1. Sichuan University

1) The Sixth International Conference of Mountain Outdoor Safety and Health was held on October 11th to 13th, 2017. The conference was sponsored and organized by the Sichuan University and the Siguniang Mountains Management Bureau having support of the Outdoor Sports Institute of Sichuan University.

2) Overseas main speakers and lectures:
   Tamotsu (Tom) Nakamura, Chairman of Hengduan Mountains Club, Japan – Mountains of Southeast Tibet and West Sichuan Highlands.
   He Zhiming, rock climbing expert Hong Kong – Safety Guarantee during the climbing.
   Several professors such as Prof. Li Cheng of the Sichuan University made lectures on safety, high altitude sickness and acclimatization, history of explorations,
From left-Liu Yong, Event producer, Nakamura, Prof. Li Cheng of Sichuan University
Morning session – (left: Liu Yong, right: Nakamura)

Afternoon session – Liu Yong leading questions/answers/discussions
2. Mt. Siguniang

The Siguniang Mountain Outdoor Experts International Forum 2017 was held at Mt. Siguniang town from October 13th to 15th.

The forum was sponsored and organized by Siguniang Mountains Management Bureau, Aba Prefecture Sports Bureau, Outdoor Sports Institute of Sichuan University and operated by Siguniang Mountains Management Bureau Outdoor Activities Management Center and Sichuan Leisure Sports Science Management Association.

Nakamura made lecture on Peak Identification of Sichuan Mountains and He Zhiming talked on activities of Ngok Fung Climbing Society of Hong Kong.

Chinese professors and experts made presentation about various themes relating to mountaineering and outdoor sports.

Participants visited the mountain museum and enjoyed a half day tour to beautiful Shuangqiao Valley. At the end of conference participants were guided to the Monument of 2008 Sichuan Earthquake.
Tibetan girls welcoming participants (left) Nakamura (right) Zho, General Mgr.

Liu Yong (right end) leading the panel talks and discussions
Mt. Siguniang Museum at Siguniang Town (formerly Rilong)

Same as above
Participants visited Kenzo Okawa private museum.
Participants in the forum

Rock peaks of beautiful Shuangqiao valley
Sichuan Earthquake in 2008 triggered avalanche on Mt. Siguninag. main peak

Monument of Sichuan Earthquake 2008
Part II Journey to Hidden Mountains in the Dadu River basin

Areas off the beaten tracks are closed to foreigners in south and east Tibet. Control is becoming tighter and we would be closely watched by public security police in the regions, which used to be my fields for explorations in the last decade. No permits are now issued for un-opened borderland. I applied to enter south of Namcha Barwa, but it was turned down. We wait for improvement of the situation in not a distant future.

Then, instead of east Tibet, I chose a short trip searching hidden peaks along the Dadu River basin as an alternative. My colleague of senior explorers, Mr. Tsuyosi Nagai (85 years old), Zhang Jiyue of Sichuan Earth Expeditions and I (82 years old) departed from Chengdu on October 16 soon after the Conference at Mt. Siguniang.

The first objective was to unveil unknown rock peaks over 5,000m along the Dadu River. Fortunately we could make very efficient search in the valley of Jingtang district immediate east of the Dadu River. These untouched rock peaks form a part of the Jaojin Mountains. We also had a good chance to drive through a new road and newly developing touristic spot with unique cultural heritage and history.

Itinerary of Journey – October 2017

October 16, cloudy: Chengdu – Luding – Guza (Dadu River basin)

October 17, cloudy, fine: Guza – Jintang – Guza (searching hidden rock peaks)

October 18, cloudy, fine: Guza – Kangding – Muge Tso (lake)

October 19, foggy, perfectly fine: Kangding – via new road – Kangding Airport – Tagong grasslands – Bami – Tanba

October 20, fine: Tanba – Dingguo Mountains – Tanba

October 21, cloudy: Tanba – down Dadu River – Tanba

October 22, cloudy, snow, cloudy: Tanba – Siguniang (snowing) – Chengdu
To Hidden Mountains – 5000m Rock Peaks
On October 16, we headed to a local town Guza (姑咱) on the right bank of Dadu River that was a base to enter the valley for exploration. We came across a hive of construction everywhere even in the frontier – tunnels and bridges for highway and dams for hydro power stations. Highway construction from Ya’an to Kangding is to be finished in a year, and then Chengdu-Kangding will be only three hours. Guza was previously a shabby town but is now a modern city. Development in China is incredibly fast and dynamic though environments are being destructed.

