

ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

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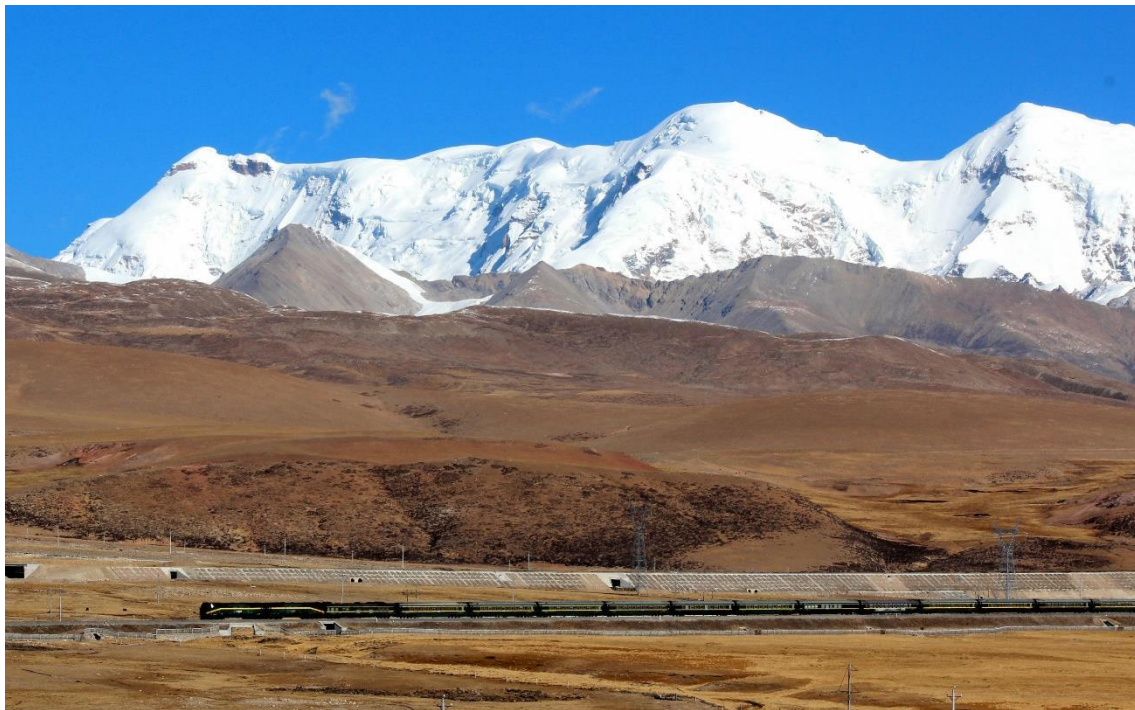
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TIBET NOW – UNDERGOING A DRAMATIC CHANGE

Return to Kangri Garpo “No Longer Frontier”

Journey Autumn 2019 Tamotsu (Tom) Nakamura

I have returned to the Tibet Autonomous Region after three years. Qinghai Province was targeted in 2017 and 2018 for expeditions. Dramatic change in Tibet has been taking place far faster than imagined. China is a nation of “Civil Construction”. All Chinese territories covering the borderlands of the west China including Tibet is in a hive of changes and developments. Frontier no longer exists. Railway and highway network is expanding. The present Ji administration announcing that the 50,000km railways network will connect the major cities in near future. The right is a highway from Lhasa to Nagchu in parallel with the railway.

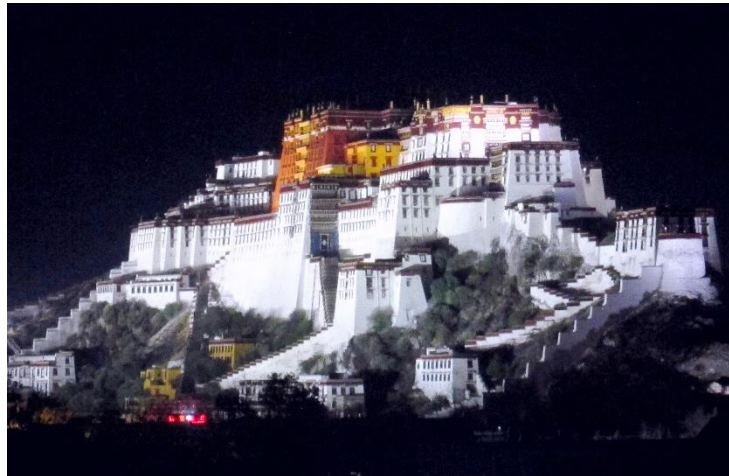


Nyainqentanglha (from left: P1 7162m, P2, P3 and P4 each 7000m and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Railway 4500m), P1 first climbed by Tohoku University in 1986. Others climbed too.

Holy city, a provincial capital of the Tibet Autonomous region has a population of 750,000 rapidly increased recently and town has been modernized.

Department stores, shopping malls are clouded with Tibetan.

Right is a picture of lighted up Potala Palace viewed from top floor of a shopping mall.



Main objectives were to survey changes in ten years of the Lhagu Glaciers of Kangri Garpo Range.

Time flies! A quarter century has lapsed since I first glimpsed this mountain in 1995 Before stating my Odyssey the mountain ranges is summarized below

Geography of Kangri Garpo

The hardly known mountain range of Kangri Garpo stretches about 280 km from northwest to southeast $28^{\circ} 30' - 30^{\circ} 00' \text{ N}$ and $95^{\circ} 30' - 97^{\circ} 30' \text{ E}$. It begins east of Namcha Barwa 7782m and the Great Tsangpo Bend and extends to the mountain chain of Baxoila Ling, the western end of the Hengduan Mountains. Some 40 6000m peaks and many 5000 m mountains soar into the sky.

