

# ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

Issue No. 25, May 2018



Mt. Siguniang, Sichuan-China: (left) N/NW face (right) S face/SE ridge – Photos by Kenzo Okawa

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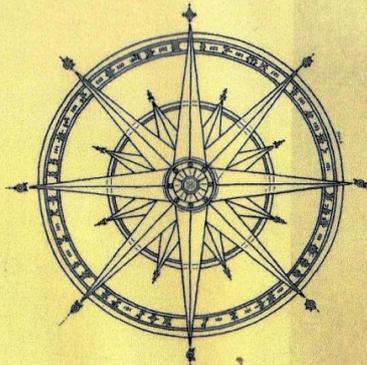
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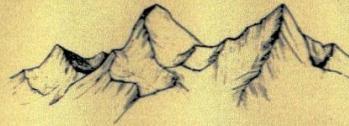
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# LEGENDARY MAPS FROM THE HIMALAYAN CLUB

Commemorating 90 Years  
of the Iconic Institution



General Editor  
**HARISH KAPADIA**  
ROLI BOOKS



The last 90 years have been a glorious period in Himalayan Exploration. As explorers from across the globe have attempted to discover the Himalaya, the Himalayan Club has played a pioneering role in chronicling their expeditions for posterity. The accompanying maps, from the *Himalayan Journal*, are a historical treasure capturing various facets of exploration over time. Legendary explorations like Shipton and Tilman's route into Nanda Devi Sanctuary, Maurice Herzog's Annapurna ascent – the first to scale an 8,000m peak – and Sir Chris Bonington's exploring routes to Menluntse continue to arouse fascination to this day.

The last decades or two have witnessed fascinating explorations – trail to complete the century-old quest to trace the route of the mighty Brahmaputra river by Harish Kapadia, exploring the unknown Kunzang valley by Group Capt. V.K. Sashindran, ascents and accident on Panch Chuli by A.V. Saunders and an ascent of Nilkanth by the west ridge by Martin Moran and many others. With some of the routes and climbs documented here yet to be repeated, this book is a tribute to the rich history of exploration and a treasure trove for aficionados.



# LEGENDARY MAPS FROM THE HIMALAYAN CLUB

Commemorating 90 Years  
of the Iconic Institution

General Editor  
**HARISH KAPADIA**

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**Lustre Press**  
**Roli Books**

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© Roli Books, 2018  
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Photograph pages 6-7: © Royal Geographical Society, U.K.

Published in India by Roli Books  
M-75, Greater Kailash II Market  
New Delhi-110 048, India  
Ph: ++91-11-40682000  
E-mail: info@rolibooks.com  
Website: www.rolibooks.com

ISBN: 978-81-936260-2-3

Design: Sneha Pamneja  
Cover design: Vaasavi Kaushik  
Layout: Naresh L. Mondal  
Pre-press: Jyoti Dey  
Production: Yuvraj Singh

Printed and bound in India

Dedicated to  
J.C. Nanavati  
President Emeritus of the Himalayan Club  
Who taught us the importance of maps



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HJ 52: YEAR 1996

## MANASLU



The British considered Everest as 'their' mountain and made several attempts to climb till the first ascent was achieved. Similarly, Manaslu is considered a Japanese mountain – they made many attempts till the first ascent was made in 1956. Located in West Nepal, Manaslu at 8163 m is the 8th highest peak in the world. It literally means 'Mountain of Intellect' (Manas-in Sanskrit).

H.W. Tilman explored the range in 1950, and thereafter, the Japanese climbers took over. Between 1950 and 1955 four Japanese teams attempted Manaslu from different directions, reaching high on the mountain. In 1956, Japanese climber Toshio Imanishi (Japan) and Gyaltzen Norbu (Sherpa) reached the summit ending their quest. This peak was left alone until 1970 and then a flood of requests started and many expeditions and climbers have summited since then.

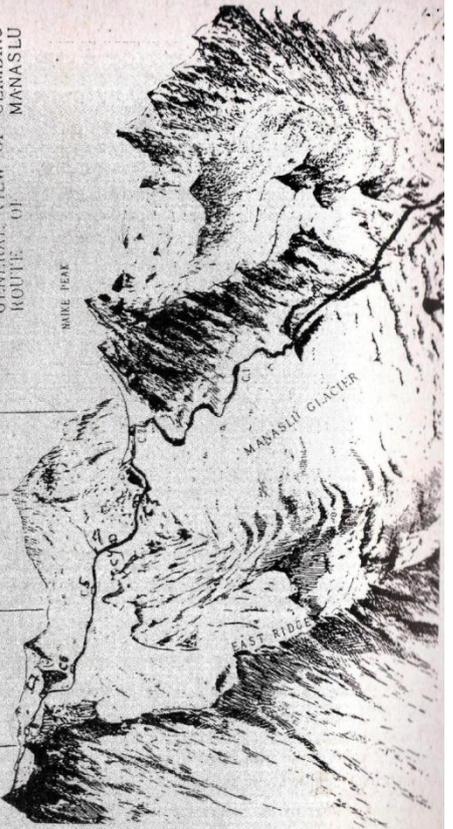
Gyaltzen Sherpa was celebrated for this ascent, almost as much as Everest climbers were in 1953. The newly formed Himalayan Mountaineering Institute at Darjeeling employed him as Senior Instructor, a position he held till he retired many years later.