On October 17, weather became fine. At 25km north of Guza we entered a branch valley of Jintang (金湯郷) east side of Dadu River for seeking veiled rock peaks. It was exciting.
Highway construction between Ya’an and Kangding

Suspension bridge under construction over Dadu River near Luding
Guza is now a modern city, altitude: 1480m

Base for dam and road construction – Dadu River is civil construction site
Rock peaks are seen from Jintang valley, altitude of Jintang town: 2030m

5457m rock peak south face
5000m rock peaks southeast face seen from Jintang valley

Same as above
5000m rock peaks southeast face seen from Jintang valley

Same as above
Aerial view of rock 5000m peaks west of Jintang valley seen in foreground

Aerial view of Kongga massif and peaks searched in October 2017. All unclimbed
5300m rock peaks west face east of Jintang valley

Guza town and Dadu River
Revised Plan – Kangding to Danba

We first intended to go up to Danba 丹巴 along the Dadu River 大渡河. Road was closed because of large landslides at the point 30km north of Guza. This brought us an unexpected fortune to visit newly developed touristic places. In the late afternoon of October 17 we moved to Kangding 康定 2550m from Gusa.1480m. Kangding is developing as a center of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. It is now a big city.

On October 18 we visited Muge Tso 木格措 (lake 3780m), which is now one of the most fantastic spots in the vicinity attracting many Chinese tourists. We could view Lotus Flower Mountains and Lamoshe massif.

On October 19, perfect fine weather, we headed to Danba via a new road to Tagong grassland and then via an ordinary road to Danba. Mountains landscapes from the new road wa fascinating. In Danba we were welcomed by a Japanese photographer, Kenzo Okawa 大川健三, who lives in Danba.
Lotus Flower Mountains and Muge Tso

Entrance to Muge Tso (Lake)
5000m rock peaks of Lotus Flower Mountains seen on the way to Muge Tso

Same as above
Lotus Flower Mountains seen from a new road to Kangding Airport

Yala Shan 5820m (Haizi Shan) south face seen from a new road to Kangding Airport
Left: Lamoshe 6070m, center: Baihaiz Shan 5924m seen on the way to Muge Tso

Lamoshe Massif seen on a new road to Kangding Airport
(Peak identification is shown in the following page)
Minya Konka 7556m north face seen from near Kangding Airport 4100m

(from left) Mt. Edgar 6618m, Jiazi Feng 6540m, Tsongshan 6886m, Grosvenor 6376m
North face seen from near Kangding Airport 4100m
Stone forest park between Tagong grassland and Bami town

Yala Shan (Haizi Shan) 5820m north face
New Touristic Place – Dingguo Mountain 頂果山

Bodhisattva 大菩薩 5448m has long been a mystery. I tried to access to this mountain together with Zhang Jiyue in 1997, twenty years ago, but we could not have even a glimpse. Mr. Okawa hinted that this mountain would possibly be sighted from an old monastery west of Danba near Dingguo Mountains being newly developed as a resort place. He showed me a picture. Jiyue had the same opinion. Jiyue’s friend of Guangdong investor opened Dingguo Mountain Landscape Hotel at 3330m.

On October 20, we entered a valley to reach the old and historical monastery “Dingguo Temple” at 3130m and the new hotel. We first went to the monastery which was built 2,800 years ago (origin: Bon), where we could view Bodhisattva and rock peaks ranging to the west. Contrary to my imagination, however, the mountain profile was not impressive nor attractive. We also paid a visit to the Landscape Hotel.
Temple and mountains viewed from Landscape Hotel

Historical Dingguo Temple
Bodhisattva 5448m (left end) and ranging rock peaks viewed from the temple

Bodhisattva 5448m in center viewed from near the Temple, Photo: Kenzo Okawa
Landscape Hotel

Bodhisattva
大菩薩 5448m

5030m

4995m+

5133m+(Next to Yala Shan)

4947m+

5450m

5244m+

5340m

5199m+

5202m+
On October 21, we planned to go up north from Tanba to seek another hidden peak close to Xaiaqiangla 5470m first climbed by a Japanese party from Hiroshima, which is in the northernmost of Daxue Shan Range. The following picture was taken by Kenzo Okawa.

Left: Xianqiangla 5470m, right: unnamed/ stunning unclimbed ca. 5400m east face

As the weather was bad, however, we resigned to explore this area. Instead we went down the Dadu River to see historical stone towers, important legacy of Gyaron region.

Stone towers built 800 years ago near Tanba city
On October 22, we left Tanba, “Valley of Beauty”, for Chengdu via Mt. Siguniang while it was snowing. We safely returned to Changdu with entire satisfaction. We could earn very positive yields.