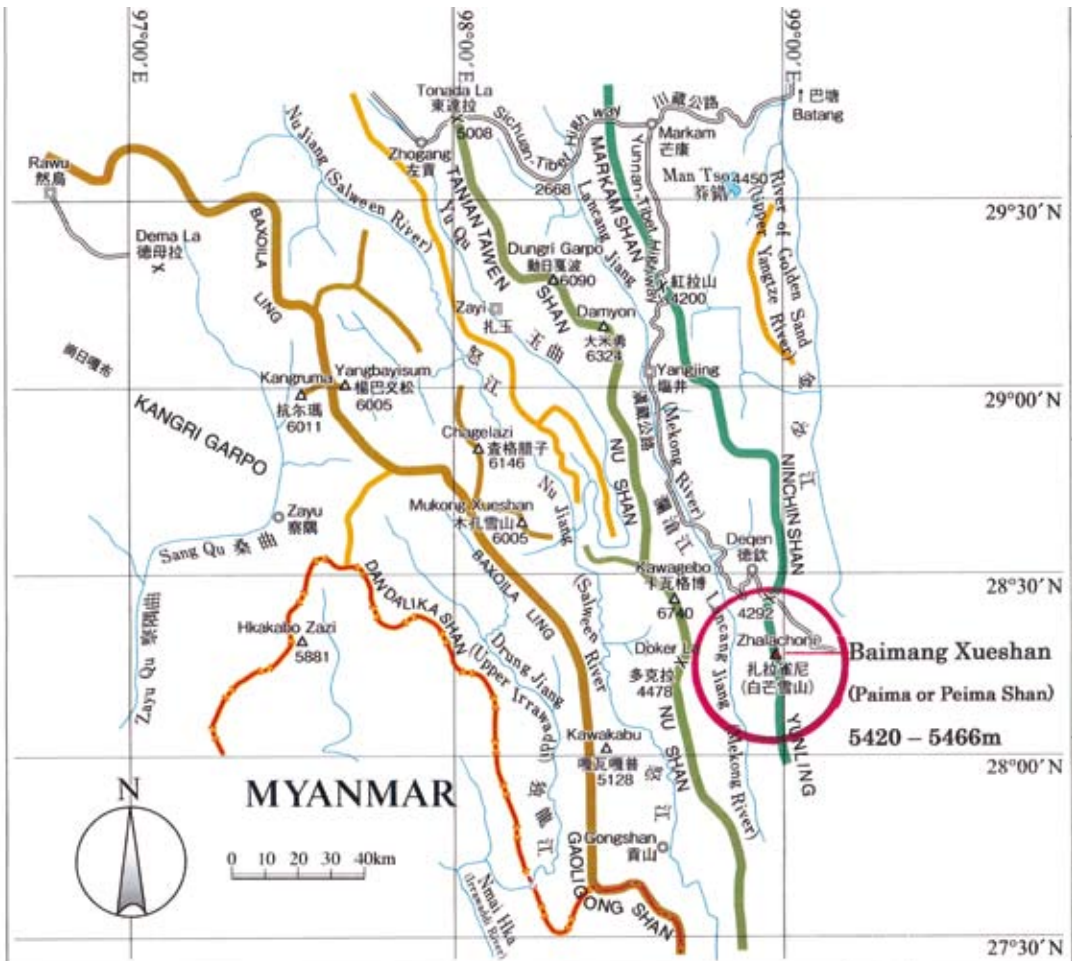


TAMOTSU (TOM) NAKAMURA

First Ascent of Baimang Xueshan (Paima or Peima Shan)

—Yungling on Mekong-Yangtze Divide in Yunnan—

The Baimang Xueshan (Snow Mountains) have been known by early explorers, missionaries, geologists, plant hunters and musk traders since more than a century ago as it is located very close to a historical trade path to Tibet from Yunnan in the borderland of northwest Yunnan and southeast Tibet. A plant hunter, Frank Kingdon – Ward wrote short paragraphs on Peima Shan several times in his book “The Land of the Blue Poppy” a narrative of his first journey to the Deep Gorge Country (now called as Three Rivers Gorges – Yangtze / Mekong / Salween rivers) in 1911. A geologist, J. W. Gregory, an authority of the Great Rift Valley in Africa, also described his views on the said mountains in “To the Alps of Chinese Tibet” (1,922 journey). However, it is rather surprising that such famous mountains have long remained unclimbed until 2012.



