85 along with gift hampers, medals and certificates. The amatuer athletes in the top rope discipline the prizes were Nrs $85, $45 and $22 respectively in the men and women category.

Pas Tenjen Sherpa finished first in the men's top rope final competition whereas Suresh Tamang and Ujwal Bansi finished second and third respectively. In the women's top rope category, Devika Pandey, Kabita Lama and Laxmi Pandey finished first, second and third respectively.

In the men's lead competition, Bijay Sunar, Bhim Bahadur Tamang and Tintin Rai won the top three positions respectively. Likewise in the women's lead competition, Alexandra Przybysz, Pancha Maya Tamang and Swastika Chaudhary have been announced the winners.

The chief guest of the closing ceremony, the Director General for Department of Tourism Mr. Dandu Raj Ghimire along with president of Union Alpine Association of Asia (UAAA) Dr Inn Joeng Lee, Secretary of UAAA, Christine Pae, President of NMA Santa Bir Lama, General Secretary Mr Kul Bahadur Gurung and executive board members of NMA awarded the winners.

The event was supported by Park Young Seok Exploration and Culture Foundation, Korean Alpine foundation, Union of Alpine Association of Asia, LEKI, The North Face and Visit Nepal 2020 secretariat. NMA General Secretary conducted the program.

59. 3rd World Peace Pooja 2020 (3 - 5 Feb 2020)



The 3rd World Peace Pooja and 17th International Mountain Museum Day was concluded on 5th February 2020 at the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara to pray for world peace and welfare of the entire humanity, and to commemorate the deaths of mountaineers and trekkers. The first peace puja was held in 2059 B.S (2003 A.D) and the second in 2072 B.S (2016 A.D) at the International Mountain Museum premises. The three day World Peace Pooja was initiated by the peace lamp brought from Lumbini- the birthplace of Gautam Buddha to Syakpa Monastery in Hemja by Treasurer of NMA, Sudarshan Neupane and the coordinator of the 3rd World

Peace Pooja committee, Mr Hari Dhwoj Tulachan. The lamp was handed over to the coordinator by a high ranking Buddhist guru in Lumbini. The Peace Lamp was then handed over to the Governor of Gandaki Province Honorable Amik Sherchan who led the rally ending at the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara on 4th of February 2020. The rally was attended by government dignitaries, monks from different Buddhist Monasteries and Associations, followers of Buddhism from mountain regions, tourism professionals, general public, community women groups, and visiting foreign tourists.

The Peace Pooja was also organized for the consideration of the ongoing Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign. Tourism Professionals from Pokhara also attended the program including heads of Pokhara Tourism Council, Pokhara Tourism Board, VITOF, GTEAN, amongst others. The main objective being reinstating peace in the entire world alongside spreading religious harmony, promoting religious tourism, declaring Lumbini as a peace city as per the International Buddhist Conference.

The rally concluded by remarks by dignitaries, Honorable Amik Sherchan Governor of Gandaki Province, Director of Department of Tourism, Ms. Mira Acharya, President of Pokhara Tourism Council, Mr. Chiranjivi Pokhrel. The 3rd World Peace Pooja started off by recitation of slokas by brahmins followed by Buddhist Religious books by the Monks. The pooja was witnessed by various religious devotees from around the area, women groups amongst others. The Pooja was carried throughout the day with various religious ceremonies as per the buddhist culture. Chhayam Nach (dance) was distinct amongst others which included dance and skit performances by the monks.

The third day of the Pooja 5th February 2020 also aligned with the 17th Anniversary of the establishment of the International Mountain Museum. The chief guest of the program Honorable Puspa Kamal Dahal, former prime minister of Nepal and the Chairperson of Communist Party of Nepal hoisted the flag of the International Mountain Museum and also took an observation tour of the museum. The 17th Annual Day of the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara was also commemorated by cutting a cake by Honorable Puspa Kamal Dahal. Speaking at the ceremony Honorable Puspa Kamal Dahal appreciated the International Mountain Museum grandeur and its importance for the tourism and educational advantages. He also added that the museum benefits anyone who wants to learn about mountain tradition, culture, topography and geography. He also committed to supporting the International Mountain Museum in any possible ways from his side.

On the same day a panel discussion on Importance of Religious Tourism in Nepal Chaired by Dr. Ganesh Gurung and facilitated by General Secretary of NMA, Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung was held in the International Mountain Museum's conference hall. Insightful presentations were delivered by Mr. Narayan Adhikari, Mr. Tirtha Shrestha, Shreekant Khatiwada followed by floor discussion from the huge audience present at the hall.

The peace pooja was concluded by the blessings from the Rinpochhe Vidhyadhar Mahayogi Shridhar Rana Rinpoche (Ratnashree). Around 10000 devotees from near and distant locations visited to receive blessings from the Rinpoche. The closing ceremony was attended by the Chief minister of Gandaki Province, Speaker and Vice Speaker of the Provincial Assembly and members of the provincial assembly of Gandaki Province.

60. Joint Meeting with Tourism Agencies (28 Feb, 2020)

A joint meeting led by Nepal Mountaineering Association with Hotel Association of Nepal, Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal, NepalAssociation of Travel and Tour Agency and Nepal Association of Rafting Agencies on 28 February 2020 at Yatri Suites Hotel, Thamel. The meeting was chaired by the President of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Mr. Santa Bir Lama and facilitated by General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung.

61. Nepal Mountaineering Association Supports Coronavirus (COVID-19) Control and Treatment Relief Fund (12 April 2020)



Nepal Mountaineering Association handed over a cheque of Five Lakhs Rupees to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Control and Treatment Relief Fund established by the Government of Nepal on 12 April 2020.

The cheque was handed over during a ceremony today to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Minister's Secretary Mr. Mahendra Prasad Guragain by the President of Nepal Mountaineering Association Mr. Santa Bir Lama for the prevention and control of the pandemic. Appreciating the support, Secretary Mr. Guragain said that the fund will be focused on the prevention, control and treatment of the coronavirus epidemic.

On the occasion, the President of the Association Mr. Lama expressed that the fund was handed for Prevention, control and treatment as well as for the support to the population affected in this crucial time especially the affluent and low income in the tourism sector. He further expressed that the families would get support for the daily necessities and consumables. The Association has also been assisting in the past in the face of

such disasters as social responsibility. President Lama further added that the pandemic has affected many sectors of the country and one of the hardly hit sectors is the mountainous tourism sector of Nepal.

Present in the ceremony with President of Nepal Mountaineering Association Santa Bir Lama were General Secretary Kul Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Tikaram Gurung, Treasurer Sudarshan Neupane and Secretariat Member Mr. Shiva Bahadur Sapkota.

62. Diamond Jubilee of Mt Dhaulagiri Commemorated (13 May, 2020)

The Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) commemorated the 60th anniversary of the first ascents of Mount Dhaulagiri (8,167m) on 13 May, 2020 at its secretariat in Nagpokhari, Naxal, Kathmandu . The occasion was marked by a gathering of executive board members, Director General of Department of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and presidents of other tourism agencies. Amid the global pandemic the program was held as a memory of the departed souls who lost their lives during mountaineering.

Speaking at the program Mr. Dandu Raj Ghimire, Director General of Department of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation expressed that the program has been instrumental in marking the efforts of the mountaineers who have spent their lives to create mountaineering as of today. He also added that the current pandemic has shaken the entire tourism industry and hopes the lives will be back to normal. President of NMA, Mr. Santa Bir Lama shared that the program was planned as a grandeur to award the mountaineers who feat the Mt. Dhaulagiri till date. Nevertheless, a small program was held to mark the great ordeal of the pioneers of the Mt. Dhaulagiri. Present in the ceremony President of Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA) shared that the current crisis has affected the tourism industry the most and all the stakeholders must work together to thrive in the coming days. Mingma Gyabu Sherpa, Guinness World Record holder in Mountaineering and Executive Board Member of NMA who was present in the program had ascended Mt. Dhaulagiri last year on 13th May 2019, he spoke about his experience on the ascend and the present scenario.

The program was facilitated by General Secretary of NMA, Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung and was attended by Secretary of NMA, Mr. Tika Ram Gurung, NMA Secretariat member Mr. Dipendra Pandey and Mr Shiva Bahadur Sapkota and NMA board member Mr. Sanjiv Gurung by cutting cake.

63. Demand Letter Submitted to the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation by Nepal Mountaineering Association (24 May, 2020)

The demand letter has been handed over to the Minister by Nepal Mountaineering Association on behalf of the organizations (Nepal Mountaineering Association, National Mountain Guide Association, Nepal Mountaineering Instructors Association/ Everest Summiteers Association) on 24 May 2020. Handing over the demand letter to the Minister on the occasion, President of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, Santa Bir Lama, requested immediate relief programs for the human resources working in the field of mountain tourism and their associates. He also requested the Minister to implement the demands and revive the mountain tourism sector by including it in the budget and program of the coming Fiscal Year 2077/07.

On the occasion, General Secretary of the Association Kul Bahadur Gurung also expressed that the letter has been submitted aligning the proposed Tourism Act 2076. The demands submitted to the Minister by various organizations include mountain cleaning program, study and identification of mountain peaks, study, construction and reconstruction of walking trails, as well as chain anchor connection and signage connection programs, construction of porter shelters and toilets in high mountain areas.

The event was attended by Aang Norbu Sherpa, President of the Nepal National Mountain Guide Association, Tsering Pande Bhote, General Secretary of the Nepal Mountain Instructors Association, Maya Sherpa, President of the Everest Summiters Association and Kul Prasad Rai, Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

64. International Sagarmatha Day 2020 commemorated (29th May, 2020)



The 13th International Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee held a ceremony to commemorate the13th International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day with the theme of 'Everest Inspires For Resilience' on 29th May 2020 at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Singha durbar. Amidst the various representatives from different government and tourism agencies the day was marked with special address to the mountaineering community and remembrance of the first ascent on Mt Everest on 29 May 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa.

Speaking at the ceremony Honorable Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Yogesh Bhattarai expressed

confidence that Nepal's tourism will return to normal soon and the happiness of mountaineers will return. Wishing good luck on the occasion of the 13th International Everest Day, Minister Bhattarai also mentioned that Everest is a source of inspiration for the revival of Nepali tourism. He is confident that Nepal will always be an attractive destination in the world in the days to come.

Chairman of 13th International Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Kedar Bahadur Adhikari thanked the representatives of various tourism organizations and government officials to make their time to commemorate the special day with the ministry. He further added that amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, this celebration will disseminate the message of our commitment to the world for the resilience of mountain tourism.

Member Secretary,13th International Sagarmatha Day Main Organizing Committee and President of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Santa Bir Lama stated that Everest has Everest Summiteers have introduced the entire world as land of mountains and is a special day to remember all the summitteers who have contributed their entire lives in mountaineering. He also added the day for the Everest Summiteers to cherish and work towards the welfare of the mountaineers.

The ceremony was also attended by Everest Summiteers, Mingma Gyabu Sherpa, Everest Summiteer, Guinness World Record holder for youngest person to climb 14 mountains of the World spoke about his experience in climbing Mount Everest. He further stated about the problems mountaineers face and wanted the ministry to address it. The program was facilitated by Kul Bahadur Gurung, General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association.

65. World Environment Day 2020 (5 June,2020)

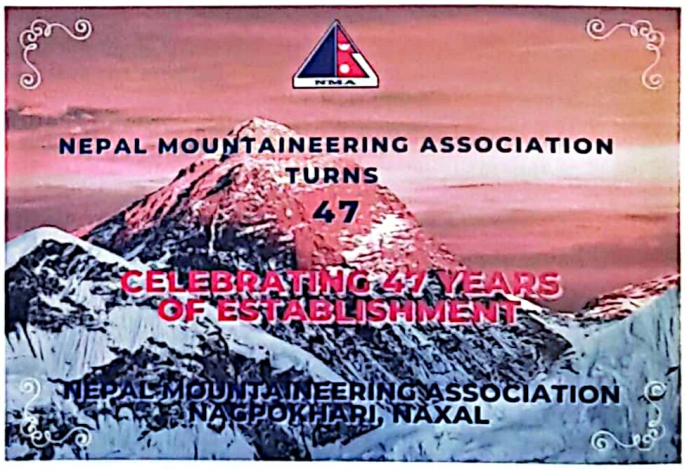


World Environment Day was commemorated at Nepal Mountaineering Association(NMA) , Secretariat amid respected dignitaries on 5 June 2020. Every year on World Environment Day, the Environment Conservation Committee of NMA conducts a program in alignment with conservation and preservation of the natural environment. Unlike other years, the program was limited to indoors, inside a meeting room. The program was chaired by Convener of the Environment Conservation Committee , Sarki Tamang and hosted by the member of the committee Prakash Adhikari and Dr Biswanath Oli, Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) gracefully accepted to be the chief guest of the program.