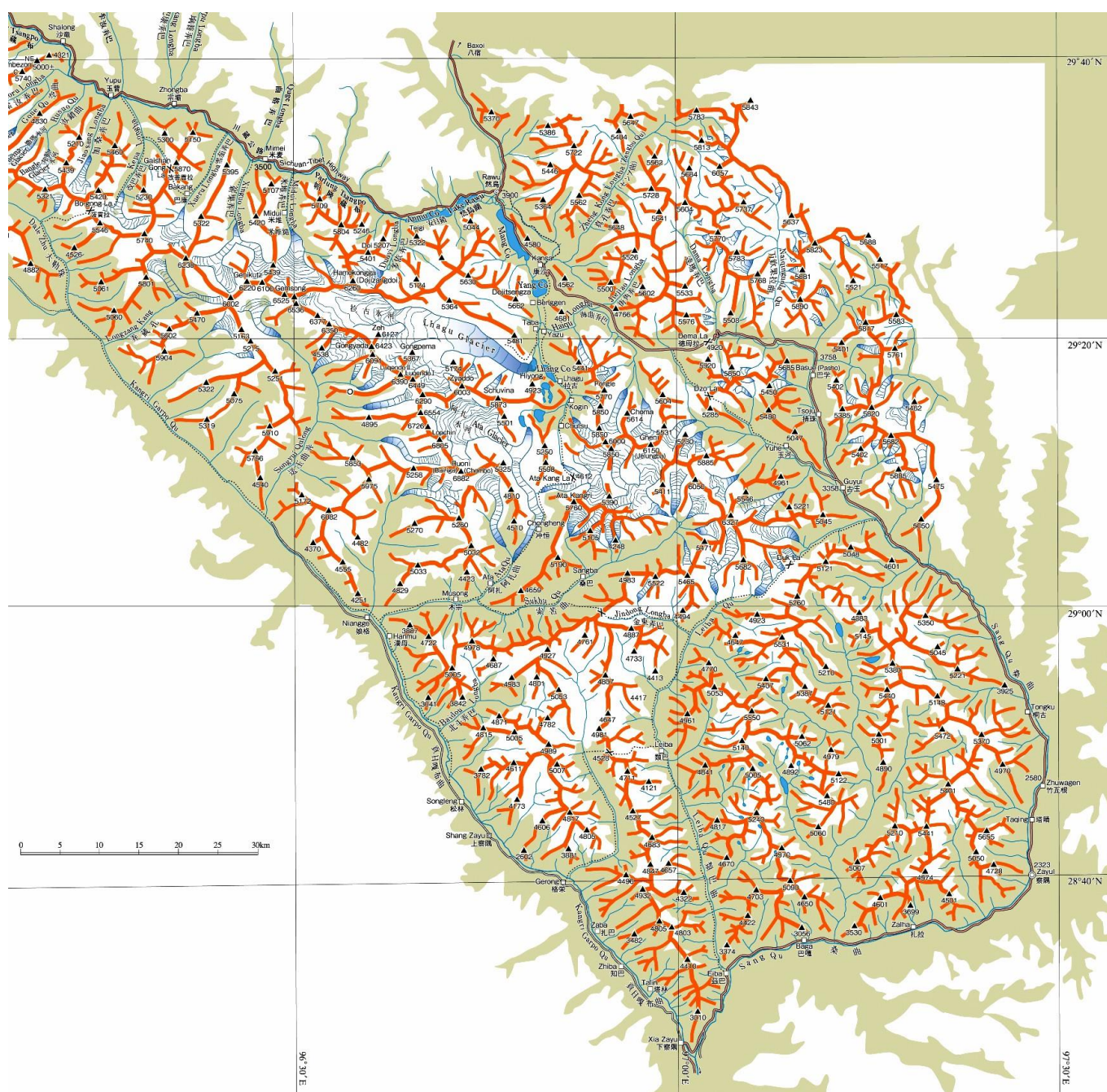
Three tributaries of Tsangpo encircle Kangri Garpo. The northern side of the range is deeply eroded and has a complicated topography. Here Parlung Tsangpo, a tributary of the Tsangpo carved a narrow gorge into the valley. River Lohit (China.: Zayul Qu) plays an important role to the east and to the south of Kangri Garpo. It arises from two tributaries, Kangrigarpo Qu running down from the northwest and Sang Qu flowing down from the northeast. Both rivers merge near Samai in Zayul County not far from the border to Arunachal Pradesh of India.

Further to the west and to the south of Kangri Garpo flow the Tsangpo, now called Dihang and Dibang which together with Lohit finally form the Brahmaputra. Dihang and Dibang flow almost in a north-south direction on a level of 2000 to 3000 m. The weather in the Kangri Garpo region is directly influenced by seasonal humid south-western winds from the Indian Ocean. This causes frequent precipitations in the monsoon season and heavy snowfalls in winter and spring. It fosters large glaciers of Kangri Garpo.

The eastern rim of Kangri Garpo is a high plateau, to the west the valley of Parlung Tsangpo

becomes a deep, forested gorge. To the south the valleys are extremely eroded. Kangri Garpo can be divided into a western and an eastern part. The western section comprises the region west of Lhagu Glacier up to Gone Kangri, the eastern one consists of the area around Ata Glacier and Lhagu Glacier.

The highest peak is Ruoni, also called Bairiga with 6882 m. All the 6000 m peaks except for Lopchin 6805m first climbed by the Kobe University-Wuhan Geology University joint team in 2009 are unclimbed, only a few 5000m peaks ascended.



Journey Autumn 2019

Members are Nakamura 84 and Prof. Kazuo Kakiyara 71. Guide is Awang (Kedup Geltsen, Tibetan 41) as ever. He is my most reliable and intelligent partner since 2009. He is not only friend but the best navigator of travel familiar with the whole Tibet. He used a monk of Tibetan monastery then learnt English and now is operating a commercial house near Potala Palace. Driver is Ge Nei, Tibetan, 40, who thoroughly knows of road condition and observes safe drive. The picture below: left Awan, right Kakiyara on a historical suspension bridge over



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旅行路线及地点: 成都, 林芝八一, 然后, 波密, 色

秀拉山, 巴松措, 普朗林措, 拉萨, 泽那, 成都。

民航 火车 汽车售票处 (公章)

贰零 年 月 日

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外宾团队访藏名单表

团号: LBF-191024D 3 人

序号	姓名	护照号	性别	国籍	职业
1	KAKIHARA KAZUO	44140232	男	日本	退休
2	NAGAI TSUYOSHI	5001283709	男	日本	退休
3	NAKAMURA TADOTSU	7004185	男	日本	退休

Permit issue and problem

Since 2008 Beijing Olympic and turmoil in Lhasa. The control over foreigners became strict year by year in the south/east Tibet (Tibet Autonomous Region (No restrictions in Qinghai, Northwest Yunnan and West Sichuan although Tibetan inhabit). Permit for Autumn 2019 was applied to five organizations in succession, Tourist Bureau, Public Security Bureau (PSB), Legal Department, Army and Border Police. It took 3 months to clear all the procedure. The permit is issued to an authorized travel company (only 12 companies). Right is one of the samples. During travel we met only two Canadian in Rawu. Foreign tourists may stay in very limited place like Lhasa city and vicinity. Inspection is severe. Between Nyainchi and Rawu there are many PSB check posts and foreigners must show the permit for passing the gate.

But this is for foreigners. Chinese travelers may pass through freely. Chinese tourists (Han people) are rapidly increasing. They will rush in Summer season. Many hotels are constructed in major towns.



