

# ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

Issue No.16, December 2017

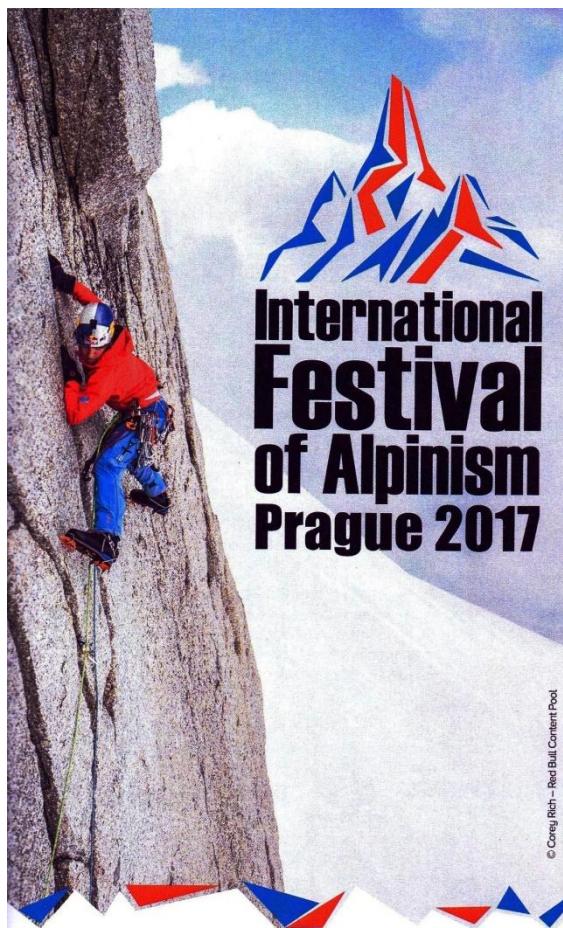


## CONTENTS

1. Participation from Asia: Nepal and Japan  
International Festival of Alpinism Prague 2017 *Page 2~14*  
*Tom Nakamura*
2. The 12th Piolets d'Or Asia 2017 Seoul Korea  
Harish Kapadia and Kazuya Hiraide awarded *Page 15~22*  
*Tom Nakamura*
3. UNCCC–COP23 on 14 November in Bonn, Germany  
“Community Experience of the Climate Change  
in the Himalayas and Solutions” *Page 23~26*  
*Ang Tshering Sherpa*
4. A Return to the East Karakoram 2017  
First ascent of Lak Kangri and Thrung-ma Kangri *Page 27~32*  
*Derek Buckle*
5. New Route on Chola Shan 2017  
Shaluli Shan Range–West Sichuan Highlands *Page 33~37*  
*Dong Ding*
6. Monkey business in the Karnak gorge  
Zanskar – Ladakh 2017 *Page 38~52*  
*Cosmin Andron*

# Participation from Asia: Nepal and Japan In International Festival of Alpinism Prague 2017

Ang Tshering Sherpa, Founder Chairman of Asian Trekking, Pasang Dawa Shepa, General Manager of Asian Trekking – Nepal and Tamotsu (Tom) Nakamura, Honorary Member of UIAA and Japanese Alpine Club – Japan participated in the Festival held on November 23 – 26, in Prague, Czech Republic. Following is a photo gallery compiled by Tom Nakamura.  
(Introduction of “Global Adventure & Mountaineering Conference & EXPO held on March 23 – 25 at Kathmandu is shown in the last page)



**Program of festival**  
**Národní dům at Smíchov**  
**23 to 26 November 2017**

© Corey Rich – Red Bull Content Pool

■ Big hall, first floor	■ Outdoor fair, ground floor	
<b>Saturday, 25th November 2017</b> <a href="http://www.festivalalpinismu.cz">www.festivalalpinismu.cz</a>		
All day long	EXHIBITION ADAM ONDRA AND DAVID LAMA large-format photos about projects Dawn Wall, Flatanger, Cerro Torre and others	Arbes Hall, first floor
	Rock Point Salewa Mountain Experience About the test expedition of Salewa and Rock Point to Sexten Dolomites	Room nr. 7, first floor
15 <sup>00</sup>	39 FACES OF ALPINISM Karikaturist exhibition by Radim Karl – portraits of 39 alpinists from all over the world	Room nr. 6, first floor
	BREAK	
15 <sup>05</sup>	Personality of the Czech sports industry Jan Čermák, Ladislav Jirásko: Information about the competition for Czech producers of the Czech sports industry	Outdoor fair, ground floor
	Book signing Karl Gabl, Daniel Polman, Jozef Vričan, Wolfgang Nairz and others	Outdoor fair, ground floor
15 <sup>30</sup>	Nationalpark Hohe Tauern Short presentation – multiview show	Big hall, first floor
	Tamotsu Nakamura: The Golden Route over the Himalayas Unique photo and panoramic Himalayan footage from the deck of the plain	Big hall, first floor
16 <sup>15</sup>	Ang Tshering a Wolfgang Nairz: Nepal 2018 About aid projects for areas affected by the earthquake in Nepal in year 2015	Big hall, first floor
	HONORARY GUESTS OF THE FESTIVAL Introducing the guests of the festival	Big hall, first floor
17 <sup>15</sup>	BREAK	
	Karmen Karničar, Drejc Karničar, Viki Grošelj, Ladislav Jirásko: Czech club of Slovenian Alpine Union 1897 and 2017	Outdoor fair, ground floor
17 <sup>30</sup>	Karmen Karničar, Drejc Karničar, Viki Grošelj, Ladislav Jirásko: Czech club of Slovenian Alpine Union 1897 and 2017	
	Karmen Karničar, Drejc Karničar, Viki Grošelj, Ladislav Jirásko: Czech club of Slovenian Alpine Union 1897 and 2017	

**14. ročník, nejlepší lezci a sportovní legendy,  
3 unikátní filmy, Fórum alpinismu**

**OSOBNOSTI**

Peter Habeler (A)	Ang Tshering Sherpa (NEP)
David Lama (A)	Thukten Sherpa (NEP)
Adam Ondra (CZ)	Tamotsu Nakamura (JAP)
Jakob Schubert (A)	Urban Novak (SLO)
Anna Stöhr (A)	Viki Grošelj (SLO)
Lucie Hrozová (CZ)	Radek Jaroš (CZ)
Karl Gabl (A)	Marek Holeček (CZ)
Wolfgang Nairz (A)	Jan Trávníček (CZ) a další...
Heinz Zak (A)	

**from Asia**

**FÓRUM ALPINISMU - BEZPEČNOST V HORÁCH**

- Peter Veider (A) - náčelník záchranné služby Bergrettung Tirol
- Michael Larcher (A) - horský vůdce a vedoucí horských sportů ÖAV
- Patrick Nairz (A) - světově uznávaný odborník na problematiku lavin, LWD Innsbruck
- Hans Ebner (A) - prezident Alpinpolizei Österreich
- Thukten Sherpa (NEP) - Viceprezident Himalaya Rescue Association

**UNIKÁTNÍ FILMY - ČESKÉ PREMIÉRY**

- „Peter Habeler - ... chci vidět svět shora“  
- 75 let Petra Habelera a jeho výstup severní stěnou Eigeru s Davidem Lamou - film Sonnen-TV

**Mezinárodní Festival Alpinismu**

**Národní dům na Smíchově**



(from left) Ladislav Jirasko –APLY Event Sponsor, Wolfgang Nairz, Ang Tshering Sherpa, Peter Habeler, Tom Nakamura, Pasang Dawa Sherpa



## Ondra (CZ)

**Adam**



„Bezesporu nejlepší lezec planety udávající tempo a směr vývoje sportovního lezení.“



Adam Ondra se narodil v roce 1993 v Brně. Jako dítě byl mimořádný lezecký talent se projevil již v dětství, když se reprezentoval jako dvanáctiletý zařadil mezi deset nejlepších světových lezců. Lezení na obtížnosti a v šestnácti letech vyhrál v této disciplíně Světový pohár. V roce 2012 vytvořil a následně přešel cestu Change v norském Flutangeru – posunul tak lezeckou obtížnost na 9b+. V únoru téhož roku ještě přešel cestu Ida Dura Dura (9b+). V roce 2013 obohatil lezecký svět a také českou republiku o titr 9b+. Česku Vasil Vasil vytvořil a přešel v Sloupu. V roce 2014 se soustředil na závody. Jako prvnímu v historii se mu podařilo vytvořit v jedné soutěži čtyři mistrovství světa v boulderingu i v obtížnosti. V roce 2015 absolvoval kompletní SP v boulderingu i v lezení na obtížnosti. V boulderingu skončil celkově 3. a v obtížnosti a kombinaci získal zlato. O rok později se soustředil pouze na MS a dokázal obhájit dva roky starý titul v lezení na obtížnosti. V boulderingu se stal vicemistrem. Rok 2017 strávil Adam převážně na skádach a dosáhl dvou obrovských lezeckých milníků: jako první člověk přešel nejtěžší big wall na světě Dawn Wall na říčním Capitanu a v Norském Flutangeru posunul přešlem vlastní cestu Silence lezeckou obtížnost na stupně 9c. Třetí cestu zatím nikdo nepřešel a pravdopodobně dlouho ani nepřevezme.“

## Habeler

**Peter**



„Společně s R. Messnerem se stal prvním horolezcem, který dokázal zdolat osmitisícovku alpským stylem a v roce 1978 uskutečnil premiérový výstup na Mt. Everest bez použití kyslíku. V roce 2011 získal od organizátorů MFA Praha ocenění Pražský křišťálový cepín. Tradiční host MFA je zpět!“



V roce 1966 se poprvé vydal na jedno lano s Reinholdem Messnerem. V roce 1974 spolu ulezli severní stěnu Eigeru v rekordním čase pod 10 hodin. O rok později prostoupili ve dvojici s lehkými batohy severozápadní stěnu na vrchol Gasherbrumu I (8068 m). Stanovili tak prvně velký milník horolezectví, neboť jako první na světě zdolali osmitisícovku alpským stylem. Největší okamžik jejich společné kariéry přišel v květnu 1978, kdy obe stanuli jako první lidé na vrcholu Mount Everest (8848 m) bez použití kyslíku. Peter Habeler poté zdolal osmitisícové vrcholy Nanga Parbat (1985), Cho Oyu (1986) a Kangchenjunga (1988). V horách leze na velmi vysoké úrovní neustále. Na konci března 2017 přešel s Davidem Lamou (ve svých 74 letech) severní stěnu Eigeru!