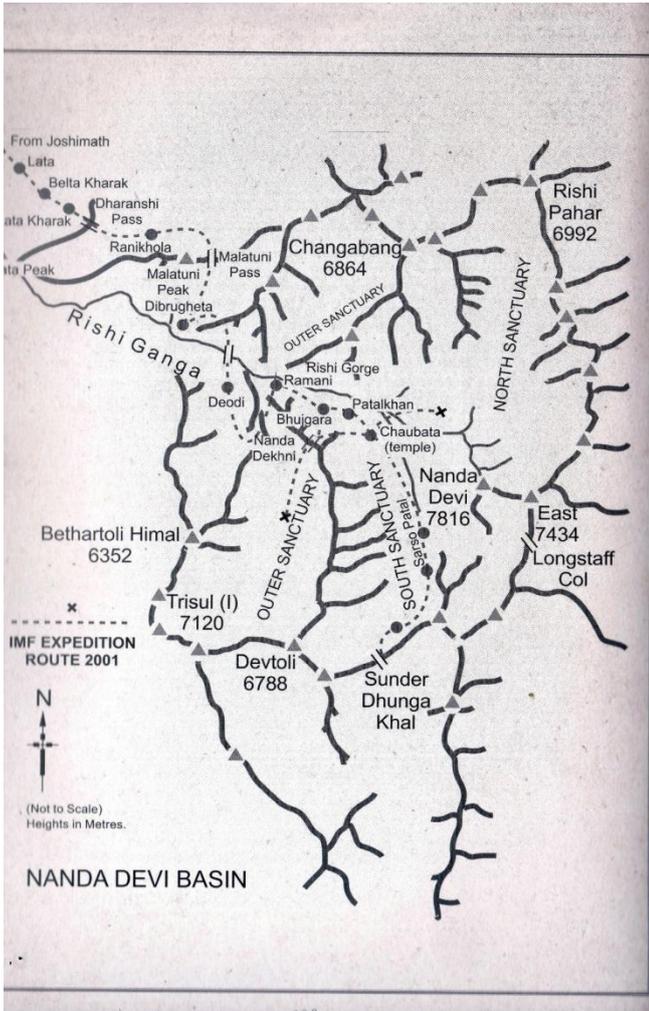


GENERAL VIEW OF CLIMBING ROUTE OF MANASLU

MAIRE PEAK  
NORTH PEAK  
NORTH COL

BRAMHAT PRANALE  
1953/51





HJ 7: YEAR 1935

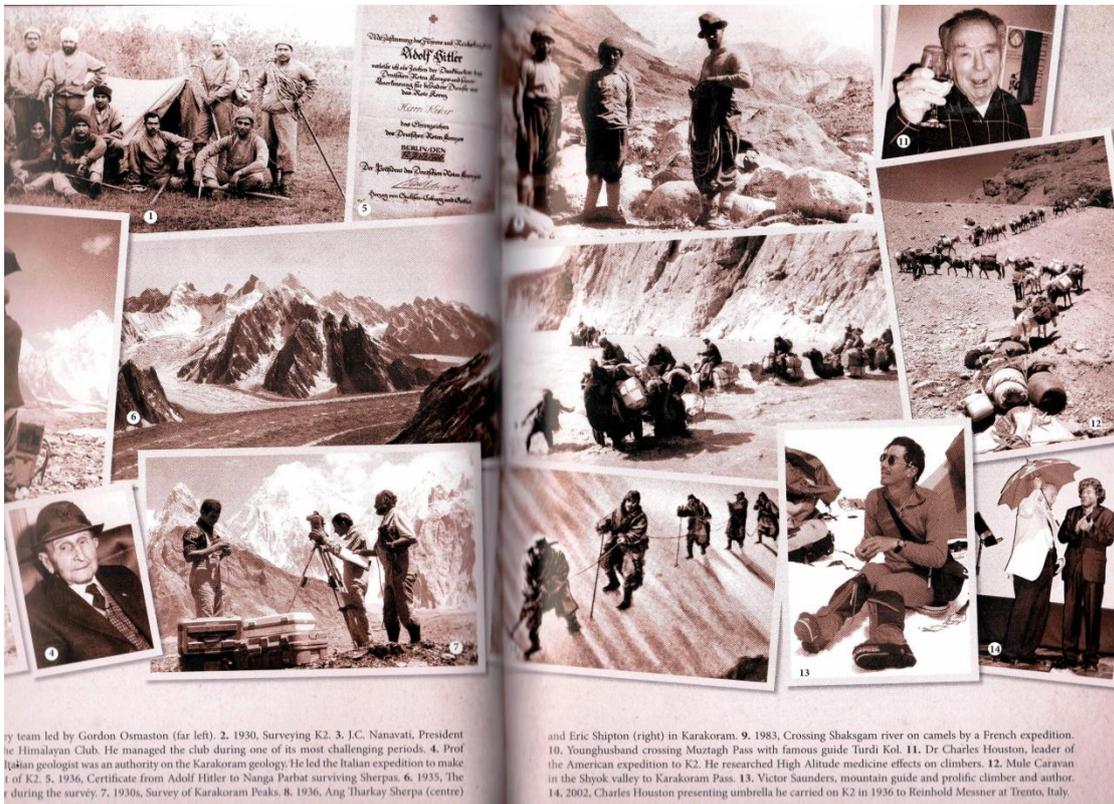
## EXPLORING NANDA DEVI

H.W. Tilman

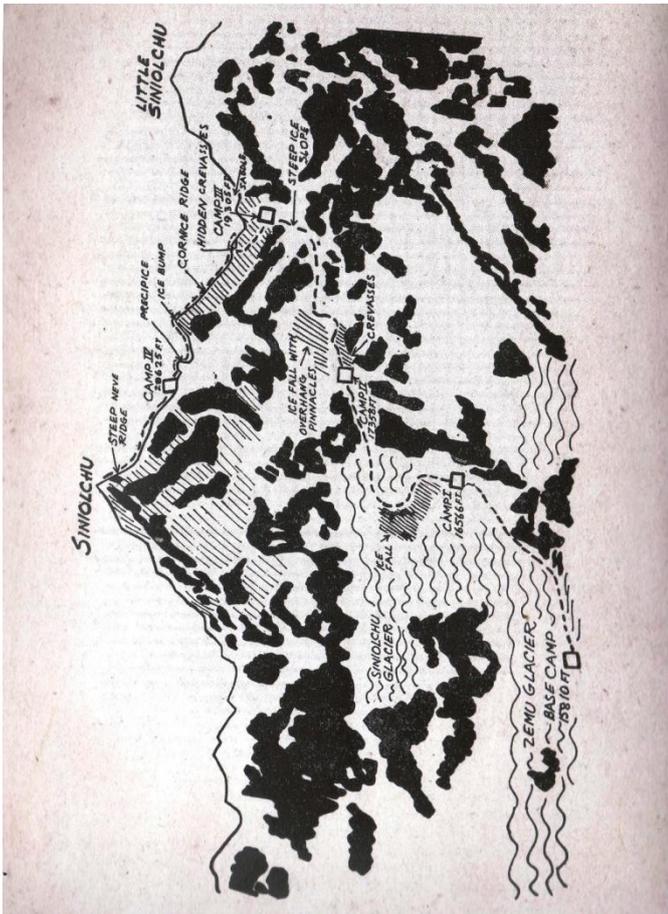
Exploration of the Nanda Devi basin was more difficult than climbing the peak. For almost five decades, climbers attempted to penetrate the sanctuary from different sides but to no avail. Then in 1934, the legendary pair of explorers, Bill Tilman and Eric Shipton made a way through the Rishi Ganga gorge. After much difficulty, they managed to enter the Sanctuary and in the first part, explored the Northern valleys. As monsoon caught up, they retreated but then explored other valleys near Badrinath and went till Gangotri watershed. They returned back to the Sanctuary after the monsoon and explored the Southern Sanctuary and the main peak. Finally, to cap this great adventure, they descended from the Sunderdhunga Col, a route which has been not repeated yet.

Some explorations remain etched in memory. The method of exploring, people involved, their writing about it and the historical relevance, has ensured that the world of mountaineering will never forget this exploration.