Shopping mall in Lhasa

Lhasa city is modernized. People are enjoying shopping and restaurants in department stores and shopping malls. Main industry of Lhasa is maintained by Chinese tourists coming from many cities of China. Arrival/departure boards indicate name of cities such as Beijing, Shanghai. Guangzhou, Xi'an, Wuhan, Chengdu, Kunming, Changsa, etc.

Se-Ti La, Bomi, Rawu~Lhagu Glacier

Chengdu~Nyainchi~Se-Ti~La~Rulang~Tongmai~Bomi~Rawu~Lhagu Glacier~
Dema La~(return)~Se-Ti La~Lake Basong~Gongpo Gyamda~Meila Shan~Lhasa~
Nyaiqentanglha~Xugu La~Lhasa





The distance from Lhasa 拉薩 to Nyinchi Bayi 八一・林芝: 396km by new highway (高速)
 Nyinchi Bayi 八一・林芝~Tongmai 通麦 143km
 Tongmai 通麦~Bomei 波密 85km
 Bomei 波密~Rawu 然烏 207km
 Rawu 然烏~Lhagu glacier 拉古冰河 30km

Total driving distance: 3400km for 11days in Tibet.

On October 24 we flew from Chengdu to Nyainchi in rain. The permit was carefully checked at Chengdu airport and Nyainchi airport as well. Temperature was 5°C. Awang received us at the airport. Awang soon went to the PSB for foreigners' registration for us, and then we visited a national forest park of Nyainchi.

We bought a new map of Tibet Autonomous Region in Xinhua book shop. All of prefectures are given newly unified name of "City" since the last year.



Whole view of Nyainchi town



National Forest Park (left)



Snow leopard

October 25, Nyainchi 06:00 9°C cloudy. We started towards Rawu/Lhagu Glacier, our main objectives. We hurried to Se-Ti La but regrettably Namcha Barwa 7782m was in the cloud. Rulang town 3440m was widely developed as touristic spot.



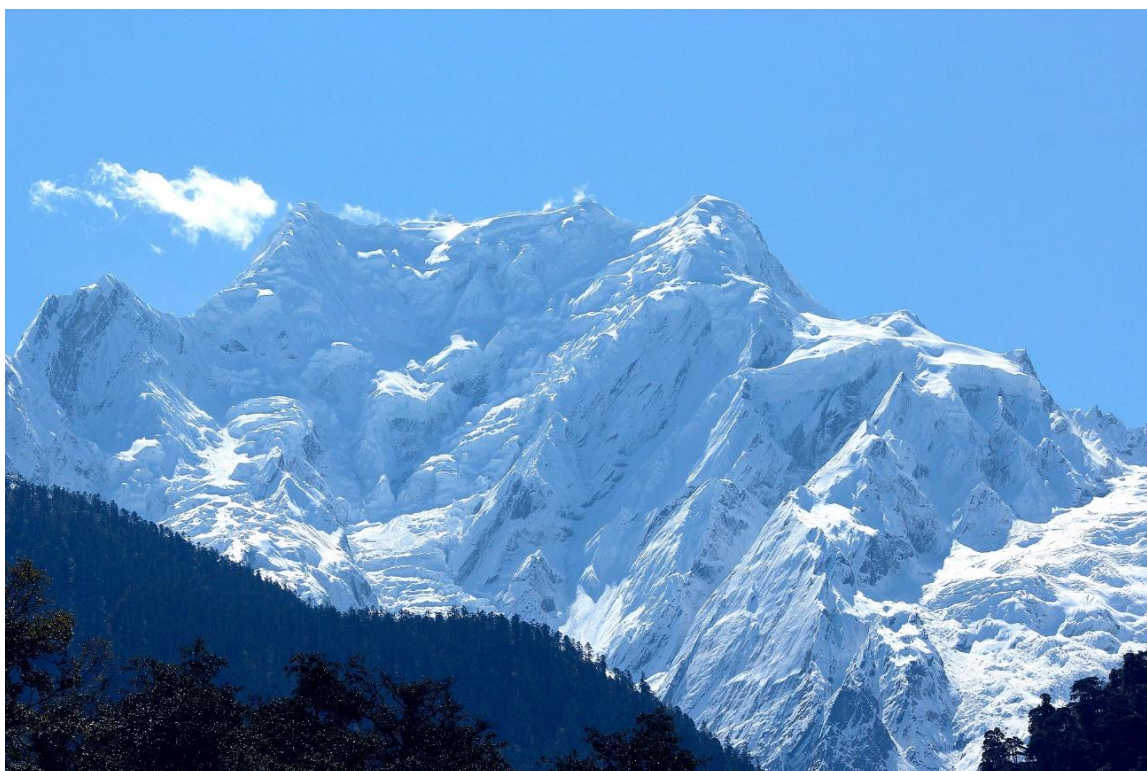
Hotels at Rulang



Unclimbed Tiba Kangri 6846m west face viewed from Rulang (魯朗)

Road descend abruptly from Rulang to Tongmai 2040m near confluence of Yigong Tsangpo and Parlung Tsangpo, tributaries of the Yarlung Tsangpo. The road passes through several tunnels as approaching to Tongmai which is now a sizeable town. Construction of railway station is about to start.

I entered Yigong Tsangpo in 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2011. I have got good news from driver that a vehicle road has now been completed through down–upper streams of Yigong Tsangpo. I have a plan 2020 to follow the all the way through the Yigong Tsangpo from Tongmai to Lhari.



Gyala Peri 7294m west face being looked up from Tongmai. First climbed by HAJ in 1986

Topics and News:

Jiyue, Awang and Jon Otto are important sources of news and topics about China and Tibet. They assist me as being eyes and ears. He carries my camera where I am unable to reach.

1. In general glaciers are receding in Tibet, but in the northern part of Qinghai some glaciers are becoming larger.
2. Dam construction in great river upper streams in west China makes rafting impossible. Even in the Yigong Tsangpo, dam construction is under investigation.
3. Tibetan are unable to obtain passport unless they have good connection. Visiting countries are limited to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.
4. Foreigners are never allowed to access to Qamdo.



Confluence of Yigong Tsangpo and Parlung Tsangpo near Tongmai

The most treacherous and dangerous landslide zone of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway between Tongmai and Bomi is now tunneled in 6km long. We may pass through fast and safely. Unclimbed 6000m peak of Nyainqentanglha East (right picture) soars dominantly near an old & elegant town in the right bank of Parlung Tsangpo.



On October 25 we arrived at Bomi town at 2725m. The last visit to Bomi was 2009. Bomi is inhabited mainly Khamba with few Kongbo of which territory is Gompo Gyamda. Street is totally changed to a modern township as below.