Web: [www.habeler.com](http://www.habeler.com)

3



## Mezinárodní festival alpinismu Praha 2017

Děkujeme našim partnerům a sponzorům



Generální partner  
MFA Praha 2017



Hlavní zahraniční partner  
MFA Praha 2017



Hlavní partner  
MFA Praha 2017



www.festivalalpinismu.cz

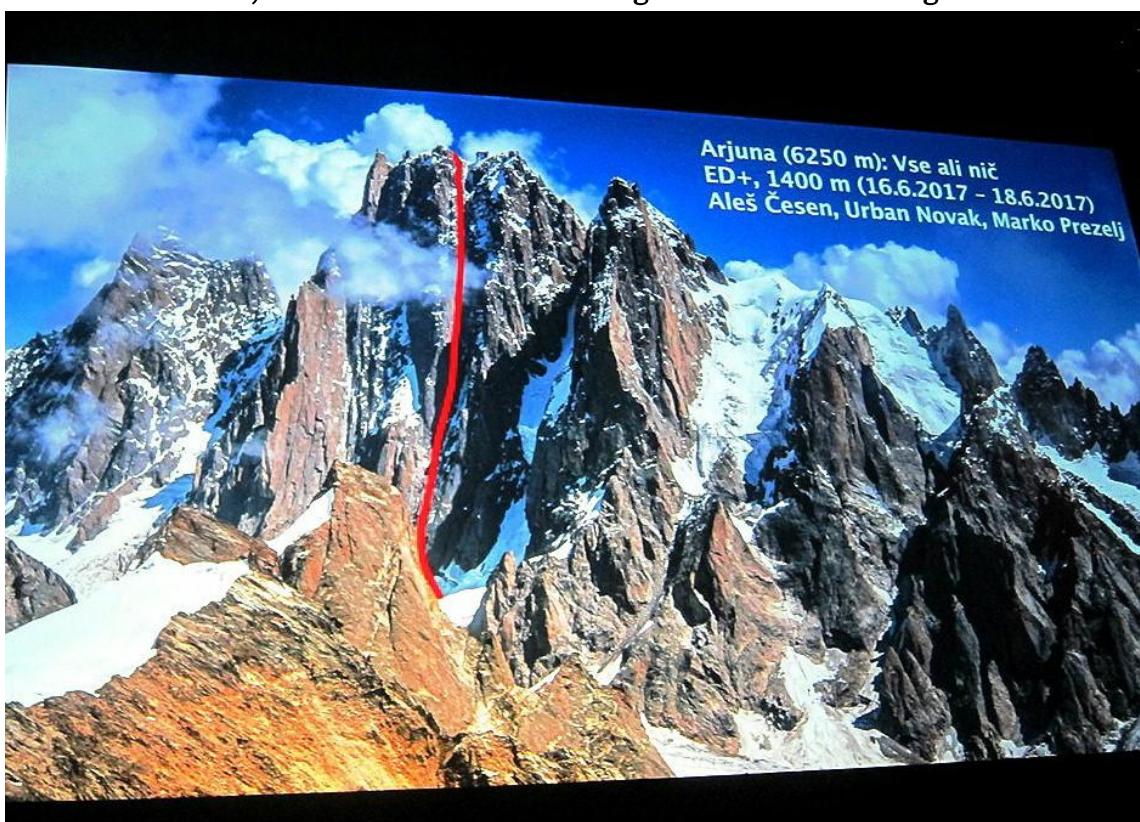
Peter Habeler (right)



Adam Ondra – Czech's super star free climber



Urban Novak, Slovenian climber talking on mountaineering career





Ang Tshering Sherpa, Chairman of Asian Trekking – Nepal



Ang Tshering Sherpa (center), Ladislav Jirasko of APLY, Sponsor (right end)

**Asian Trekking and Myself**

- Asian Trekking was established in 1982. This company is one of the leading company in Nepal for organizing Climbing expeditions , Trekking & Tours in Nepal & Tibet.
- Asian Trekking is associated member of HRA
- Asian Trekking has a very strong commitment to local community and providing social service.
- I was born in Khumjung, Solukhumbu. I Studied in Khumjung School.(First school established by Sir Edmund Hillary.)
- I Joined Asian Trekking in 1988. Even today more than 30 men and women from Khumjung work for Asian Trekking.

**Mezinárodní festival alpinismu Praha 2017**  
Děkujeme našim partnerům a sponzorům

Generální partner MFA Praha 2017  
Generální partner MFA Praha 2017  
Generální partner MFA Praha 2017  
Generální partner MFA Praha 2017

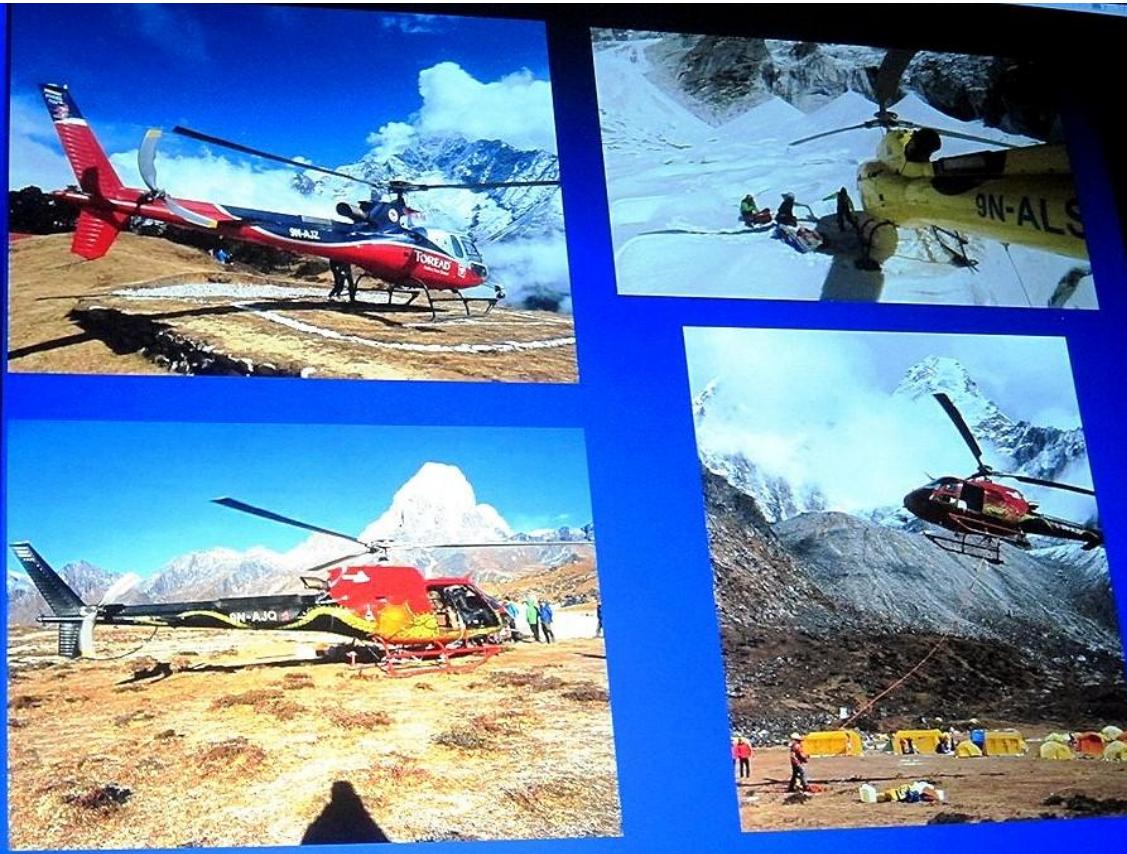
Pasang Dawa Sherpa talk about rescue system and practice in Nepal

# Search and Rescue in Nepal Himalaya



[asian-trekking.com](http://asian-trekking.com)

Presented by  
Pasang Dawa Sherpa  
General Manager  
Asian Trekking Pvt. Ltd (Nepal)





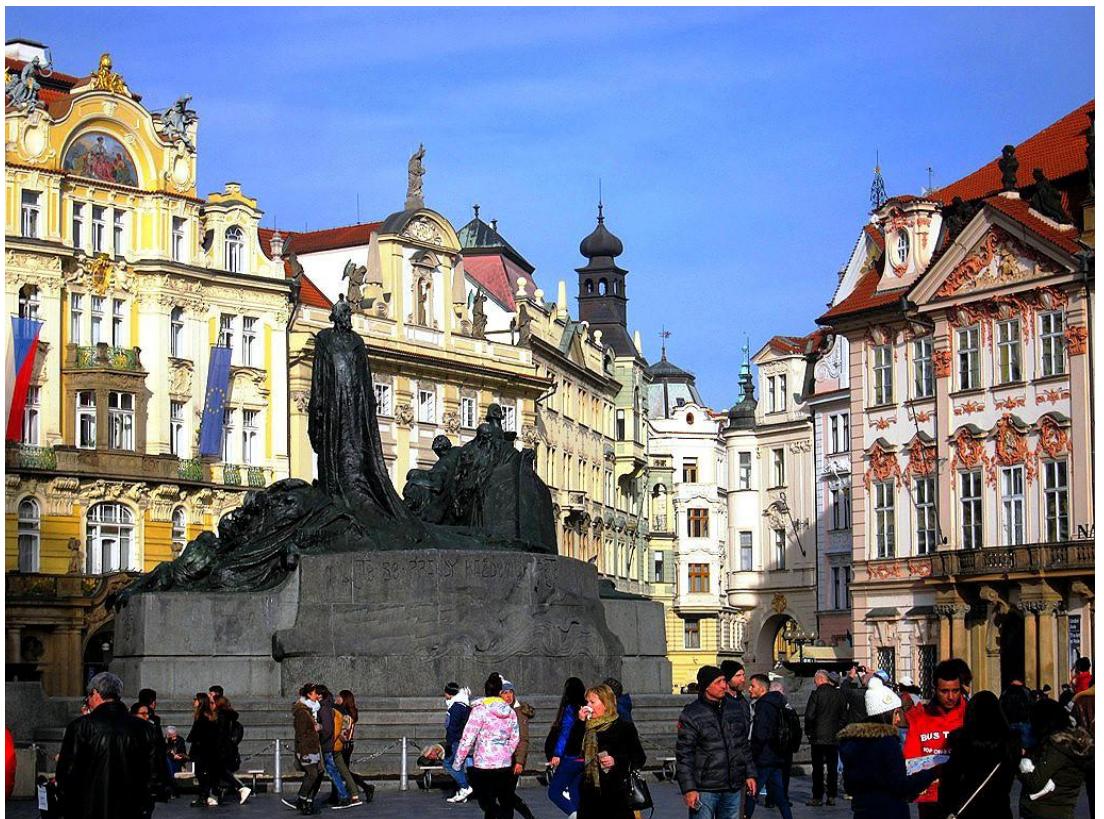
Tom Nakamura's presentation on Piolets d'Or Asia 2017 and Golden Flying Route over the Himalaya: Aerial panoramas – Kathmandu/Lhasa/Chengdu







(left) Tom Nakamura (right) Ladislav Jirasko, APLY- Event sponsor



**The Golden City – Prague**

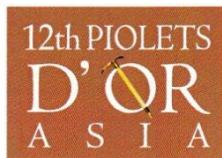
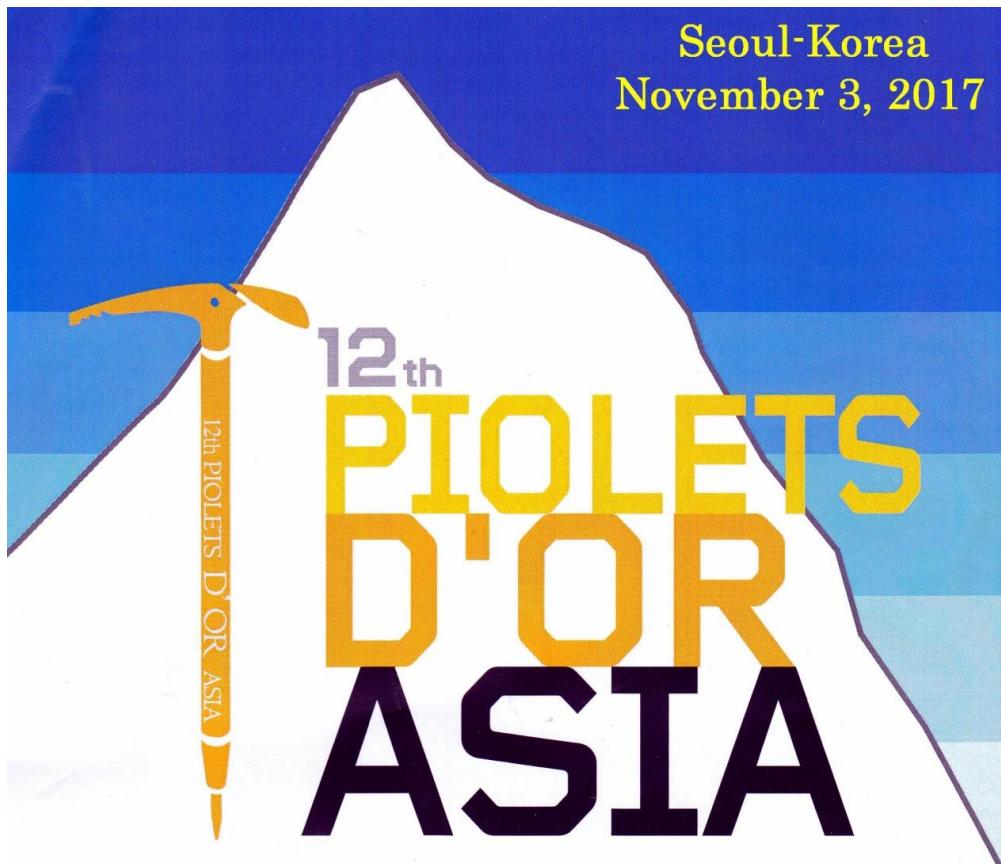