Two years later, in 1936, Tilman accepted and Shipton declined an invitation from the American expedition to climb Nanda Devi peak. Tilman, with Noel Odell reached the summit and wrote, with humility about it.



1. Expedition team led by Gordon Osmaston (far left). 2. 1930. Surveying K2. 3. I.C. Nanavati, President of the Himalayan Club. He managed the club during one of its most challenging periods. 4. Prof. Iqbal Khan geologist was an authority on the Karakoram geology. He led the Italian expedition to make the first ascent of K2. 5. 1936, Certificate from Adolf Hitler to Nanga Parbat surviving Sherpas. 6. 1935, The first ascent of Nanda Devi. 7. 1930s, Survey of Karakoram Peaks. 8. 1936, Ang Tharkay Sherpa (centre) and Eric Shipton (right) in Karakoram. 9. 1983, Crossing Shaks-gam river on camels by a French expedition. 10. Younghusband crossing Muztagh Pass with famous guide Turdi Kol. 11. Dr Charles Houston, leader of the American expedition to K2. He researched High Altitude medicine effects on climbers. 12. Mule Caravan in the Shyok valley to Karakoram Pass. 13. Victor Saunders, mountain guide and prolific climber and author. 14. 2002, Charles Houston presenting umbrella he carried on K2 in 1936 to Reinhold Messner at Trento, Italy.



