Heart of unclimbed Nyainqentanglha East – over 6000m peaks

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The 11th Piolets D’or Asia 2016

The Piolets d’Or Asia Awards, whose purpose of establishment is to encourage Asian mountaineers who achieved pure and visionary ascents and explorations, celebrated its 11th anniversary. This award sponsored by Man and Mountain Publishers (Korea) and known as Oscar Award of Alpinism, has been leading the development of Asian mountaineering culture for the last 10 years, and also suggested the way of future-oriented climbing and exploration to Asian mountaineering community.

The Award Ceremony was conducted on November 4, 2016 in Seoul, Korea. Chairman of the juries was Koji Hagiwara, Yamakei Publishers (Japan). The winners of the award were the following.

Lifetime Achievements – Tamotsu (Tom) Nakamura, Japan
Korean Team – Gangapurna south face new route (Annapurna Region)
   Chang-Ho Kim, Suk-Mun Choi, Joung-Yong Park
Japan Team – Kurobe Golden Pillar at Tsurugida in North Japan Alps
   Koji Ito, Yusuke Sato, Kimihiro Miyagi

(from left) Dr. Lee In-Jeung, Tom Nakamura, Kim Chang-ho, Christine Pae
(from left) Suk-Ha Hong (president of Man and Mountain), Koji Ito, Kim Chang Ho---

(from left) Dr. Lee (UAAA President), Nakamura, M. Kawasaki, K. Hagiwara (Yamakei)
Unveiling Hidden Mountains along the Yarlung Tsangpo  
South Tibet–November 2016

An elderly team of T. Nakamura and T. Nagai entered the forbidden south Tibet for exploring and identifying hidden/unknown 6,000m peaks along the Yarlung Tsangpo.

The region is very sensitive and now strictly restricted and controlled because of being close to China (Tibet)-India border. No foreigners are allowed to travel unless they obtain a special permit from the Public Security Bureau and Chinese Liberation Army in charge of Tibet Autonomous Region.

Objectives of the explorations are as follows (see the map below).

Main objective: Peaks surrounding Bobonung Glacier Scenic Spots
Other objective: Outstanding rock peaks of Nyel Japo massif
Holy mountain Worde Kongge north of Yarlung Tsanpo

They also visited a holy mountain and lake shown in the end of this photo gallery. The mountain is one of nine Bon’s creators of the Tibetan universe.
Shelrika 6045m south face northeast of Jindong 金東鄉
5842m peak west face southeast of Shelrika 6044m

6041m peak north face in the middle of Bobonung massif
Peak close to 6000m northwest face of Bobonung massif

Stunning 6000m peak northwest face of Bobonung massif
6000m peaks surrounding Bobonung Glacier valley, north face (1)

6000m peaks surrounding Bobonung Glacier valley, north face (2)
6000m peaks surrounding Bobonung Glacier valley, north face (3)

6000m peaks surrounding Bobonung Glacier valley, north face (4)
Chipula 6152m northeast face of the west end of Bobonung massif

6000m peak southeast of Chipula northeast face of Bobonung massif
(left) Chipula 6152m northwest face, (right) 6121m/6215m northwest face of Bobonung massif viewed from Dalha Gampo Monastery 4180m

6121m (foreground) and 6215m (background) northwest face of Bobonung massif viewed from Dalha Gampo Monastery 4180m
Nyel Japo 6150m (Russian map) east face, a massif of rock peaks

Leftmost: Nyel Japo 6150m (Russian map) north face
Next of rightmost: Lang Lha Risang ca. 5700m
Nyel Japo 6150m north face soaring immediate south of Yarlung Tsangpo

c. 5500m rock peak east face west of Nyel Japo
Holy Worde Kongge (Ode Gungyel) main peak 5996m northwest face

Beautiful Lake Yamdrok and two 6000m peaks of Kareg Jawpo (left 6100m, male) and Kareg Jawmo (right 6000m, female)
Yarlung Tsangpo – a Hive of Construction
“What is now happening in the frontier” Paradox of Development

We travelled through the Yarlung Tsangpo valley for unveiling hidden unclimbed mountains close to the south bank from the 8th to 23rd of November, 2016.

