

TSUNEMICHI IKEDA

Notable Japanese Climbs in the Himalayas 2009

[CHINA]

Lopchin Feng (6,805m, KG-2)

This is the second highest summit in the Kangri Garpo East mountains in southeast Tibet. The joint expedition of Japanese Kobe University and Chinese Wuhan University of Geosciences, co-led by Tatsuo Inoue (Japan) and Dong Fan (China), succeeded in the first ascent of the mountain in November. The 17-member team established BC (4,320m) on the Ata Glacier on 18 October and advanced ABC (4,660m), C1 (4,890m), C2 (5,680m) and C3 (5,910m) respectively. The summit was reached by two Tibetan students, Deqing Ouzhu and Ciren Danda on 5 November. Two days later on 7, two Japanese, Masanori Yazaki and Koichiro Kondo also made the summit. Though the peak is referred as 6,703m on old Russian map, the expedition measured as 6,805m with their GPS. (*Detailed account on pp. 1-17*)

Kula Kangri (7,554m)

Yasushi Yamanoi made a solo attempt on the North Face in September. The Face was clad in deep snow and was threatened with avalanche danger. He moved to nearby Karjang (7,221m) to attempt the Southwest Face and again defeated by unstable snow conditions.

Mt. Everest (Qomolangma, 8,848m)

(1) The Kanagawa University Expedition, comprised ten members led by Masaji Ochiai, made the summit by the normal route on North Col-Northeast Ridge in spring. The summit was reached by Yasunori Tanaka and Kenta Miyamori using oxygen on 18 May.

(2) Nobukazu Kuriki made a “solo” attempt without oxygen on the north side in autumn. It was not a pure solo as his Sherpas carried loads to the North Col beforehand his attempt. He tried a traverse route on the North Face which had been climbed by Reinhold Messner in 1980 but prevented at around 7,700m due to deep snow and exhaustion.

Lhakpa Ri (7,045m)

Takaharu Hayashi, leader, Rumiko Saito (f) and Seiryu Ishikawa made the summit with Dawa Sherpa on 16 September. They arrived Chinese BC (5,148m) on 6 and ABC (6,130m) on 12 September. The summit was reached after making high camp on 15th. This peak above Lhakpa La is shown as nameless Pt. 6,986 on the Chinese 1:100,000 map. The map also shows Xiandong 7,108m to the north of Pt. 6,986. Meanwhile Chinese Authorities indicates Lhakpa Ri as 7,108m, the same height as Xiandong. There seems to be some confusion between these peaks.

Cho Oyu (8,021m)

Koichi Ohyama and Susumu Kazama from Saitama prefecture made the summit using oxygen in September. They arrived BC (4,800m) on 14 September and advanced depot and camps at 5,250m, 5,600m, 6,400m and 7,200m respectively and made the summit on 27th with Sherpas Pemba Gyalzen and Nima Gyalzen.

Gaurisankar (7,134m)

Kazuya Hiraide and Kei Taniguchi, who had been awarded the 17th Piolets d'Or for their first ascent of the Southeast Face of Kamet in Garhwal Himalaya in 2008, made an unsuccessful attempt on the East Face during October-November. They were delayed for a several days due to the permission issue with Chinese authorities and finally established base camp in the upper Menlungchu Valley on 22 October. After some scouting and attempts to the Northeast Ridge and the East Face, they chose to attempt the direct line to the South Summit. Though their original plan was to climb the East Face of the Main Summit, it was surprisingly dry. They started the climb on 7 November and made four bivouacs on the route. They launched the summit bid on the fifth day on 11 but couldn't find the exit to the headwall and forced to retreat only 150m shy of the summit ridge.

Shisha Pangma (8,027m)

Chizuko Kono (63, f) unsuccessfully attempted the Northeast Ridge with three Sherpas in autumn. Her team arrived BC (5,000m) on 23 September. But it was too late and she suffered by extreme cold winds. She only reached C1 (6,300m) on 14 October.

[NEPAL]**Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha, 8,848m)**

Kenji Kondo's Adventure Guides Expedition sent five members to the summit by the South Col-Southeast Ridge on 21 May.

Lhotse (8,516m)

Hiroataka Takeuchi made the summit by the normal West Face on 20 May. He was accompanied by Ralf Dujmovits and Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner. It was Dujmovits' 14th 8,000m summit and 12th for Takeuchi and Kaltenbrunner.

