

# First Ascent of Pokharkan 6,346m, Nepal

Koichi Kato

The Nepalese government opened up the peak in Damodor Himal as one of 103 peaks for climbing in 2002, so I went out to attempt Pokharkan which is NE of Annapurna and near to the Tibetan border (N24°48' and E84°13').

## 1. Height

-----See Editor's note below.

## 2. Date of the first ascent

-----October 31, 2003.

## 3. Member

-----Koichi Kato (61 years old-Japanese), Sherpa Pemba Cherin (58), Sherpa Panima Lama (51 Sherpa Suba Maju (55)

## 4. Period of Expedition

-----October 10 to November 17, 2002.

## Climbing and Itinerary

Climbing Route: The north ridge was selected as a climbing route, since the south face of precipitous rock wall was seemingly hard to climb. In fact the north ridge required no high grade climbing technique.

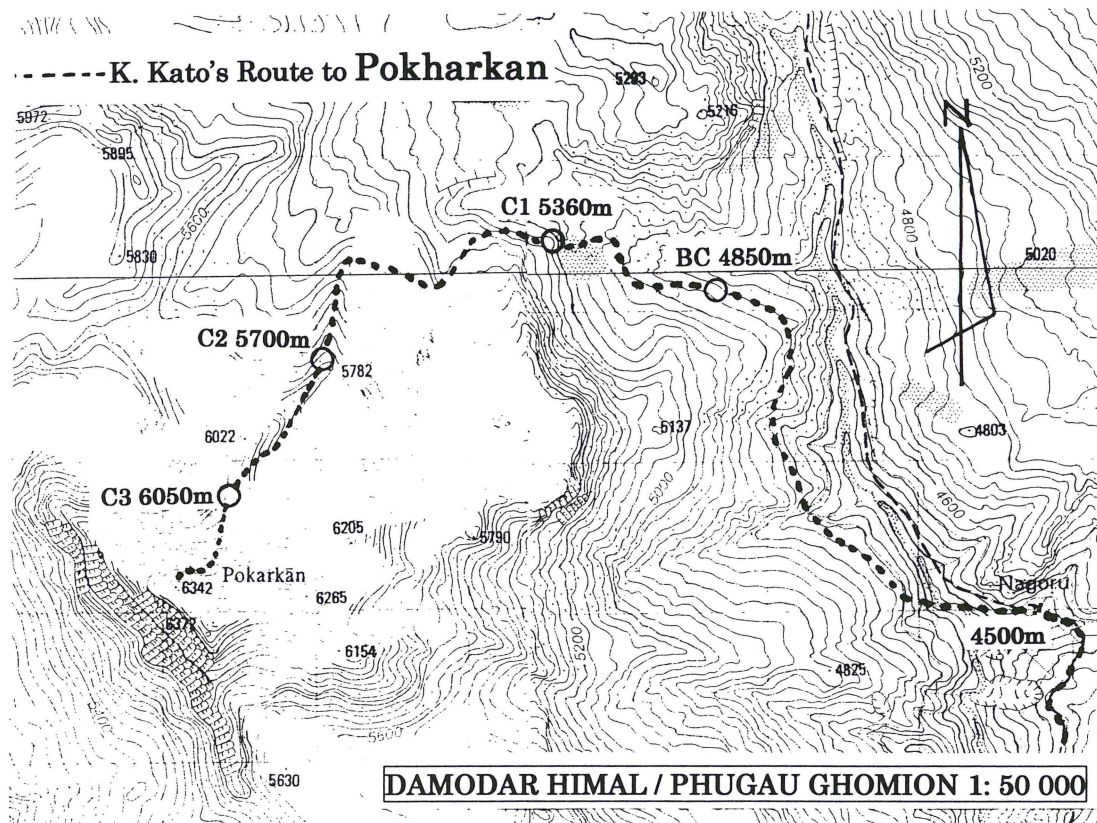
October 10: Left Kathmandu for Base Camp (BC) via Besidsal and then Naru Khola.

October 19: Set up BC at 4850m north of Nagoru 4500m.

October 21: From BC followed moraine and gentle ridge. Set up C1 at 5360m.

October 28: Set up C2 at 5700m. On the ridge from BC to near C3 the summit was hidden from sight.

October 30: Set up C3 at 6050m. There was steep



snow face beneath the C3.

October 31: Kato, Panima and Lama stood atop the main summit of Pokharkan 6346m. There were two peaks of the main summit of almost same height in 100m distance. They first reached the peak (left) via steep gully and then went to the other peak (right).

November 3: Set off BC and returned to Kathmandu on the 11th via Thorang Pass and Pokhara.

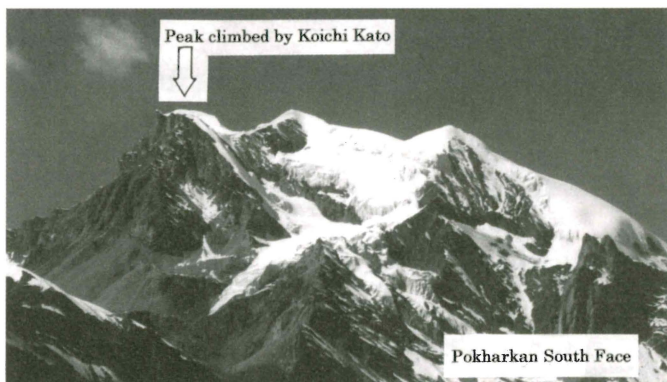
## Editor's Note

**Height of the peaks:** The height 6346m of Pokharkan that Kato indicates is based on the map 1: 125 000 published by King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation. In the other hand the current map 1: 50 000 "DAMODAR HIMAL" Sheet No. 2884 01 of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Survey Department shows that the

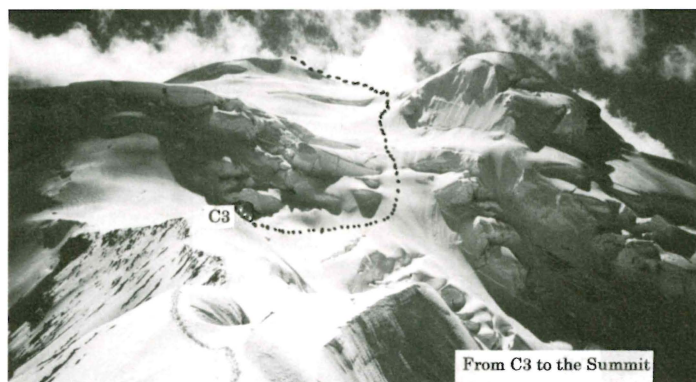
highest peak in the Pokharkan massif is located southeast of the west peak having been climbed by Kato and its height is 6372m. The height of the west peak is 6342m. However, Kato claims that the west peak is the highest main summit judging from a view from the Himlung Himal. According to the list of the newly opened 103 peaks published by the Nepalese government, Pokharkan is given a height of 6346m that Kato has adopted in his report..

**British attempt:** British team led by Martin Scott entered the Pokharkan massif too.

The following is information having been passed on to the editor by Martin Scott – "we attempted the South Face and seven people climbed to the East Summit and three (myself, Dave Wynne-Jones and Kaji Sherpa) went on to the Main Summit. This was on the 17th November." (Ref: The Alpine Club, Newsletter January 2003.)



(Koichi Kato)



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