Speaking at the ceremony, Secretary for MoFE, Dr Oli, shared that he was positive on the efforts made by NMA on the conservation and protection of the environment and extended collaboration with NMA for future. The program started with a welcome by Awadhesh K Das, followed by a powerpoint presentation on the works done by the Environment Conservation Committee by Kul Bahadur Gurung, General Secretary of NMA. The program was attended by board members of NMA along with representatives from other tourism agencies.

Mira Acharya, Mountaineering section head, Department of Tourism, special guest in the program expressed her gratitude to the program and requested NMA to educate the mountain leaders and guides on environment protection and conservation. The Convener for Environment Conservation Committee, Sarki Tamang concluded with his remarks on the memoirs of the programs and events in the past when they conducted the program extensively in the mountains. The program was followed by a fruit trees plantation in the premises of NMA by guests and board members.

66. Celebration of 47th Anniversary of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) (Sunday, November 1 2020)



An online program was organized to commemorate the 47th establishment year of NMA. The program was moderated by General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung.The program was inaugurated by the president of NMA Mr. Santa Bir Lama in presence of Chief guest Hon' Minister Mr. Yogesh Bhattarai by lighting the Candle.

Mr. Lama delivered a welcome speech about the history and vision of the organisation.Chairman Lama expressed that NMA

has been working as a technical assistant to the government in mountaineering. He said that even though the government had opened 176 mountains for climbing, there was no publicity for it and if it was given to the NMA, it could be promoted. At present, NMA is working to promote 27 mountains and raise royalties. The NMA keeps 45 percent of the royalty collected by the NMA by giving 25 percent to the state, 25 percent to the local government and 5 percent to the Nepal Mountain Academy. It spends 15 percent of its administrative expenses on promotional work from the remaining amount. He also proposed a 'basket fund' to the government to help climbers, workers and businessmen involved in mountaineering in times of distress by collecting 10 percent from the mountain royalties raised by the NMA and the government.

Mr. Gurung presented a slideshow about all the activities of the organization till date.Representing all the tourism umbrella organizations, Mr. Khum Bahadur Subedi,the president of Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN) congratulated NMA on its 47th anniversary.

In addition, Advisor of NMA Dr. Ganesh Gurung suggested that now that NMA is 47 years young, two things need to be emphasized. He noted the need for professionalism and economic self-reliance. Dr. Gurung said that at least 25 to 30 percent of the expenses should be raised on one's own.

Speaking at a virtual program organized on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), Minister for Culture,Tourism & Civil Aviation, Yogesh Bhattarai, chief guest of the program expressed positive note towards the proposal of the president of NMA. He assured that he is ready to set up a permanent fund to help those who are involved in mountaineering in times of need.He added a permanent fund would be set up on behalf of the government and the NMA. He expressed, "My proposal is to create a long sustainable fund to spend for those climbers who are in danger of losing their lives. The government is ready for this. The government is ready to help in any way it can, not just money. "

Likewise, he has requested to bring a concrete proposal for the Mountaineers Memorial Park in Kakani. "I have personally visited Kakani," he said, adding that "there is support from the government to build an international standard structure in the area." Further he included that the successful ascent of Mt. Labuche and Mt. Manaslu by Royal guard Team of Bahrain and the members of the royal family from Qatar to climb the Mt. Amadablam, these visits of high profile have given positive messages about the tourism of Nepal to the world. He is looking forward to open all the touristic activities in Nepal following all the necessary health and safety protocols.

The program was concluded by the cake cutting ceremony in presence of the chief guest Director-General of Department of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang at the NMA Secretariat Office.

67. Nepal Bicycle Festival (2nd November 2020)

Nepal Bicycle Tour started (2nd November 2020) to promote and revive the tourism sector of our country which has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Tourism entrepreneurs and various tourism umbrella organizations have joined hands in the event. The main organizers of the event are Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN) and Nepal Association of Tours and Travel Agents (NATTA) where as the event is being promoted by Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). The team is led by the legendary cyclist and Everest Sumitter Mr. Pushkar Shah along with Mr. Rajendra Sapkota, Mr. Sankar Adhikari, Mr. Subash KC, Mr. Expansion Dahal, Mr. Samrat Pandey, Mr. Mahendra Adhikari, Mr. Him Gurung, Mr. Madhav Nepal, Mr.



Mukti Pandey, Mr. C.N Pandey, Ms. Laxmi Shrestha, Journalist Ashok Silwal and others.

The cycling is commenced from Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) office at Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu. The team will be cycling Mahendranagar which is in the western part of the country to Pashupatinagar in the East. They will be cycling through Thakurdwara, Nepalgunj, Birendranagar, Ghorahi, Swagadwari, Tauhihawa, Bhairahawa, Butwal, Tansen, Pokhara, Narayanghat, Hetauda, Birgunj, Lalbandi, Janakpur, Gaighat, Dharan, Biratnagar and Kakadvitta covering the total distance of 1,624 kilometers in their three weeks long tour. The aim of the tour is to give back life to the tourism of the country which has been paralysed by the COVID-19 pandemic and also to spread a positive message to the people all around the country by promoting and lifting up the domestic tourism and the tourism industry as a whole. Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) bid a farewell to the team at Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). President of the association Mr. Santa Bir Lama, General Secretary Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung and Treasurer, Mr. Sudarshan Neupane were present to see off the team. They offered Khada and NMA Flag to the team and wished them for their victorious journey.

68. Special Photo Corner Launched in IMM (27 Nov, 2020)

In a special program organized on 27 Nov 2020 photos taken by late Maurice Herzog during the first ascent of Mt. Annapurna-I were handed over for display at the International Mountain Museum (IMM). The photos were made available to IMM by the Embassy of France to Nepal. A special corner of youngest climber, Guinness World Record holder Mr. Mingma Gyabu Sherpa was also inaugurated. Hon'ble Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment for the Gandaki Province Government, Bikash Lamsal was chief guest of the program. French Ambassador, His Excellency Francois- Xavier Leger was a special guest of the program. Ward no. 17 Chairman Tirtha Raj Adhikari , President of TAAN Pokhara- Sushil Raj Poudel and personalities from different tourism industries attended the program. NMA officials, IMM staff, media persons were also present in the program. General secretary of NMA, Kul Bahadur Gurung conducted the program.

69. MDRES Fund By Siddhartha Bank (3rd Dec, 2020)



On 3rd December 2020, Thursday total amount of One Lakh Rupees Was handed over to Nepal Mountaineering Association by Siddhartha Bank Limited under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). On the behalf of Siddhartha Bank Ms. Aparna Giri, Relationship Manager and Ms. Mohini Maharjan Assistant Relationship Manager were present in the NMA Secretariat office to hand over the fund to Mr Kul Prasad Rai CEO of Nepal Mountaineering Association. Nepal Mountaineering Association's MDRES Fund (Mountain Disaster Relief and Educational Support) has been established by the association for the welfare of mountaineering expedition workers, their families and communities. NMA is providing educational scholarships to the children of the victims of mountaineering accidents through the fund.

70. Tilman Paryatan Marg- Panch Pokhari Peak and Yuva Peak

A Discussion program was held with media and dignitaries from various tourism organizations at Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) secretariat office on Preliminary Route Exploration of Tilman Pass , Pachpokhari Peak and Yuva Peak organized by Panchpokhari Village Rural Municipality. On the same occasion General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Kul Bahadur Gurung welcomed Hon'ble Arun Prasad Nepal, Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Province No. 3 and President of Panch Pokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality Mr. Tasi Lama Hyolmo.

71. Online Session on 'Role, Opportunities, and Challenges of Women mountaineers in mountaineering' on 10th Dec 2020

On the Occasion of 17th International Mountain Day, NMA organized an online discussion session on Zoom with women mountaineers on 'Role, Opportunities, and Challenges of Women mountaineers in ' on 10th Dec 2020. The program was commemorated by the Second Vice President of Nepal Mountaineering Association and also an Everest Summiter Mrs. Maya Sherpa. The Chief Guest of the Program was Minister for water supply and sanitation Honorable Bina Magar. Everest Summiteers Miss. Bhumira Gurung, Miss Furdiki Sherpa,Miss Luckme Syangden, Miss Dawa Sherpa, Miss Chhoki Sherpa, Miss Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Akita, Miss Kalpana Maharjan and Mt. Lobuje Climber Miss Lakpa Sherpa shared their experience during the ascent and also expressed various challenges and possibilities for the women mountaineers. They gave suggestions for the development and improvement to uplift the status of the women mountaineers in Nepal.

72. International Mountain Day (11 December, 2020)



On the occasion of 17th International Mountain Day NMA organized an online program on 11 December 2020 with various delegates from National and International Tourism Associations. In the program Santa Bir Lama, President of NMA and Director of DOT, Meera Acharya handed over the title of 'Sherpa of the Year 2020' to Nirmal Purja as awarded by the Union of Asian Alpine Association(UAAA). Mingma Gyabu Sherpa, the sherpa of the year 2019 also felicitated

Nirmal Purja. The online program was also joined by Dr Injeong Lee, President of UAAA & Lode Becker, General Secretary of International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation. The program was moderated by Kul Bahadur Gurung, General Secretary of NMA and Member of Mountaineering Committee of UIAA. Among other participants Board Members of NMA, Wangchu Sherpa, Shiva Bahadur Sapkota and Dipendra Pandey were also present in the program.

73. Press Meet for Ice Climbing Festival, 2021



Press Meet for 3rd Ice Climbing Festival in Humde, Manang and the very first Ice Climbing Festival in Thame, Solukhumbu was held on 18th January, 2021 in Nepal Mountaineering Association Secretariat building, Nagpokhari, Naxal. Special Guest appearance Member of Gandaki Province Assembly Mr. Rajiv Gurung, Legendary 24 times Everest Summiter Mr. Kami Rita Sherpa, President of NMA Mr. Santa Bir Lama, General Secretary Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung, Treasurer Mr. Sudarshan Neupane including the board members of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) along with the Nepal Climbing Team Members Mr. Mingma Sherpa and BishnuTamang and some of the locals of Thame and Manang showed up at the conference. In an hour long conference the members of the climbing team answered to the queries of the press and explained more briefly about the festival. On the occasion of 51st Birthday of the Mountaineering Legend Mr. Kami Rita Sherpa a cake cutting ceremony was also held after the press conference.

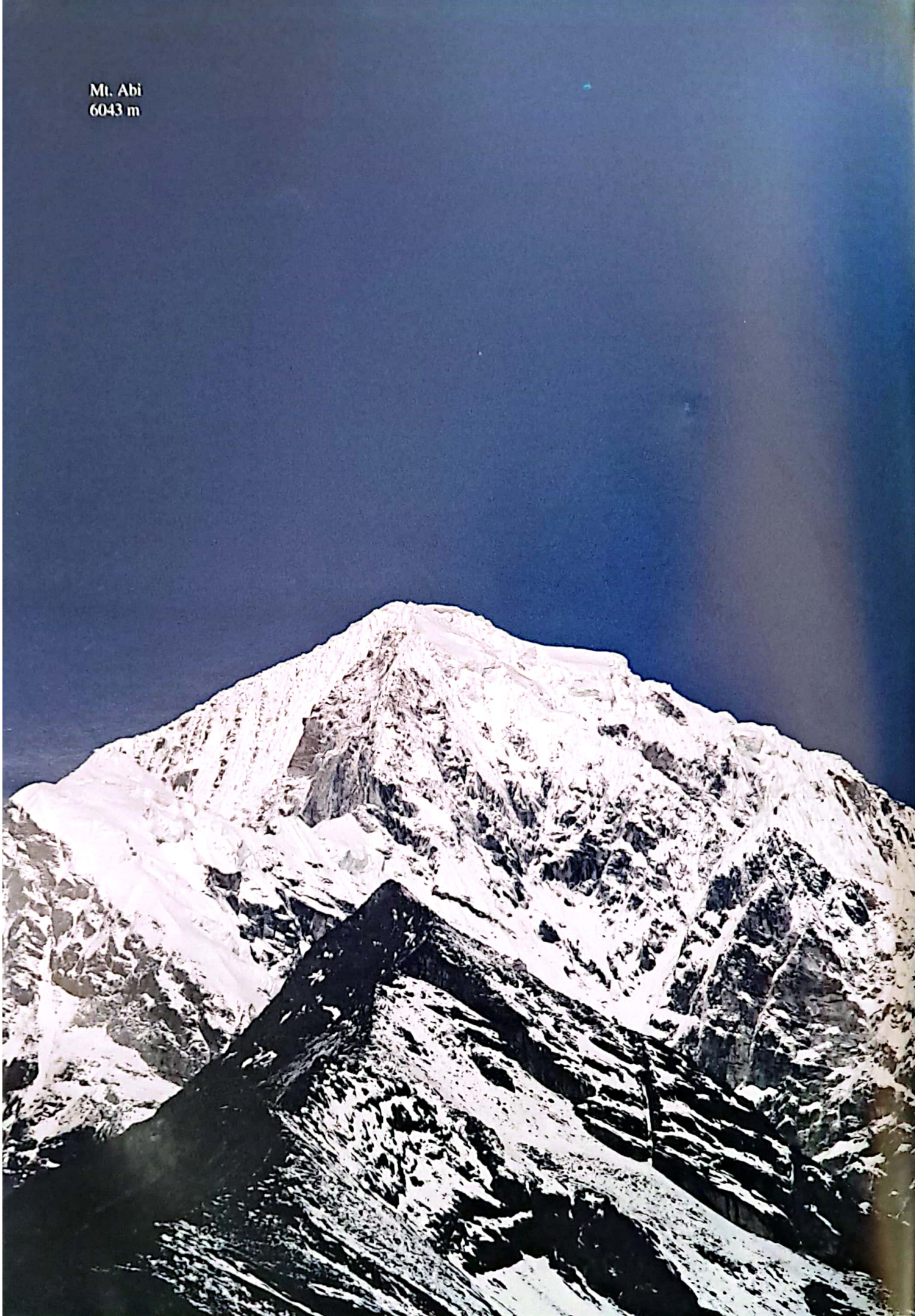
74. Welcome and Felicitation Program for Mt. K2 Nepali Summiteers