Tawoche (6,501m)

Fumitaka Ichimura and Genki Narumi made the first ascent of the North Face in November. The face had once been attempted by David Etherington (UK) and Joerg Schneider (GER) 20 years ago and still remained unclimbed. After acclimatizing on Lobuje East, Ichimura and Narumi made the first attempt on 21 November. But they went too far to the right on the traverse at 5,500m and had to retreat after making a bivy at 5,700m. The next attempt was launched three days later. After spending a night at the bottom of the face, they found a right way and made a good progress. A bivy at the first ice field was suffered by frequent spindrifts and falling ice. Next day on 27 they forced to continue climbing after the dark and barely could find a suitable bivy site at 9:00 pm. They emerged onto the summit ridge next day though, the highest point was beyond a deep gap and they had to descend the East Gully. They christened the route Direct North Face (1,500m, VI, AI5 R).

Kwangde Nup (6,035m)

Taihei Kato and Tatsuya Sato were found dead on the glacier beneath the North Face on 7 May. They might have made an attempt on the unclimbed Northwest Rib after acclimatizing on nearby Parchamo. Details are still unknown.

Puchen Himal (6,049m)

The five-member expedition from Kyushu, led by Koichi Kato, made an unsuccessful attempt in autumn. They arrived BC (4,200m) and advanced C1 (4,800m) and C2 (5,700m) respectively fixing 400m of ropes. The first summit bid was made by two members and two Sherpas on 3 October. They believed that they had reached the summit of this virgin peak. But the second party, comprised leader Kato,

Fumio Ishii and Akira Kato, found that their high point previous day was only 5,890m and the true summit was beyond the gap. As the ridge beyond was steep, narrow and heavily corniced, they once retreated to make the third try with fixing ropes. But the weather was suddenly worsened next day and they had to retreat to the base camp.

Naya Kanga (5,844m)

Kazuhiro Tagami led a 7-member team to attempt Tashi Kang 6,386m in October. They shifted to Naya Kanga due to heavy snowfalls in early October and established BC (4,500m) on 19 October. The summit was reached on 21st from their high camp at 4,800m.

Manaslu (8,163m)

The JWAF (Japan Workers' Alpine Federation) team, led by Kazuyoshi Kondo, comprised 5-members, made the summit in autumn by the normal Northeast Face route in spring. After enduring bad weathers, they launched the summit bid on 19 May and leader Kondo with Kami Sherpa and Gyalzen Sherpa reached the highest point. Another member and two Sherpas stopped at the fore summit. Next day another member and two Sherpas also retreated from the same point. This fore summit was called "authorized summit" by some sectors of Himalayan peak baggers and they claimed the ascent of Manaslu only reaching this lower point. It's not an exception of recent Himalayan climbing scene. You can easily find the same case on other 8,000m peaks such as Cho Oyu, Shisha Pangama, Dhaulagiri, Gasherbrum 2 and Broad Peak.

Pangpoche 1 (6,620m)

The six-member Student Section of the Japanese Alpine Club party, led by Yusuke Kuramoto, attempted the unclimbed mountain to the northeast of Manaslu during September-October. They established base camp on the Sonam Glacier on 2 September and made two camps to reach the col (5,600m) on the Northeast Ridge, the border between Nepal and China, ten days later. On 20 all the members; leader Kuramoto, Hiroki Yamamoto, Kouhei Kotani, Seiya Nakatsukasa, Yoshitaka Kameoka and Daisuke Nakatsuka made the first ascent of Samdo (6,335m), a fore peak of Pangpoche 1. As they found the ridge to Pangpoche was rather distant from Samdo, they set new camp 2 at 5,900m to tackle Pangpoche. On 28 all six climbed over Samdo and proceeded to Pangpoche. But the ridge suddenly changed narrow and steep knife-edge and finally prevented them 400m in distance and 120m short of the summit.

Nemjung (7,139m)

Osamu Tanaba, Yasuhiro Hanatani, Nobusuke Ohki and Michihiro Kadoya of Shinshu University Expedition made the first ascent of the West Face in alpine style in October. The summit was reached by all four climbers on 30 October. They had acclimatized by summiting Himlung Himal 7,126m earlier in the month. (*Detailed account on pp. 99-102*)

Purkhang (6,120m)

The six-member Juntendo University Expedition, led by Hidekazu Takahashi, unsuccessfully attempted the mountain in April-May.

