

TSUNEMICHI IKEDA and LINDSAY GRIFFIN

## Dingjung Ri 2007 and 2008

### Attempt in 2007

A three member Kanseigakuin University expedition, led by Kenro Nakajima, made the first authorized attempt on the East Ridge of Dingjung Ri (6196m) in March, 2007. Mayuko Demoto (f), Naoki Tanaka and the leader Nakajima approached the trekking route toward the Nangpa La via Thame and established base camp on the Menlung Glacier at 4950m on 3 March.

They fixed 500m of rope on the southeast flank of the East Ridge after setting a high camp at 5435m. On 12 March, the three made a summit bid which ended at a high point of 6000m. Six days later on 18th, Demoto and Nakajima gave another try. They reached at 6132m but exhaustion and lack of rope to be fixed on a difficult traverse section caused them retreat.

### The First Ascent in 2008

Nakajima returned to the mountain again in March, 2008 with Hiroki Yamamoto and succeeded in the first ascent. They established base camp on 7 March at the same place of 2007. It had been a vast snowfield a year before. This year, there was no snow but comfortable glasses. The mountain also had a fewer snow and ice.

They set a high camp at the foot of the route on 8th. Climbing on the flank with little snow, was disturbed by occasionally falling stones though, they fixed 300m of rope and emerged onto the East Ridge. They launched their summit bid from a high camp on 15th and gained the highest point of the previous year two hours earlier than expected. They had to climb over a false summit and a knife-edged snow ridge in the final part of the route.

It was 11:30 am when they got to the virgin summit. Rising clouds hurried them to descend and they reached a high camp in only four hours at 3:30 pm. There was still enough time to continue descent to their base camp. They evacuated a camp and with over 30 kg of load on their back, reached base camp in the dark. Being exhausted and hungry after 16 hours of struggle. They were welcomed by the Nepalese staffs in base camp.

**Summary of Statistics:** Nepal, Rolwaling Himal, Dingjung Ri (6196m), the first ascent by the East Ridge, 7-16 March 2008, Kenro Nakajima and Hiroki Yamamoto.

based on the report of Kenro Nakajima appeared in JAC's Sangaku vol. 103, 2008

### Additional Notes by Lindsay Griffin:

A little to the north of Pt. 6196m, Dingjung Ri (6249m) lies on the border south of 6625m Panbuk Ri (and a little north of the Menlung La) and has no known recent ascent. But there is a certain ambiguity when it comes to the naming of both Pt. 6249m and Pt. 6196m. On the new list of permitted peaks announced in 2002, Pt. 6249m, as designated on the HMG-FINN map, was called Dingjung Ri. In fact neither 6249m nor 6196m are named on this map.

The old Schneider's Rolwaling map has the heights of these peaks as 6320m and 6249m respectively, naming the latter (Pt. 6196m on the FINN map) Dingjung Ri. This is repeated on the Japanese maps to the area, and the Japanese climbers mentioned above certainly refer, not illogically, to Pt. 6196m as Dinhjung Ri. It is unlikely that the authorities know which is the true Dingjung Ri though, Pt. 6196m might be best described as "Dingjung Ri South".

Pt. 6249m was actually first climbed as long ago 1955 during Alf Gregory's very productive Merseyside Himalayan expedition, which climbed many peaks in the Rolwaling region and made a reconnaissance of Gauri Shankar. Peter Boulton and Denis Davis, who crossed the Menlung La west into Tibet and made an ascent of Ripimo Shar (6647m) from the north, also moved north up the Menlung Valley and climbed Dingjung Ri from the west.

They were barred from reaching the summit of this then unnamed peak by an enormous crevasse, over which they were forced to execute a big jump. As Kang appears in so many peak names, they felt it apt to name the peak after one of the world's great jumpers, the Kangaroo, and called the peak Kangkuru, a moniker that stuck for many years (and appears as such on the Japanese maps).