

ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

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Rakaposhi Expedition – New Route 2019
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Translated, supplemented and compiled by Tamotsu (Tom) Nakamura



Rakaposhi (Urdu: راکاپوشی) is a mountain in the Karakoram mountain range in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. It is situated in the middle of the Nagar and Bagrote valleys and danyor , approximately 100 km (62 mi) north of the capital city Gilgit of the semi-autonomous Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. Rakaposhi means "snow covered" in the local language. Rakaposhi is also known as Dumani ("Mother of Mist" or "Mother of Clouds"). It is ranked 27th highest in the world.



The first successful recorded ascent by non-natives was in 1958 by Mike Banks and Tom Patey, members of a British-Pakistani expedition, via the Southwest Spur/Ridge route.^{[3][4]} Both of them suffered minor frostbite during the ascent to the summit on June 25. Another climber slipped and fell on the descent and died during the night. The people of Nagar have dedicated the Rakaposhi range mountain area as a community park. The Minister for Northern Areas inaugurated the park. The Rakaposhi mountain range is the home of endangered species such as Marco Polo sheep, snow leopard, brown bear, and wolves.



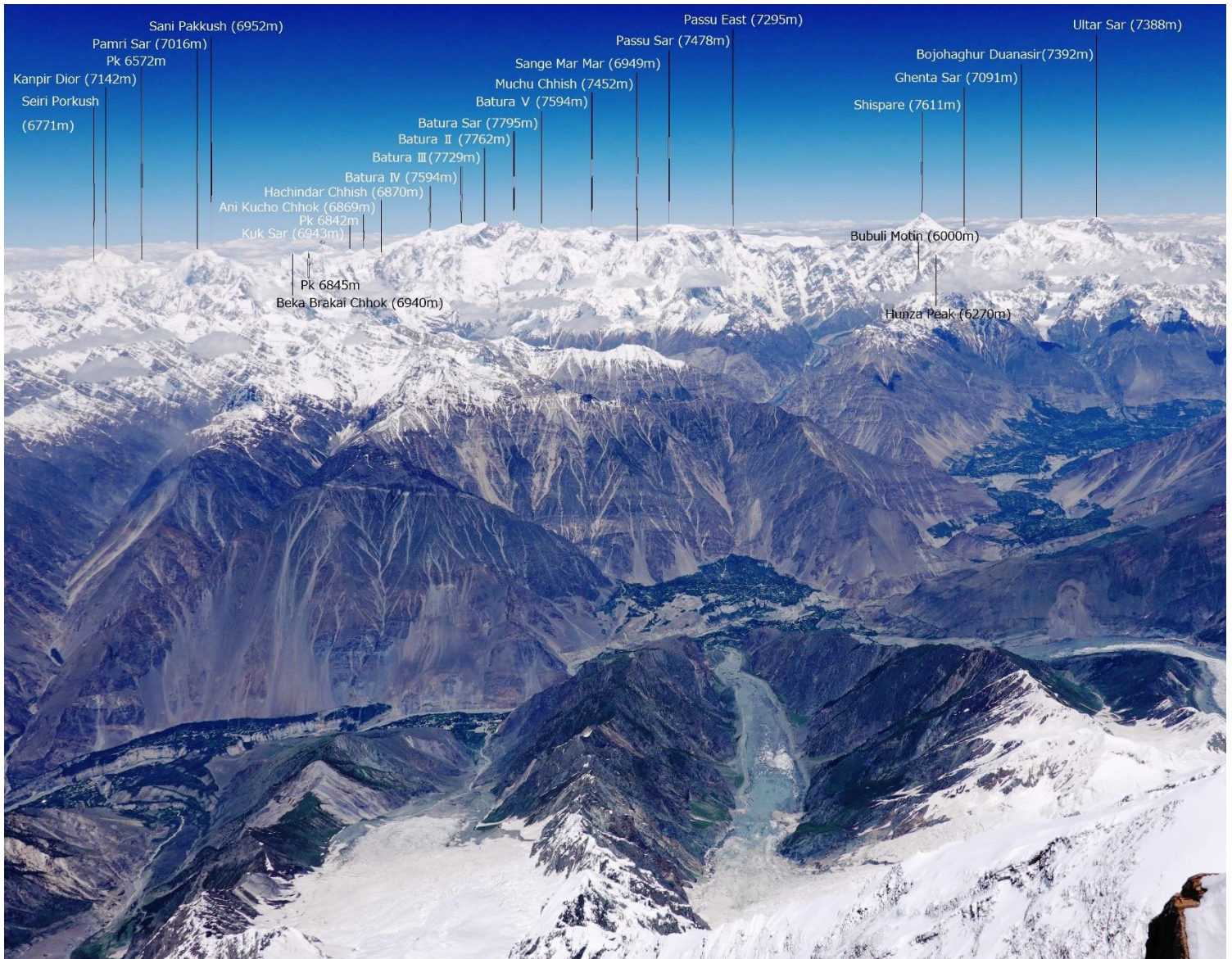
Notable features

Rakaposhi is notable for its exceptional rise over local terrain. On the north, it rises 5,900 metres (19,357 ft) in only an 11.2 km (7 mi) horizontal distance from the Hunza-Nagar River. There are views of Rakaposhi from the Karakoram Highway on the route through Nagar. A tourist spot in the town of Ghulmat (located in the Nagar Valley) called "Zero Point of Rakaposhi" is the closest view point of the mountain. Rakaposhi is the only mountain in the world which rises straight from beautifully cultivated fields to the height of 25,550 feet. From many places this wonderful spectacle can be viewed right from the base to the top.^[6]

Previous Climbing Routes

- Southwest Spur/Ridge (first ascent route). Long, but not exceedingly technical. Some tricky gendarmes (rock pinnacles). Has been repeated.
- From the east side, it is short route to climb
- Northwest Ridge. Long, and more technically difficult than the Southwest Spur/Ridge. Has been repeated.
- North Spur (a.k.a. North Ridge). Shorter than the above two routes, but much more technically difficult. Has been repeated, including a semi-alpine style (capsule style) ascent.

