ASIAN ALPINE E–NEWS
Issue No. 22, April 2018

Kangchenjunga massif south face seen from Tiger Hill of Darjeeling

CONTENTS
Taiwanese famous painter, Mr. Uenxi Chang’s sketches “玉山”  Page 2

Tom Nakamura’s journey March 2018
Sikkim, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Kathmandu and Pokara, Nepal.

Lecture at Sikkim University & Visit Kalimpong–Darjeeling  Page 3~18
GAMCE 2018 & UIAA Management Committee 2018
—Kathmandu, Nepal—  Page 19~31
Miyahara’s Second Dream Comes True
—Hotel Annapurna View, Sarangkot Pokara—  Page 32~36

Monastery  Kalimpong
Taiwanese famous painter, Mr. Uenxi Chang's sketches “玉山”
By invitation of a professor, Dr. Jigmie of the Sikkim University I visited Sikkim and on the way to Kathmandu went to Darjeeling too. The lecture was made on March 12, 2018 at Gangtok. Some 100 audiences were mainly students of the university having an interest in mountaineering. Theme of the lecture was “Golden Flying Route over the Himalaya: Kathmandu-Lhasa-Chengdu”.

Morning sunshine of Kangchenjunga mountains range viewed from Gangtok

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

WELCOMES

MR. TAMOTSU NAKAMURA
Honorary Member, UIAA
Golden Flying Route
over the Himalaya
Kathmandu-Lhasa-Chengdu

Tamotsu (Tom) Nakamura

Ganesh IV 7104m
Ganesh II 7116m
Ganesh III 7043m
Ganesh I 7422m
Ganesh V 6770m (Chagisanmo Kangri)
Ganesh VII 6350m

Eastern Nepal
Sikkim-Bhutan
Nyainqentanglha
Kangri Garpo
Sichuan

Whole view of Gangtok 1,600m + −
A part of Sikkim University

(right) Dr. Jigmie, (center) T. Nakamura
Audiences (students) and T. Nakamura in centre

On March 14 I had a meeting with President, Sikkim Mountaineering Association, Mr. Kunzang Gyatso.

(right) Kunzang Gyatso, Ogata’s ”Mountains of Sikkim” was presented.
Mr. Gyatso explained as summarized below:

1. Members of Sikkim Mountaineering Association: 500
2. The association handles and arranges for all of the permits for trekking and climbing, sending liaison officers, and gathering expedition expenses
3. Climbing permits are obtained by the association independently from Indian Mountaineering Foundation
4. The association keenly expects receiving expeditions from Japanese mountaineering community.

Mr. Gyatso has a wide connection with the Himalayan Club. He was a member of the expedition headed by late Roger Payne to the west Sikkim. He added current information as follows.

“Regarding the Pao Hungri (Pauhungri), 23180ft. this is a sacred peak, which means that this peak is not presently open to expeditions. Please find here under the list of peaks that are banned under the state department:

Sacred Peaks of Sikkim
(i) Ghanchhen-mZod-Nga: (Kanchenjunga-main 28,208ft.)
(Khangchendzonga) (Kanchenjunga-South 27803ft.)
(Kanchenjunga-West 27625ft.)
(ii) Mt. Narshing, 19,111ft.
(iii) Gabur Gangtsen: (Kabru North, 24075 ft.)
(Kabru South, 24005 ft.)
(Kabru Dome, 21600 ft.)
(iv) Pandim Peak, 21658ft.
(v) Mt. Simvo, 22346ft.
(vi) Goecha Peak, 20100ft.
(vii) Fork Peak, 20382ft.
(viii) Pao Hungri (Pauhungri), 23180ft.
(ix) Mt. Siniolchu, 22609ft.