HJ 37: YEAR 1981

## SINIOLCHU



Rising on the southern side of the Zemu glacier, on the watershed between the Passanram and the Zemu glaciers, Siniolchu (6887 m) is beautiful to view and also challenging to climb. It is situated on the Zemu glacier and near Kangchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world.

It was first climbed by Paul Bauer's team in 1936. Bauer and his German team was particularly interested in the peaks around Zemu glacier. When their determined 'attacks' - as they called it, failed on Kangchenjunga, they looked elsewhere. Siniolchu was always inviting. From their base camp on the Zemu glacier, they reached the ridge between Siniolchu and Little Siniolchu (6538 m) and climbed it to the summit. The second ascent was made the next year by a German-Swiss expedition, while the third ascent was achieved by an Indian team in 1979.

With roads connecting many parts of Sikkim, Siniolchu can be admired from Gangtok and a closer stunning view from Mangan. Its sharp flutings and pinnacle shaped summit lives up to the reputation of the title bestowed on it by explorer Douglas Freshfield. He called it as 'the most superb triumph of mountain architecture and the most beautiful snow mountain in the world'.



to be a gradually rising mass of glacier hopelessly riven with crevasses and broken into innumerable ice-falls descending in cascades from the mountain barriers rising to the north and east.

We were not a strong enough party to attempt any of these peaks, and our immediate objective, therefore, was to find a practicable route out of the plateau. There seemed to be a col in the north at the foot of the western ridge of Peak 22,674 feet; leading on to the Tista glacier flowing to the west of Pauhunri. But we preferred to try to find a way out towards the west in the direction of Mome Samdong. At closer quarters, however, it became evident that it would be impracticable for a laden party like ours. Directly before us, to the north, at the end of the level stretch of the plateau, we noticed a prominent reddish-coloured rock; the snow-field rose in a gentle slope beyond this point and appeared to continue in a gradual rise towards the west. The crossing of the plateau was infinitely laborious. It was almost 2 o'clock when, with freezing feet, we arrived at the foot of the red rock.

We struck camp at eight o'clock the following morning and immediately tackled the slope on our right. On reaching the top of the first rise we were confronted by some nasty-looking crevasses. Thereafter, following a lengthy snow-slope, we suddenly realized that we were standing on our pass. Before us stretched a level snow-field, evidently draining into a valley towards the west. Our pass, Hidden pass, as I called it, lies between Peak 21,740 feet and Peak 19,270. I estimated its height to be just over 19,000 feet. Kangchenjunga and all the giants of Sikkim in the far west looked terribly impressive even at that distance. From the pass we had intended to follow the little glacier which is marked on the map as providing a convenient short cut to Zadong on the Donkya La route. This glacier, however, presented a formidable series of ice-falls so terrifying to behold that we bore to the left down a larger glacier evidently draining into the main valley of the Jakthang Chu. Looking up towards the plateau, I was surprised to behold three pyramid-shaped peaks rising close behind one another to the north, directly north of Peak 22,674 feet. The map indicates only one 23,000-foot peak lying between Peak 22,674 feet and Pauhunri to the north. Our downward route began to look dangerous. The valley turned out to be on a larger scale. The Karpo La was visible directly to the south across the glacier along a jagged ridge of rocky spires and snow-covered summits forming the southern wall of the valley.

KINICHI YAMAMORI

## Japanese Mountaineering in the Himalaya

### Before and after World War II

Mountain climbing in Japan dates back much farther in the form of mountain worship before modern mountaineering and alpine climbing.

#### Mountains Worship in Japan

Mountain climbing in Japan dates back much farther in the form of mountains worship before modern mountaineering