Attempts have also been made from the east side (Bagrote Glacier), the East Ridge, and the North Face.





Itinerary of Expedition

June 3 Japan~Islamabad (Air China), June 6 Islamabad~Gilgit 1,500m by road
June 7-9 Reconnaissance of Rakaposhi south side, June 16 setting-up of BC 3,660m
June 17-19 acclimatization and reconnaissance, June 20-26 staying in BC
June 27 BC~C1 5,200m, June 28 C1~C2 6,200m, June 29 C2~C3 6,800m
June 30, July 1 staying in C3, July 2 C3~top of Rakaposhi 7,788m~C3, July 3 C3~BC
July 5 arriving at Gilgit, July 7 arriving at Islamabad by air
July 9 leaving Islamabad (Air China), July 10 return to Japan

Foreword

Our first objective was Tirich Mir Main 7,708m. However, we waited climbing permit at Chitral, but they did not grant the permit this year. Then we sought an alternative and changed our course to the south side of Rakaposhi, which is reputed as beautiful peak seen from Hunza. Hunza is as if a second home place for Hiraide because of his frequent visits and it is one of lifeworks for him to climb the peaks seen from Hunza. Among them Rakaposhi was most outstanding and attractive. Which is the most challenging unclimbed route? The south side remained untouched. The south side was reconnoitered in the past, but nobody could find feasible route.



Reconnaissance

During waiting for the permit, we entered the south side for reconnaissance. Danyore valley is close to Gilgit, only 40 minutes to the point where a jeep is assessable. During summer many villagers come for pasturing goats, cows and yaks. It is easy to walk on the pasture. There is less than 20km way from the pasture to the end (as low as 3,660m) of the right bank of Sulgin Glacier. It is likely to be polo ground. Woods are abundant and there is a water stream. We set-up BC here as loads ferry by animals become difficult from this point. Projected climbing route can be looked up from the BC, but to draw climbing route on the south side is not encouraging as there are many treacherous seracs in the upper part of the south side and accordingly viable route extremely limited. We observed four lines for candidates, only one possible route remained. We tentatively returned to Gilgit,

Meanwhile we waited for news on the permit to Tirth Mir for two nights, but there was no progress and to our regret our agent told us that there was an announcement of the authorities that the permit would not be granted this year. We resigned the first objective and headed to Rakaposhi. We called back our guides who were in stand-by in Chitral. With necessary supplies we returned to Rakaposhi on June 16. We lost ten days.