We are working with the state Home Department to open some peaks but this is a slow process. Besides the above there are several peaks that are open if you like and we can send you more information on them.”
Kalimpong – Tagore House

A Scottish missionary, George Patterson stayed at the Tagore House (photo below) in Kalimpong for 5 years for appealing “China’s invasion to Tibet” to outside world.
There are beautiful Tibetan monasteries of Sikkim style (shape of roof) in Kalimpong. Protestant church built in 1891. 20% of Kalimpong's population is Christians.
In Darjeeling

Kangchenjunga from Tiger Hill 2590m (less clear than autumn-winter)

Darjeeling and Kangchenjunga
In Darjeeling main objective was to see Photo Gallery of Tibetan Refuge Centre. Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) and Toy Train were a matter of interest.
Escaping from Tibet to India together with Dalai Lama 14th in 1959

YOUNGHUSBAND AND HIS TROOPS CAMPING AT PHARI DZONG
THE BRITISH MISSION TO LHASA. LT. COL. KENNEDY IS ON MY RIGHT (SEATED THIRD FROM LEFT)

1924 EVEREST EXPEDITION. ANDREW IRVINE AND GEORGE MALLORY ARE AT THE LEFT END OF THE BACK ROW.
After Darjeeling, on March 23 I went to Nepal and visited Tibetan Refuge Centre in Pokara. I interviewed with a survivor of Mustang guerrilla sent and supported by CIA. He was a commander in charge of logistics. He himself was trained by CIA in USA. He fled from Litang, Sichuan, to Nepal in 1962, 3 years later that Dalai Lama 14th.
Tibetan Refuge Centre in Pokara

(right) Mr. Ongil, Khamba 88 years old – Mustang guerrilla survivor
Tomb of Tenzing Norgay in Himalayan Mountaineering Institute

Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling
HMI (left) Statue of Tenzing Norgay (right) Tomb of Nawang Gombu, Darjeeling sherpa

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE AREA
ESTD. 1881

Elgin Place
DHR HQ at Kurseong
The DHR, a 2 ft 6 in narrow gauge railway, was commissioned on 29 April 1881 and carried the first revenue train on 31 July 1881.

ROUTE MAP OF DHR

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE AREA
ESTD. 1881

Elgin Place
DHR HQ at Kurseong
The DHR, a 2 ft 6 in narrow gauge railway, was commissioned on 29 April 1881 and carried the first revenue train on 31 July 1881.

ROUTE MAP OF DHR

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE AREA
ESTD. 1881

Elgin Place
DHR HQ at Kurseong
The DHR, a 2 ft 6 in narrow gauge railway, was commissioned on 29 April 1881 and carried the first revenue train on 31 July 1881.

ROUTE MAP OF DHR
GAMCE 2018 was held at Yak and Yeti Hotel on March 23~25 and simultaneously UIAA Management Committee was held at Annapurna Hotel on March 23~24.
GLOBAL ADVENTURE & MOUNTAINEERING CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2018
March 23rd – 25th, 2018 – Hotel Yak & Yeti, Kathmandu, Nepal

A. Introduction: Concept to Organization and Preparation

The idea of Global Adventure & Mountaineering Conference and Expo was conceived few months after the 2015 Earthquake to not only strengthen the adventure tourism sector but also to facilitate the recovery from the national disaster. It was a timely concept given the nature and trends of adventure tourism and a cause to kick-start the event.

A closer study of adventure tourism especially in the context of Nepal, makes it imperative to hold GAMCE 2018 for the following reasons?

- Inspired by the remarkable growth in world adventure tourism. Adventure tourism grew by 195% between 2010 and 2013 whereas total world tourism grew by 5 percent. Adventure tourism share of world tourism market stands at more than 42%.
- Himalayan nations’ political statement – demanding fair representation in the policy-making of international standards, codes, accreditations, certifications and conventions on mountaineering and adventure sports.
- Adventure tourism is most economically and socially impactful - resilient, inclusive and has high content of transformative experience that drives the travel industry.
- Vision of Nepal as the adventure hub for Asia if not the world, where adventure buyers and sellers can transact adventure gear and travel services not only from Nepal but internationally. GAMCE would be to show-case Nepal’s mountaineering and adventure expertise and experts to the world. We stop paying “rent money” to marketing platforms abroad and start by building our own marketing platform closer to home, an asset to own forever and not pay “rent” year in year out.