Mt. Fuji 3,776m



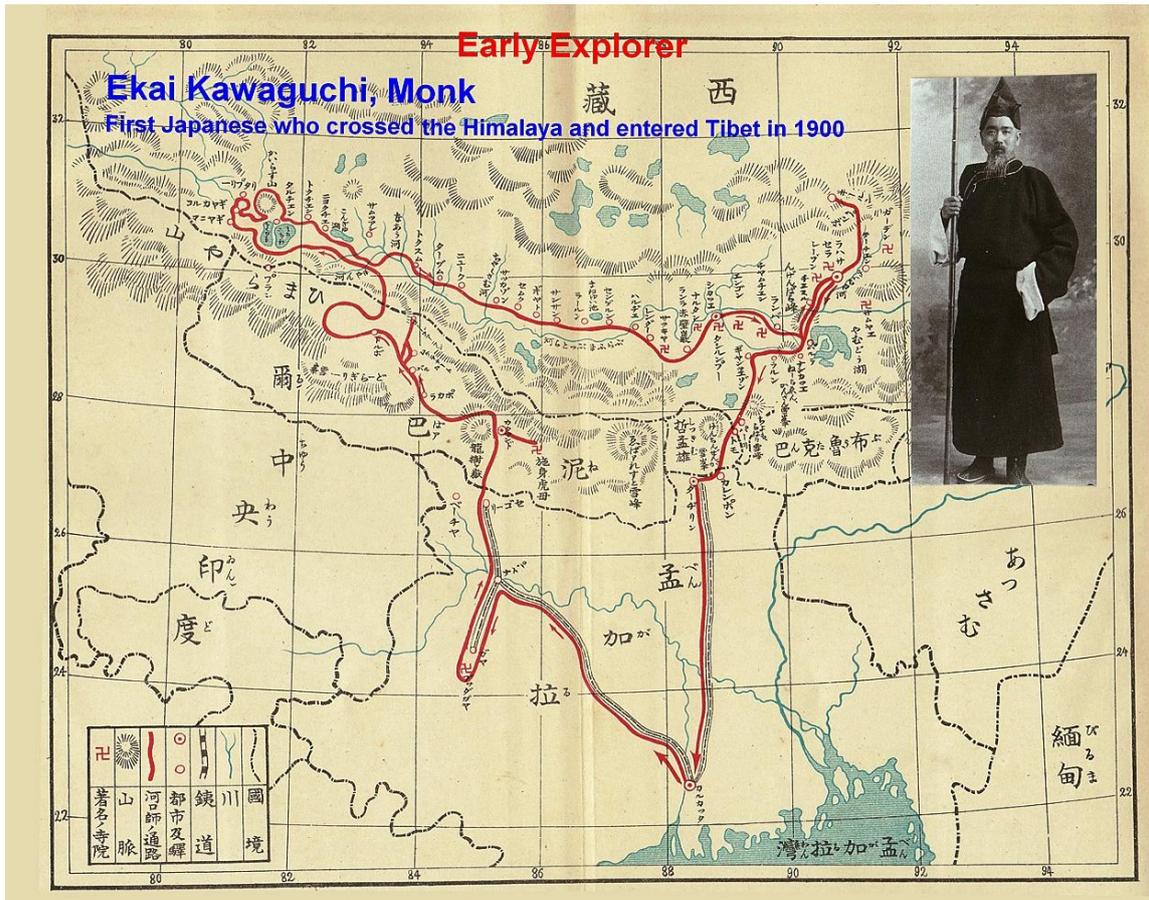
Present



Edo Era

A century ago, ahead of Sven Hedin, a Japanese monk, Ekai Kawaguchi, crossed the Himalaya from Nepal through Dolpo and reached Lhasa in 1901 to search and learn Tibetan Buddhist scriptures.

In those days Japan was stepping up modernization efforts after victories in the Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905). Japan was about to be a hive of industry being prepared for development in the forthcoming 20th century.



In 1900, a professor at Waseda University translated “Voyage d’ une parisienne dans l’ Himalaya occidentale” narrative of a journey to Askole written by Mme. Ujfalvy-Boudon. That was the first book on the Himalaya published in Japan.