Climbing

The weather was rather stable while we were waiting in Gilgit. Three days after, rain and snow continued for a week. For not losing a chance, we ascended for acclimatization and reconnoitered for three days. Though the icefall was likely to be a labyrinth, it was not unpassable, sometimes jumping. But it was not comfortable. We stayed at 4,500m, 5,900m for one night respectively and returned from 6,100m to the BC. We could confirm a route, but acclimatization was not enough yet. We prayed for the good weather.

From the day when we returned to the BC, rain and sleet continued for six days. The next day was fine but the wall glued with snow and avalanches very often sounded here and there. The weather forecast told us that 2~3 days would be cloudy, then bad weather and again it would be fine. We should have passed through the lower part apt to danger of avalanches and availed ourselves of a narrow chance to reach the summit in fine weather.

After one day rest to wait good weather, we departed in cloudy weather. Though gears for rocks were left but we carried foods and fuels for seven days. They were very heavy on our shoulders. The icefall after one week was full of traces of avalanches and collapse of seracs. We passed through a labyrinth of the glacier, detoured rock wall from the right then reached snow ridge. Cutting out a ridge at a col after following a knife edge we pitched a tent of C1 at 5,200m. As it was the same route for acclimatization, we could move very fast. We gained 1,500m of vertical difference.

On June 28 we passed through side of seracs to snow ridge and snow wall. The previous traces were swept out. We struggled with fresh snow, sometimes with no loads. We managed to gain 1,000m and pitched C2 at 6,200m.

On June 29 we at last reached the south-east ridge. We ascended belaying with ice screws on ice wall just beneath the southeast ridge. A panorama of the northeast side suddenly came into sight when we stood on the southeast ridge. Diran and Kunyan Chhis were viewed. The summit was as if just in front of our eyes. But altimeter was honest. Snow on the ridge was not crusted but loose contrary to expectation. We had to struggle with soft snow on the southeast ridge too. We ascended 600m. We dug snow and pitched a tent of C3 on the ridge. It snowed on June 30 and July 1. We stayed in the camp.

As we felt that the good weather would not continue for two days, we decided C3 to be the final camp for the last 1,000m to the summit.

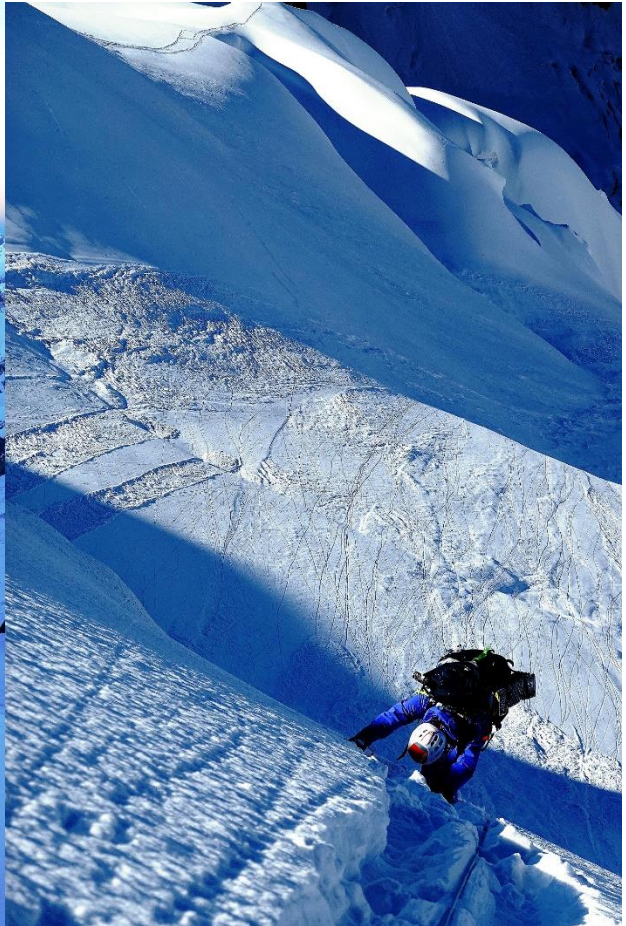
At 04:00am on July 2, we departed under a skyful of stars. There were no difficult pushes to the summit ridge. We silently struggled with snow. We climbed a break of cornices to the ridge. We proceeded wide snow beneath detouring rocks from west side. Snow conditions were good because of the winds blowing from the west. We intently progressed. Suddenly Hunza came into sight below sheer-drops of the ridge.

