

KAZUYOSHI KONDO

South Peak 7240m of Nampaigosum

The Japan Workers Alpine Federation (JWAF) and the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) jointly undertook an expedition to Nampaigosum, Nepal Himalaya, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan-Nepal diplomatic relationship. The following is an outcome of the expedition to briefly report the first ascent of a new route to the South Peak 7240m of Nampaigosum 7321m in Nepal.

Name of Expedition: JWAF-NMA Joint Expedition
 Period of Expedition: September 17 - November 13, 2006
 Members of Expedition: Kazuyoshi Kondo (64), Leader
 Da Gombu Sherpa (48), Climbing leader
 Kazuo Kozu (59), Lam Babu Sherpa (35)
 Pemba Dorje Sherpa (29), Mingma Dorje Sherpa (26)
 Pasang Lhamu Sherpa (22)

Highlight: All the seven members stood atop the South Peak 7240m of Nampaigosum on October 26, 2006 via the south ridge

Camps set up: BC 5250m on October 3, C1 5650m on October 6
 C2 6200m on October 14, C3a 6800m on October 24
 C3b 7050m on October 25

Climbing Activities:

BC was set up in the Sumna Glacier side and climbing started from here. We traversed the right valley of the glacier, which was not so rough, and set up C1 on an island-shaped slope of mud and rocks which formed the base of the south ridge. Route taken was to once descend from the top of the slope to glacier that led to the south ridge. Ropes were fixed en route. Sensitive route finding was required to pass through complicated crevasses and collapsing hanging glacier, and then we climbed a rock gully to the above snow ridge. The right side had a sheer drop of 1,000m to the glacier. An angle of climbing route exceeded 45 degree. Snow wall changed to snow ridge and again snow wall appeared.

C2 was set up on a gentle slope of the ridge. Ahead of the C2 a huge snow wall had to be negotiated. Above 6500m the wall became steeper (max. 60 degree angle). As snow bars were shorted, a distance of belaying points of fix ropes got longer than 100m though rock pitons were used. Snow ridge continued on the upper part. The both sides had a hair-raising sheer drop.

C3a was set up on an icy ridge. The upper ridge became steeper being mixed with exposed rocks. They detoured the ridge to the left and entered snow wall, at the foot of which C3b was set up. Further climbing of 40 degree snow wall led us to a flat place near the South Peak. To this point 2,600m of ropes were fixed. All the members progressed carefully to the summit. The main peak of Nampaigosum 7321m was sighted a bit far from the South Peak, although there were only 400m distance and less than 100m higher

altitude on the map.

Comment on identification of the peaks

Presumably someone would consider that 7321m peak is the same as Cho Aui/Pasang Lhamuchuli. The map on which his 7321m peak is seen would be 1:50,000 Nepal mapping department. If so, 2km west of 7321m peak Pasang Lhamuchuli 7350m is indicated on the map and accordingly it is understood that they are different peaks.

There are three peaks, Peak I, II and III in Nampaigosum. Peak I has long been known as Cho Aui (Tibetan name), a magnificent peak. However recently Nepalese Authority has given new name Pasang Lhamuchuli and it has been causing confusion. This peak was first climbed by a party of HAJ (Himalayan Association of Japan) from Tibetan side in 1986. In 1996 a Japanese party led by Tamotsu Ohnishi ascended it from Nepal side. They attempted the south ridge first but gave up and joined the HAJ's route. This peak is listed in duplication (Pasang Lhamuchuli and Nampaigosum I) as if there are two different peaks. As such there are many unreliable similar cases on the part of Nepalese authority's information.

As Peak I has two names of Cho Aui and Pasang Lhamuchuli, I talked with Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa, NMA President, about the name and we reached to the same opinion that Peak II could be named as Nampaigosum. We applied this new name with an altitude on the Nepal map 1:50,000 to the Nepal Tourist Bureau and then the application was accepted. We targeted Peak II, that is Nampaigosum, but we were unable to go beyond the south peak as already reported. A photo showing Cho Aui (left) and the south peak of Nampaigosum (right, the main peak is behind), which would hopefully explain everything.