After successfully ascending the world's second highest peak Mt. K2 in the winter expedition 10 Nepali summiteers have finally arrived back today (26th January, Tuesday). It is indeed a historical and proud moment for all of us as in the history of Mt. K2 they are the very first ever team to successfully ascend the Mt. K2 in the winter season. Brave team includes the central executive board member of Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) Mr. Mingma Gyabu Sherpa, World Record holder Mr. Nirmal Purja MBE, Mr. Gelje Sherpa, Mr. Mingma Tenzi Sherpa, Mr. Dawa Temba Sherpa, Mr. Pem Chhiri Sherpa, Mr. Mingma G. Sherpa, Mr. Kilu Pemba Sherpa, Mr. Dawa Tenzi Sherpa and Mr. Sona Sherpa. The welcome and honor program was conducted jointly by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil aviation , Department of Tourism (DoT)Tourism Board, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) and 43 other tourism associations at Nepal Tourism Board. The president of Nepal Mountaineering Association Mr. Santa Bir Lama chaired the program whereas hosted by the General Secretary of NMA Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung. Secretary of MoCTA Mr. Yadav Prasad Koirala welcomed the team at TIA. The closing ceremony of the program was at Nepal Tourism board where the chief guest was CEO of Nepal Tourism Board Mr. Dhananjay Regmi and other dignitaries were Director of DoT Mountaineering Section Ms. Mira Acharya and Board of director of Nepal Tourism Board Ms. Pampha Dhamala.

NMA jointly felicitated the nine members of the group (as one of them was still in Base Camp for his next expedition) with letters of appreciation, khada and garlands. Likewise, Armed Police Force (APF) Band and Thamel Tourism Development Council (TTDC) organized traditional and Newari Jhaki in the rally and President of TTDC Mr. Prakash Narsing Rana, General Secretary of TTDC Mr. Dhurba Adhikari and other board members of TTDC also welcomed the summitters with the flower garlands at Tridevi Marg, Sanchayakosh.



Advisor of NMA and the youngest Everest Summitter,Mr. Shambu Tamang, President Mr. Santa Bir Lama, Second Vice President Ms. Maya Sherpa, General Secretary Mr. Kul Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Mr. Tikaram Gurung, Treasurer Mr. Sudarshan Neupane along with Board members of NMA Mr. Shiva Bahadur Sapkota, Mr. Dipendra Pandey, Mr. Singi Lama, Mr. Sanjib Gurung, Mr. Tulsingh Gurung and Mr. Wangchu Sherpa including the NMA staff greeted the climbers at TIA. Nearly 700 climbers, Association heads, officials, media personnels, security personnels and well wishers showed up to welcome the mountain heroes as seen at TIA. The motorcycle rally commenced from TIA, Sinamangal, Old Baneshwor, Tripureshwor, Sundhara, Kantipath, Thamel and ended at Nepal Tourism Board. The group then headed towards the residence of honorable Prime Minister K.P Sharma Oli, Baluwatar where the climbers were felicitated by the Honourable Prime Minister. The team then handed our national flag which they carried during their Mt. K2 Summit.


Mt. Abi
6043 m

1)Previous Roylalty Rate of NMA Peaks	
Group "B"Started from BS 2034-05-14 (Decision of Ministry Level)	
S.No.	Peak Name
1	Hiunchuli
2	Singu Chuli (Flulted Peak)
3	Mera Peak
4	Kusum Kangru
5	Kwangde
6	Chulu West
7	Chulu East
8	Imja Tse (Island Peak)
9	Pharchamo
10	Lobuje
11	Ramdung
12	Pisang
13	Tharpu chuli(Tent Peak)
14	Kongma Tse (Mehara Peak)
15	Ganja-la Chuli (Naya Kanga)
16	Pokhalde
17	Mardi Himal
18	Paldor Peak

1) Started From BS 3034-o5- 14(Decision of Ministry level)

Fee Structure for Group "B"

1-4 members-----US$ 350 only.
5-8 members----US$ 350.00 plus US$ 40.00 Per member
9-12 members---US$510.00 plus US$ 25.00 per member
Garbage Deposit for all 33 NMA peaks--- US$ 250.00 per permit

2)Previous Roylalty Rate of NMA Peaks

Group "A"Started from BS 2059-05-1 (Decision of Ministry level)

S.No.	Name of Peaks
1	Mt. Cholatse
2	Mt. Machermo
3	Kyazo Ri
4	Mt. Nirekha
5	Mt. Langsisa Ri
6	Mt. Ombigaichen
7	Mt. Bokta
8	Mt. Chekigo
9	Mt. Phari Lapcha
10	Mt. Lobuje West
11	Mt. Larkya Peak
12	Mt. ABI
13	Mt. Yubra Himal
14	Mt. Yala
15	Mt. Chhukung Ri

Fee Structure for Group"A"

1-7 Members US$ 500+US$100 for each Garbage Deposit for all 33 NMA peaks---US$ 250.00 per

3)Amendment In Royalty Rate(As per notice publiced in Nepal Gazette on 12th Feb,2014)BS 2071

Group "B"Royalty for Foreign Climber per Person in US$

S.No.	Peak Name	Spring season (March-May)	Autumn (June-August)	Winter (Sept.-Nov.)	Summer (Dec-Feb)
1	Hiunchuli	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
2	Singu Chuli (Flulted Peak)	US$ 400.00	US$ 200.00	US$ 100.00	US$ 100 .00
3	Mera Peak	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
4	Kusum Kangru	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
5	Kwangde	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
6	Chulu West	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
7	Chulu East	US$ 400.00	US$ 200.00	US$ 100.00	US$ 100.00
8	Imja Tse (Island Peak)	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
9	Pharchamo	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
10	Lobuje	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
11	Ramdung	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
12	Pisang	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
13	Tharpu chuli(Tent Peak)	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
14	Kongma Tse (Mehara Peak)	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
15	Ganja-la Chuli (Naya Kanga)	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
16	Pokhalde	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
17	Mardi Himal	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
18	Paldor Peak		US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00

Group "B"Royalty for Nepali Climber per Person in RS

Spring season (March-May)	Autumn (June-August)	Winter (Sept.-Nov.)	Summer (Dec-Feb)
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs. 1000.00	Rs 1000.00
Rs.5000.00	Rs.2500.00	Rs.1250.00	Rs.1250.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.5000.00	Rs.2500.00	Rs.1250.00	Rs.1250.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00

Amendment In Royalty Rate(As per notice publiced in Nepal Gazette on 12th Feb,2014)

Group "A"Royalty for Foreign Climber per Person in US$

S.No.	Name of Peaks	Spring season (March-May)	Autumn (June-August)	Winter (Sept.-Nov.)	Summer (Dec-Feb)
1	Mt. Cholatse	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
2	Mt. Machermo	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
3	Kyazo Ri	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
4	Mt. Nirekha	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
5	Mt. Langsisa Ri	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
6	Mt. Ombigaichen	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
7	Mt. Bokta	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
8	Mt. Chekigo	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
9	Mt. Phari Lapcha	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
10	Mt. Lobuje West	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
11	Mt. Larkya Peak	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
12	Mt. ABI	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
13	Mt. Yubra Himal	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
14	Mt. Yala	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00
15	Mt. Chhukung Ri	US$ 250.00	US$ 125.00	US$ 70.00	US$ 70.00

Group "A"Royalty for Nepali Climber per Person in RS

Spring season (March-May)	Autumn (June-August)	Winter (Sept.-Nov.)	Summer (Dec-Feb)
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00
Rs.4000.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs.1000.00	Rs.1000.00

Garbage Deposit to acquire climbing permit will be the same US$ 500.00 from 2014

Royalty Free (Trekking Peaks)Started from 2014

S.No.	Name of Peak	Height
1	Tharpu Chuli(Tent Peak)	5695
2	Mardi Himal	5553
3	Yala Peak	5732
4	Chhukkung-Ri	5833
5	Machhermo	5559
6	Pokhalde	5780

Book Holder System of NMA

As a national alpine association, Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) registers and issues cards to personnel who are involved in the mountaineering profession. The registration system began in B.S. 2033 and it is called Book Holder System.

It has five categories and has issued 11,271 books so far. In the five categories, there are Support Climbers (Black Book) 5615, Senior Support Climber (Blue Book) 2609, Sardar (Red Book) 2020, Kitchen boy 722, and Cook 305.

There are provisions for upgrading the book holders' status also. Generally, all types of book holders will get one step upgrade after completing three years in each category. If the book holders and others want to be in any position they can be by abating training given by NMA.

After completing Basic Mountaineering Training, they will get directly Senior Support Climber (Blue Book) and after advanced Mountaineering Training the person will get Sardar (Red Book) without prior experience as a book holder. And based on this category, Department of Tourism also issue climbing permits for Support Climber (SC), Senior Support Climber(SSC), and Sardar.

Here is the time to time changes in the book membership fee in the table below:

Started from BS 2033			Rate Changed - 2054/55		Rate Change - 2075-4-1	
Particular	Registration Rate	Renewal Rate	Regstd.Rate	Renewal Rate	Regstd.Rate	Renewal Rate
Support Climber(SC)	25.00	25.00	150.00	75.00	500.00	200.00
Senior Support Climber(SSC)	35.00	25.00	200.00	100.00	500.00	200.00
Sardar(S)	38.00	25.00	200.00	100.00	500.00	300.00
Kitchen Boy(KB)	25.00	25.00	150.00	75.00	500.00	200.00
Cook (C)	38.00	25.00	200.00	100.00	500.00	300.00

*All amounts are in Nepali rupees.



NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Detail of Peak for the Last 2 F/Y Years (From 2065/66 to 2066/67)2008-2010

Group 'A' Peaks (15 Peaks)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2065/66 (2008/2009)			2066/67 (2009/2010)			% Change (Bitween.2065/66 & 066/67)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Cholatse	9	28	348,655.00	13	49	485,940.00	44%	75%	39%
2	Machhermo	0	0	-	0	0	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Kyazo-RI	12	59	485,205.00	9	31	333,325.00	-25%	-47%	-31%
4	Phari Lapcha	3	7	118,975.00	1	7	37,865.00	-67%	0%	-68%
5	Nirekha	9	30	352,970.00	3	9	112,085.00	-67%	-70%	-68%
6	Langsisa-RI	5	22	212,145.00	2	20	119,232.00	-60%	-9%	-44%
7	Ombigaichen	0	0	-	2	7	74,090.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	Bokta	0	0	-	2	16	88,270.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	Chekigo	1	3	38,400.00	3	6	114,095.00	200%	100%	197%
10	Lobuche West	0	0	-	1	3	36,975.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	Larkya	6	19	232,100.00	4	16	157,640.00	-33%	-16%	-32%
12	ABI	1	2	38,925.00	2	10	70,950.00	100%	400%	82%
13	Yubra Himal	3	5	114,925.00	1	3	37,195.00	-67%	-40%	-68%
14	Chhukung Ri	1	10	60,288.00	0	0	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
15	Yala	23	115	1,006,955.00	30	98	1,127,839.00	30%	-15%	12%
	Total	**73**	**300**	**3,009,543.00**	**73**	**275**	**2,795,501.00**	0%	-8%	-7%

Group 'B' Peaks (18 Peaks)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2065/66 (2008/2009)			2066/67 (2009/2010)			% Change (Bitween.065/66 & 066/67)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Hiunchuli	2	5	53,497.50	3	13	93,271.00	50%	160%	74%
2	Singuchuli	14	31	379,407.00	6	20	162,133.70	-57%	-35%	-57%
3	Mera	244	1236	7,944,911.85	249	1315	7,844,724.39	2%	6%	-1%
4	Kusum Kanguru	2	6	54,005.00	5	12	133,263.60	150%	100%	147%
5	Kwangde	3	11	86,184.00	5	12	131,539.00	67%	9%	53%
6	Chulu West	22	79	622,855.50	27	94	733,193.85	23%	19%	18%
7	Chulu East	45	173	1,347,463.50	45	160	1,271,925.35	0%	-8%	-6%
8	Island	527	2522	16,756,501.55	532	2775	16,623,297.64	1%	10%	-1%
9	Pharchamo	73	346	2,287,780.40	65	282	1,922,745.90	-11%	-18%	-16%
10	Lobuje	85	417	2,726,475.90	101	474	3,036,667.05	19%	14%	11%
11	Ramdung	14	59	413,873.00	12	61	382,938.00	-14%	3%	-7%
12	Pisang	37	116	1,069,694.50	38	105	1,030,364.40	3%	-9%	-4%
13	Tharpu Chuli	18	49	495,275.50	26	95	739,800.00	44%	94%	49%
14	Khontma Tse	3	13	93,667.00	1	4	25,781.00	-67%	-69%	-72%
15	Ganjala Chuli	20	56	557,936.70	24	90	674,200.90	20%	61%	21%
16	Pokhalde	20	117	665,441.10	19	165	726,177.15	-5%	41%	9%
17	Mardi Himal	5	24	159,818.50	5	25	152,869.00	0%	4%	-4%
18	Paldor	3	16	97,269.50	5	19	139,172.00	67%	19%	43%
	Total	**1137**	**5276**	**35,812,058.00**	**1168**	**5721**	**35,824,063.93**	3%	8%	0%
	Grand Total	**1210**	**5576**	**38,821,601.00**	**1241**	**5996**	**38,619,564.93**	3%	8%	-1%

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Detail of Peak for the Last 2 F/Y Years (From 2067/68 to 2068/69)2010-2012

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2067/68 (2010/2011)			2068/69 (2011/2012)			% Change (Bitween.067/68 & 068/69)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Cholatse	5	13	177,200.00	9	30	352,851.00	80%	131%	99%
2	Machhermo	0	0	-	0	0	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Kyazo-RI	14	56	540,293.00	20	73	799,795.00	43%	30%	48%
4	Phari Lapcha	4	11	142,255.00	2	13	78,411.00	-50%	18%	-45%
5	Nirekha	2	5	73,925.00	4	21	164,664.00	100%	320%	123%
6	Langsisa-RI	5	10	179,710.00	4	15	156,823.00	-20%	50%	-13%
7	Ombigaichen	0	0	-	1	3	39,206.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	Bokta	2	6	70,770.00	1	1	39,206.00	-50%	-83%	-45%
9	Chekigo	0	0	-	1	2	39,206.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	Lobuche West	1	6	35,425.00	3	10	117,617.00	200%	67%	232%
11	Larkya	20	94	716,580.00	14	68	603,767.00	-30%	-28%	-16%
12	ABI	1	1	35,890.00	0	0	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
13	Yubra Himal	1	1	37,245.00	2	8	78,411.00	100%	700%	111%
14	Chhukung Ri	0	0	-	3	20	117,617.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Yala	30	129	1,165,475.00	42	161	1,685,843.00	40%	25%	45%
	Total	85	332	3,174,768.00	106	425	4,273,417.00	25%	28%	35%

Group 'B' Peaks (18 Peaks)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2067/68 (2010/2011)			2068/69 (2011/2012)			% Change (Bitween.067/68 & 068/69)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Hiunchuli	2	10	56,043.00	2	7	54,888.00	0%	-30%	-2%
2	Singuchuli	11	24	290,221.50	10	41	305,804.00	-9%	71%	5%
3	Mera	261	1452	8,095,748.20	276	1405	9,043,176.00	6%	-3%	12%
4	Kusum Kanguru	5	21	142,985.85	4	8	109,776.00	-20%	-62%	-23%
5	Kwangde	9	18	223,359.50	5	10	137,220.00	-44%	-44%	-39%
6	Chulu West	23	102	677,830.20	32	109	933,487.00	39%	7%	38%
7	Chulu East	41	186	1,187,938.25	46	193	1,442,768.00	12%	4%	21%
8	Island	575	3003	17,085,854.24	567	2910	18,607,790.00	-1%	-3%	9%
9	Pharchamo	57	255	1,639,002.25	73	313	2,300,588.00	28%	23%	40%
10	Lobuje	111	561	3,295,342.40	126	615	4,089,149.00	14%	10%	24%
11	Ramdung	8	50	254,938.60	16	72	508,889.00	100%	44%	100%
12	Pisang	34	109	881,721.05	22	87	666,496.00	-35%	-20%	-24%
13	Tharpu Chuli	25	78	656,916.10	25	92	761,766.00	0%	18%	16%
14	Khontma Tse	1	1	24,720.00	1	9	41,950.00	0%	800%	70%
15	Ganjala Chuli	22	78	593,823.25	27	91	803,716.00	23%	17%	35%
16	Pokhalde	15	105	505,641.00	17	89	572,795.00	13%	-15%	13%
17	Mardi Himal	4	8	102,321.00	4	14	122,322.00	0%	75%	20%
18	Paldor	6	34	207,778.00	4	8	109,776.00	-33%	-76%	-47%
	Total	1210	6095	35,922,184.39	1257	6073	40,612,356.00	4%	0%	13%
	Grand Total	1295	6427	39,096,952.39	1363	6498	44,885,773.00	5%	1%	15%

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Detail of Peak for the Last 2 F/Y Years (From 2069/70 to 2070/71)2012-2014

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2069/70 (2012/2013)			2070/71 (2013/2014)			% Change (Bitween. 069/70 & 070/71)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Cholatse	5	14	213,807.50	9	23	4,500.00	0.80	0.64	-0.98
2	Machhermo	1	4	42,761.50	1	2	500.00	0.00	-0.50	-0.99
3	Kyazo-Ri	9	33	384,853.00	12	36	6,200.00	0.33	0.09	-0.98
4	Phari Lapcha	0	0	-	0	0	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Nirekha	6	17	256,569.00	3	8	1,500.00	-0.50	-0.53	-0.99
6	Langsisa-Ri	7	20	299,330.25	5	11	2,500.00	-0.29	-0.45	-0.99
7	Ombigaichen	0	0	-	0	0	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	Bokta	5	21	213,807.50	3	10	1,500.00	-0.40	-0.52	-0.99
9	Chekigo	1	3	42,761.50	0	0	-	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
10	Lobuche West	2	7	85,523.00	1	8	600.00	-0.50	0.14	-0.99
11	Larkya	17	82	778,259.00	23	114	12,400.00	0.35	0.39	-0.98
12	ABI	1	9	59,866.00	1	9	700.00	0.00	0.00	-0.99
13	Yubra Himal	0	0	-	4	15	2,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	Chhukung Ri	2	12	102,628.00	2	15	1,100.00	0.00	0.25	-0.99
15	Yala	44	178	2,078,209.00	51	214	27,500.00	0.16	0.20	-0.99
	Total	100	400	4,558,375.25	115	465	61,000.00	0.15	0.16	-0.99

Group 'B' Peaks (18 Peaks)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2069/70 (2012/2013)			2070/71 (2013/2014)			% Change (Bitween. 069/70 & 070/71)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (Rs.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Hiunchuli	0	0	-	1	1	350.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Singuchuli	8	20	239,464.00	7	11	2,450.00	-0.13	-0.45	-0.989769
3	Mera	294	1549	10,691,290.00	264	1373	110,970.00	-0.10	-0.11	-0.989621
4	Kusum Kanguru	5	9	149,665.00	2	5	700.00	-0.60	-0.44	-0.995323
5	Kwangde	1	2	29,933.00	2	10	885.00	1.00	4.00	-0.970434
6	Chulu West	26	70	805,627.00	25	62	9,055.00	-0.04	-0.11	-0.98876
7	Chulu East	49	236	1,721,578.00	56	266	23,025.00	0.14	0.13	-0.986626
8	Island	557	3031	20,725,176.00	505	2688	213,935.00	-0.09	-0.11	-0.989678
9	Pharchamo	44	202	1,514,612.00	45	190	17,590.00	0.02	-0.06	-0.988386
10	Lobuje	124	576	4,326,180.00	118	596	49,380.00	-0.05	0.03	-0.988586
11	Ramdung	13	48	435,740.00	14	70	5,800.00	0.08	0.46	-0.986689
12	Pisang	23	80	765,003.00	29	90	11,060.00	0.26	0.13	-0.985543
13	Tharpu Chuli	21	93	709,413.00	27	88	10,005.00	0.29	-0.05	-0.985897
14	Khontma Tse	2	12	73,550.00	2	7	700.00	0.00	-0.42	-0.990483
15	Ganjala Chuli	22	87	732,932.00	20	61	7,240.00	-0.09	-0.30	-0.990122
16	Pokhalde	23	135	864,210.00	22	128	9,710.00	-0.04	-0.05	-0.988764
17	Mardi Himal	4	20	141,968.00	4	7	1,400.00	0.00	-0.65	-0.990139
18	Paldor	5	13	149,665.00	6	35	2,595.00	0.20	1.69	-0.982661
	Total	1221	6183	44,076,006.00	1149	5688	476,850.00	-0.06	-0.08	-0.989181
	Grand Total	1321	6583	48,634,381.25	1264	6153	537,850.00	-0.04	-0.07	-0.988941

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Detail of Peak for the Last 2 F/Y Years (From 2071/72 to 2072/73)2014-2016

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2071/72 (2014/2015)			2072/73 (2015/2016)			% Change (Bitween.071/72 & 072/73)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Cholatse	8	25	4,000.00	3	6	750.00	-63%	-76%	-81%
2	Machhermo	2	8	1,000.00	Royalty Free					
3	Kyazo-RI	14	60	7,800.00	7	22	2,765.00	-50%	-63%	-65%
4	Phari Lapcha	0	0	-	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Nirekha	7	24	3,500.00	1	6	1,500.00	-86%	-75%	-57%
6	Langsisa-RI	6	19	3,000.00	1	11	770.00	-83%	-42%	-74%
7	Ombigaichen	1	2	500.00	2	6	1,250.00	100%	200%	150%
8	Bokta	3	10	1,500.00	1	2	250.00	-67%	-80%	-83%
9	Chekigo	3	14	1,500.00	0	0	0	-100%	-100%	-100%
10	Lobuche West	1	3	500.00	6	22	4,750.00	500%	633%	850%
11	Larkya	28	131	14,500.00	6	37	9,250.00	-79%	-72%	-36%
12	ABI	3	18	1,600.00	2	6	750.00	-33%	-67%	-53%
13	Yubra Himal	4	14	2,000.00	2	4	750.00	-50%	-71%	-63%
14	Chhukung Ri	1	8	600.00	Royalty Free					
15	Yala	21	91	11,000.00	Royalty Free					
	Total	102	427	53,000.00	31	122	22,785.00	-70%	-71%	-57%