We stood atop at 12:00 just noon. We were overwhelmed by a 360° panorama. Shispare that we climbed in the previous year attracted our attention. Magnificent K2 was seen in far distance. We descended the same route of ascent. We stayed overnight at C3 and returned to BC in the following day. There were no much technical difficulty, but vertical height from the BC to the summit was over 4,000m and the weather was unstable.



















Nanga Parbat 8125m



Haramosh 7397m



Shispare 7611m



(front) left-Diran 7266m, centre-Spantik 7027m
(behind) centre left-K2 8611m, right end 7821m









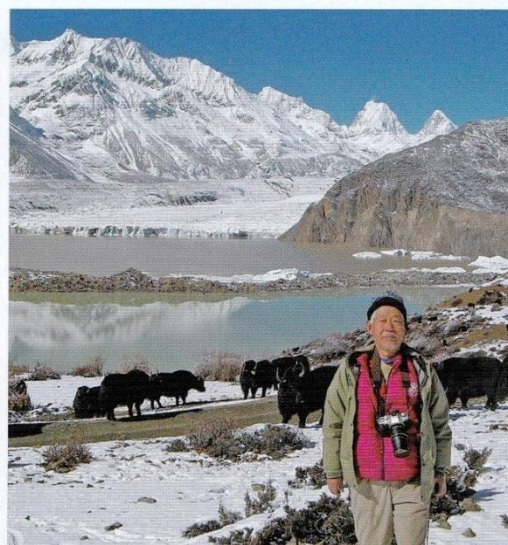
老人与山：中村保的自述

THE OLD MAN AND THE MOUNTAINS

口述 / 中村保、张继跃 供图 / 中村保 编辑 / 宋明蔚



壮观的玉曲河大峡谷。



中村保与山。



庞卡村的儿童。



我曾深入中国西部荒野 40 余次，勘探喜马拉雅以东的未登峰无数。

我著书若干本，这些著作在中国和日本都很受欢迎。我在世界各地将近 20 个国家作过《喜马拉雅以东》主题演讲 30 余次。我也因此获得了很多有影响力的国际探险奖项。

今有幸应中国《户外探险》杂志主编宋明蔚之邀，完成了一次意义非凡的专访。在此之前，我从没有对媒体完整地讲述我的一生。

邂逅山峰

我叫中村保（Tamotsu Nakamura），朋友们都叫我 Tom。

1934 年我出生于日本东京。在我读大学之前，我从没

有接触真正意义上的登山。

我后来去了日本东京的一桥大学读会计和金融，并加入了一桥大学登山社团。在这里我接触了户外运动和登山，开始攀登日本的阿尔卑斯山。

1961 年，我和大学登山队远征南美洲的山峰。在秘鲁，我们首登了科迪勒拉山系的 Pucahirca Norte 峰（海拔 6046 米）。之后，我们又在玻利维亚完成了三次首登。

这就是我的全部攀登经历，直到 30 年后我在云南再次遇见雪山之前，我再没有与山打过交道。

这次登山一年后，我大学毕业了——其实并不算是真正意义上的毕业，1986 年才完成了学位——我去了日本 IHI 工作。IHI 是日本一家重工业公司，涉及飞机汽车等重工业制造。我在 IHI 开始了按部就班的上班族生活。