Global Adventure & Mountaineering Conference & EXPO  
March 23 – 25, Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu

# The 12th Piolets d'Or Asia 2017

Edited and compiled by Tom Nakamura

Seoul-Korea  
November 3, 2017



## 12th Piolets d'Or Asia 11 Jury Members

Chairman: Mr. Harish Kapadia

Mr. Tamotsu Nakamura(Asia's senior explorer)  
Mr. Hiroshi Hagiwara(editor in chief of Rock & Snow)  
Ms. Kyung Yie, Park(editor in chief of Man & Mountain)  
Mr. Yu Feng(editor of China Outdoor)  
Mr. Dong-Soo, Kim(secretary general of Piolets d'Or Asia Organizing Committee)  
Mr. Tsang Chi Sing(alpinist-HONGKONG)  
Mr. Byung Joon, Kim(alpinist-KOREA)  
Mr. Hong Gil, Um(alpinist-KOREA)  
Ms. Eun Sun, Oh(alpinist-KOREA)  
Ms. Kyung Mi, Pae(secretary general of UAAA)

## WINNER

Lifetime Achievements Award–Harish Kapadia, Himalayan Club  
Piolets o'Or Asia 2017 winner –Kazuya Hiraide, Japan



Jury Members: from left – Harish Kapadia, Tom Nakamura, Hiroshi Hagiwara



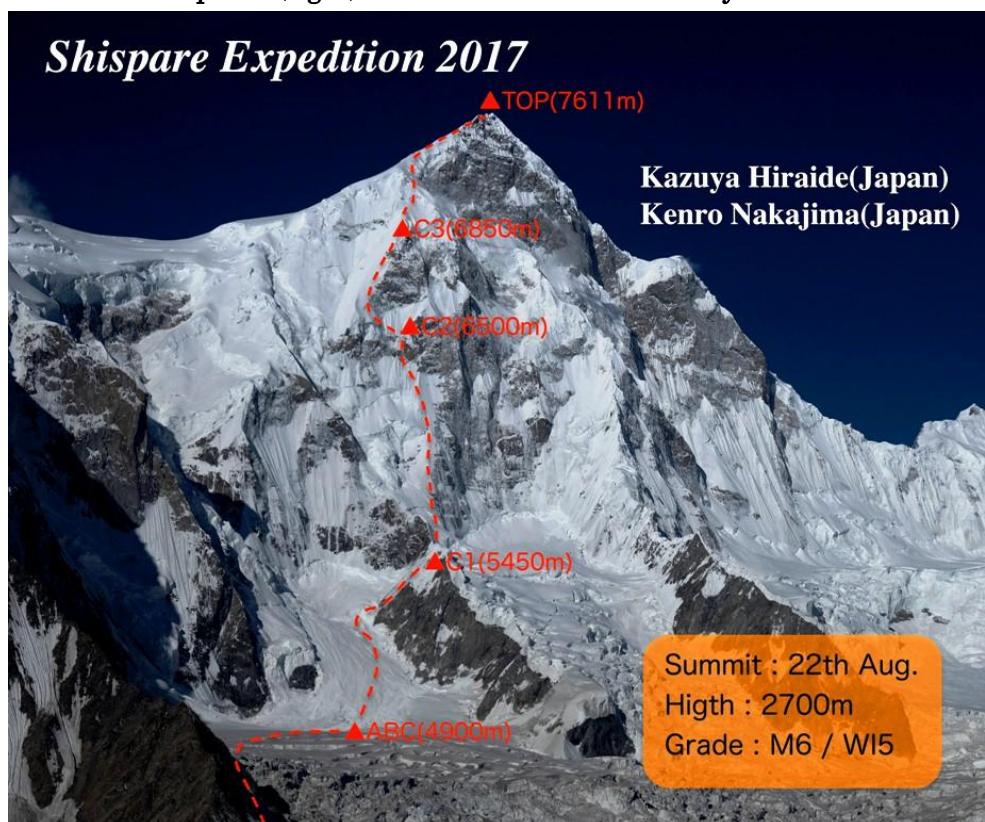
Event Hall



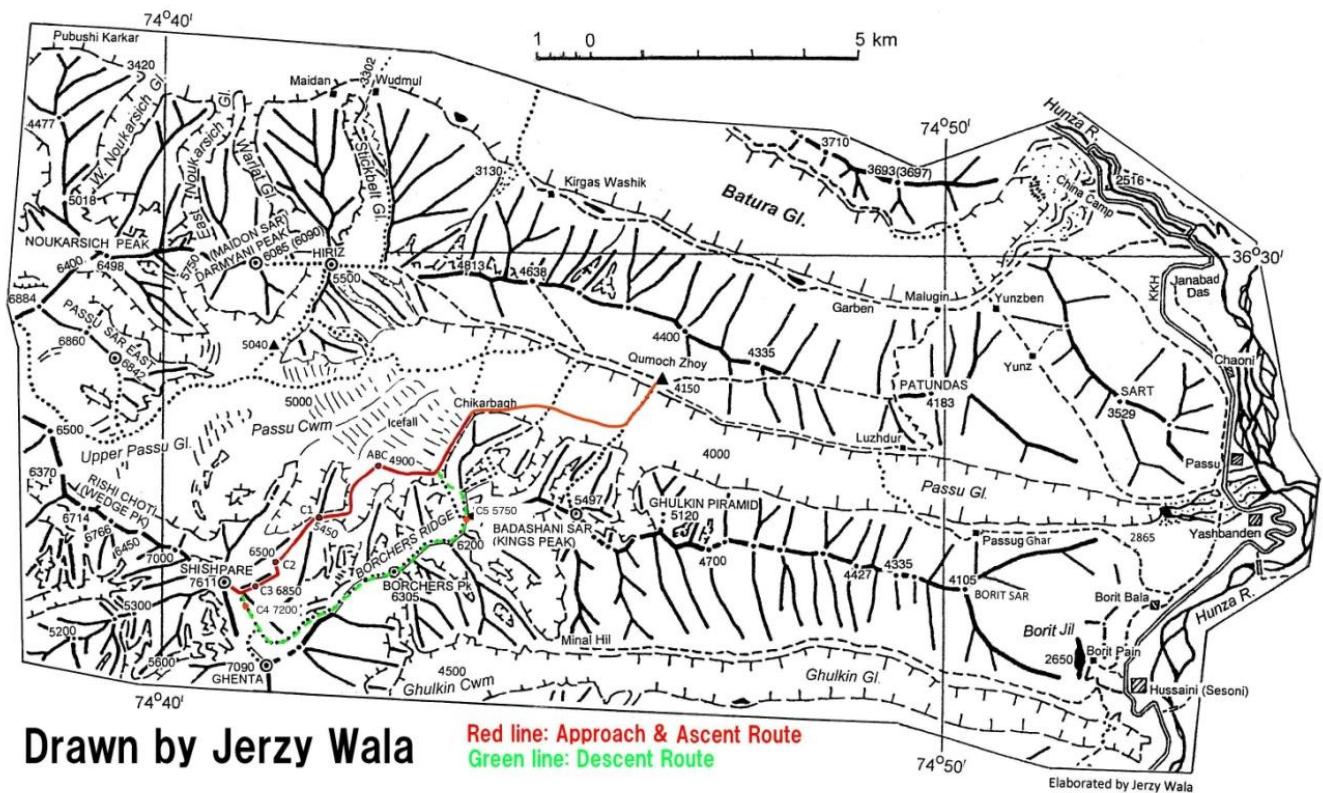
Harish Kapadia (right)



Kazuya Hiraide



Kazuya Hiraide, Japan, awarded for the first ascent of Shispore NE face

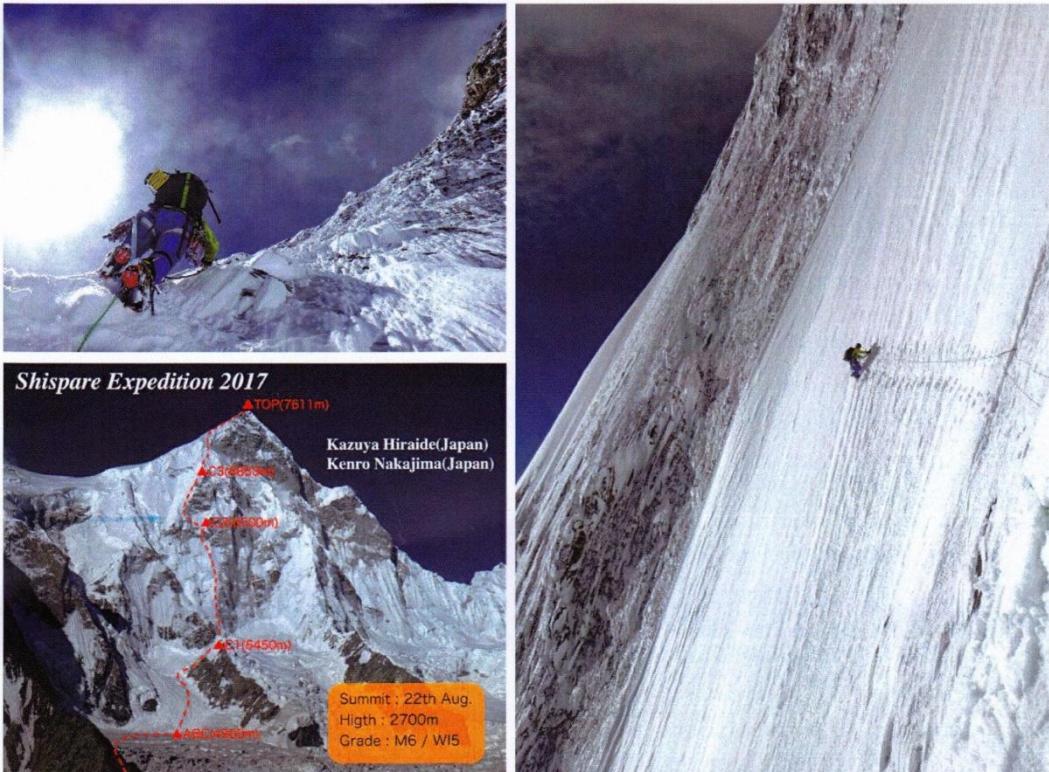


Near C1

## Three Candidates

### Candidate 1

#### Japanese Team New Route on the Northeast Face of Mt. Shispare(7,611m)



- ▶ Northeast face of Shispare
- ▶ New route
- ▶ 2 Members Ascent: Kazuya Hiraide, Kenro Nakajima
- ▶ Alpine Style(5nights & 6days)
- ▶ Shispare Expedition 2017
- ▶ Located in Batura Muztagh of Karakoram, Pakistan 'Polish-German Academic Expedition' led by Janusz Kurczab made the 1st ascent using 1,500m fix-ropes through southeast ridge in 35days
- After 4 attempts Shispare and 2 attempts its northeast face, Kazuya Hiraide could finally stand atop the summit, topographic prominence of the face is almost 5,000m from Hunza Valley
- ▶ Kazuya Hiraide was presented with Piolet d'Or Award in 2009 for the first ascent of the southwest face of Kamet(7,756m) in alpine style (together with Kei Taniguchi)
- ▶ Kazuya Hiraide received 2016 Uemura Naomi Adventure Prize(2017)
- ▶ A lot of alpinists have kept this unclimbed-big wall in their mind