Group 'B' Peaks (18 Peaks)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2071/72 (2014/2015)			2072/73 (2015/2016)			% Change (Bitween.071/72 & 072/73)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Hiunchuli	1	4	350.00	0	0	0	-100%	-100%	-100%
2	Singuchuli	5	8	1,750.00	3	4	900.00	-40%	-50%	-49%
3	Mera	247	1318	104,155.00	156	636	111,140.00	-37%	-52%	7%
4	Kusum Kanguru	3	11	1,130.00	1	1	250.00	-67%	-91%	-78%
5	Kwangde	3	7	1,050.00	2	15	1,765.00	-33%	114%	68%
6	Chulu West	30	103	11,515.00	18	46	8,490.00	-40%	-55%	-26%
7	Chulu East	44	156	16,835.00	15	46	12,700.00	-66%	-71%	-25%
8	Island	481	2716	207,830.00	291	1129	206,735.00	-40%	-58%	-1%
9	Pharchamo	51	193	19,660.00	14	51	8,425.00	-73%	-74%	-57%
10	Lobuje	140	680	57,180.00	93	379	75,185.00	-34%	-44%	31%
11	Ramdung	16	68	6,420.00	2	3	375.00	-88%	-96%	-94%
12	Pisang	25	104	9,950.00	12	43	7,865.00	-52%	-59%	-21%
13	Tharpu Chuli	14	52	5,495.00	Royalty Free					
14	Khontma Tse	1	3	350.00	0	0	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
15	Ganjala Chuli	32	115	12,075.00	12	29	6,280.00	-63%	-75%	-48%
16	Pokhalde	11	80	5,150.00	Royalty Free					
17	Mardi Himal	0	0	-	Royalty Free					
18	Paldor	5	14	1,750.00	1	2	250.00	-80%	-86%	-86%
	Total	1109	5632	462,645.00	620	2384	440,360.00	-44%	-58%	-5%
	Grand Total	1211	6059	515,645.00	651	2506	463,145.00	-46%	-59%	-10%

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Detail of Peak for the Last 2 F/Y Years (From 2073/74 to 2074/75)2016-2018

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2073/74 (2016/2017)			2074/75 (2017/2018)			% Change (Bitween.073/74 & 074/75)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climbrer	Amount(US$)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Cholatse	10	47	6,820.00	13	38	5,000.00	30%	-19%	-27%
2	Machhermo	Royalty Free								
3	Kyazo-RI	16	50	8,125.00	22	75	12,750.00	38%	50%	57%
4	Phari Lapcha	1	1	250.00	0	0	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
5	Nirekha	6	16	2,875.00	6	21	3,375.00	0%	31%	17%
6	Langsisa-RI	4	11	1,155.00	3	13	1,625.00	-25%	18%	41%
7	Ombigaichen	1	5	625.00	1	7	1,750.00	0%	40%	180%
8	Bokta	4	13	2,250.00	2	6	1,000.00	-50%	-54%	-56%
9	Chekigo	2	6	750.00	2	10	1,140.00	0%	67%	52%
10	Lobuche West	14	39	4,920.00	26	90	15,320.00	86%	131%	211%
11	Larkya	22	99	13,750.00	26	94	13,545.00	18%	-5%	-1%
12	ABI	3	9	1,125.00	4	13	1,875.00	33%	44%	67%
13	Yubra Himal	0	0	-	1	4	500.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	Chhukung Ri	Royalty Free								
15	Yala	Royalty Free								
	Total	83	296	42,645.00	106	371	57,880.00	28%	25%	36%

Group 'B' Peaks (18 Peaks)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2073/74 (2016/2017)			2074/75 (2017/2018)			% Change (Bitween.073/74 & 074/75)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Hiunchuli	4	6	695.00	1	1	125.00	-75%	-83%	-82%
2	Singuchuli	4	19	4,200.00	8	30	10,000.00	100%	58%	138%
3	Mera	279	1199	185,925.00	347	1502	240,158.00	24%	25%	29%
4	Kusum Kanguru	2	2	250.00	1	1	125.00	-50%	-50%	-50%
5	Kwangde	3	7	875.00	2	5	890.00	-33%	-29%	2%
6	Chulu West	33	90	14,500.00	33	90	14,210.00	0%	0%	-2%
7	Chulu East	34	81	19,300.00	46	106	25,712.00	35%	31%	33%
8	Island	501	2176	336,720.00	685	2817	472,897.00	37%	29%	40%
9	Pharchamo	31	95	13,320.00	40	153	24,144.00	29%	61%	81%
10	Lobuje	163	721	113,640.00	186	706	128,992.00	14%	-2%	14%
11	Ramdung	9	38	4,585.00	9	45	4,495.00	0%	18%	-2%
12	Pisang	18	55	9,765.00	23	43	7,375.00	28%	-22%	-24%
13	Tharpu Chuli	Royalty Free								
14	Khontma Tse	2	7	490.00	0	0	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
15	Ganjala Chuli	4	16	2,000.00	20	59	10,820.00	400%	269%	441%
16	Pokhalde	Royalty Free								
17	Mardi Himal	Royalty Free								
18	Paldor	5	14	2,625.00	0	0	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
	Total	1092	4526	708,890.00	1401	5558	939,943.00	28%	23%	33%
	Grand Total	1175	4822	751,535.00	1507	5929	997,823.00	28%	23%	33%

NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

Detail of Peak for the Last 2 F/Y Years (From 2075/76 to 2076/77)2018-2019

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2075/76(2018/2019)			2076/77(2019/2020)			% Change (Bitweenn. 075/76 & 076/77)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Cholatse	14	47	5,768.00	10	37	4,517.00	-29%	-21%	-22%
2	Machhermo	Royalty free								
3	Kyazo-Ri	17	43	5,890.00	9	38	4,632.00	-47%	-12%	-21%
4	Phari Lapcha	1	1	125.00	-	-	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
5	Nirekha	7	21	3,375.00	6	20	3,695.00	-14%	-5%	9%
6	Langsisa-Ri	3	15	2,125.00	2	9	1,125.00	-33%	-40%	-47%
7	Ombigaichen	2	2	375.00	-	-	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
8	Bokta	2	6	1,000.00	1	2	500.00	-50%	-67%	-50%
9	Chekigo	0	0	-	-	-	-	N.A	N/A	N/A
10	Lobuche West	21	80	16,390.00	8	56	7,000.00	-62%	-30%	-57%
11	Larkya	20	60	8,911.00	12	43	5,375.00	-40%	-28%	-40%
12	ABI	1	12	1,500.00	1	12	1,500.00	0%	0%	0%
13	Yubra Himal	1	11	1,375.00	-	-	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
14	Chhukung Ri	Royalty free								
15	Yala	Royalty free								
	Total	89	298	46,834.00	49	217	28,344.00	-45%	-27%	-39%

Group 'B' Peaks (18 Peaks)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	2075/76(2018/2019)			2076/77(2019/2020)			% Change (Bitween. 075/76 & 076/77)		
	Peak	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount (US$.)	Permit	Climber	Amount
1	Hiunchuli	0	0	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Singuchuli	8	14	3,423.00	2	2	400.00	-75%	-86%	-88%
3	Mera	442	1792	295,146.00	269	1,183	148,109.00	-39%	-34%	-50%
4	Kusum Kanguru	1	2	500.00	1	2	250.00	0%	0%	-50%
5	Kwangde	3	7	1,250.00	1	2	250.00	-67%	-71%	-80%
6	Chulu West	34	105	16,917.00	19	43	5,257.00	-44%	-59%	-69%
7	Chulu East	30	111	23,283.00	41	105	21,000.00	37%	-5%	-10%
8	Island	707	2921	484,984.00	425	1,575	194,313.00	-40%	-46%	-60%
9	Pharchamo	38	127	16,420.00	28	115	13,837.00	-26%	-9%	-16%
10	Lobuje	241	899	157,130.00	136	444	55,595.00	-44%	-51%	-65%
11	Ramdung	5	27	3,232.00	2	6	750.00	-60%	-78%	-77%
12	Pisang	22	40	6,057.00	8	13	1,945.00	-64%	-68%	-68%
13	Tharpu Chuli	Royalty free								
14	Khontma Tse	0	0	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Ganjala Chuli	13	33	6,140.00	8	39	5,070.00	-38%	18%	-17%
16	Pokhalde	Royalty free								
17	Mardi Himal	Royalty free								
18	Paldor	4	10	1,500.00	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	1548	6088	1,015,982.00	940	3529	446,776.00	-39%	-42%	-56%
	Grand Total	1637	6386	1,062,816.00	989	3,746	475,120.00	-40%	-41%	-55%

Ang Rita Sherpa

Ten Times Mt. Everest Summiteer without the supplemental oxygen



The whole world of mountaineering within Nepal and outside Nepal was utterly shocked and saddened when the veteran alpinist Ang Rita Sherpa died in Kathmandu on September 21, 2020, at the age of 72.

Ang Rita had earned his name and fame for climbing the highest mountain peak of the world, Mt Everest ten times without the supplemental oxygen, a world record to his name which remains unbroken even after his death.

He had also earned the reputation of being nicknamed "Snow leopard" for his agility in the mountains. The world was entirely immersed in agony for bearing the irreparable loss of a climber who had exposed the name of Nepal abroad. The Nepal government honored Ang Rita with several awards, most notably the Order of Tri Shakti Patta First Class in 1990.

Ang Rita was born on July 27, 1948, in a tiny village called Yillajung in the Khumbu region. He had started his career as a porter in trekking after which he mustered up his inborn courage to conquer the highest mountain of the world.

The Prime Minister of Nepal KP Oli tweeted that he was very much saddened by the death of veteran climber Ang Rita and prayed for the bereaved family to bear this unbearable loss at this hour of tragedy.

His death was mourned by not only the people of the mountaineering sector as former Minister for tourism Yogesh Bhattarai personally attended the funeral ceremony of Ang Rita and covered his body with the national flag as an honor to a legendary hero of the nation.

The chairperson of the Nepal Mountaineering Association Santa Bir Lama also expressed that Ang Rita deserved a national honor for his distinguished feat for he was a national hero. That's why the Nepal government was called upon to confer a national honor to Ang Rita on his demise. And the government complied with the request of the NMA and the cabinet decided to give national honor to the deceased Ang Rita.



NMA in recognition of Ang Rita's remarkable feat in the mountaineering sector had appointed him as a Training Director and a Field Director and retired at the age of 58.

Lama also divulged that the NMA had taken care of all medication of the aging Ang Rita until his last days. He was also very patriotic in his attitude. When India and other countries asked Ang Rita to come to settle in their countries, he had flatly denied their request and committed himself to stay back in Nepal even if he had to starve.

It is also said once he was approached by then Prince Dipendra Shah and kept abreast of King's message about seeking his royal audience for support. But Ang Rita seems to have replied that he did not require such support and he humbly refused to meet the King.

Ang Rita's death was mourned by the Guinness World Records by its remark, "Guinness World Records is saddened to learn that Ang Rita Sherpa, who held two Guinness World Record titles, has passed away. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family at this difficult time."

Nepal's reputed journalist and former editor of Kantipur daily Narayan Wagle paying tribute to Ang Rita wrote, "He was soft-spoken and normally did not speak much. When we asked questions

he answered in few words."

Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) in its condolence message for Ang Rita stated, "Very sad on the untimely demise of Ang Rita Sherpa, Guinness Record Breaker who conquered Mt. Everest 10 times without supplemental oxygen. Agile, tough & fondly referred to as "Snow Leopard", a man who knew his mountains well. Prayers, love & deepest condolences. Industry grieves today."

Similarly, another world record holder in mountaineering Kami Rita expressed his homage to Ang Rita by saying, "Ang Rita was a national hero but struggled financially. After Ang Rita stopped climbing in 1996 due to poor health, he struggled to manage his finances.

Kami Rita also blamed the government for being oblivious of the status of Ang Rita, He lamented, "He made the country proud. But the Nepal government knew nothing about his situation. Many Sherpas die for the nation but their contribution is barely recognized."

Ang Rita's career as a mountaineer includes successful expeditions of three other mountain peaks that are above 8000 meters. He had scaled Kangchenjunga (Nepal/India), the third highest mountain in the world elevated at 8,586m in 1986. He also climbed Mt. Cho Oyu, the sixth highest mountain (8,188m) four times between 1984 and 1995.

Lastly, he had also scaled Mt. Dhaulagiri I, the seventh highest mountain (8,167 m), four times between 1979 and 1982. All of these ascents were also achieved without the use of supplementary oxygen.



Ang Rita's world record for the first winter climb of Mt. Everest without supplementary oxygen was achieved on 22 December 1987 which no other climbed so far has broken.

The climbers and people associated with Nepal Mountaineering still believe that it was veteran Ang Rita, who earned an aura of respect and honor from everyone who ever encountered the mountaineering challenges.

His passion and enthusiasm for mountaineering have inspired and encouraged hundreds and thousands of other climbers to take the challenges of climbing difficult peaks in the world.

It is said very few climbers have ascended Mt Everest like Ang Rita without the use of supplementary oxygen. He was in reality was a real hero of Nepal and a legendary climber of mountains who will continue to be remembered by climbers across the world.



New York Times writes about Ang Rita; "Ang Rita Sherpa was born in 1948 in Yillajung, a tiny village near Thame in the Everest region of Nepal. His mother, Chhokki Sherpa, and his father, Aayala Sherpa, were farmers. Ang Rita never received a formal education. He learned the Nepali alphabet on his own and could barely write his name."