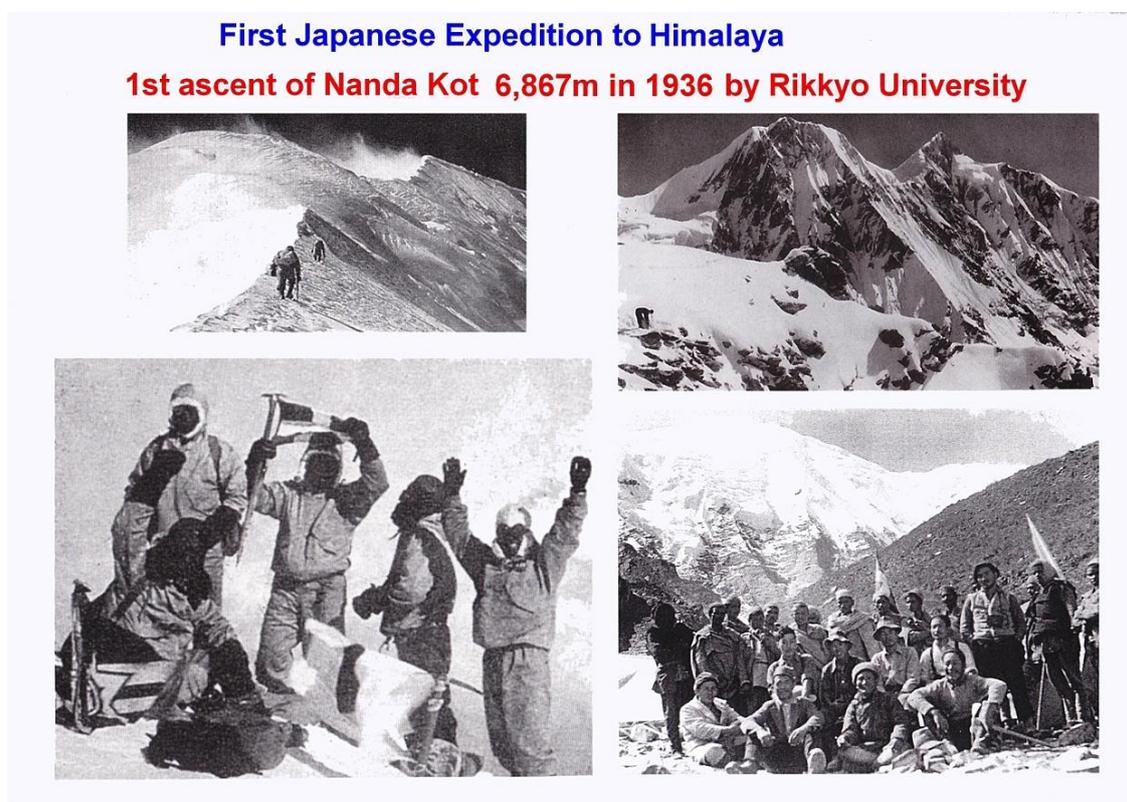
### Alpinism in the Cradle

In October, 1905, Usui Kojima, Hisayoshi Takeda and several other members first established an organization called “The Japanese Alpine Club”. In the summer of 1914, Aritsune “Yuko” Maki, a student of Keio University, went to Kamikochi and met Usui Kojima there. Being inspired by Kojima, Maki made the Alpine Club of Keio University, the first of the kind in Japan. A professor, K. Kanokogi, of Keio University entered the Kangchenjunga Massif in 1918 and published “To the Himalaya” in 1920.

In the cradle of alpinism in Japan, university alpine clubs such as those of Keio, Gakushuin, Waseda and Kyoto universities had played important roles. They started winter climbing in the Japanese Alps making use of ski, and challenged harder objectives. First ascents were made in succession and new routes on walls and ridges

were opened in Hotakadake and Yarigatake of the Japanese Alps. In such circumstances, the first ascent of the East Ridge of Eiger (3,970m) in the Swiss Alps by Yuko Maki in 1921 encouraged the development of alpinism in Japan. Maki introduced European climbing gear and technique to Japanese mountaineers. In 1924, a rock climbing club (RCC) of citizens was organized in Kobe. This new club had a strong influence on non–university alpine clubs interested in harder rock climbing.

## To the Himalaya



The word “**alpinism**” first appeared on an alpine journal of the Waseda University Alpine Club in 1924. A young climber wrote an article on the alpinism. The university alpine club and graduates began to shift their attention to the Himalaya from the Japanese Alps.

The Himalayan Club was established in 1927 in Calcutta. Yukio Mita, a graduate of Keio Univ. who was stationed in India, gathered information on the foreigners’ activities in the Himalaya, reported it to Japanese mountaineers, and advised them to be prepared for Himalayan expeditions.

After the success in the Eiger East Ridge, Aritsune “Yuko” Maki visited Isoroku Yamamoto (later General of the Japanese Navy) at Kasumigaura Navy Air Force Base

northeast of Tokyo so that he might study application of their oxygen masks used at high altitudes to the Himalaya. The technology was on a higher level in Japan.

Denjiro Hasegawa went to Mt. Kailas and Nanga Parbat in 1927 and 1928. He brought back new information and made a lecture entitled “Himalayan Journey” at the Japanese Alpine Club in 1930. It greatly appealed to the audience. In particular, Yaichi Hotta of Rikkyo University was deeply impressed with his talk, visited Hasegawa at his home and heard about the Himalaya for three days. Then Hotta was convinced that experiences in winter climbs of the Japanese Alps would enable him to scale unclimbed peaks over 6,000m in the Himalaya. Hotta and his mates’ enthusiasm led to the first ascent of Nanda Kot (6,867m) of Garhwal Himalaya by Rikkyo University Alpine Club in 1936. All five Japanese members led by Hotta could stand atop. T. G. Longstaff, a British pioneer in the Himalaya, praised their challenge and choice of the good peak. Longstaff mentioned that height and fame were not everything, and that there were plenty of stunning peaks.

A German party assaulted Kangchenjunga in 1929, and “Im Kampf um den Himalaja” of Paul Bauer published in 1931 inspired Kinji Imanishi and his group of Kyoto University, and Imanishi inaugurated the Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto University (hereafter called AACK) in the same year. AACK was organized to expedite overall activities in the Himalaya. They adopted polar method for training. The targets were Kabru and K2, but were not realized.

After all, the outcome of Japanese’ challenges to the Himalaya before World War II was only Rikkyo University’s Nanda Kot in 1936, although other clubs and institutions were very much attracted to the Himalaya and did their best. But in 1937 the Sino-Japanese Incident broke out and in 1941 Japan entered World War II.

## **Epoch of the First Ascents (1952 – 1965)**

World War II ceased 61 years ago. Japan accepted the Potsdam Declaration on 14th August, 1945. Japan started reconstruction and Japanese alpine climbers, Masataka Takagi and Jiro Taguchi came home from Europe, where they had made many ascents including those of Matterhorn and the north face of Wetterhorn. Japanese mountaineers soon returned to their grounds. The university alpine clubs also resumed their activities. Mountain magazines began to be published. In a few years after World War II, they exceeded the pre-war level.