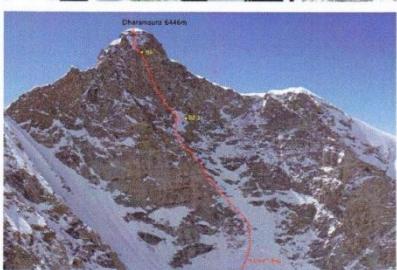
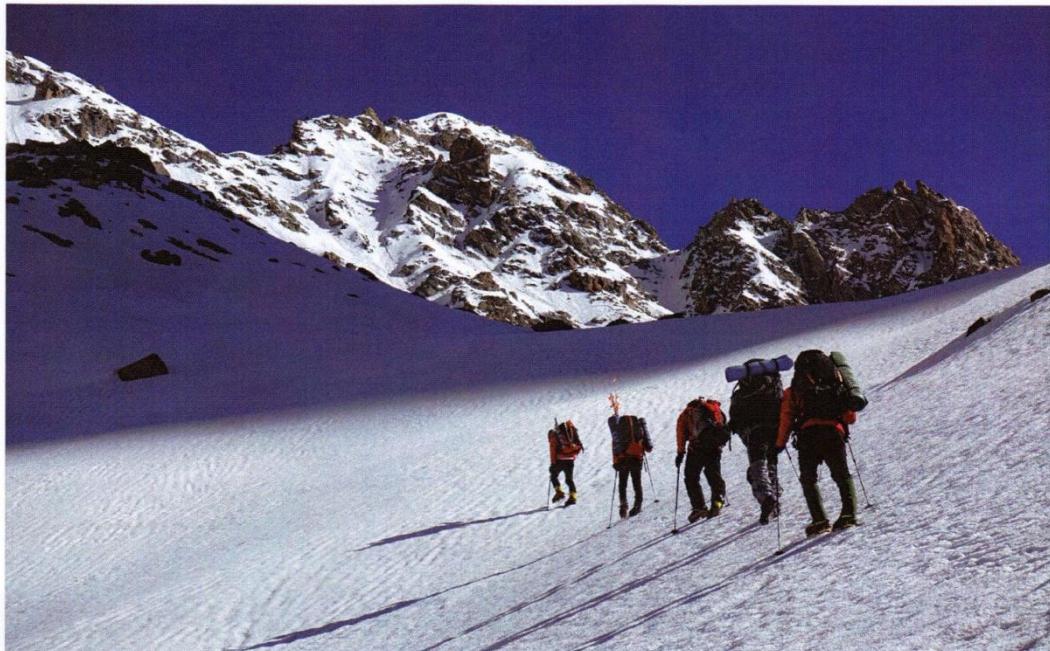
**Objective:** Northeast face of Shispare(7,611m)  
**Location:** Batura Muztagh of Karakoram, Pakistan  
**Route:** New Route  
**Climbing Style:** Alpine Style(5nights & 6days)  
**Members:** Kazuya Hiraide, Kenro Nakajima(2)

This climbing was awarded.

## Candidate 2

Korean Team

### New Route on the Northwest Face of Mt. Dharamsura(6,446m)



- ▶ Northwest face of Dharamsura
- ▶ New route
- ▶ 4 Members Ascent: Chang-Ho Kim, Chi-Young An, Gyo-Jeong Gu, Jea-Hun Lee
- ▶ Alpine Style(4nights & 5days)
- ▶ 'KOREAN-WAY PROJECT 2017' to make the spirit of adventure and exploration realized, and to train young alpinists who will lead the future generation
- ▶ Located in Kullu ranges of Himachal Pradesh, India
- ▶ No written records having attempted in the past
- ▶ Team leader, Mr. Kim, completed all 14 giants without supplementary oxygen  
Mr. Kim was presented with Jury Special Award of Piolets d'Or in 2017
- ▶ The most hard new & free climbing route ever tackled by any Korean teams in Himalaya

**Objective:** Northwest Face of Mt. Dharamsura(6,446m)

**Location:** Kullu ranges of Himachal Pradesh, India

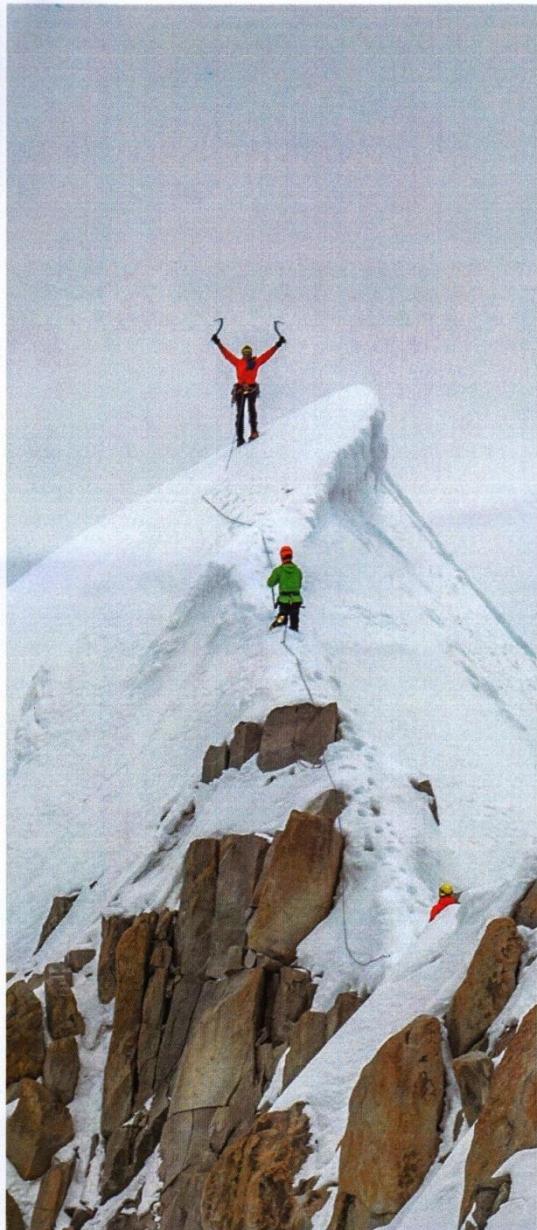
**Route:** New Route

**Climbing Style:** Alpine Style(4nights & 5days)

**Members:** Chang-Ho Kim, Chi-Young An, Gyo-Jeong Gu, Jea-Hun Lee(4)

## Candidate 3

### Chinese Team New Route on Chola East(6,163m)



- ▶ Chola East
- ▶ New route & First Ascent
- ▶ 3 Members Ascent: Gao Jun, Liu Junfu, Zeng Shan Shandong
- ▶ Alpine Style(3nights & 4days)
- ▶ Located in the northern subrange of the Shaluli Mountains in Sichuan, China
- ▶ Joint Expedition of Kobe University from Japan and Wuhan College of Geology from China made the first ascent of Chola West(6,149m) in 1988
- ▶ American alpinist Charlie Fowler tried solo climbing of Chola, but no record of the East so far
- ▶ East top is much more difficult than West top in climbing grade

**Objective:** Chola East(6,163m)  
**Location:** Shaluli Mountains in Sichuan, China  
**Route:** New Route  
**Climbing Style:** Alpine Style(3nights & 4days)  
**Members:** Gao Jun, Liu Junfu, Zeng Shan Shandong(3)



## Piolets D'or Asia Award Winners

No.	Year	Piolets D'or Asia Award Winners
1st	2006	Dennis Urubko, Sergei Samoilov Manaslu(8,163m) North-East Face
2nd	2007	Kwun Sik, Shim & 3 members Garmush(6,244m) West Ridge
3rd	2008	Giri Giri Boys Kalanka North Face
4th	2009	Dennis Urubko, Boris Didishiko Chooyu SouthEast Face
5th	2010	Katsutaka Yokoyama & 2 members Logan East Peak(5,900m)
6th	2011	Dennis Urubko & 3 members Tienshan & Karakoram
7th	2012	Chang-Ho, Kim, Chi-Young An Himjung(7,140m)South West Face Zhopen, Lee Shuang Little Konka, Leduomanyin
8th	2013	Yamanoi Yasshi, Noda Masaru Andes Fuskan Turpa East Peak Hanathani Yashiro & 2 members Kayashar(6,770m) South Ridge
9th	2014	Taniguchi Kei & 1 members Alaska Ruth Glacier Chi-Young, An & 1 members Gashaburum5(7,147m) South East
10th	2015	None
11th	2016	Chang-Ho, Kim & 2 members Gangapurna(7,455m) Southface

**UNCCC – COP23 Speech by Ang Tshering Sherpa on topic of “Community Experience of the Climate Change in the Himalayas and Solutions” on 14 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany.**



On behalf of Climate Alliance of Himalayan Communities, UIAA and myself, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to UNFAO, Mountain Partners and UIAA for giving me this opportunity to express my views at the side event of UNCCC –COP23 here in Bonn, Germany. My name is Ang Tshering Sherpa. I am a community leader from the Khumbu Region of Nepal which houses the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest. I have been working in mountaineering and tourism for last forty three years, and have been a witness to the vast changes to the lives and livelihoods, as well as the mountain over the last 5 decades. I have the following to report.

Mountaineering and Tourism in general has done wonders to the lives of communities in the Mount Everest Region by bringing economic benefits and development opportunities denied to us for centuries due to our isolation. However, in recent years, climate change has been creating massive problems to our ecology, and potentially to our cultural heritage and lives. Of course, we mountain communities across the Himalayas are concerned- very very concerned.

People living in the Himalayas may have similar pains and pleasures, but they are very diverse in terms of their ethnicity, languages, cultural and traditional values. It was important therefore to bring together all these voices under one organization. I therefore co-founded Climate Alliance of Himalayan Communities. I have the privilege to lead this organization as its Chairperson. Rest of my speech would capture my own experience and the experiences of my fellow mountain people from across Nepal's Himalayas.

Thousands of small and big glacial lakes have come up across Himalayas. Many of them have now become dangerously big. One of the biggest of them- IMJA lake, situated at 5010m - I saw developing in front of my own eyes since my childhood. This huge glacial lake came about literally on a playground where I and my friends used to play while grazing our Yaks. Let's note that all of the Himalayas are sitting on one of the most unstable and seismically active ecological landscape with earthquakes a regular phenomenon. You can only imagine the danger under which much of the mountain communities in the Himalayas live with literally millions of tons of water held back by fragile moraine walls that can break even with a small avalanche or earthquake. Indeed, many such tragic events have already taken place in the mountains that seldom gets reported in the international press.

Subsequently Mt. Everest has major effect on the livelihood of not only the mountain communities of Nepal but the majority of the population of Asia. Everest is regarded as Goddess Mother of the Universe in Sherpa folklore. She is the guardian in whose shadow Sherpa children grow up. We think of Everest as massive, solid, unchanging, strong, lofty, mighty and unable to be hurt. The truth is, few people know that the home of "Sagarmatha" Mother of the Universe, "Chomolungma" Goddess Mother of the Universe is one most endangered place on the earth. There were about 3000 glaciers in the high Himalayas and in the last 50 years, almost as many glacial lakes have been formed. Less immediately noticeable at lower altitudes, the urgency is in the high Himalayas, now emerging as one of the worlds most vulnerable and quickly disintegrating areas due to the impact of climate change.