和山峰。但是到了后来，我渐渐不满于此，在那个年代，中国西部开放的山峰非常有限，我却希望看到西部更多隐秘的角落。

从1994年开始，在继跃的帮助下，我又勘查了四川贡嘎山的西面，以及贡嘎山所在的大雪山山脉。第二年10月，我们又去了西藏东南部的岗日嘎布山域以及察隅地区。

当时西藏察隅地区还属于禁区——别说如此深入中国西部腹地的察隅，就连现在距成都市近5个小时车程的康定市，对于我这样的日本人来说也算是禁区。

有人说我是日本间谍？哈哈，好吧，我的每次西部探索可都是合法的。随着我对西部山峰的兴趣渐浓，我必然会探索一些边远的山区，这些山区的信息时至今日仅在军方内部有据可查，在中国公开发行的地图上仍旧是空白。

我知道每次勘查的申请都会困难重重，甚至要涉及中国军方。这些遥远的疆域本就是敏感地带，对于我这种带着想要了解山峰信息目的的日本人来说，更是难上加难。但我每次都放心地交给继跃去帮我打点，他总能巧妙地处理好一切。我每次只是支付佣金，从不过问其中的细节。

第二人生

1996年，我终于从IHI香港分公司董事经理的职位上退休了。我更自由了。

辞职后，我有更多的时间去探索热爱的中国西部山峰，我不接受任何赞助商的赞助，也不受任何公司和体制的约束。从此开始了我的第二人生。

当然，这也跟我有丰厚的退休金有关，我每个月都能从公司拿到300万日元的退休金（约合人民币19万）。此外，我在东京有很多地产，常年出租。我每个月都能收到一些租金。

我的随身物件里必备纸、笔、相机三样，我每次从中国回来，都会整理出此行的成果。这一年，我的第一本著作《喜马拉雅以东》在日本出版了。但我并没有停止我的脚步。

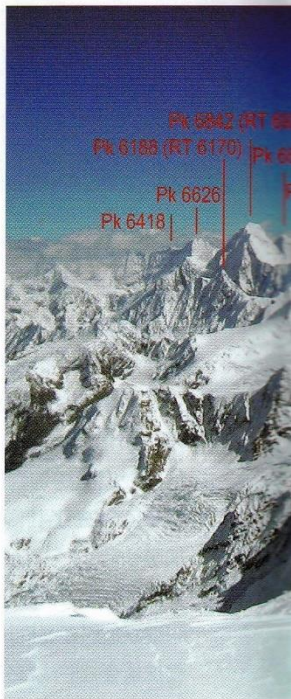
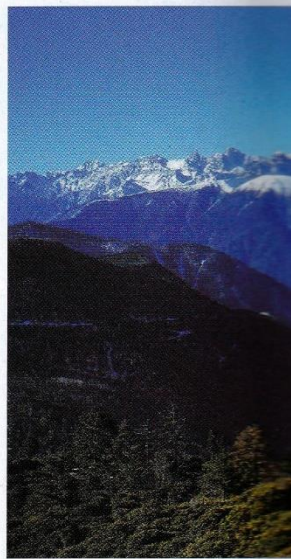
我在中国西部的探索，不仅限于一些从未有人攀登过的隐秘山峰，还有一些少数民族和传统文化的调研考察。1997年，我追寻日本僧人能海宽的足迹，从云南中甸（今云南香格里拉市）到四川的稻城、理塘、巴塘、芒康，再回到云南的德钦县。

日本僧人能海宽曾在1900年左右，三次从云南进入西藏考察当地的民俗文化，是日本早期考察这片区域的先驱和探险家。为此，他还在康定学习藏文，并用梵文、藏文、日文、汉语翻译过《心经》。他还曾写过一篇《西藏探险的必要性》，我也受过这篇文章的启发。

1901年，能海宽从重庆出发，取道贵州前往云南。4月他在云南邓川写了最后一封书信，就和国内的家人失联，从此杳无音讯。虽然有种说法是他在西藏边境被当地人杀害，但我并不知道。他的失踪一直是个谜。

