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JAC girls students Mustang Expedition 2014

Crawling to “Mansail 6,242m”, untouched peaks and glacier

In 2014, Nepal opened more than 100 new peaks. In this timing, the Japanese Alpine Club (JAC) organized girls students' expedition to the Nepal Himalaya in commemoration of the 110th anniversary. Three newly opened peaks in Mustang area, Mansail, Mansail South and Mustang Himal were targeted for the expedition, and I joined the members as an adviser.



It was a kind of new challenge for me to go to expedition with students who have less experience of mountaineering, and also Mustang was new area for me, those made me excited to join this project. Since Mustang has long been an isolated Kingdom and protected Tibetan Buddhism till 1991, there is few information about this area.

Only with google earth satellite photos and maps, we imaged our peaks. Wondering how is the way to those peaks, how their face look like, how difficult they would be...

After Lo Mantang, the center of Mustang, looking for the peaks, we crossed several streams and rivers, across wilderness with lots of yaks, and getting higher through the gorge with loose boulders which may be never touched before. Putting so many cairn with rock not to loose the way back home, we reached the edge of untouched glacier after 20 days of crawling since we left Japan.

We made the last camp (C2/5685m) by the stream from the end of glacier. Getting on the glacier and crossing several narrow crevasses, we finally could see the face of Mansail, our peak. The south face was smooth steep slab, so we crossed over the col of eastern ridge and get around to north side. There were more glacier high up to north face, which has crack system and little easier angle. What was more exciting to me, somehow it started snowing heavily unlikely Mustang area, the face turned snow covered mixed one. We made full use of our gears; snow pickets, ice screws, cams and nuts to climb up. That must have made the girls much more adventurous experience. We reached one Point, there were still higher point from here, but it's not big deal to go up any higher or not from that point. We scaled Mt. Mansail as our peak that had never been touched.

Now it was heavily snowing as if it was the last storm of monsoon season. There was no choice to traverse next peak of Mansail South or Mustang Himal. We must safely return to our camp. There



BC at 4900, Mansail yet seen



View upward from C1 5500m



BC set up



On the summit of Mansail

On the summit of Mansail



Descent from a col of east ridge of Mansail

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