Dhaulagiri 1 (8,167m)

Nobukazu Kuriki made the summit by the normal Northeast Ridge on 19 May as a training for his "solo" attempt on Mt. Everest in autumn.

Tashi Kang (6,386m)

Hidehiro Minamii of Japanese Alpine Club made the summit with Sherpas in October. He reported that

he met only a few climbers and trekkers during acclimatization and climbing period. His ascent was confirmed as the fifth by Ms. Elizabeth Hawley.

Kojichwa Chuli (6,439m)

The seven-member Osaka team, led by Tamotsu Ohnishi, unsuccessfully attempted the mountain in April-May. They only summited nearby Kaptang 5,965m by five members.

[INDIA]

Karcha Parbat (6,271m)

The three-member JAC Tokai Branch Expedition, led by Tsuneo Suzuki, aimed at the mountain by the Karcha Nalah in June-July. They acclimatized in the South Dakka Glacier before heading to the mountain and established BC (4,400m) in the Nalah on 8 July. They abandoned the Indian route due to extremely dry conditions and shifted for unnamed 6,066m summit at the head of the glacier. The summit was reached by Tatsuo Matsubara and three high altitude porters on 18 July after setting C1 (4,700m) and C2 (5,200m). They gave a name to the peak "Ache".

[PAKISTAN]

K2 (8,611m)

The ten-member North Japan Expedition, led by Akinori Hosaka, failed on the Abruzzi Ridge in June-August. They missed to join the massive summit push by international teams on 4 August and ended only reaching C4 on the shoulder.

Gasherbrum 1 (8,068m)

The 17th Piolets d'Or winner, Kazuya Hiraide joined Veikka Gustafsson from Finland to photograph Gustafsson's quest for 14 8,000m. They both made the summit on 26 July by the Japanese Couloir on the North Face. Gustafsson became the 17th climber to complete 14 8,000m after Denis Urubko (on Cho Oyu) and Ralf Dujmovits (on Lhotse).

Spantik (8,027m)

Fumitaka Ichimura, Yusuke Sato and Kazuaki Amano of Giri-Giri Boys made the third ascent of the British route on the Golden Pillar in alpine style in July. They climbed this legendary route with three bivouacs. (*Detailed account on pp. 103-106*)

Khunyang Chhish East (6,400m)

Takeshi Yamakawa, Takaaki Nagato and Kei Taniguchi (f) unsuccessfully attempted the mountain by the Southeast Face in June-July. They first acclimatized on Spantik's Northwest Spur until 5,400m and established BC (4,150m) on 30 June. They launched an alpine style attempt on 17 July after acclimatizing up to 5,500m on the South Ridge. Their attempt was hampered at 6,110m on 22 July. They thought that the lack of acclimatization for 6,000m level was the cause of their failure as well as poor snow conditions.

Lilio Chhish (5,708m)

The mountain was believed to be Pt. 5,844 climbed by German-British Expedition by the south. Sher Khan had thought that his Pakistani team made the second ascent of the peak by the north. But it appeared that his team had made the first ascent of Pt. 5,708 to the south of Lupghar. A 17-member Japanese team led by Iwao Tamagawa launched a joint expedition with Pakistani climbers led by Noor-ul Amin including Sher Khan in June. They made the second ascent of the peak on 10 June. (*Detailed account and*

maps on pp. 117-121)

Bara Khun Group

This is a small mountain group lies between Khunjerab and Parpik Passes and has several 5,000-6,000m summits. The highest one is Pt 6,065m (by Google Earth, 6,426m by Miyamori Map). The area was explored by Philips Christiaan Visser in 1925. Wataru Takasaki visited the area and made the first ascent of Pt. 5,884m in August. He made BC at 4,497m in Rosth Dor valley on 31 July and advanced high camp at 5,140m on Doypa Gamu glacier on 2 August. Pt. 6,065m looks rather difficult and he turned his attention to Pt. 5,884m to the west of the camp. He summited the peak by its East Ridge with Sami Ullah (HAP) next day. The peak was christened Bibitilga Chhish.