同时，我对这片区域的宗教传播之路也很感兴趣。比如我也曾深入滇西北，调研天主教在云南茨中一带的传播，以及传教士被杀一案。但那就是后话了。

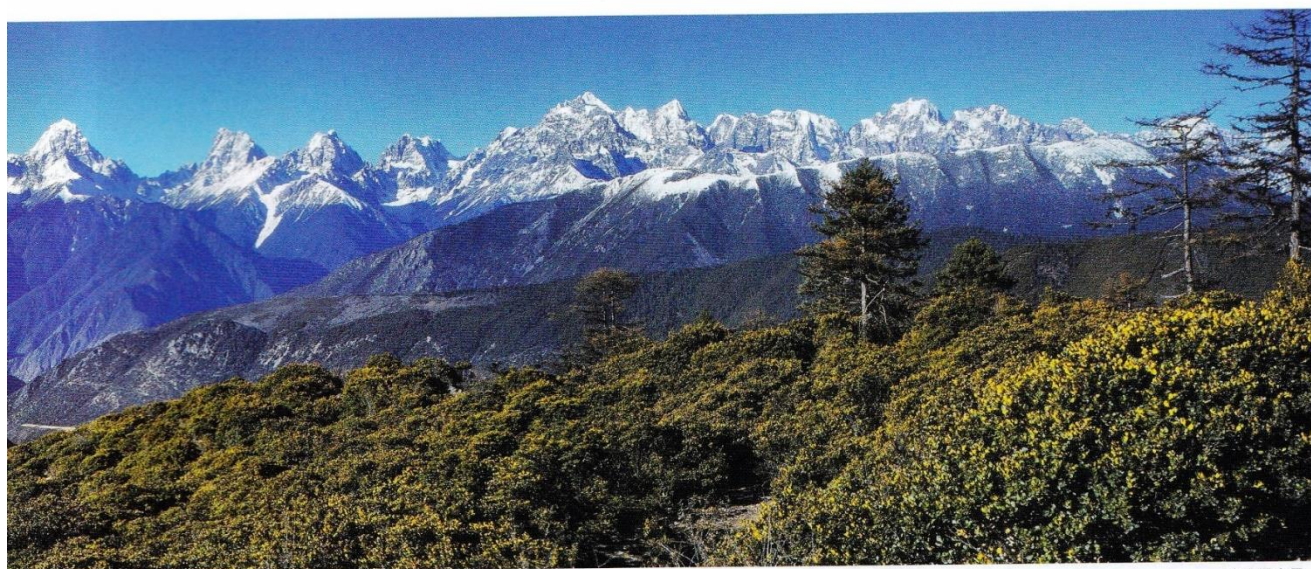
1998年7月，我再次来到四姑娘山，从毕棚沟到长坪沟探索这片邛崃山域的未登峰。藏东南这片山域的隐秘山峰们越来越吸引我，之



编者按：

在后续的采访中，当聊到很多人怀疑中村保是日本间谍时，张继跃哈哈大笑，有人能有这种怀疑也很正常。他随即严肃地说，中村保的每次行程，不仅是合法的，而且都经过正规程序的重重审批。