October 26, Rawu 9°C, rain-snow. Autumn leaves of Parlung Tsangpo is beautiful as above. We proceeded to Bomi via Songzong and Yupu. We entered Midoi, now a touristic spot for

Midoi Glacier of unclimbed Gemsong 6525m attracting many Chinese visitors. We entered Midoi valley to have a look of receding glacier. Peak and glacier terminus are below:



After visiting Midoi Glacier we moved to an entrance of our final goal Lhagu Glacier, Rawu 3960m. Here is the last town where PSB allows us to lodge. There is a modern hotel, room is well air-conditioned, comfortable. We met two Canadian young fellows. They were very much blunt and unaffable. Main street is likely to be township. Awang's iPhone promised us a perfectly fine weather for the following two days. He checked road conditions to the Lhagu Glacier and Dema La.

The year when I first came to Rawu was in Autumn 1995. It took six days to drive rough road from Kunming, Yunnan. There was only a shabby and dirty rest house and a barrack of Peoples Liberation Army in Rawu. The next visit was in 1999 on the way to Lhasa also from Kunming.

October 27 Rawu, perfectly fine, 07:30 minus 2°C, again went to Midoi Glacier.

October 28 Rawu, perfectly fine, 08:00 minus 2°C, highlights of this journey.

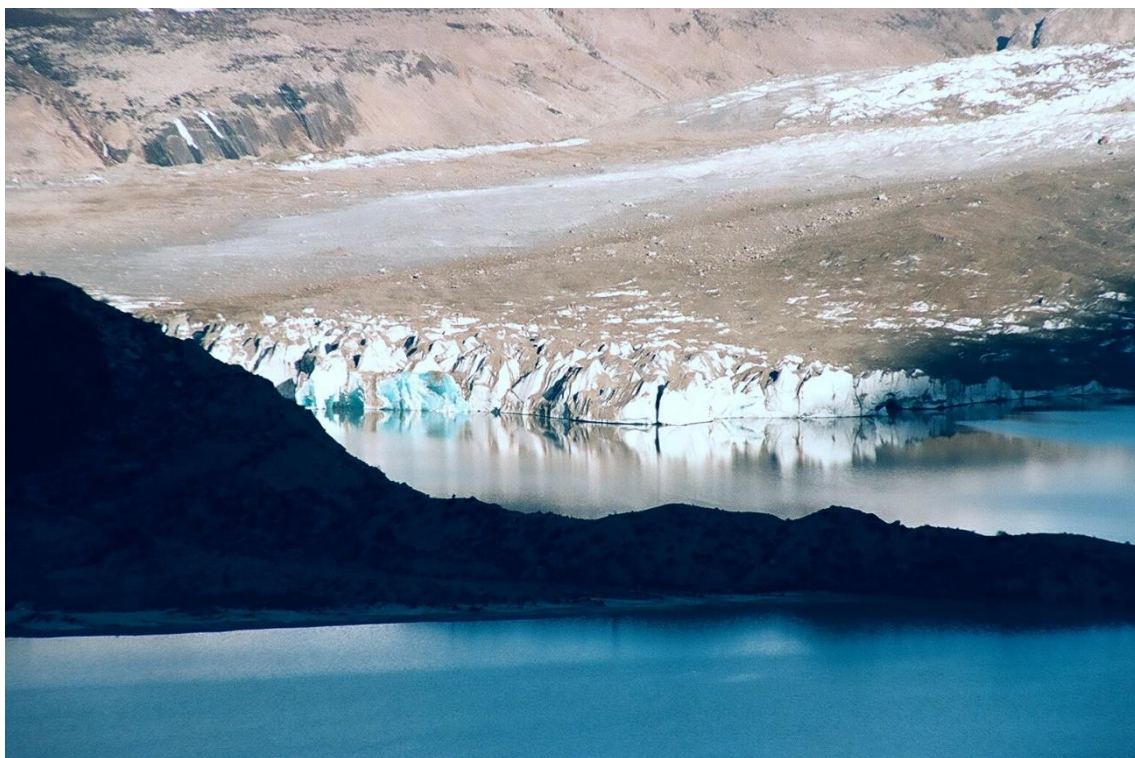
We hurried at daybreak to go to the Lhagu Glacier. "How is the glacier receding in ten years?" It was a matter of our serious concern.



Lhagu Glacier-Kangri Garpo East, Oct. 2019

At a lookout stage for tourist in Lhagu village

At the end 4160m of Lhagu village the south face appeared. We returned from here and went to Dema La 4900m. How becoming thinner in 10 years of the Lhagu Glacier is shown below.



June 1999



October 2019



At the end of Lhagu village the dominant SE face appeared, then. we went to Dema La 4900m.



SEt face of unclimbed Ruoni 6882m (Chinese name: Bairiga), the highest in Kangri Garpo

After the valley of Lhagu village, we went to the Dema La 4900m a pass to Zayul. The Kangri Garpo East are clustered with stunning peaks in this area two. On the way to Dema La:



Ruoni 6882m



Lopchin 6805m first climbed by Kobe Univ.-Wuhan Geology Univ. in 2009



Peak 6340m east face, unclimbed



Dominant Dojitzenza 5662m east face attracting climbers' attention, unclimbed

Peaks in the Lhagu Glacier and Monastery



Above: Homokongga 6260m, Below: Sunning 5380m peak



Fantastic 6000m peak in the middle Lhagu Glacier

When I came 1999 to Lhagu village, there were a few shabby and dirty semi-underground houses of Tibetan. Now many new houses are built and there is a 5 stars hotel for tourist. We



visited a historical monastery, Shugden Gumpa. In 1999 they were almost abandoned ruins as destroyed by Red Army during the culture revolution. Now reconstructed and some 80 monks and nuns are in services. They were very friendly to foreigners and welcomed us.

Early explorers and plant hunters stayed in this monastery. Frederick Bailey, Frank Kingdon-Ward, Ronald Kaulback. The road from Rawu to Dema La 4900m is a golden route provides wonderful view of the heart of Kangri Garpo East. It is overwhelmingly exciting indeed.



Yuhe Kangri 6327m north side (center, behind) easternmost of Kangri Garpo, unclimbed



Gheni 6150m north face, unclimbed

October 29, Bomi 06:00 1°C. Perfectly fine. We took return way. We met many Tibetan pilgrims heading to Lhasa as it was in Autumn. We had a look of many stunning summit, peaks after peaks, of Kangri Garpo along the Parlung Tsangpo in return way. We moved to Bomi.