New York Times further writes, "Ang Rita spent his childhood days in the high pastures grazing yaks, growing potatoes and carrying commodities from nearby markets. He became a porter when he was 15 and quickly gained a reputation for his agility, ultimately earning the nickname Snow Leopard."

Former chairman of NMA Ang Tshering said in an interview that he once climbed Dhaulagiri with Ang Rita and that he found him to be the strongest Sherpa of his time. "He challenged science and human physiology," Tshering said.

It is said Ang Rita never saved money and never worried about his future. He lived a happy life and enjoyed his retirement days to the fullest. He was living in his home village until his wife, Nima Chokki, died several years ago. He then moved to Kathmandu to live with his daughter, Dolma.

He is survived by his two sons and one daughter. The demise of Ang Rita is an irreparable loss to the mountaineering sector. May God give enough fortitude to his bereaved family and may his soul rest in peace in heaven.

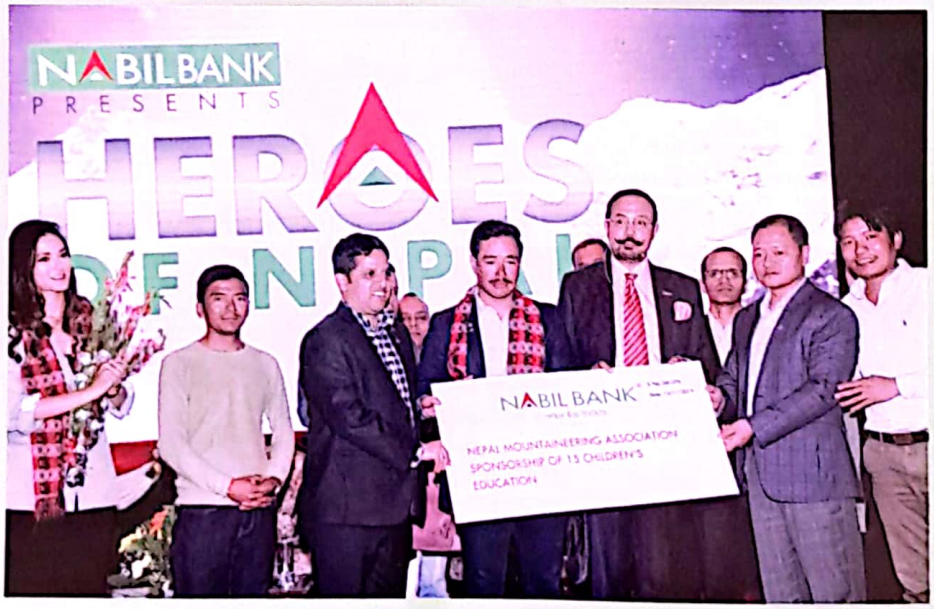
Importance of NMA Welfare Fund



Da Gelje Sherpa
Convener
Welfare Committee, NMA

I, myself have climbed Mt. Everest seven times and have been involved in the trekking and mountaineering profession for the past 40 years. Also, this is the end of my second term as a convener in the Welfare Committee of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA).

From all my experiences and what I gather from other mountaineers, I can say that mountaineering is a very challenging and risky job. Every mountaineer has to be prepared to face any consequence that may happen at any time during climbing including injuries to fatalities. Therefore, the NMA's welfare fund is important for those involved in mountaineering and their families.



The NMA Welfare Fund committee has been conducting various welfare The most important program is about providing education to the children of those mountaineers who died in mountains. Currently, about 300 children of dead mountaineers are supported for their education by mobilizing resources from individuals and organization, such as,the Himalayan Trust.Likewise, another important area of support of NMA Welfare Fund is about imparting skill-based training to the wives of climbers who died in the mountains due to accident. The areas of training, among others, include cooking, computer operating andsewing-knitting. Moreover, disability allowance has been provided to those who were maimed while climbing the mountain.

These welfare activities of NMA are very effective to support the needy people. So far,these are mainly funded by NMA's own source and with the help of some donors. However, with limited source of NMA and only some help of philanthropist have been felt insufficient to provide necessary support to all cases.

Although mountaineers are pride to the nation and great contributors to national tourism and economy, however, they do not appear to have received the respect they deserve and there has been less attention paid for the welfare of mountaineers and their family members. It is to be recognized that mountaineers begin their profession in the prime age and after they reach 40 years, it becomes almost impossible to continue mountaineering and at the same time one does not know other things. After that, his life becomes miserable.Due to this, the new generation is not attracted to this profession. This poses a threat to the future of Nepalese mountaineering industry.

Therefore, the government should respect of the mountaineersand make appropriate provisions about the welfare to make it attractive as well as sustain mountaineering in Nepal.

Finally, I served as the convener of the NMA's Welfare Committee for two terms with all my delight and sincerity. I believe, and wish my successor to take this task to a new height. Also, I would like to wish the families of the injured and the deceased mountaineers to get more facilities from this fund.

Special thanks to NMA's staffs and interns for their valuable contributions for Nepal Parbat Magazine publication. - Chief Editor