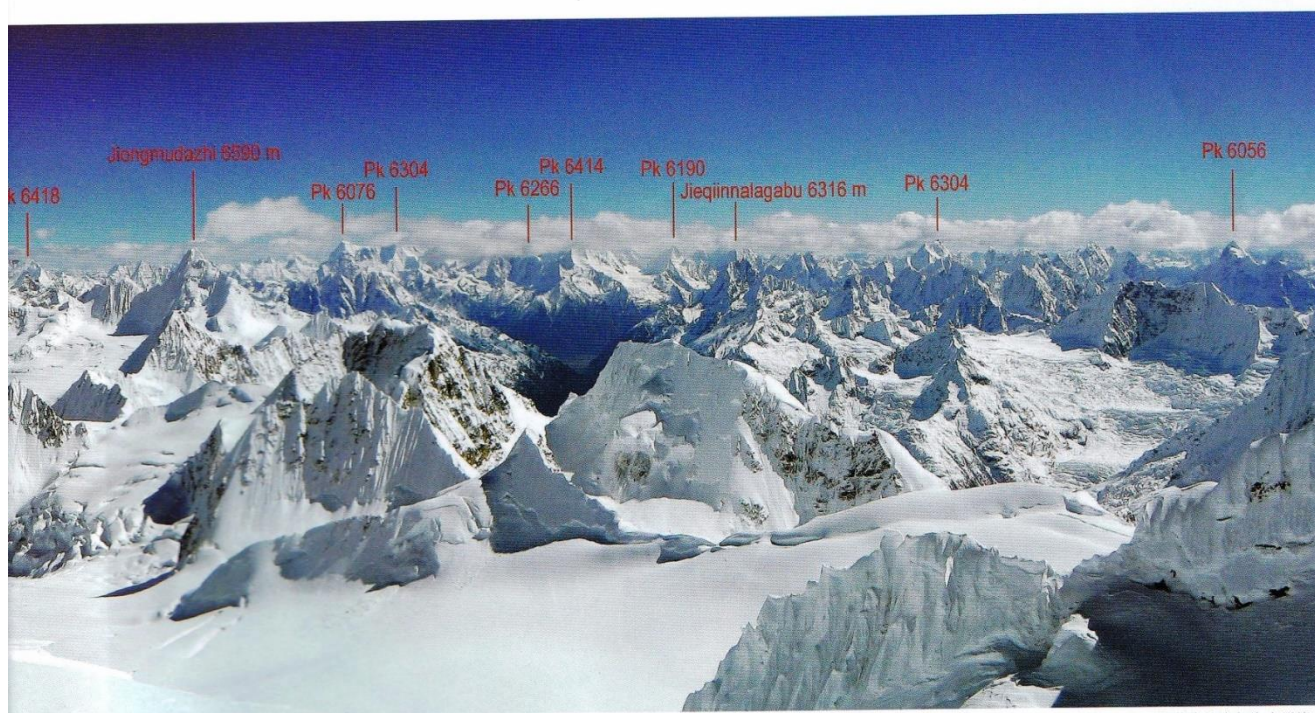
“首先要经过四川省外办”，他说，以前康定都要办手续，就连石棉也要办手续，接着还要走省公安厅、成都市公安局，还有军区司令部、作战部，“这几个部门是必须的，都要报批”。



大米勇全景。

这里就是中国的阿尔卑斯山脉。这里是攀登未登峰的天堂。

”



乃朗以东，这些山峰全部为未登峰。



5300 岩石山峰东壁下的小学。



西藏地区的秋日大丰收。



5480 峰北壁。

不到任何西藏的元素，没有任何经幡和玛尼石。到后来我有了儿子，儿子和妻子也会一起唠叨。再后来 20 多年过去了，我来到这片区域已经 40 多次了，他们就渐渐默然接受了这件事，不再说什么了。

2016 年，一部融汇我毕生心血的著作——《喜马拉雅以东——西藏的阿尔卑斯及其远方：山岳地图册》出版了。这本书用的是中文、日文和英文三种语言，记录了关于喜马拉雅以东的那些山峰的地理信息和攀登信息。

这本书并不便宜，但在国际攀登圈也很有影响力，现在在日本和中国都脱销了。很多世界级的攀登者就是看到了这本书上的山峰信息，才了解中国的山峰资源，到中国去登山。比如英国著名的登山家 Mick Fowler，他攀登幺妹峰之前，就是跟我了解了很多关于四姑娘山的信息。

然而，这些山峰信息就像是一个潘多拉宝盒，也伴随着一些悲剧发生。2009 年，几名匈牙利攀登者临行前，跟我要了四川康定县和九龙县交界处人山峰（海拔 6079 米）的