Challenging rock peak of some 5000m west face, unclimbed



Delpola I 6300m west face near Songzong, unclimbed

On October 29, Bomi 1°C. At dawn, we went to Holy Place, Gawarong 3760m, then Nyainchi



Dipermarasong 6135m (left) southeast face, Nyainqentanglha East, unclimbed



Monastery in Gawarong



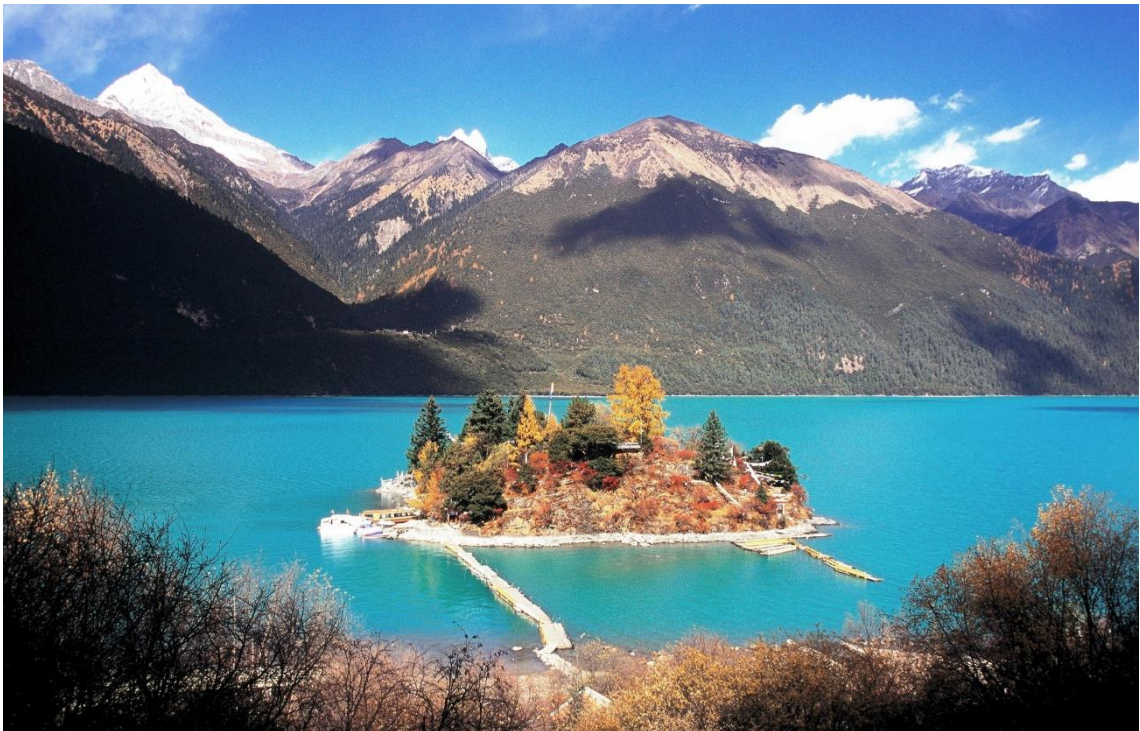
Check-post after tunnel to forbidden Medoq

On October 30, Nyainchi 08:00 8°C, perfectly fine.

We returned to Se-Ti La to view Namcha Barwa 7782m, as it was in the cloud in the previous day. We could arrive at the best lookout point in time. I was awfully touched to again meet the mightiest summit of Namcha Barwa laying above hazes. Very fortunate!



West face of Namcha Barwa 7782m viewed from Se-Ti La, first climbed by JAC in 1992



Lake Basong Tso in Autumn, monastery in island



Namcha Barwa 7782m NW face

On October 31, we crossed Meila Shan Pass 5018m, highest pass of Sichuan-Tibet Highway in snow towards Lhasa. Picture below is a group of yaks moving down to lower place from high pasture.



End of the Journey

On November 2, we enjoyed a relaxing excursion to Xuegu La 5300 of Nyainqentanglha West.



Qungmo Kangri 7048m east face from Xuegu La 5300m climbed in 1996 by China-Korea

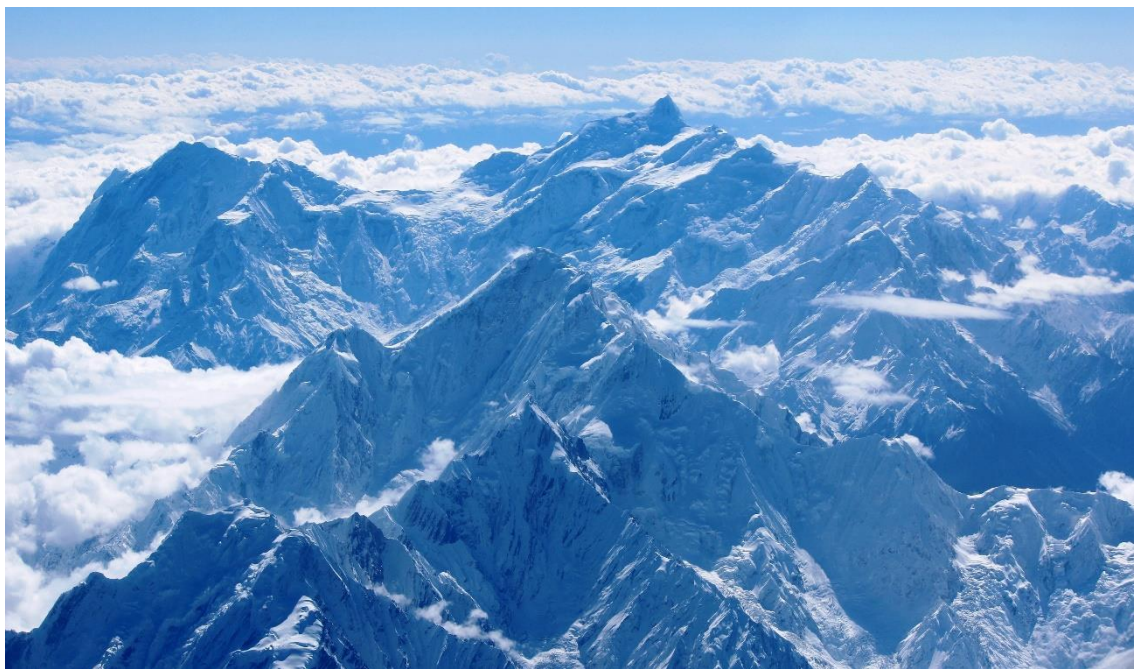


Bartse Ri 6235m north of Lhasa, first climbed by British party

We flew from Lhasa to Chengdu on November 2. Two weeks journey was quite satisfactory. 2020 plan is now incubated in our mind. Two aerial panoramas are below.