The First Ascent of Manaslu (8,163m)

# First Ascent of Manaslu

Looking Back the One Hundred Year History



社団法人 日本山岳会

The Japanese Alpine Club

The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 stepped up the reconstruction of Japanese economy. Special procurement demands from USA were a great impetus to the rapid growth of industry. In the same year a French party first succeeded in scaling the 8,000m giant of the Himalaya, Annapurna I (8,091m).

Japanese mountaineering circles resumed activities toward the Himalaya. In 1951, Fukuoka Alpine Club once obtained a permit for Nanda Devi (7,816m) from the Indian Government. But the expedition did not materialize as the permit was cancelled in 1952.

In the spring of 1952, Eizaburo Nishibori of AACK alone entered Nepal and obtained a permit to climb Manaslu. But the AACK conceded this permit to the Japanese Alpine Club (hereafter called JAC). Then JAC sent a reconnaissance team headed by Kinji Imanishi in the fall of the same year. In this way, Japan also participated in the first ascent race targeted at 8,000m Himalayan giants in 1950s for the sake of national prestige.

JAC sent the first climbing expedition to Manaslu in 1953. Yukio Mita led a team of 13 members. A route was taken on the northeast face, and three members, viz. Kiichiro Kato, Jiro Yamada and Shojiro Ishizaka reached a 7,750m point. Further attempt was given up because of limited time. In the following year the second expedition of 14 members led by Yaichi Hotta was dispatched. But villagers of Sama on the way to BC stopped the party. They were forced to give up climbing Manaslu, but turned to Ganesh Himal (7,429m) east of Manaslu. In 1955, JAC sent a party to negotiate with the villagers of Sama.

JAC had to wait three years to scale Manaslu. In 1956, the third expedition of 12 members headed by Yuko Maki employed Gyaltzen Norbu as a sarder, who stood atop Makalu (8,463m) as a climbing Sherpa who had joined a French expedition in 1955. On the 9th May, Toshio Imanishi and Gyaltzen Norbu left C6 (7,800m) at 06:00 and continued to climb in perfect fine weather with no wind. They used two liters of oxygen per hour and reached the summit at 12:30. Imanishi was 42 years old, and Gyaltzen first became the summiteer of two 8,000m class peaks. On the 11th Kiichiro Kato and Minoru Higeta also stood atop.

### **Accomplishments of AACK (Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto University)**

When we talk about Japanese activities to conquer high mountains abroad, it is no exaggeration to say that AACK performed the most vital role by pioneering expeditions for explorations, climbing and scientific research among the university alpine clubs. In pre-war time AACK carried out exploratory work in remote regions of North Manchuria and North Korea. Though AACK let JAC climb Manaslu, AACK soon looked at the Annapurna Massif and carried out their expeditions successively. The following is a list

of AACK's notable challenges:

1. [Nepal] Annapurna IV (7,525) – 1953: Challenged the northwest ridge, but defeated by fierce winds. The party of six members was led by Toshio Imanishi.
2. [Pakistan] Prian Sar (6,293m) – 1956: A joint expedition with Punjab University led by Kazuo Fujita. Unsuccessful.
3. [Pakistan] Shahan Dok (6,329m) – 1957: A joint expedition with Punjab University led by Susumu Matsushita. Unsuccessful.
4. [Pakistan] Chogolisa NE (7,654m) – 1958: Prof. Takeo Kuwabara was the leader of 12 members. Masao Fujihira and Kazumasa Hirai made the first ascent of the northeast peak on the 4th August. When they attempted the ridge route, they found a tent left by Herman Buhl and brought it back.
5. [Afghanistan] Noshaq (7,492m) – 1960: Yajiro Saketo was the leader of six members. Toshiaki Sakai and Goro Iwatsubo succeeded in the first ascent from Afghan side on the 17th August.
6. [Pakistan] Saltoro Kangri (7,742m) – 1962: A joint expedition with Pakistan. Tsunahiko Shidei led a party of nine members. They opened a route on the east face via the Siachen Glacier. On the 24th July Atsuo Saito and Yasuo Takamura made the first ascent after a bivouac at 7,300m.
7. [India] Indrasan (6,211m) – 1962: Kyoto University Alpine Club (not AACK) expedition. A seven member party was led by Kounoshin Onodera. They took a route on the rock wall of the southwest face and Koujiro Tomita and Yasumasa Miyaki made the first ascent on the 13th October.
8. [Nepal] Annapurna South (7,219m) – 1964: a six member party led by Akio Higuchi approached from South Glacier. On the 15th October Shoichirou Ueo and a Sherpa succeeded in the first ascent via the central peak (7,070m).

### **University Alpine Clubs vs. Non-University Clubs (late 1950s – 1965)**

In the initial stage of the reconstruction after World War II, foreign currency was tightly controlled by the government, priority of allocation being given to industries promoting exports. But there was a special foreign currency allocation for expeditions to the Himalaya and other mountains abroad. Particularly more consideration was given to university alpine clubs rather than those not belonging to universities.