Unfortunately Glacial Lakes are not the only problem. Temperature increase has brought about whole lot of problems for us the mountain people in the Himalayas. The mosquitoes that used to limit to tropical and subtropical areas have moved up bringing diseases to the communities that were never exposed to them. Flash floods, avalanches, landslides, forest fires have become much more common and intense. Massive amount of immigration is happening to low-lands and to neighboring countries because of all these problems. Climate Change which we hardly made any negative contribution towards, is threatening our very culture, very identity. If something is not done big and quick enough, the millennium old heritage from which the whole world could have benefitted would be totally lost. Coming out of mountaineering business community, and having known almost all the famous mountaineers of the world, I would also like to share, that because of global warming, the entire mountaineering sport is in currently endangered because it is increasingly becoming dangerous and uncertain.

The image of iconic Mt. Everest has been affected by a series of consecutive disasters. The death of sixteen valiant high altitude climbing Sherpas on Khumbu icefall avalanche of Mt. Everest on 18 April 2014, an unprecedented natural catastrophe of heavy snow fall and avalanches that occurred on 13th and 14th October 2014 in Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and Dolpo region, killed 41and rescued 532 trekkers and climbers of various nationalities, and the devastating earthquake triggered a massive avalanche from the flank of Mt. Pumori that killed 18 and 71 injured climbers at Everest Base Camp on 25 April 2015 which were rescued immediately from EBC to Kathmandu are some of the worst climbing disasters in Himalayan mountaineering history. The devastating earthquake on 25 April, 12 May 2015 and its aftermath tremors have brought us unspeakable grief and devastation.

The question is what could be done. How can we the local people, the mountain communities help the situation? More importantly, how can the wider world; people in the audience help this situation which is getting out of control. I will take 3-4 minutes to make some of my recommendations.

One, we, the mountain people must come together, share experiences, and raise our voices, locally, regionally and globally. With this in mind, the organization I head "Climate Alliance of Himalayan Communities" is constituted. We also did a first of its kind research on "Community Perspective on Climate Change in the Himalayas" and shared the same with visiting IPCC scientists in Kathmandu recently. I would be glad to share a copy with you, should you be interested in one. We need institutional support from across the world to build our own capacity and be able to do the awareness and advocacy work that we are pursuing.

Two, we, based on our limited knowledge, have come with a model of promoting "Climate Smart Villages in the Himalayas". The model is built around three pillars- climate awareness, climate adaptation, and mitigation of GHG emission. We have chosen a few sites to pilot such projects. We need the technical and financial support of the global community to make that happen. Our idea is to propagate this idea across Nepal's Himalayas on the

**1555 KM long The GREAT HIMALAYA TRAIL.** Such community based development models have been very successful in Nepal. Just to share an example, “Community Forest” model was piloted only at a few places in Nepal, and after it became successful, it was spread across Nepal. The initiative was so successful that it ended up increasing the overall forest cover of the country itself.

Three, there is a lot for the world to learn from the mountain communities. The weather systems in the Himalayas have always been erratic- the mountain community knows a lot how to deal with them. It is another matter that the severities of climate-induced problems are just too much for them to handle. And yet, the world can learn a lot from the mountain communities in terms of how to deal with climate change. In my way of looking the Himalayas can be a living laboratory on climate change. My sincere recommendation is the scientific community and foundation should look at the possibility of setting of a world-class climate research facility in the Himalayas. We the mountain communities would love to collaborate on these and bring our government on board to support such an initiative. Thanks for your kind attention.

**Ang Tshering Sherpa**

**Chairperson, Climate Alliance of Himalayan Communities**

**Honorary Member, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA),**

**IP President of Asian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UAAA) and NMA**

**Chairman of Astrek Group of Companies**

---

(Increase sympathy): “We are vulnerable. You might describe us to your friends as a strong mountain people – but we are the same vulnerable flesh and blood as our brothers and sisters in the island communities. We also suffer severely from Climate Change, just in different ways”.

(You need us): “Our mountain glaciers are the frozen water tank for billions of people in China and India. Without this reliable, consistent water supply, BILLIONS of people will suffer from thirst. A 4 degree increase in global temperature means there will be no glaciers left.”

(Scare people): “But until all the glaciers are melted, imagine every year a growing number of Glacial Lakes breaking their ice barriers, allowing terrifying Vertical Tsunamis to race down high mountain valleys - drowning, destroying and sweeping away everything in its path – cows, people, temples, homes, topsoil – building momentum and destructive power, knocking down community after community like dominoes until they reach sea level”.

(Invisible threat): “If that violent threat hanging over our heads in Nepal was not enough, at another scale, a silent, invisible, DEADLY threat is moving in the other direction - UP the Himalayan mountains, as the climate warms at an ever-increasing rate – disease and pestilence – invades territories and communities that have no natural immunity, no naturally evolved resistance to diseases carried by mosquitoes and other disease vectors. In Nepal the climate is changing faster than our ecosystems and our people’s ability to adapt.”

"Just as the arctic regions are the 'Canary in the Coal Mine', the third pole, the Himalayas, is changing more rapidly than more temperate and tropical zones. What happens UP in our mountains directly affects you at sea level. We are completely interdependent – but it is not about our nations – it is about people and our habits. The only way we are going to turn this around, like SDG Goal #12 is through RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION ... This is why we must work together to bring the BILLIONS who will be affected by our mountains to respect each other, respect the planet, and take action to reduce our negative impact.

(We need your help): "They say that the mountain people of Nepal are strong and resilient – I like to think so – but after the earthquakes, avalanches and political upheavals, we are reaching our limits of energy, capability and adaptation – now, like our brothers and sisters at sea level, we need your help to bring the world back into balance."

Speaking notes, written for Ang Tshering Sherpa in Bonn, Germany the day after the COP23 Climate Change Conference, November 18, 2017 by Philip McMaster, World Sustainability Project,  
[www.Sust10.com](http://www.Sust10.com) Republic Of Conscience and the BLOCKCHAIN to EVEREST / SDG to EVEREST expedition  
– [www.17PlusONE.com](http://www.17PlusONE.com)

Philip McMaster is co-founder of Explorasport and the MCMASTER INSTITUTE for Sustainable Development in Commerce, and developer of the [www.SDGtoken.com](http://www.SDGtoken.com) Philip will participate in the Global Adventure & Mountaineering Conference and Expo in March 23-25 2018 In Kathmandu and with the leadership of the Sherpa of Nepal, will accompany the Nepali people in bringing the SDG token Banner to the Top of the World with the (20<sup>th</sup>?) Eco Everest and SDG to EVEREST Expedition in April 2018.

[Philip.McMaster@hotmail.com](mailto:Philip.McMaster@hotmail.com) [PhilipMcMaster@gmail.com](mailto:PhilipMcMaster@gmail.com)

## DEREK BUCKLE

### A Return to the East Karakoram 2017

After a highly successful expedition to the lower Rassa Glacier in 2016, during which our team accomplished the first ascent of two 6,000m peaks, Lak Kangri and Thrung-ma Kangri<sup>1</sup> I was keen to return to the East Karakoram in 2017. This time, however, we particularly wanted to explore the upper reaches of the Rassa Glacier, but approach it from the north rather than the south. In 2014 a team led by Divyesh Muni had previously completed a south to north traverse of the glacier - approaching by way of the Tirit nala and descending into the Sumur Lungpa<sup>2</sup> - so we anticipated that we could access the glacier by reversing the route of their descent (*via* the East Rassa col). In the event that we were not able to do this our back-up plan was to explore the upper reaches of the complex Sumur Glacier, an area that had seen few, if any, mountaineers.

Man has inhabited the valleys of the Nubra, Indus and Zanskar for millennia and there is abundant evidence of his passing in the petroglyphs that he has left behind. These are especially prominent in the rocks surrounding the Sumur Lakes where we established our base camp. A study of the more major areas has linked these drawings to the steppe peoples of the Bronze Age and they are widespread throughout Ladakh and Tibet. Subsequent to this, the Sumur Lungpa was reportedly used as an important trade route between the Nubra and Shyok Valleys, although this must have been an arduous journey which, due to glacial recession (and modern transport), is no longer viable. An ancient fort dominates the valley entrance, presumably designed to protect against invaders from the east. Today, local villagers still use the Sumur Lungpa for summer grazing, but it is noticeably less travelled than the more fertile Tirit nala.

Despite previously visiting the Nubra Valley, we again suffered the inevitable anguish of not knowing whether we would be granted a permit to return again in 2017. Eventually, with just enough time to organise the requisite mountaineering visas, approval was forthcoming and our five-man party was ready to depart. Leaving the UK on 31 August 2017 we assembled in Delhi for the obligatory visit to the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and to meet our Liaison Officer, Sandeep Varma. We then flew to Leh, which at 3,500m is an ideal place for acclimatisation. Four days later we crossed the 5,370m Kardung La pass to spend a further two days in Sumur village before starting the walk-in to base camp.

The Sumur Lungpa starts pleasantly at the Samstanling Gompa where we were cordially greeted by the Geshe (head teacher). From here we began the steep and strenuous climb to the hillside fort before the gradient lessened somewhat as we traversed high above the torrent below. Gradually the view became more impressive as the valley widened and at 4,840m we established an intermediate camp (camp 1) where the Lungtung Valley joins the main river. The climb was tough for us, but it was more of a challenge for the local porters, many of whom were forced to drop their loads before reaching the camp. While this caused us some inconvenience, our permanent support staff rescued the day by retrieving some essential supplies, notably kerosene, to add to our comfort. The thought of cooking our evening meal on yak dung lacked a certain appeal for those more used to modern fuels!

The next day was spent consolidating the intermediate camp, but not all was well and supplies were still spread out lower down. In contrast to the Tirit nala, where horses could transport supplies, the broken terrain of the Sumur Lungpa necessitated human portage and the locals were finding this a tough proposition. One could not help but be sympathetic, but time was marching on and we needed to get to base camp. Eventually, with the help of our high altitude porters, we established an embryonic base camp (camp 2) on an idyllic spot by the Sumur Lakes at 5,160m on 10 September. This strategy allowed us to further acclimatise while exploring the complex moraines leading to the glacier proper.



Annotated Google Earth satellite image of the complex Sumur Glacier indicating base camp, the major glacial arms, Nya Kangri and the high points reached. The East Rassa col lies immediately above the letter C. (Note the direction of north)

The first objective was to investigate Glacial arm D (see annotated Satellite image) which we planned to use both for acclimatisation and as a potential access to the upper Rassa Glacier. Preliminary exploration indicated that climbing the true left lateral moraine led easily onto the glacier so on 15 September camp 3 was established on the glacier at 5,500m in sight of the tremendous north face/ridge of unclimbed Nya Kangri (6,480m). More interesting to us, however, was the more approachable peak to its left, which we subsequently attempted on the 16 September. Climbing poorly consolidated snow, we post-holed easily southwards to the WNW ridge where the angle steepened markedly to about 40°. After only a short distance, however, the threat of avalanches forced a retreat to safer ground. On 29 September Derek, Drew and Rafal returned to complete the first ascent of this 5,991m mountain by the same route under considerably more favourable conditions. The snowy summit offered superb views in all directions, especially towards Nya Kangri. We chose to call this peak Sumur Kangri and graded the climb at Alpine AD.

Before returning for the second attempt on Sumur Kangri (5,991m), a fourth camp was established higher on the glacier at 5,743m from which Derek, Drew, Howard and Rafal post-holed arduously up the glacier on 18<sup>th</sup> September to make the first ascent of what we originally thought was a defined peak (*ca.* 6,032m) at the glacier head. On climbing the easy-angled south face, however, this ‘peak’ turned out to be simply the convergence point of three ridges rather than a mountain *per se*. As a result we chose to call it Deception Point (6,068m by GPS). Disappointingly, not only was it not a mountain, but it also appeared to offer little opportunity to access either of its more impressive neighbouring peaks or cross into the upper reaches of the Rassa Glacier. One consolation was that it did offer some impressive views.