Nepal Mountaineering Association's
Goodwill Ambassador
2021 to 2022



Mr. Nirmal Purja Magar MBE

Mountaineer

Eight Thousanders in a record time of
6 months and 6 days

International Mountain Museum's
Goodwill Ambassador
2021-2022



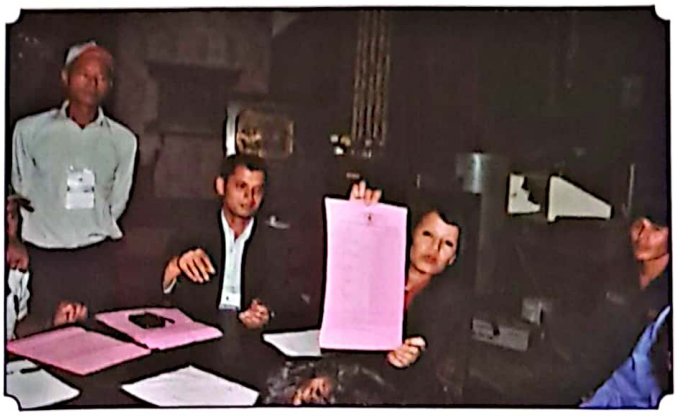
Ms. Mira Rai

Trail runner and Sky runner

National Geographic Adventurer of the Year–2017

NMA Election - 2017







NMA Official Handover Program



4th International Mountain Festival -2017 Press Meet





2nd Ice Climbing Photos in Humde, Manang









Press Conference of 3rd Ice climbing festival in Manang & Khumbu









Annapurna South - Korean Missing Climbers Rescued by NMA Team









5th Internitaonal Mountain Festival, IMM, Pokhara









6th International Mountain Festival - 2019









11th International Sagarmatha Day - 2018









15th International Mountain Museum Day Celebration







29th Annual General Assembly of NMA



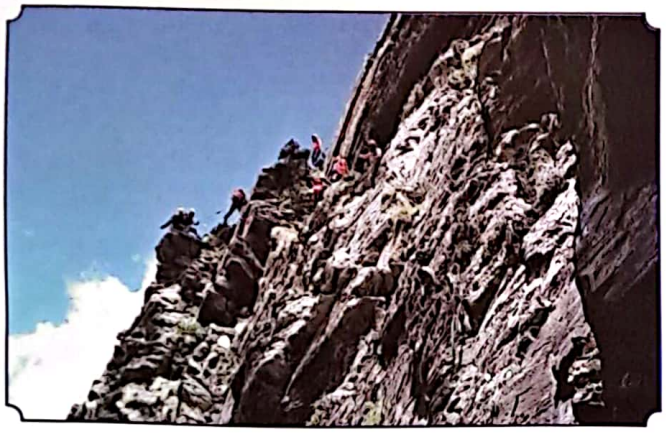




39th Basic Mountaineering Training in Manang









40th Basic Mountaineering Training in Manang









45th NMA Day - 2018









Angrita Sherpa "Snow Leopard" - Funeral and Cremetion

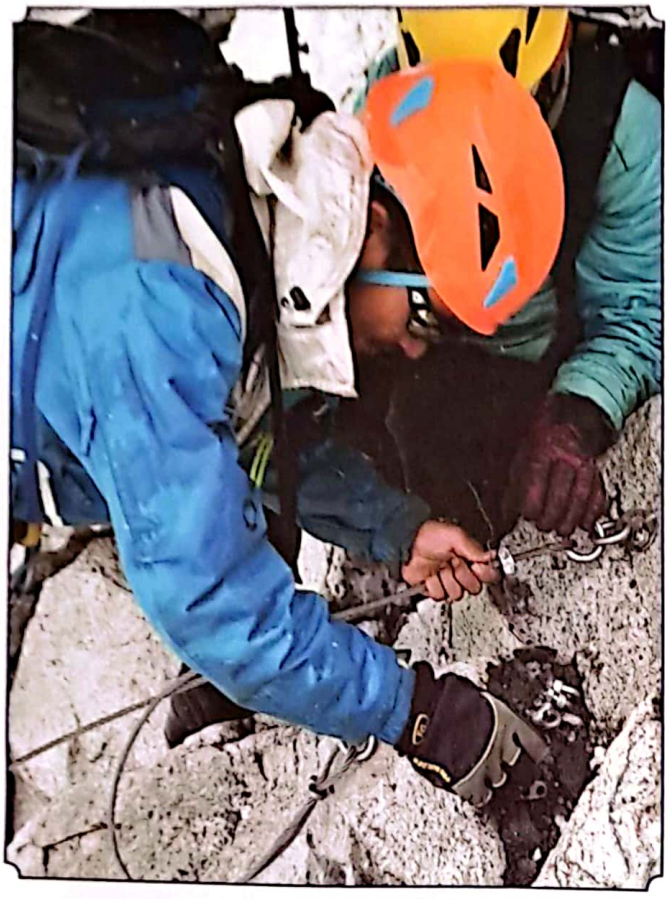


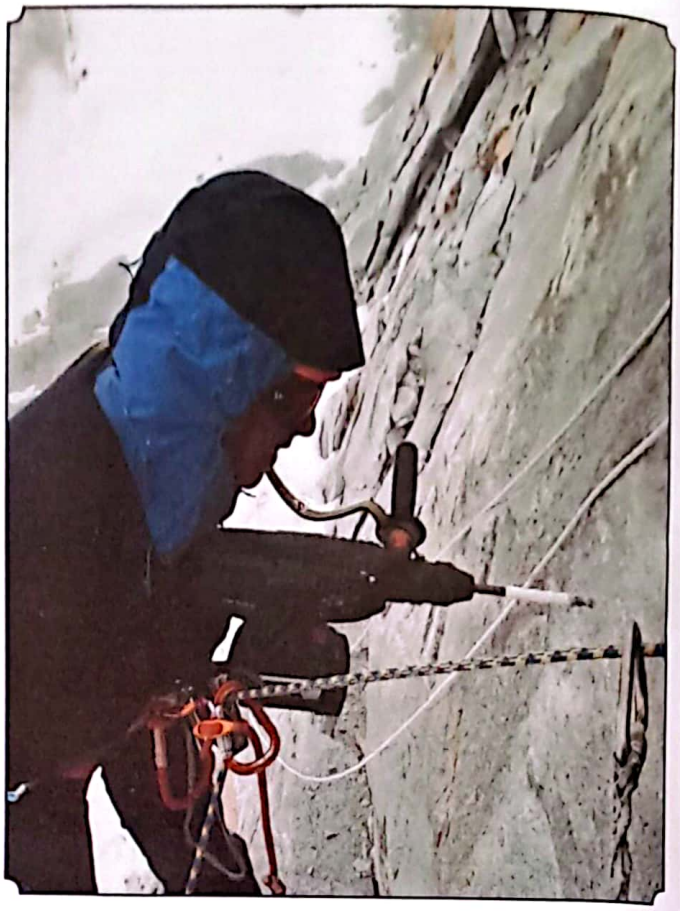






Chain Anchor fixing in Sherpanicole, Ama Laptsa and Tashi Laptsa





Congratulations program for NTB, HRA and TOURGAN









Congratulations to Ministers









Dhaulagiri Diamond Jublee Celebraation - 2020



IMTA - 2019





Everest Joint Cleaning Campaign - 2019









Heli Marshaling in Kakani



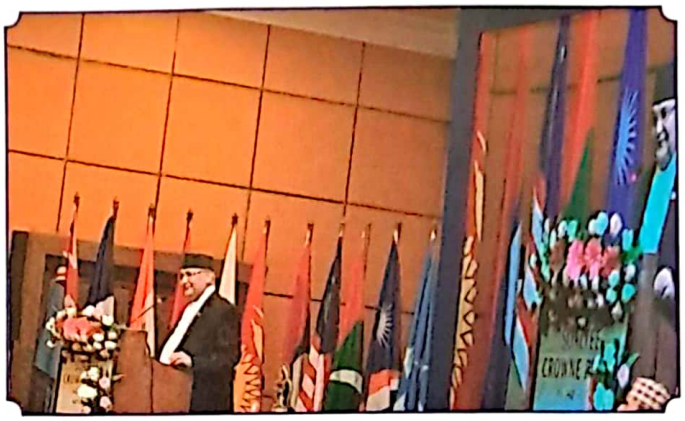






ICAO - Flag Handover Program



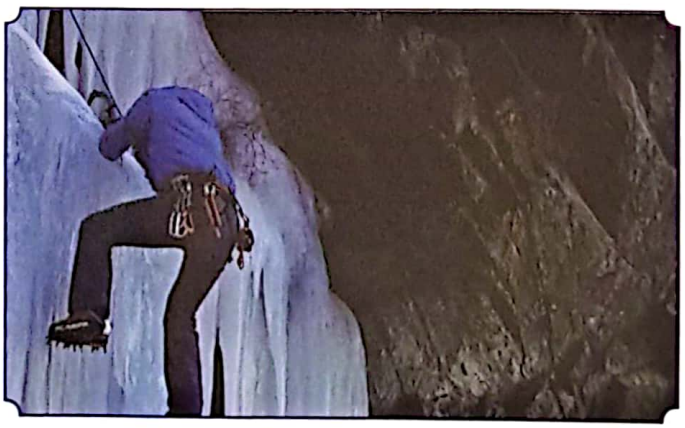






Ice Climbing Festival in Manang

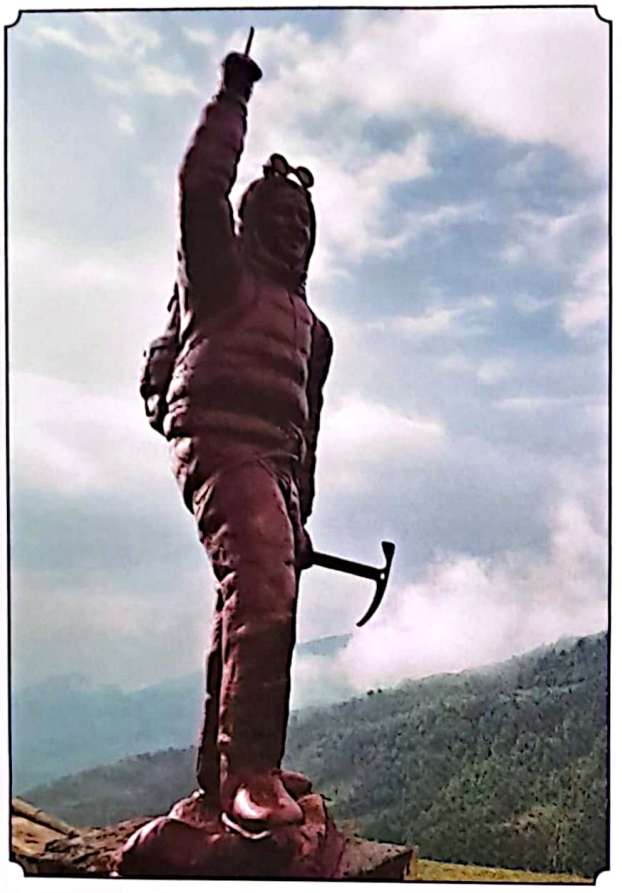








Mountaineer Iman Sing Gurung's Statue installation in Gorkha

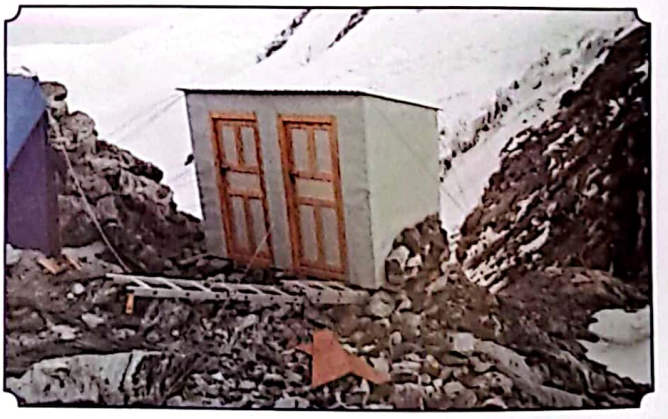






Toilet Built in Mera Peak high camp (5,800m)









47th NMA Day







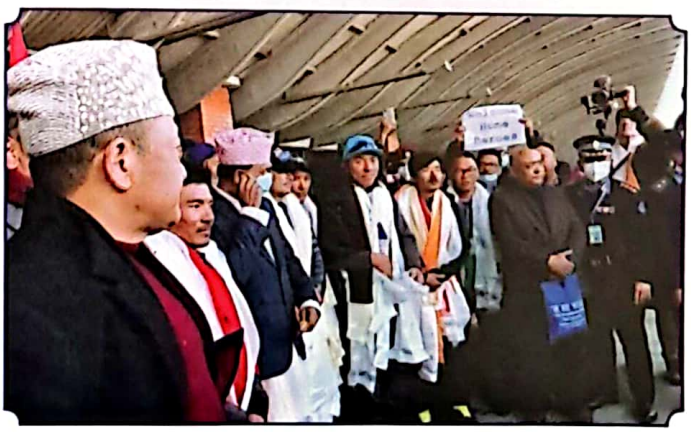


K2 summitteers felicitation program









Kanchanjunga Cleaning Campaign - 2019









Extra Ordinary General Meeting (12th, 20th & 24th July 2019)



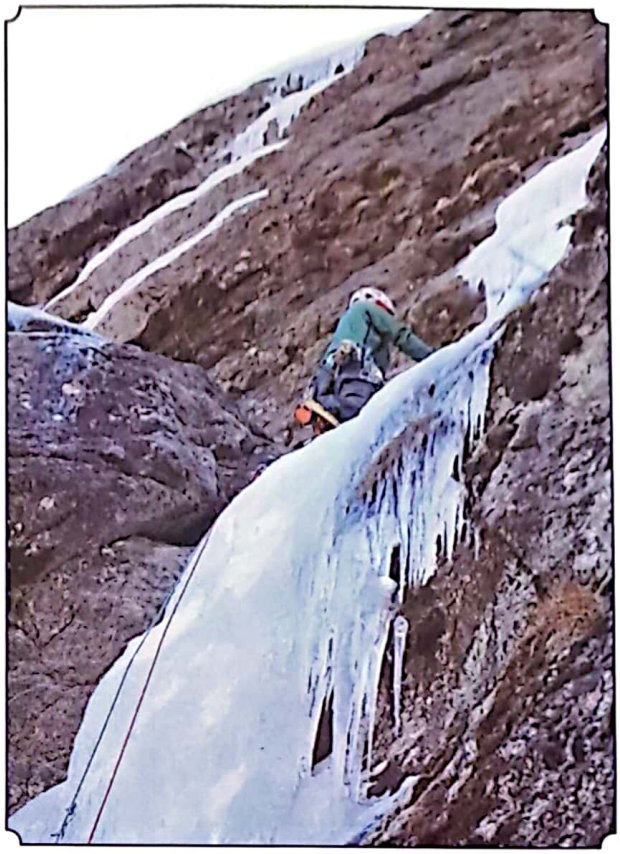






Ice Climbing Festival in Khumbu, Feb - 2021





Maurice Herzog Photos Handover Program in IMM - 2020









UAAA Sherpa of the Year

Mr. Mingma Gyabu Sherpa - 2019



Mr. Nirmal Purja Magar MBE-2020



Mountain Leader Training Component II - 2020









Nepal Cycling Festival - 2020









27th Annual General Assembly of NMA





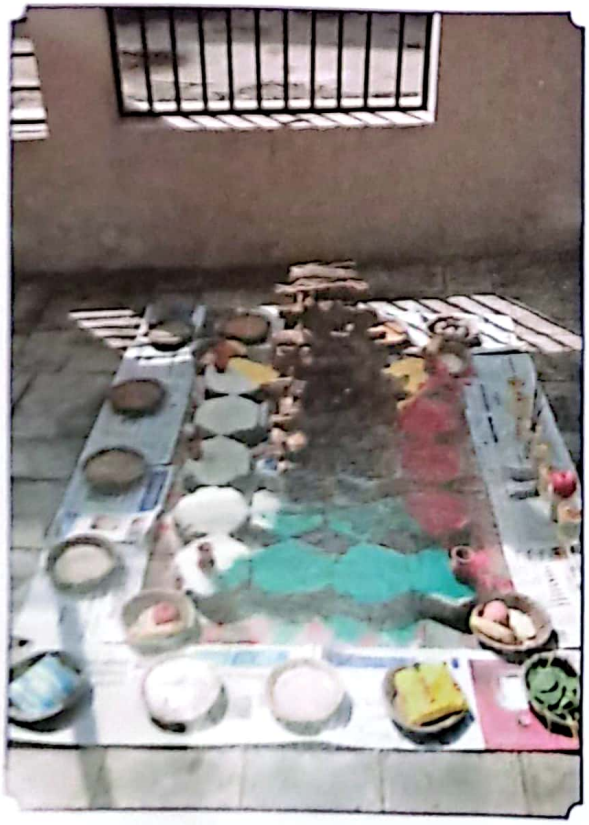


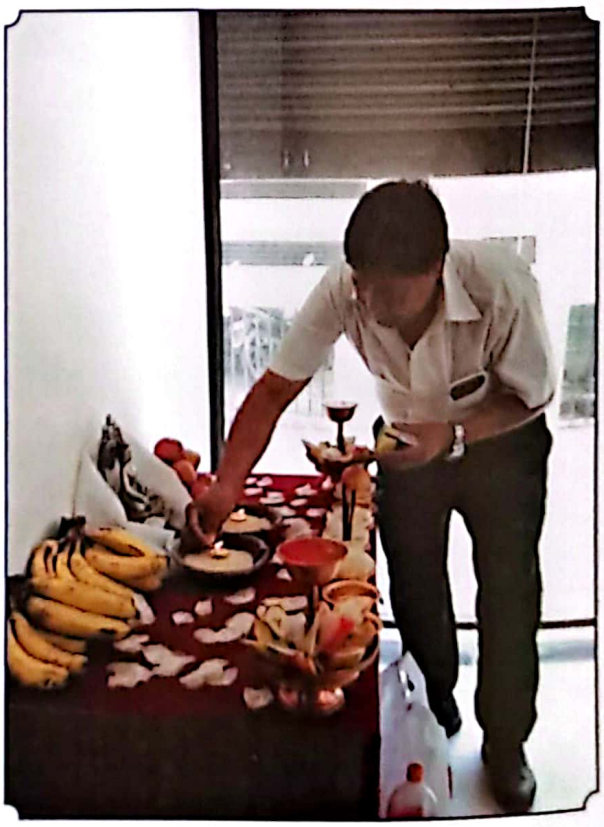


NMA Building Inaguration Program

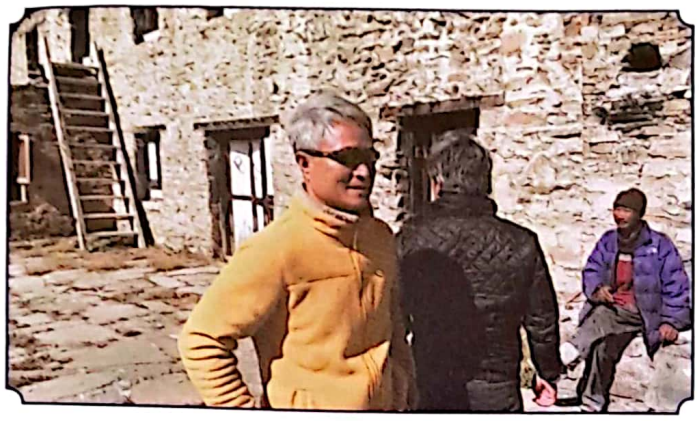








UHGHF - Manag School Survey Tour









Korean Group Welcome Program - 2017









28th Annual General Assembly of NMA

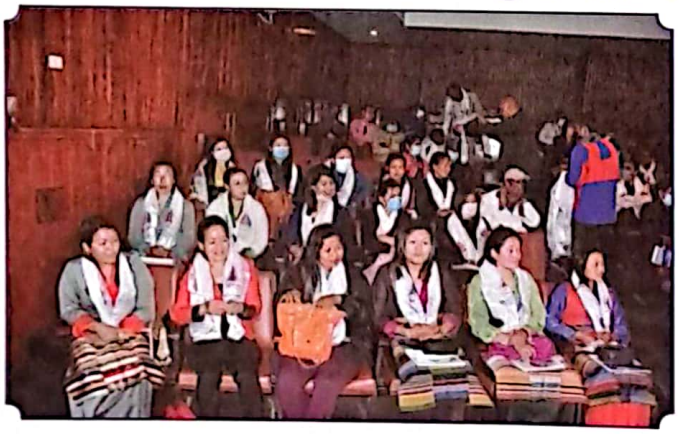








Interaction on opportunities and challenges for women climbers in the Mountaineering on the occasion of 111th Int'l women day