Problem was to obtain a permit to enter the areas not opened for foreigners. Since 2008 when fierce turmoil by local Tibetan broke out in Lhasa, controls and restrictions over foreigners have been becoming tighter year by year. In particular a route along Meiling to Zetang is sensitive and foreigners are not allowed to travel because of the reason why the area is close to the Indian border, notwithstanding Chinese nationals may freely visit. We met no foreigner at all throughout travel from Bayichen to Zetang. We were watched and inspected every day by police of Public Security Bureau (PSB).

In the other hand, the Yarlung Tsangpo valley is in a hive of construction of dam and tunnels–bridges of 500km railway from Lhasa to Bayichen. In fact the narrow valley is just sites for tremendous civil work. We visited historical places too en route.

Lhasa, capital of Tibetan Autonomous Region which was previously a forbidden and mysterious city, is now rapidly changing to most modern town.

Map of Yarlung Tsangpo and surrounding area
Completed dam (1) between Gyaca and Sangri 12/11/2016

Completed Dam (2) 12/11/2016
Construction site for new dam between Gyaca and Sangri 12/11/2016

Railway (Lhasa-Bayichen) construction between Langxian and Gyaca 11/11/2016
Railway construction on river stream between Sangri and Zetang 12/11/2016

Memorial Hall of Dalai Lama 13th birth place between Langxian - Gyaca 11/11/2016
Lhasa – Potala Palace and city main road, department store (left)
Bon’s nine (9) Creators of Tibetan Universe

Father – Ode Gungyel (Worde Kongge)

Eight Sons –

1. Yalaxianbo
2. Nyainqentanglha
3. Maqen Kangri (Amnye Maqen)
4. Gokchen Dolra
5. Gampo Lhaji
6. Xialha Guipo
7. Jewo Yulgyel
8. Kareg Jawpo (male) and Jowmo (female)

Beautiful Lake Yamdrok and two 6000m peaks of Kareg Jawpo (left 6100m, male) and Kareg Jawmo (right 6000m, female)
Yalaxianbo 雅拉香波 main peak 6635m (left) west face and south peaks (right) west face slightly lower than the main peak. South peaks remain unclimbed.

Nam Tso and Nyainqentanglha north face
(from left) Southeast Pk 7046m, Central 7117m, Middle 7111m, Main 7162m
Nyainqentanglha northeast face seen from near Damshung

Father of Bon's creators, Ode Gungyel (Worde Kongge) 5596m (left) northwest face
Gampo Lhaji north of Yarlung Tsangpo with historical Dalha Gampo Monastery

Maqen Kangri (Amnye Machen) 6282m north face in Qinghai Province
Three International Events in Kathmandu, Nepal

November 17 – 23, 2016

① Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the First Successful Ascent of Mt. Kangchengjunga and Mt. Makalu
② International Conference on Mountain Tourism, Climate Change, and Earthquake in Nepal
③ UAAA (Asian Alpine Association) General Assembly

Sponsored by The Nepal Mountaineering Association
Langtang Valley, Nepal November 2016

Restoration/reconstruction from Earthquake

(left) Langtang II (Chenge Liru) 6596m, (right) Langtang Lirung 7227m south face
(above) at Kyanjin Gumba 3870m, (below) Langtang Lirung 7227m east face
(left) Kingshung 6781m, (below, foreground) Lantang Lirung Glacier. (right) Yubra 6264m and Yunbra Glacier

Trace in the aftermath of earthquake, Langtang (1)
Trace in the aftermath of earthquake (2)

(above and below) Holy place, Gosainkunda after earthquake
Photo Gallery of Aerial Views

Golden Flying Route over the Himalaya:
Kathmandu-Lhasa-Chengdu

The pictures were taken from a airplane of Air China commercial flight en route of Chengdu-Lhasa, Lhasa-Kathmandu and Kathmandu to Chengdu. Areas covered are eastern part of Nepal, Central Tibet, Sikkim, Bhutan, Easternmost Himalaya, Nyaiqentanglha West / East and Sichuan. High resolution pictures are available upon request. I owe principally Richard Salisbury and also Marko Prezelj and John Nankervis for peak identification of the Nepal Himalaya, and Harish Kapadia for Sikkim and Bhutan.

Peak ID from this page to page 5 : Richard Salisbury
Nyaiqentanglha East is the last frontier for exploration and mountaineering. Nearly 200 peaks remain unclimbed.
Below are the mountains in Sichuan Province.

Photo: Yoshiharu Sugiura