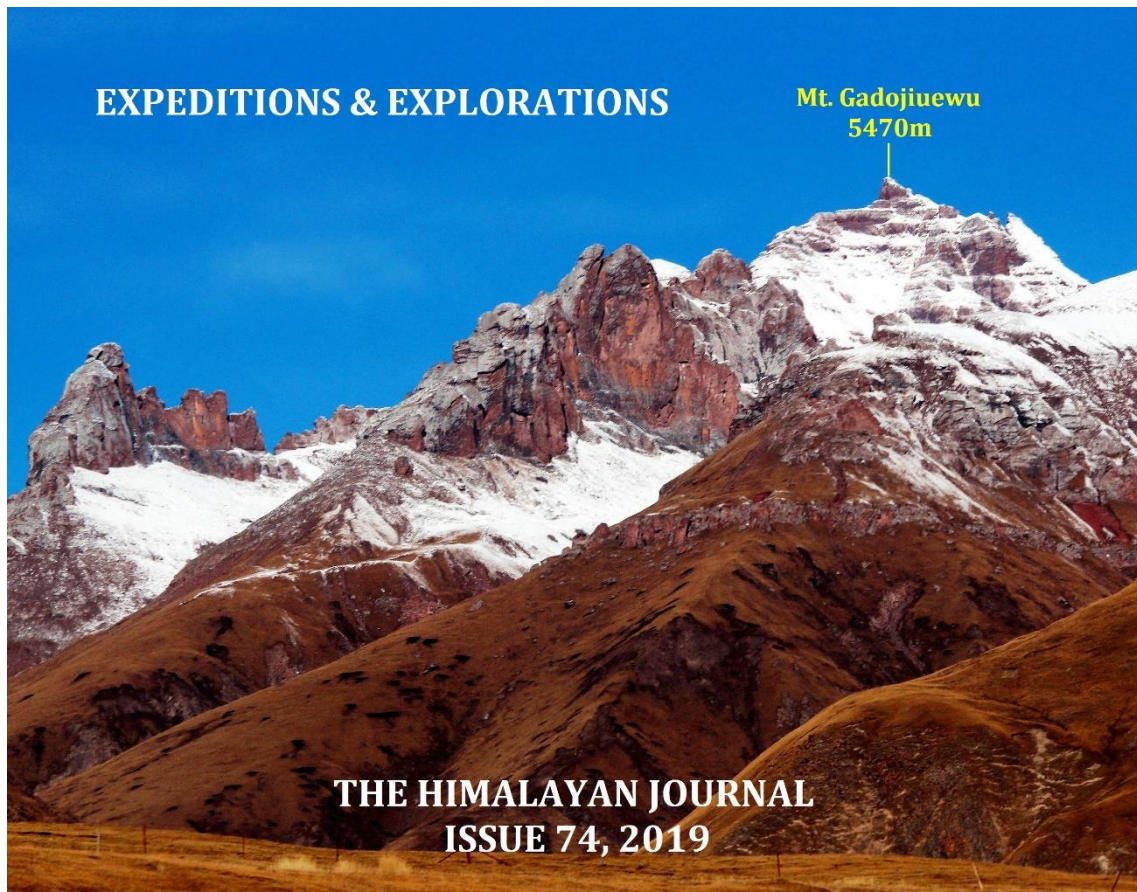
Holy mountains Yalaxianbo 6635m north face in front, 6500m peaks in background



Unclimbed Sanglung 7015m (left), Namcha Barwa 7782m (center, background), Gyala Peri 7294m and Tiba Kangri 6846m in front

The Himalayan Journal

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9 Nangchen Kingdom and Veiled Mountains in Yushu Prefecture

Tamotsu (Tom) Nakamura

The road once crosses the Tong Tien He (Upper Yangtze river, the source of three rivers—Mekong, Yangtze, and Yellow rivers).

After attending the Mt. Siguniang Second International Mountains and Outdoor Forum in October, Mr. Tsuyoshi Nagai and I flew to Yushu of Qinghai Province on 22 October 2018. Although we spent a week, we gained positive yields. Nangchen is a Tibetan kingdom with over 90 monasteries and has countless rock peaks of 5000 m which inspire visitors, particularly climbers.

After searching peaks and monasteries in Nangchen, we headed north Yushu to locate the veiled and less know mountain massif 'Mt. Gadojuewu 5470 m' (Chinese name—Mt. Katojowo).

On 23 October we drove from Yushu town to Nangchen, first crossing a high pass and then going through a gorge with rock peaks and a monastery.



A monastery nestled in rocky peaks



Mt. Gadojuewu 5470 m

Nangchen County is the political, economic, and cultural centre of Yushu for over 600 years.

In the Han Dynasty – early Tang Dynasty, the county belonged to the Sumba Kingdom of Women.