River and mountain system of Deep Gorge Country – NW Yunnan and SE Tibet

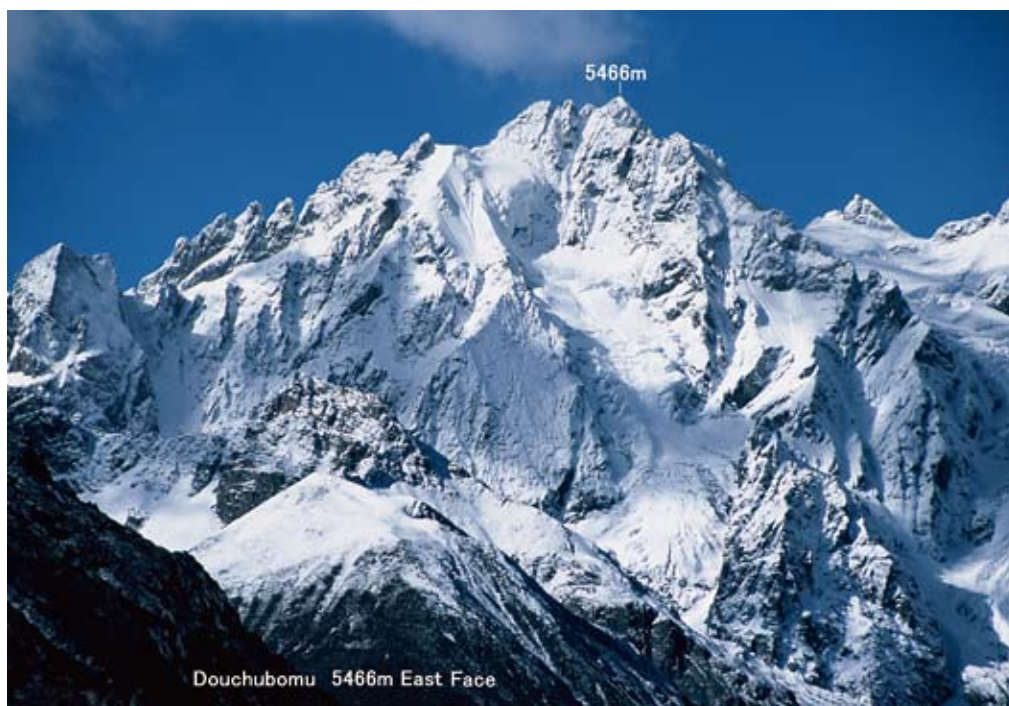


Peak map of Meili Snow Mountains and Baimang Snow Mountains

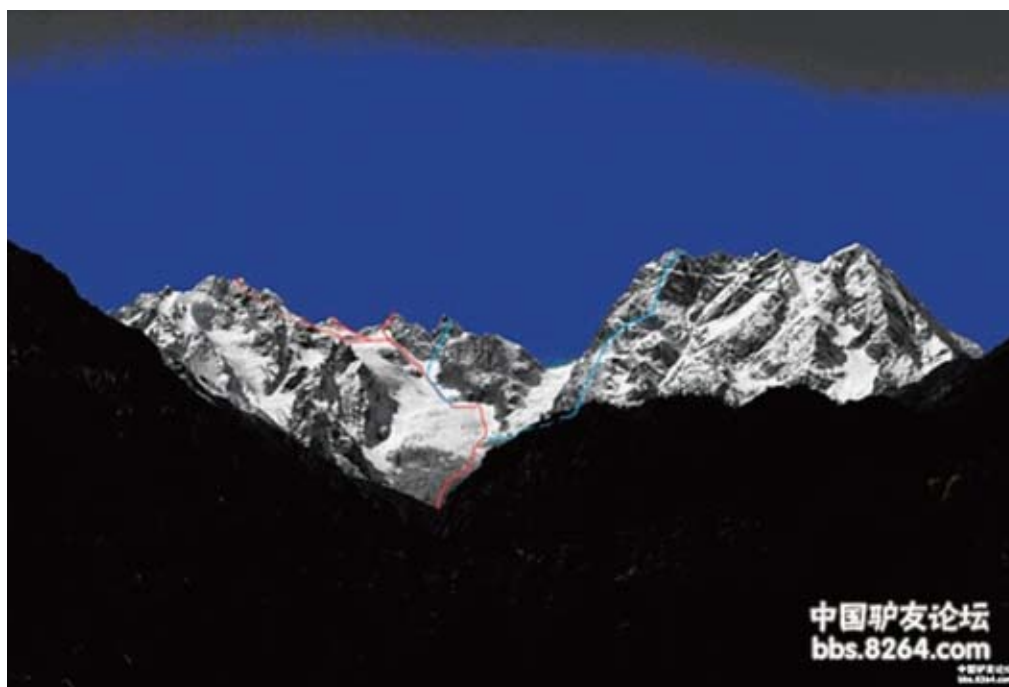
The Baimang Xueshan 白芒雪山 (Paima or Peima Shan 白馬山) have been first scaled by a Chinese party. The following is a summary of the ascents from web-site www.8264.com (戶外資料圖) and Nakamura's note and photographs.

During October 2nd to 19th, 2012, a party led by Sun Bin 孙斌, a headmaster of the China Mountain Outdoor School 中国巔峰戶外運動學校 succeeded in the first ascents of five peaks of the Baimang Xueshan (Paima or Peima Shan) of Yunling Range on the Yangtze-Mekong Divide, Hengduan Mountains, Yunnan Province.





The climbing routes are shown on the picture below.



[From left to right]

Route 1

Douchubomubadeng (多楚博姆巴登峰) 5,466 m、III/AI2/M3/snow40° /1,000 m (via glacier)
 The route has been named as Jinnaizhichi “近在咫尺” (Goal is very close), first ascent.

The summiters are two members of Li Zan 李赞、Zhao Xingzheng 赵兴政

Route 2

Nameless peak 5,288 m、III/AI2/M2+/snow50° /climbing height 800 m (via glacier)