After a short sojourn to enjoy the luxury at base camp we then established camp 5 at 5,680m on Glacial arm C. From this camp, Derek, Drew, Howard and Rafal climbed the south face of the twin-headed peak at the glacier head, climbing first to the small, rocky summit of the south peak (6,071m) before traversing easily to the slightly higher snowy north peak (6,078m) on 25 September. Once again we post-holed the whole way to make the first ascent of this peak, which we subsequently called Tsagtuk Kangri (Ladakhi for Twin Snow Peak). It was graded at Alpine PD.

Before dismantling camp 5 we ploughed a trail to the foot of the north face leading to the East Rassa col to check the viability of using this approach to the Rassa Glacier. We were not optimistic, however, since we already knew that all north-facing slopes were highly avalanche prone. Their instability was reinforced by the frequent large snow sloughs that we had seen. A snow pit was sufficient to convince the party that this face was too dangerous to attempt under the present conditions, so the idea was abandoned. We therefore returned to camp 3 for the second attempt on Sumur Kangri, (*vide supra*), before returning home on 7 October.

### **Summary:**

From three high camps on the Sumur Glacier, members of a five-man Alpine Club party made first ascents of Deception Point (6,068m, Alpine grade F, 18 September 2017), Tsagtuk Kangri South and North (6,071m and 6,078m respectively, Alpine grade PD, 25 September 2017) and Sumur Kangri (5,991m, Alpine grade AD, 29 September 2017).

### **Team:**

Derek Buckle (leader), Drew Cook, Jamie Goodhart (who departed early on in the expedition due to a family bereavement), Rafal Malczyk and Howard Pollitt

### **Acknowledgements:**

The team are grateful for the support of the Mount Everest Foundation, the Montane Alpine Club Climbing Fund, the Austrian Alpine Club (UK) and Duffler of Sweden

### **References:**

1. D. R. Buckle, *Himalayan Journal*, 250, 72, (2017)
2. D. Muni, *American Alpine Journal*, 310, 57, (2015)

## Photo Gallery



Team at base camp. From L to R, Drew, Howard, Jamie, Derel & Rafal. Photo: Drew Cook



Sumur Kangri climbing route. Photo: Derek Buckle



Climbing moraine to camp 3. Sumur Kangri in the centre of the frame. Photo: Drew Cook



North Ridge of Nya Kangri 6520m. Photo: Derek Buckle



Derek Buckle on the first ascent of Sumur Kangri. Photo: Drew Cook



Derek, Howard & Drew on the summit of Tsagtuk Kangri South. Photo: Rafal Malczyk

DONG DING  
**New Route on Chola Shan 2017**  
**Shaluli Shan Range – West Sichuan Highlands**

At noon on August 9, 2017 (at 12:20), Gao Jun, Liu Junfu and Zeng Shan Shandong successfully stood atop of Chola Shan I East Peak 6168m via new route shown on the attached map.

Chola Shan I, East Peak, 6168m. Chola Shan was first climbed by a Japan-China joint team of the Kobe University and Wuhan College of geology in 1988. Chola Shan II 6119m in the west was first climbed by an American Charlie Fowler in 1997. This was a solo ascent.

Chola Shan has two summits of I (East) and II (West) in a distance of about 450m between two summits. The two summits have such different feature as below.

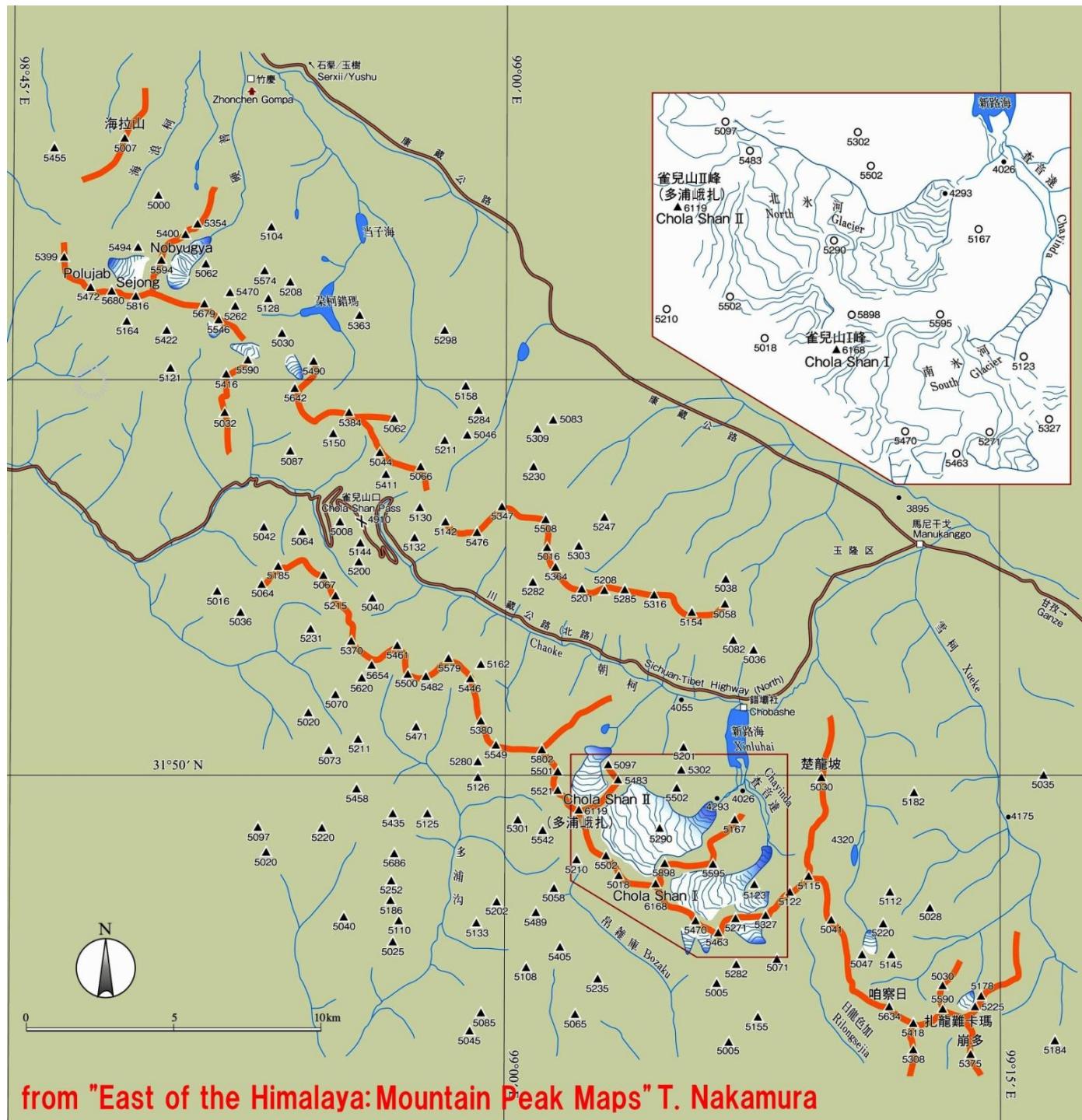
Chola Shan II (West) is intuitive and safe. It has an ice slope of 60 degree angle leading the ridge that reaches the summit in 70m.

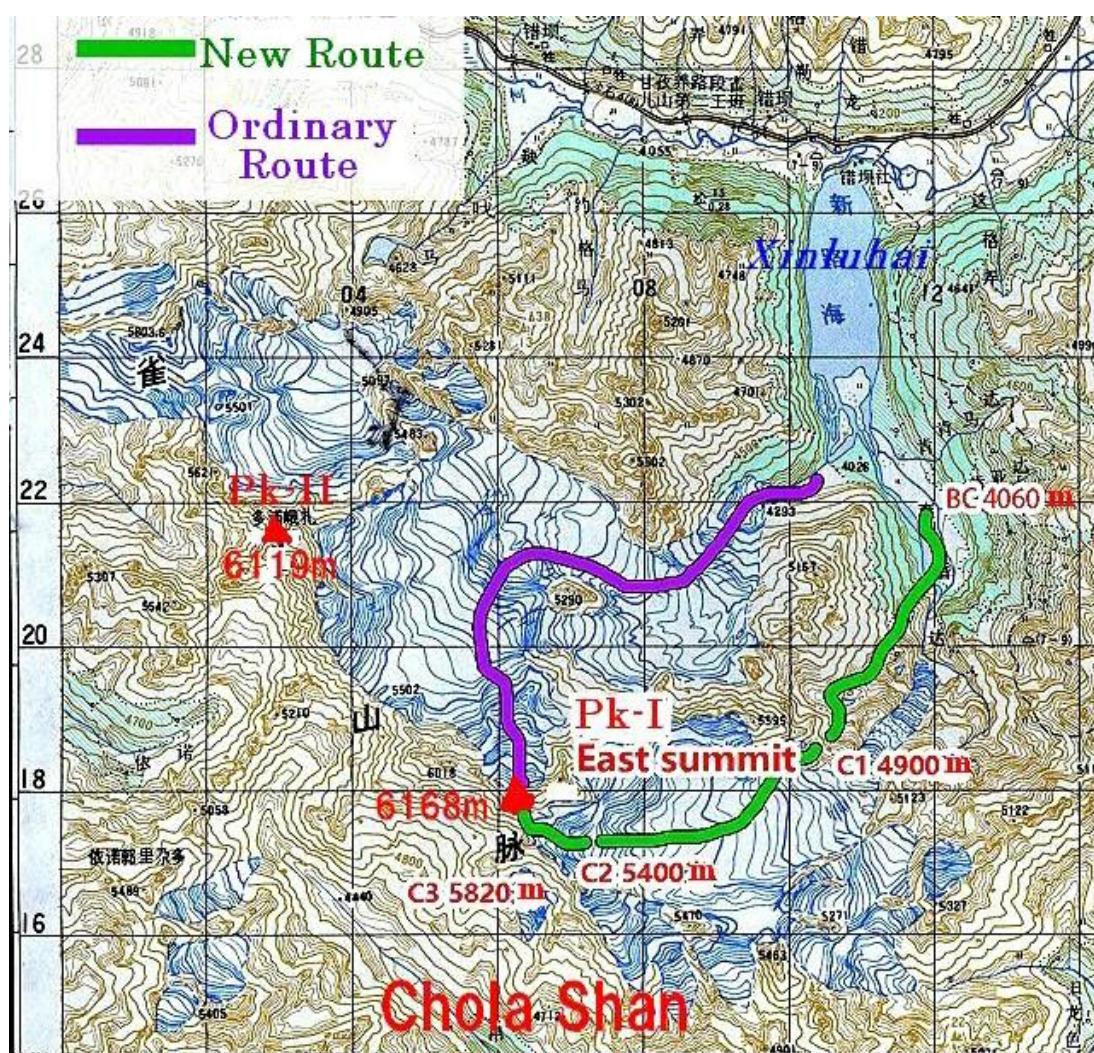
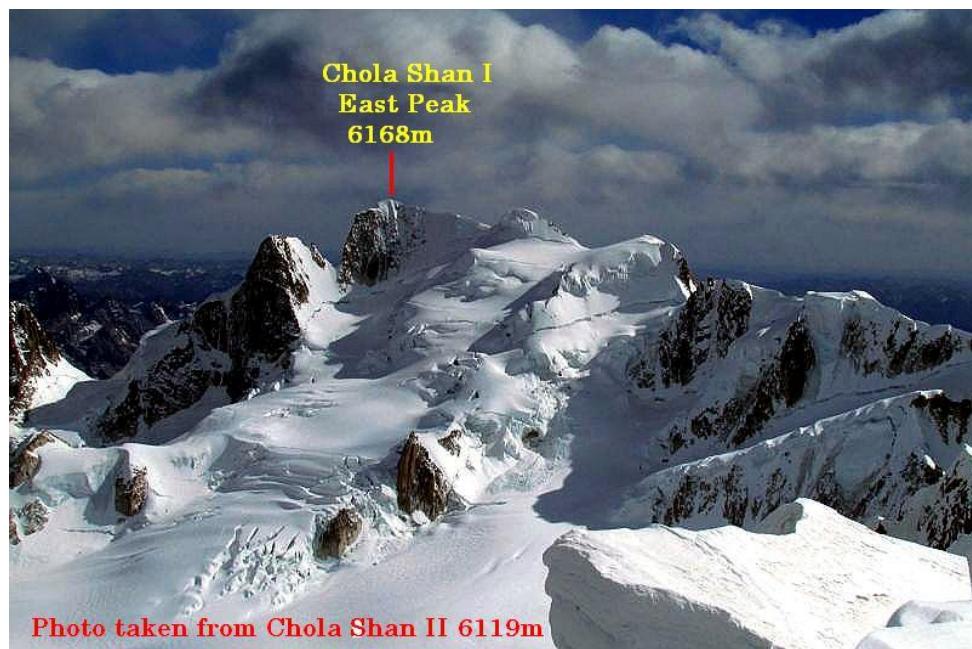
Chola Shan I (East) summit is 100m long with a fiercely windy ridge which has sheer drops in both sides to the glacier's 100m cliff. Technically difficult climb continues to the summit: vertical ice wall, windy edge ridge with many protection in rocks, bad snow conditions----- .