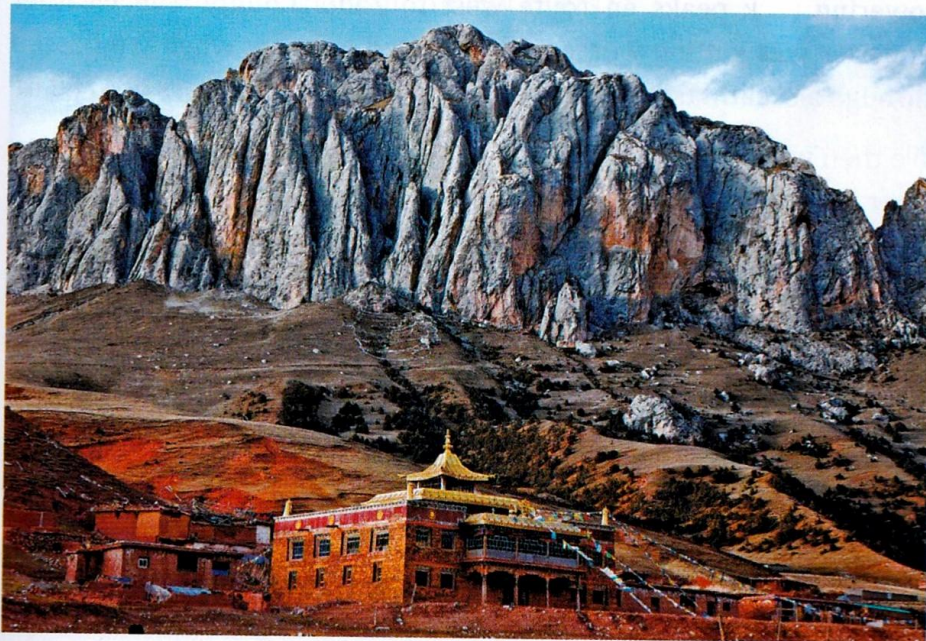
EXPEDITIONS & EXPLORATIONS



Upper Mekong river Zachu (Lancang Jiang) flows through Nangchen town

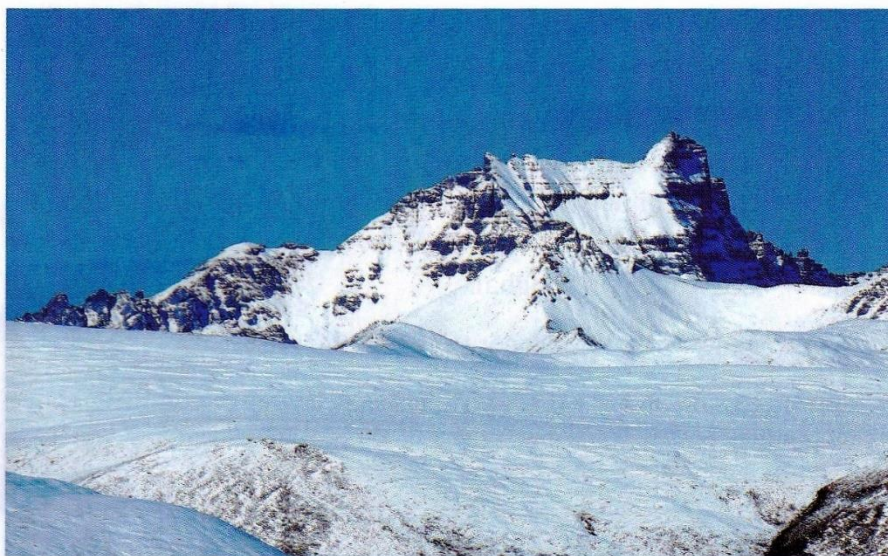
Nangchen County is in the southeast of Yushu Prefecture, which is part of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). The Nangchen County has nine townships and one town with a total population of 105,800.

The county seat Shamda town is located in the river valley of Upper Mekong area; agriculture is its major economy supplemented by



Baizha ancient salt fields

EXPEDITIONS & EXPLORATIONS



Mt. Gadojuewu 5470 m main peak east face seen from a high pass 4600 m

The highway runs to NEE through grasslands in an altitude of 4200–4700 m. Yaks often cross the road despite fences. We left the highway and located our peak.

Finally we returned to Yushu and then enjoyed aerial views on flight from Yushu to Chengdu, after having achieved our objectives.



Mt. Gadojuewu 5470 m



5500m Peaks west of Gangga Massif, Sichuan, China

Summary

Tom Nakamura and Tsuyoshi Nagai, both elderly explorers, continued explorations in the Tibetan Autonomous Region in October 2018. This time they flew to Yushu in Qinghai Province. They visited Nangchen, a Tibetan kingdom with over 90 monasteries and countless rock peaks. They also located the veiled mountain massif Mt. Gadojuewu, 5470 m.

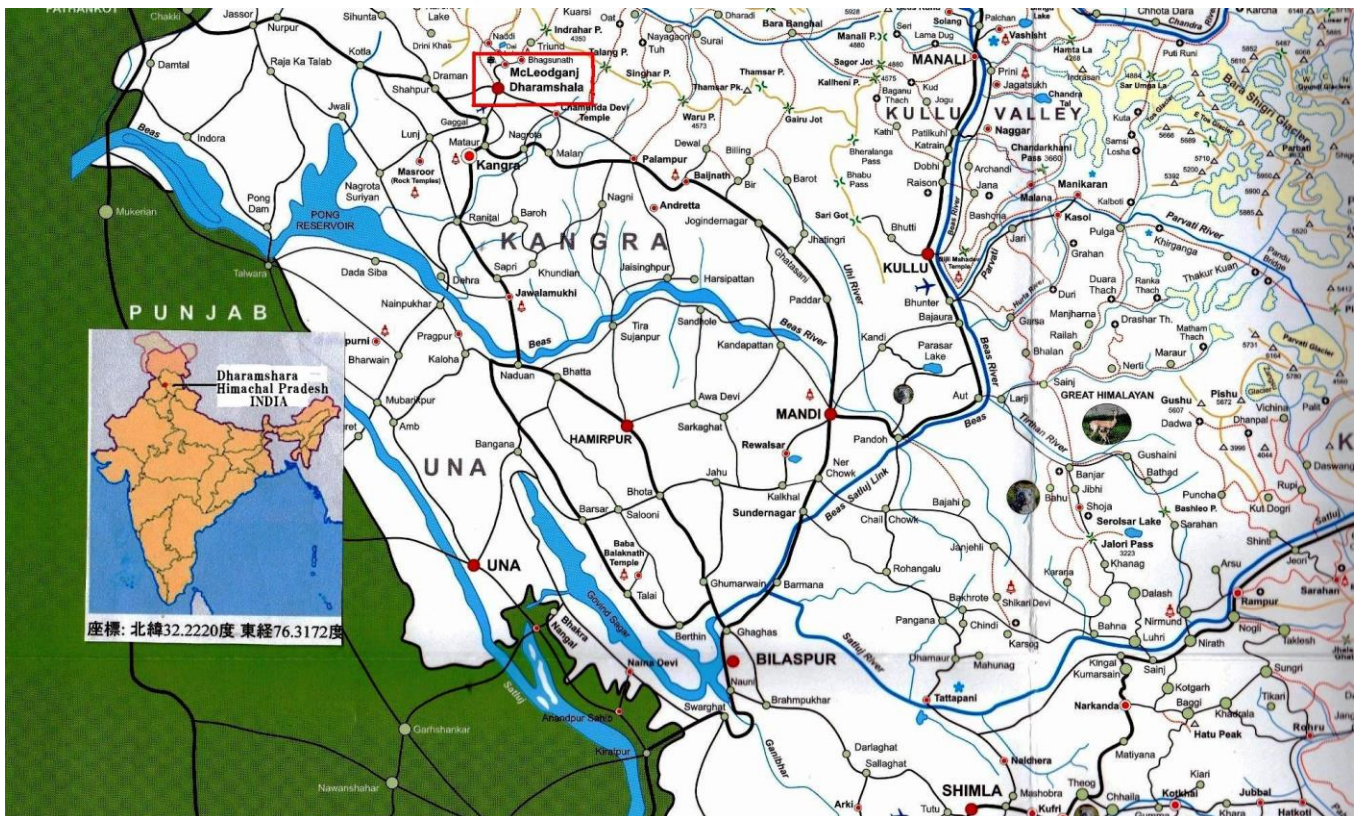
About the Author

With the advent of GIS, satellite images and other advanced cartographic applications, it seems the world is growing smaller by the minute. But long-time Alpinist contributor TAMOTSU NAKAMURA—though he began his explorations after the Golden Age of Mountaineering ended—begs to differ.