The route has been named as Erzichu (two virging peaks) “二之处” , first ascent.

The summiters are five members of:-

Li Zan 李赞、Zhao Xingzheng 赵兴政、Zhu Ruilan 祝瑞兰 (F)、Haung Chao 黄超、Jiang Zhenyu 蒋震宇

Route 3

Nameless peak 5,295 m、III/5.8/M3/snow40° /climbing height 800 m (via glacier)

The route has been named as “Respect of freedom” , first ascent.

The summiters are two members of Li Zan 李赞、Zhao Xingzheng 赵兴政 .

Route 4

Nameless peak 5,250 m、Alpinerock5.9/m5/snow50° /climbing height 800 m, ice and rock mixed pitches 200 m

The route has been named as “sunshine appears always behind snow” “阳光总在风雪后” , first ascent.

The summiters are two members of Sun Bin 孙斌、Xiao Qiang 小强 .

Route 5

Zhalaqueni South Peak 扎拉雀尼南峰 5,420 m、Alpinerock5.9/m4/snow50° /climbing height 700 m (from a road)

The route has been named as Road of Growth “成长之路” (成長の道), first ascent.

The summiters are two members of Sun Bin 孙斌、Tuo Dawei 脱大为

Nakamura's Note:

In 2006 a Chinese party, Jing Brothers, attempted on Zhalaqueni 扎拉雀尼 and reached 5,200 m. Their route is shown on the following picture. The panorama of the west face taken from the Meili Snow Mountains on the Mekong-Salween Divide is also shown