Driven by these thoughts and ideals, GAMCE took shape and form as it moved forward towards its realization in the years to come. Though the event was initially scheduled
for 2016, it had to be postponed due to lack of resources in 2016 and subsequently in 2017 but finally succeeded in making its debut in 2018.

Regarding the conference, a Technical Committee was set-up on voluntary basis headed by Ang Tshering Sherpa as the Chairperson, supported by Lisa Choegyal and Prachanda Man Shrestha as Co-Chairpersons and Nandy L Thapa as Conference Advisor.

The first task was to bring all the Nepalese and international stakeholders on board in some meaningful relationship. Nepal Tourism Board assumed the role of the Organizing Partner while House of Rajkarnicar assumed the role as the Executive Partner as the organizing team of GAMCE 2018. The organizing team explored cooperation and co-ordination from every angle locally and internationally: government agencies, diplomatic missions, associations, INGOs, NGOs, national and international media, adventure clubs & societies and sponsors.

B. GAMCE 2018 - Opening Ceremony

GAMCE 2018 was slated to be inaugurated by Honorable State Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ramesh Adhikari but due to last minute change of Minister's schedule, CEO of Nepal Tourism Board, Deepak Raj Joshi, filled in as the Chief Guest of the Opening Ceremony. The Opening Ceremony was addressed by Vice President of UIAA, Peter Farkas, General Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Association, Kul Bahadur Gurung, Chairman of GAMCE Technical Committee and Past President of NMA, Ang Tshering Sherpa and Managing Director of House of Rajkarnicar, Birendra Rajkarnicar. Some 250 guests from the adventure tourism fraternity were present to witness the Opening Ceremony.

C. Conference & Exhibition

What GAMCE 2018 had to offer was surely not all that was envisioned but a precedence for future. There were 39 adventure experts who will be spoke at the Conference on various topics related adventure and mountaineering. About 307 participants were invited to attend the conference but only about 200 attended during the three days of the conference. Many attended specific sessions and others attended portions of the three days.

The Expo has also made a modest beginning with about 32 exhibitors exhibiting
adventure gear and travel services. GAMCE 2018 has hosted 12 adventure buyers from the region but three others registered and came on their own. The buyers were selected on the basis of 3 criteria,

D. Media

The media was engaged in the whole process leading up to the final event. There were three press conferences preceding GAMCE 2018. GAMCE 2018 also recruited adventure media partners such as Outside, Backpacker, The Outdoor Journal of India, Trek & Mountain, Action Asia, Lide & Hory, The Intrepid Explorer, Himalaya and ECS Nepal to help promote the event.

Three media groups were present namely Outdoor Australia, Lide & Hory from Czech Republic and The Outdoor Journal of India. Though many of the editors of the media partners such as Outside, Backpacker, Action Asia wanted to come but could not be managed in such short notice.
(left) Sanjaa Zaya from Mongolia will soon publish a comprehensive work of Female Mountaineers in the world. (right) T. Nakamura shows the final draft for proof-reading.
UIAA Management Committee held at Annapurna Hotel

UIAA MC meeting, Yagihara and Onodera attended from Japan
(left) UIAA Stephanie Stettbacher (right) Tom Nakamura

(from left) Onodera, Nakamura, Santa Bir Lama·NMA P, Yagihara·JMASCA President
Nakamura’s lecture at GAMCE
Theme “Golden Flying Route over Himalaya: Kathmandu-Lhasa-Chengdu”
The grand opening of the Hotel Annapurna View will be conducted in October 2018. This hotel is a second dream of Takashi Miyahara in succession to the Hotel Everest View at 3880m.
Annapurna South viewed from Hotel Annapurna View, Sarangkot
Paragliding

Machhapuchhre viewed from Hotel
Himalaya Kanko Kaihatsu’s booth at GAMCE 2018. (Centre) Miyahara’s daughter, Sonia Miyahara