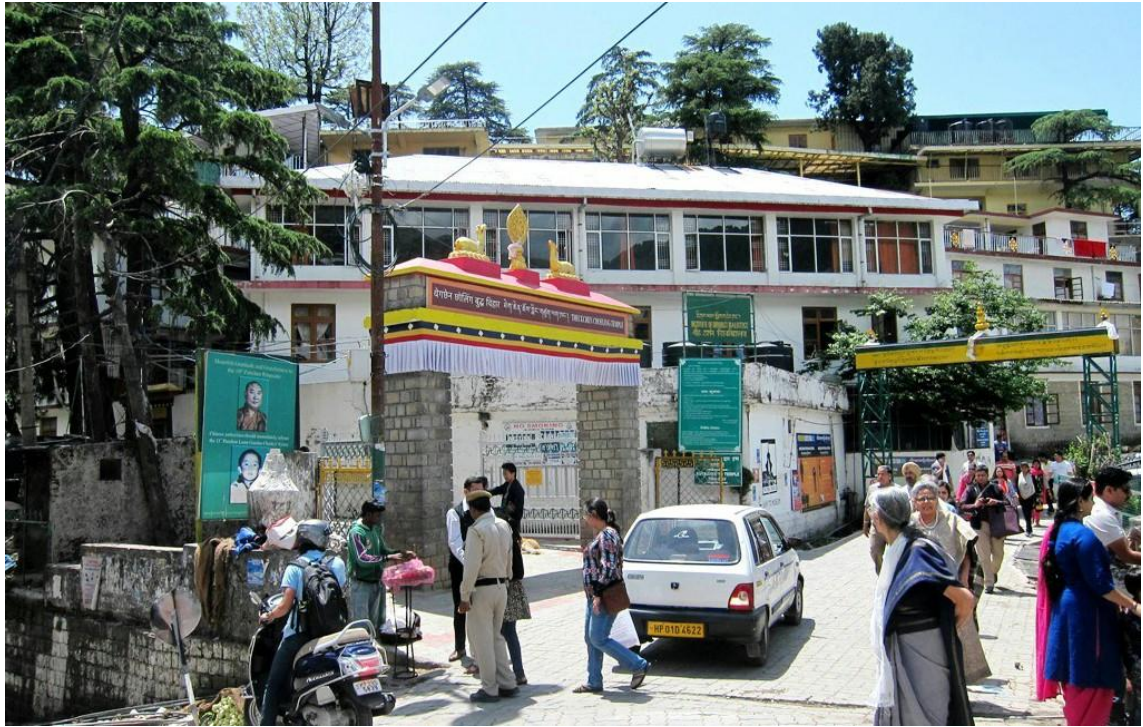
“Some convince themselves that veiled mountains in the greater ranges are an experience of the past,” Nakamura says. “But Tibet has an incredibly vast and complex topography that holds countless unclimbed summits, and beckons a lifetime’s search. The many peaks there will remain enigmas for generations.” Nakamura is now 85 years old (born in 1934 in Tokyo). After living and working around the world in Pakistan, Mexico, New Zealand and Hong Kong, he has made at least 40 expeditions to the borderlands and continues to do so. Nakamura is Honorary Member of HC, AC, AAC, JAC and NZAC, and Fellow of RGS.

Journey to India - April/May 2017
Tom Nakamura

Dharamsara



Map of Dharamsara



Dalai Lama Palace at Dharamsara



Members of the Himalayan Club



THE DALAI LAMA

MESSAGE

First of all I offer my congratulations to the members of the Himalayan Club in the 90th year of its existence. I appreciate your enthusiasm to share with others across the world useful knowledge about travel and exploration in the Himalayas. Much of this is, of course, focused on climbing these great mountains. We Tibetans have, I confess, generally shown little interest in scaling the peaks that surround us, perhaps for the practical reason that we have had far too many mountain passes to ascend to have any wish to climb higher than we must.

Nevertheless, perhaps mountaineering can be compared to pilgrimage. Both require dedication, careful preparation, courage and determination not to give up whatever the cost, and caution in the face of danger. I believe members of mountaineering teams become acutely aware of their dependence on their companions and at the same time their mutual responsibility to each other. This exercise in loyalty and trust is a crucial insight we would all be the better for realizing and in this context I admire your efforts to involve young people in your activities.

I am also impressed by your dedication to providing help where you can to people who live in the Himalayan region and to contributing to the preservation and protection of the natural environment.

May your membership thrive, your charitable activities increase, and may those of you who embark on climbing expeditions fulfill their goals and return home safe and sound.

April 24, 2017

Dalai Lama's message to the Himalayan Club



Dalai Lama talking to HC members 1



Dalai Lama talking to HC members 2



Dalai Lama and HC members, T. Nakamura in the left end



Inside of Dalai Lama palace



Dalai Lama Exile Government Parliament at Dharamsara



Parliament Board of Exile Government



Government buildings



Tibetan Archives and Library



View of Dharamsara



Town of Dharamsara



Street of Dharamsara



Temple



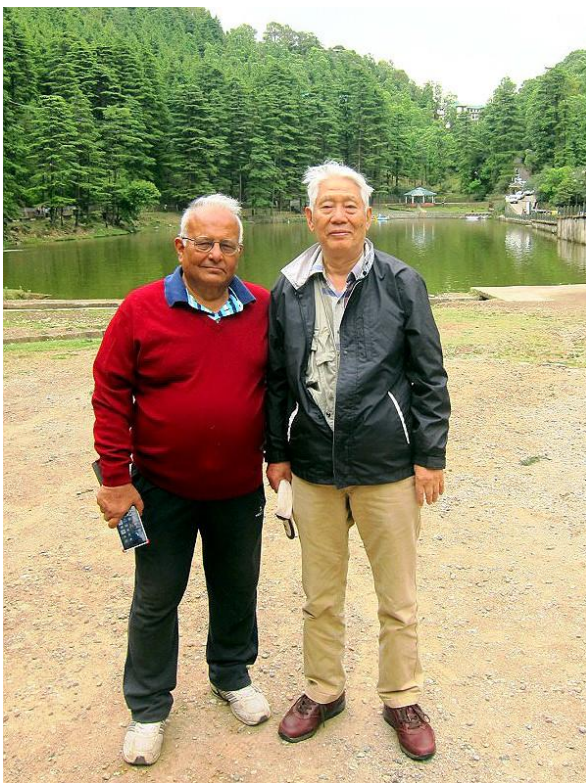
Swimming pool



Saint George Church



Rock Hindu Temple 60km away from Dharamsara



Harish Kapadia HC (left), T. Nakamura