UAAA Paldor Peak Joint Expedition - 2019









World Environment Day - 2020 : Plantation in Kavre







Media Engagement









RECCO Training - 2020







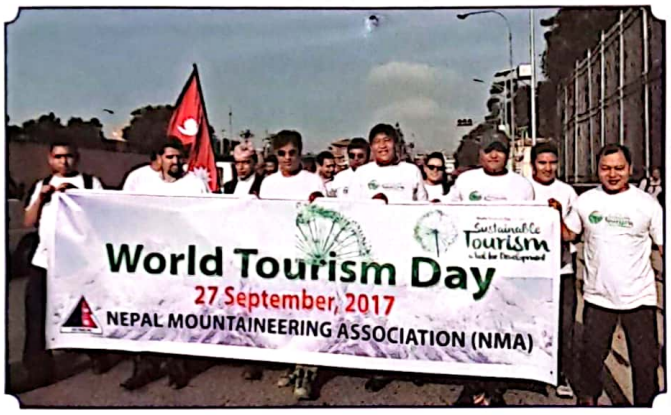


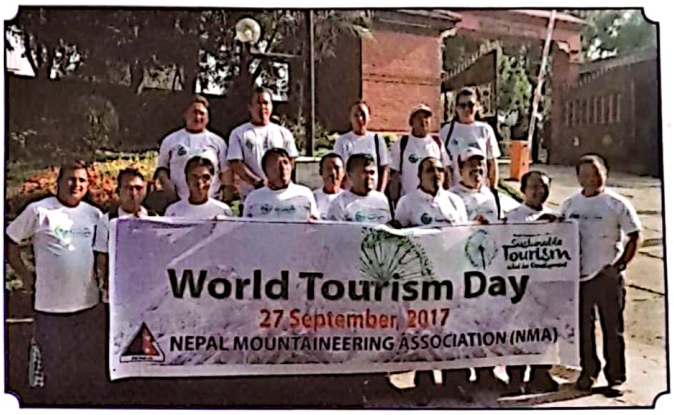
Sir Edmand Hillary Centennial





World Tourism Day - 2017





Smbidhan Diwas in Kathmandu









Felicitation of Newly Elected BM of TAAN, NATTA, NARA & PATA - 2020







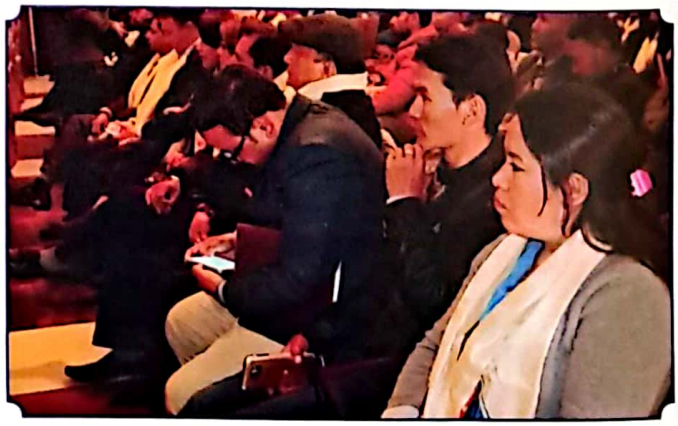


Felicitation of Newly Elected BM of TAAN, NARA, PATA & NMTS - 2017









UIAA - Mongolia - 2018









UAAA - General Assembly in Krygystan - 2019







3rd World Peace Pooja - 2019









Farewell to DG of DoT Mr. Dandu Raj Ghimire



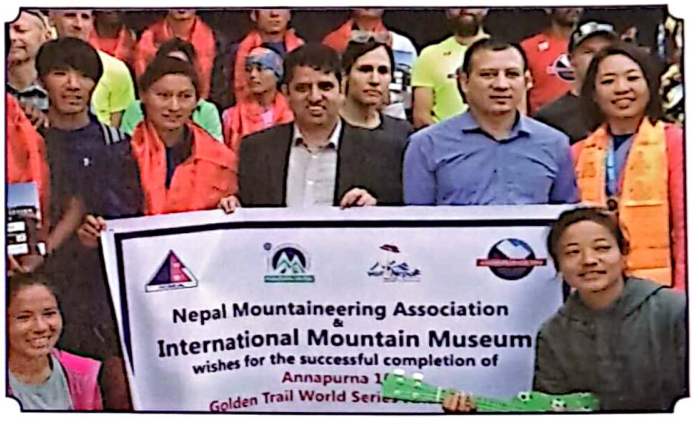
Welcome to DG of DoT Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang



Annapurna 100 golden trail world series - 2019







Felicitation Program for Royal Bahrain Team of Lobuche & Mt. Manaslu Expedition - 2020







Glimpses of other programs


Ms. Srijana Gauchan
IMM staff of the year 2017


Mr. Om Bahadur Thapa
IMM staff of the year 2018


Ms. Sarashowati Nepal
IMM staff of the year 2019


Ms. Bhawana Sharma
IMM staff of the year 2020


Ms. Maya Devi Sharma
IMM staff of the year 2021


Ms. Draupati Shrestha
Retired - 2019


Mr. Madhu Basnet
Retired - 2020


Mr. Meghraj Ghimire
Retired - 2020

Glimpses of other programs













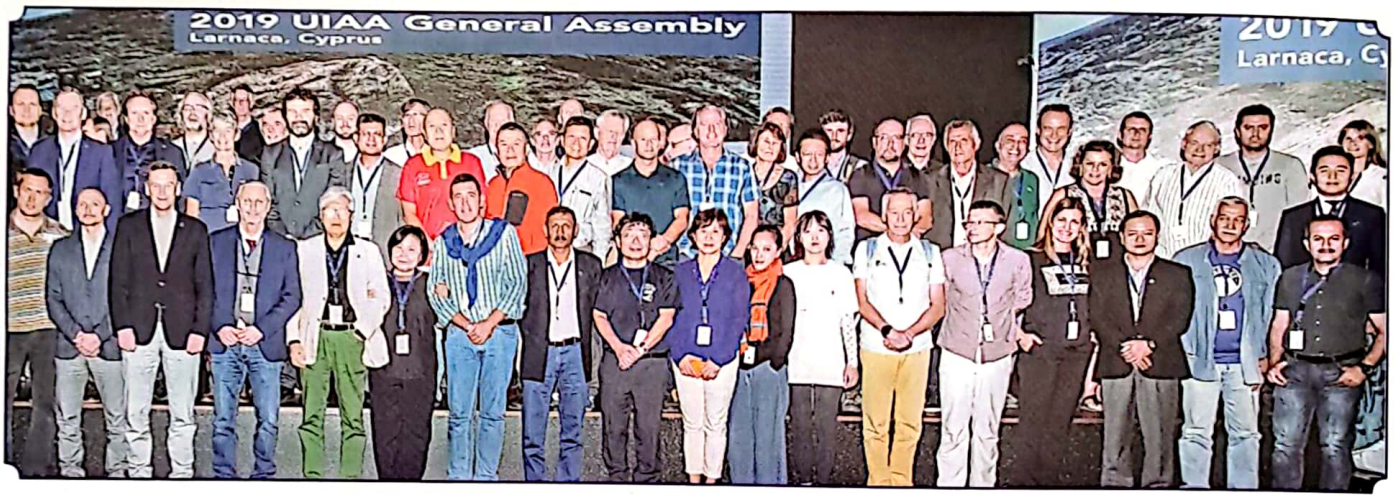




Glimpses of NMA international participations















नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ

NEPAL MOUTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

(August 2017 - August 2020)



Santa Bir Lama
President



Ang Tshering Sherpa
Immediate Past President



Deebas Bickram Shah
1st Vice President



Maya Sherpa
2nd Vice President



Kul Bahadur Gurung
General Secretary



Tikaram Gurung
Secretary



Sudarshan Neupane
Treasurer



Tul Singh Gurung
Member



Pasang Tendi Sherpa
Member



Vinaya Shakya
Member



Dr. Hari Prasad Shrestha
Member



Da Gyalje Sherpa
Member



Ang Tshewang Sherpa
Member



Singi Lama
Member



Sanjib Gurung
Member



Pasang Bhote
Member



Mingma Gyabu Sherpa
Member



Dipendra Pandey
Member



Ang Dawa Sherpa
Member



Rudra Singh Tamang
Director General
Department of Tourism



Wangchhu Sherpa
Member



Lhakpa Tshering Sherpa
Member



Shiva Bahadur Sapkota
Member



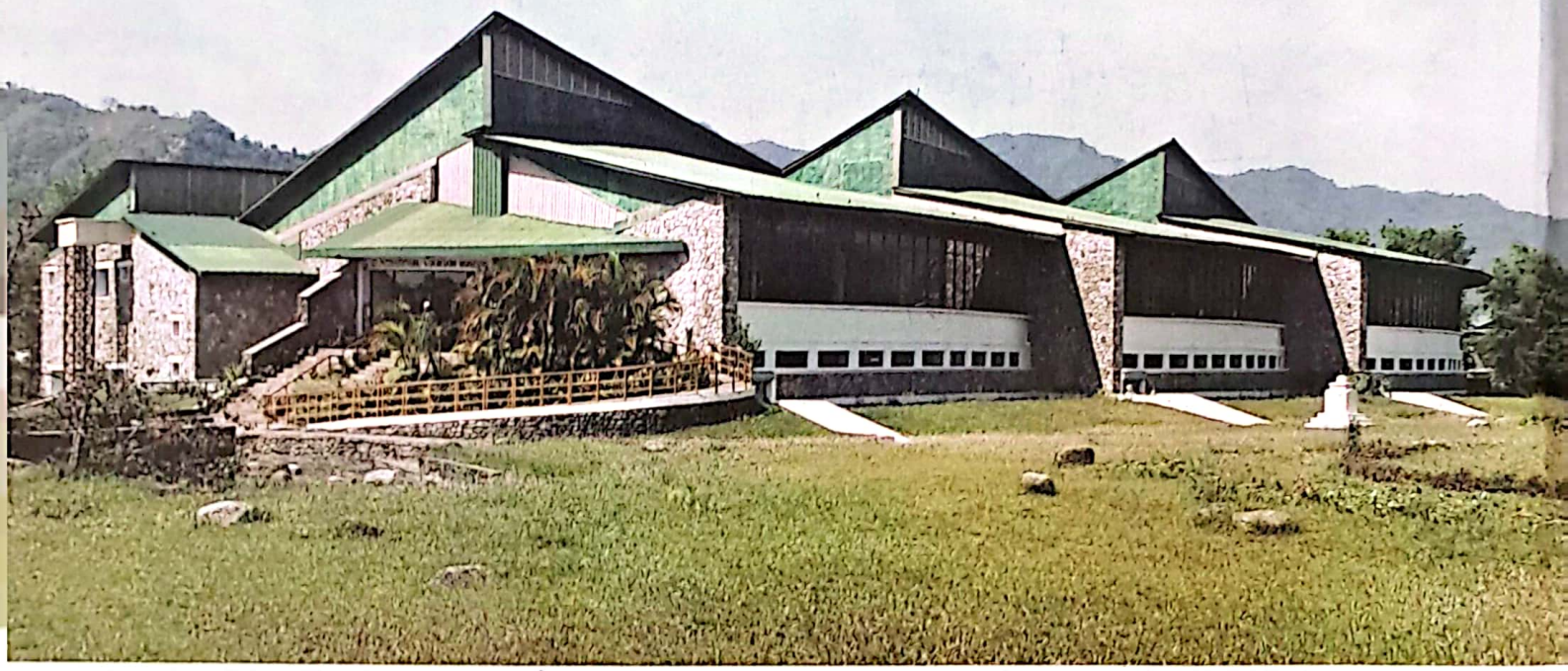
Sarki Tamang
Member



Lapsang Lama
Member



International Mountain Museum, Pokhara



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Email : admin@internationalmountainmuseum.org
Web : www.internationalmountainmuseum.org