山峰信息。后来，这 4 名匈牙利人遇难了。听闻噩耗时，我很心痛。

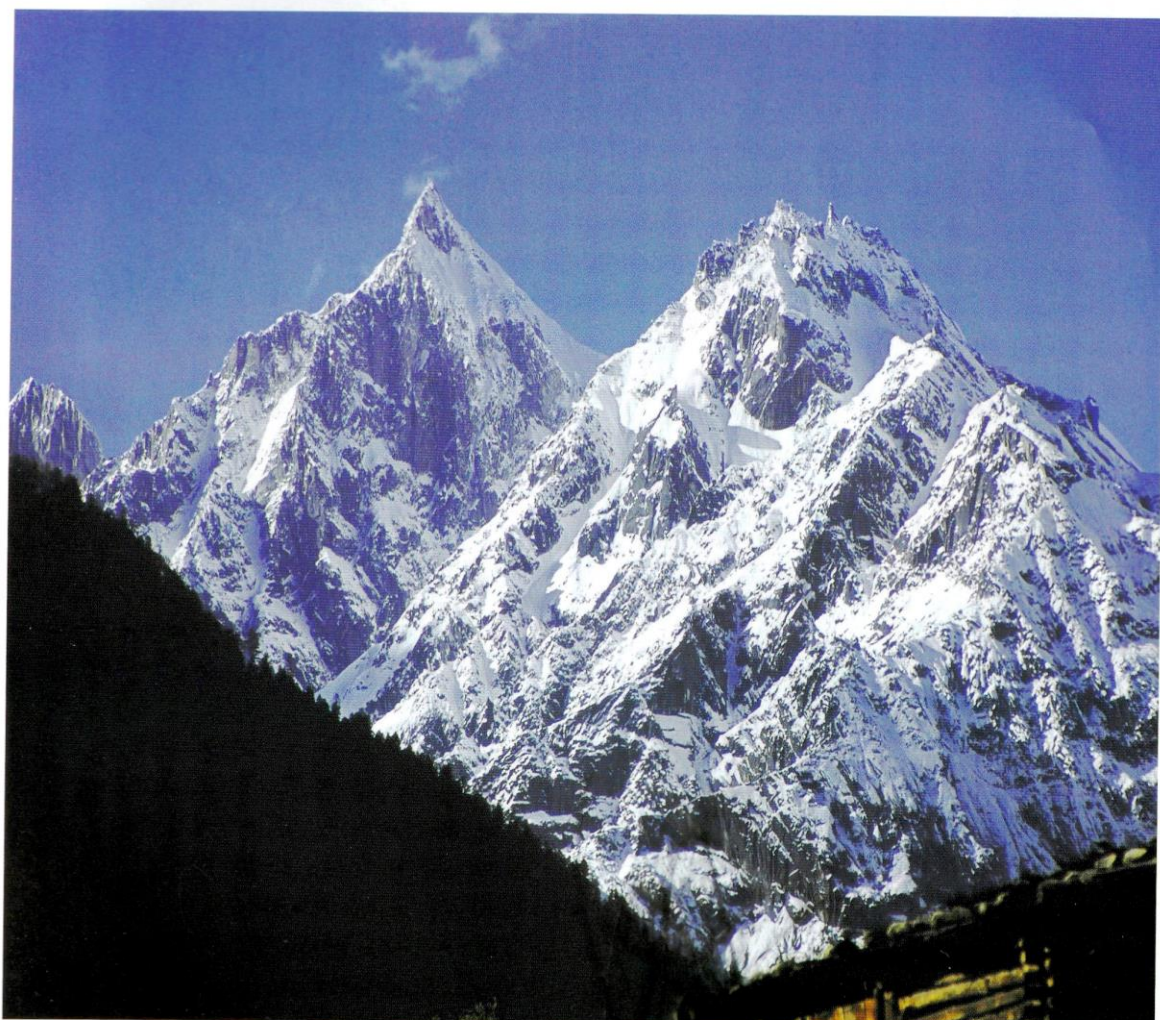
在这半年前，2009 年 5 月，3 名美国攀登者也是看了我书中关于四川爱德嘉峰（Mt. Edgar, E-Kongka, 海拔 6618 米）的山峰信息后，前去爱德嘉峰攀登，最后不幸遭遇雪崩遇难（编者按：关于这座山峰背后的悲壮故事，请参考《户外探险》杂志 2019 年 5 月刊《十年生死爱德嘉》一文）。

今年 5 月末，我的新书《飞越喜马拉雅》航拍图册即将在日本出版了，这将是我的最后一本书。但是我的探险并不会到此为止，7 月初，我还会再次回到西部，探索中国青海玉树、囊谦一带。

我叫中村保，大家都叫我 Tom。从 1991 年开始至今，我探访中国西部山区 40 余次，一生全凭热爱。我有过很多职业，登山者、摄影师、地理学者、山岳作家。有人问过我，我更认同哪一重角色。我还是更喜欢大家把我当作一名探险家。📷

能抵达这些尚未有人涉足的地方，
并置身于如此壮丽的景色中，我很开心。
而且能将这些隐秘的疆域和山峰信息公诸于世，
这件事让我很有成就感。

”



5842 峰东南壁。