**Chinese Team**

**New Route on Chola East (6,168m)**

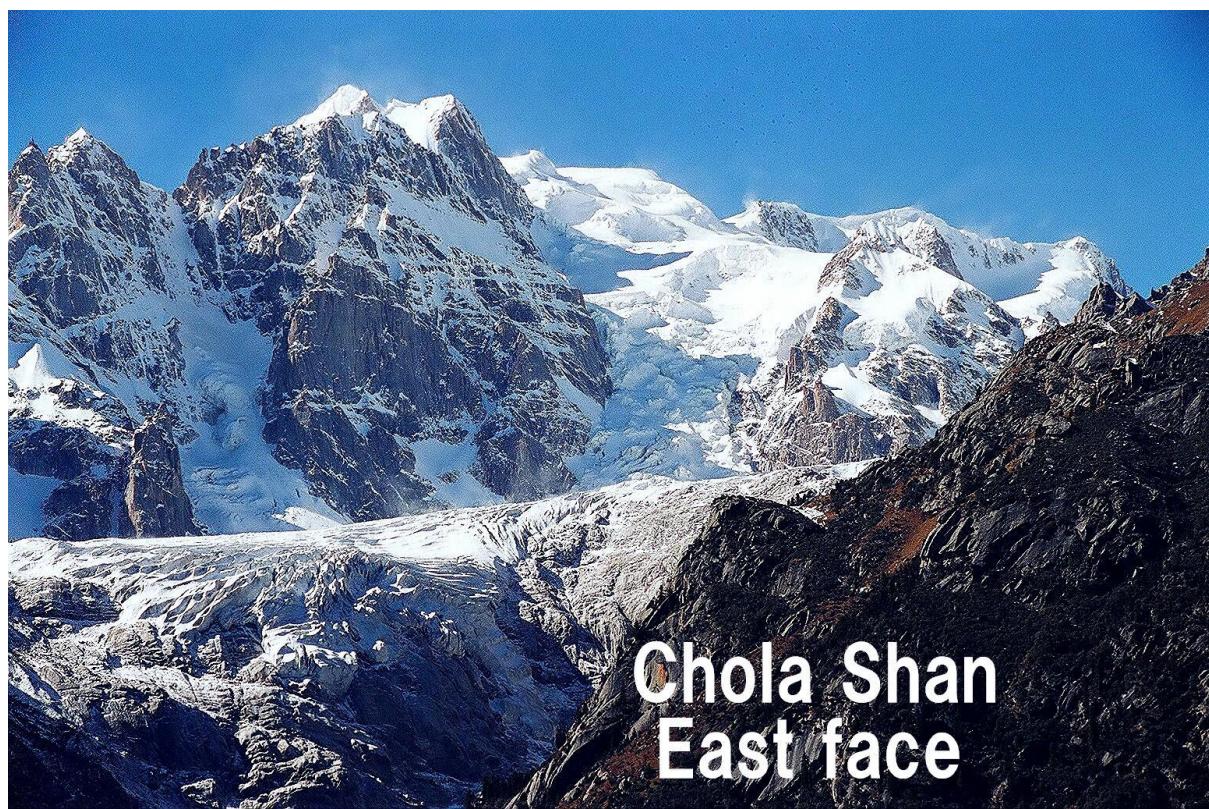
- Chola Shan I East Peak
- New route
- Memberst: Gao Jun, Liu Junfu, and Zeng Shan Shandong
- Alpine Style (3nights & 4days)
- Located in the northern sub-range of the Shaluli Shan in Sichuan, China







Xinluhai



Chola Shan  
East face



**Chola Shan II 6119m east face**

COSMIN ANDRON

## Monkey business in the Karnak gorge

Photography: Cristina Pogacean, Jonathan Parker, Cosmin Andron

# Ladakh 2017

We arrived in Delhi mid-August, hopeful and with loads of luggage. Cristina and Nasim (her partner) were aiming for H17 in the Zanskar valley, an unclimbed granite monolith. I was to join them as logistical support but I also had plans of my own: last year, during our T16 expedition, I noticed, on a side valley, a stunning mixed couloir that I wanted to attempt once the girls were up on their wall and if conditions were allowing.

A day later we were in Leh where we spent half a week running after supplies, getting the luggage overland from Delhi (thank you Jaggi, Prerna and Gopal) trying to organise transport (with the help of our Ladakhi friends) and getting ready for departure. When Nasim arrived in Leh we were ready and we set off the next day towards Padum.

For my part Leh gave me a rather unpleasant parting shot: a two-day disabling food poisoning (my first since I began coming to India) followed by a most annoying chest infection that still accompanies me now, three weeks later, while I write this in Manali...

After the two days bone-re-setting journey from Leh to Padum we landed in the same guest house like last year. I took a day off to tend to my lungs; Sadly Nasim promptly fell ill with similar ailment. Cristina did the last shopping. In the next days we tried to hustle porters, then Cristina and I went to check out the intended BC site. Nasim visited the local hospital and came back with unfortunate recommendations. Our recce of the BC brought mixed news: a problematic river crossing to reach the BC for the girls, dry conditions on the wall which was well received but also nonexistent ice on my intended line which made it unfeasible. At the local doctor's recommendation, Nasim had to leave the expedition. For us (Cristina and I) this also meant

we had to rethink the whole plan. We spent a few days in the Suru valley, bouldering and trying to fix my chest infection. The first part of the plan worked out perfectly; the second not at all.

We were hoping to find on the outer rim of Zanskar something feasible but, unfortunately, it was not the case. Nun and Kun proved to be a logistical nightmare that was not guaranteeing any outcome other than expenses; the rock faces around Beyul were crumbling only at the sight of wishful climbers. We decided to try our luck in Himachal which was on our route back, overland, to Delhi, in a place where in 2013 I saw some worth attempting granite faces. We left for Leh where we were blessed with a lucky encounter and a total overhaul of our plans.

A chance phone call with Sukrit made us improvise further. The 4Play.in team were in the area filming what Sukrit called “a big wall project”. Nothing specific; nothing more. He asked if we want to join the caravan. We said yes and next afternoon we were resetting our bones again in a truck, this time over the Tanglang La (5328m). Few kilometres into our trip we decided to ask the obvious question: “where are we, actually, going?”

As it turned out Kumar Gaurav and Madhu Raj were heading to the Karnak Valley (Ladakh) to attempt a repeat of “Samsara is Nirvana” a route opened by Giovanni Quirici, Guy Scherrer, Claude Chardonnes, Ellie Chevieux and Philippe Chablon ten years ago. I knew of Giovanni, I knew of the route; I had no clue where Karnak valley was nor how it looked and the research time had long ago expired.

The 4Play.in crew was accompanying the climbers to document the climb; we were hitch-hiking on their expedition. Cristina and I thought that if all else fails will have a go at “Samsara” ourselves when the guys are done.



The 13 Km from the Lamasery where the truck dropped us to the spot below “Samsara” where we set up BC were made easier by finding some ponies half way through. Nevertheless, Cristina and I, decided to pack the minimum at the lamasery: a double set of camalots C3 and C4 from # 000 to # 2, a handful of Russian soft pitons, a 10mm/60m Tendon climbing rope, a 6mm/70m Tendon Aramid tag line, a Latok Base tent from Rab, a week’s supply of Lyofood, some lard, a stove, two sleeping bags, the clothes on our backs and the hopes for something good.

The hike along the river was great. At 4100 – 4200m altitude the river-bed was flowing through magnificent and huge limestone walls. The rock and the ambience reminded us of the Taghia Gorge in the Moroccan Atlas, but ‘just’ over 2000m higher... It was a hidden limestone paradise in a granite country. We were a bit worried that our rack intended for a granite wall may not take us very high on these ones and will have to fall back to attempting the runout but bolted Samsara.



The first two days in BC, for our team of two, were days of restlessness (for Cristina) and almost futile attempts to recover (for me). Since each day at 12 at noon the rain showers would start we were in a rather gloomy mood. Kumar and Madhu oblivious to the conditions were hurling themselves at their project and the 4Play.in team was shooting from all angles.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, to gage if I am out for good or I still have a fighting chance, I hopped on the first pitch of “Samsara” and the outcome was that next day we should go up... We spotted a line that we thought might go on the wall to the right (West) of the “Samsara” wall. We called it the “Hanuman wall”. Only if the weather would cooperate... but there was no way to know so we trusted in our good Karma.

**Monkey Business, 14 pitches, 6a+ (approx 4200 m alt to approx 4700 m alt)**

**4 sept 2017, Hanuman wall, Karnak Valley, Ladakh, India**

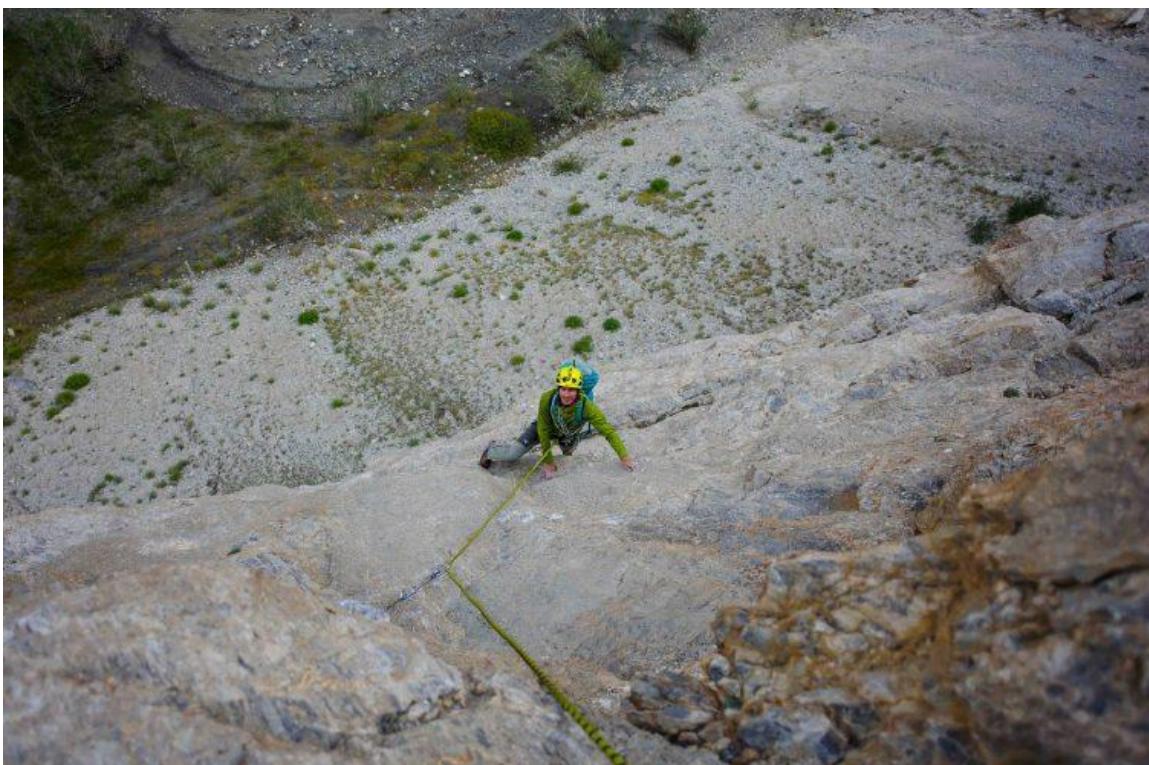
We had a lazy start on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> September. Kumar and Madhu were already up while Cristina and I were not sure how to read the weather. Procrastination over, by 9:30 am Cristina started the first pitch. We were carrying two 30L backpacks with sleeping bags, food, water, rain gear and shoes. The leader would haul *hand-over-hand* his/her backpack on the tagline; the second would climb with his/her backpack on. We decided to lead in short blocks and Cristina was off.



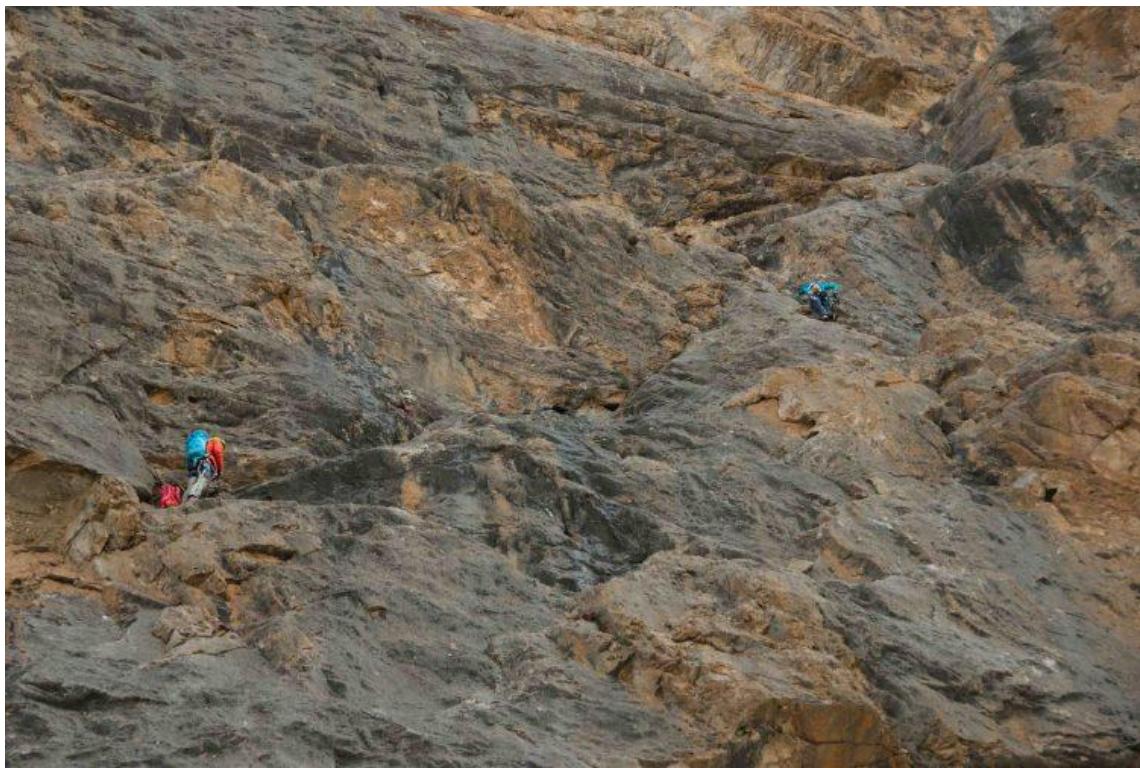
The first two pitches were a beautiful and compact face. Throughout the whole route, we had very difficult choices to make between the best climbing available (and there was lots of it) but on compact faces protectable only by bolts (of which we carried none) or more protectable options on mostly friable and loose rock. We went for the best (for us) compromise.











From pitch three I took over and I belayed from a massive cave on the N / NW aspect of the face. This gave us hope that we might find something similar higher up if the rain was to catch up with us. Next two pitches moved us on the Western aspect of the face and alongside a chute running down it. On pitch 5 I attempted an overhang for purely esthetical reasons. At the lip massive unstable blocks made me reconsider my priorities and after down-climbing a few moves I pounded in a piton and lowered off to the belay then moved leftwards on a crimp face.

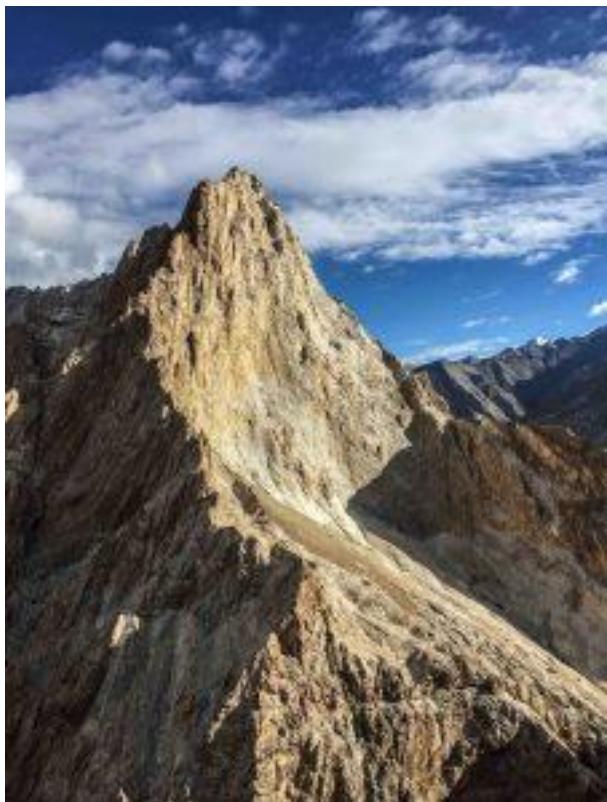




From pitch 7 Cristina took over again, leaving the chute and back onto the N aspect of Hanuman wall. The delicate set off from the belay stance left buried two pitons that I could not take out on a tricky slab. Cristina led with

the pack on and I was happy it was her and not me. Next pitch although crumbly in parts was enjoyable and we passed another small cavern to which we could retreat if need be. By now we were seeing our little tent down in the valley and we were thinking about the soon approaching sunset. From here on the character of the climbing changed. Progressively poorer rock meant much more care in route finding and in not dropping blocks over the belayer or the rope. By pitch 10 Cristina was leading in the dark.

My last two pitches were both loose and unenjoyable. We were trying to reach the top of the face but I had to stop four or so meters below the ridge-line when a hold crumbled in my hands and made me fill my pants. We decided to call it a night, put a good percent of our rack into a hopeful anchor and abseiled to the first prayer of a ledge. A few good minutes with the hammer in the rubble meant we could sit in our sleeping bags and if overly ambitious pretend we could also curl down a little bit. The fire down in the valley made us wonder what we were looking for up there. I spent the night coughing and spitting.





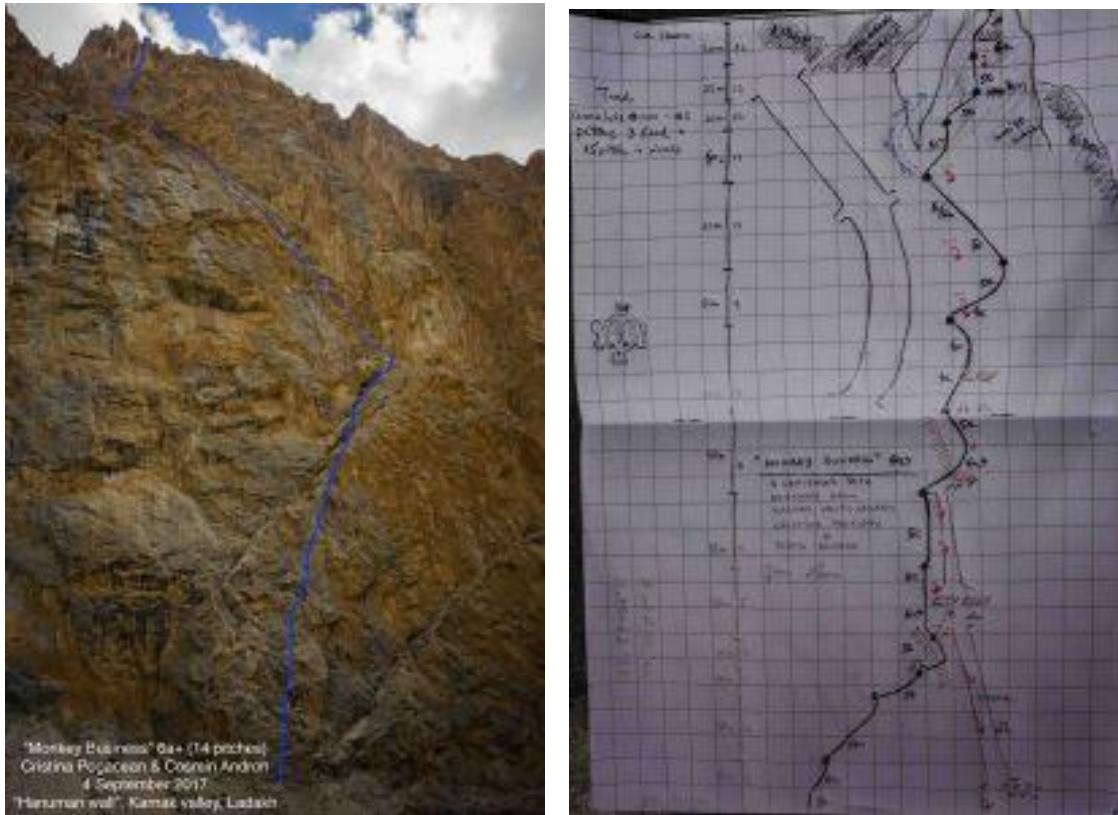
Morning did not shine on fresh faces and we were both grateful for good weather (except a few snowflakes in the night) and keen to get going. Bones wanted otherwise... We went back to the high point and Cristina took the lead to finish the last pitch. Two meters below the crest we valued more our personal physical integrity above anything else and we called it good. We started building anchors and descend. Five 60m abseils later our lead rope got stuck; no matter how much tugging and shaking we applied to it, it

refused to release. We had to cut it from where we could safely reach leading on the Aramid tagline and count our blessings. We continued our way down on 35m abseils on the tag line and some down scrambling. We followed the chute on a shorter path down than the ascent line. The wall did not want to let us off the hook so easily and orchestrated a last mischief. The penultimate abseil halted about 10 m above the ground on an overhanging chossy dihedral and we had to build the largest abseil anchor of the whole route...



Lunch was sweet at our little tent and we were wondering again about our good karma that granted us two days of good weather. Just perfect for some *Monkey Business!*





On this trip Cristina was supported by a grant from **Grit & Rock Foundation**, essential financial help from **SC Cubic SRL**, apparel and equipment from **Rab** and ready-meals from **Lyofood**. I was (as have always been in the last four years) supported by **Tendon**.

Special thanks go to our Indian extended network of friends some of whom are truly our far-away extended family: Jaggi and Prerna in Delhi, Jami in Leh and Suru, on the road and Manali Sukrit and the **4Play.in** crew (Abhijeet, Goli, Prashant and Praveen), Kumar and Madhu for letting us cruise with them and to Jonathan for the stimulating BC conversations and warm support.