We must pay attention to another aspect of climbing tactics (heavy supply logistic operation by polar method) that the Manaslu expedition employed. Many expeditions afterwards followed the Manaslu style even for attempts on 7,000m level peaks. The following tables show the records of the first ascents in Nepal and Pakistan.

## Nepal

<u>Year</u>	<u>Peak (height)</u>	<u>Ascent</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Summiteers</u>	<u>Party</u>
1959	Sharbachum (6918)	Oct. 25	South face	S. Kitashiro, T. Terahata 2 Sherpas	(Non-univ.) Iida AC
1960	Api (7132)	May 10	North face	K. Hirabayashi Gyaltzen Norbu	Doshisha Univ.
1960	Himalchuli (7893)	May 24	West face	H. Tanabe, M. Harada	Keio Univ.
1962	Big White Pk (6979) (Leonpo Gang)	May 3	Central ridge	T. Morita, K. Yasuhisa	(Non-univ.) All Japan
1962	Hongde (6556)	May 8	East face	A. Miyahara, Z. Hirayama 2 Sherpas	Nihon Univ.
1962	Nupchu (6690)	May 20	South face	6 Japanese, 2 Sherpas	Osaka Furitsu U
1962	Chamlang (7319)	May 31	South face	S. Anma, Pasang Puthar III	Hokkaido Univ.
1963	Numbur (6957)	May 29	South face	H. Matsuo, Mingma Tshering	Chiba Univ.
1963	Saipal (7031)	Oct. 21	South face	K. Hirabayashi Pasang Tapul	Doshisha Univ.
1964	Gyachung Kang (7952)	Apr. 10	West face (Ngojumba Gl)	Y. Kato, K. Sakaizawa Pasang Puthar III	(Non-univ.) Nagano Pref.
1964	Glacier Dome (7193) (Tarke Kang)	Oct. 19	West face (W Annapurna Gl)	M. Nishimura, Dorje	(Non-univ.) Chiba Pref.
1965	Ngojumba Kang II (7646)	Apr. 23	West face	N. Uemura, Pemba	Meiji Univ.

## Pakistan

<u>Year</u>	<u>Peak (height)</u>	<u>Ascent</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Summiteers</u>	<u>Party</u>
1963	Baltoro Kangri (7312)	Aug. 3	North face	S. Shima, Y. Fujimoto T. Shibata, C. Khono	Tokyo Univ.

Many attempts, though not successful, were made in Nepal Himalaya and Karakoram by both the university alpine clubs and non-university clubs looking for unknown and unclimbed peaks during this period:

1959 – Menlungtse (7,181m reconnaissance)

1961 – Osaka Municipal University challenged Langtang Lirun from the east side, but the leader, one member and a Sherpa were killed in an avalanche at C3 (5,600m). That was the first accident due to avalanche that involved a Japanese party in the Himalaya.

1963 – Twins (7,350m), Himlung Himal (7,139m now called Nemjung), P 29 (7,835m). Nalakankar

(7,335m reconnaissance)

1964 – Baruntse (7,220m)

1965 – Lhotse Shar (8,400m), Dhaulagiri II (7,751m), Khunyang Chhish (7,852m), Diran (7,257m)

## Mountains of Hindu-Kush Highlighted (1966 – 1969)

The Japanese economy started a rapid growth after the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 and the restrictions on foreign currency were gradually eased. Those who were aiming at the Himalaya were convinced that a chance had come. But to their disappointment, the Nepalese Government suddenly announced a strict control on mountaineering. Three parties, namely Waseda University, for Lhotse Shar, Meiji University for Ngojumba Kang and Aichi Pref. Mountaineering Federation for Dhaulagiri II could have a narrow chance. Since a door to Nepal was closed, targets changed to Hindu-Kush, Andes and Europe from Nepal. In particular, many parties rushed to Hindu-Kush. 16 parties out of the 30 expeditions which entered Hindu-Kush in 1967 were from Japan. Some of them practiced alpine style climbing. Records are summarized below.

<b>Hindu-Kush</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Peak (height)</b>	<b>Ascent</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Summiteers</b>	<b>Party</b>
1966	Kohe Bandaka (6843).	Jul. 28	5th ascent, SW ridge	K. Matsukura + 1	Tohoku Gakuin
1967	Langar Zom (7061)	Jul. 25	1st ascent	S. Yokoyama + 1	Niigata Univ.
1967	Saraghrar N (7040)	Jul. 27	2 nd ascent	S. Yokoyama + 1	Niigata Univ.
1967	Lunkho-i-Hawar (6895)	Aug. 5	1st ascent	M. Suzuki + 1	(Non-univ.)
1967	Saraghrar S (7303)	Aug. 24	1st ascent, S face	Y. Sato + 1	Hitotsubashi U
1967	Udren Zom S (7050)	Aug. 11	1st ascent	K. Kurachi + 3	Hitotsubashi U
1967	Tirich Mir (7706)	Aug. 19	3 rd ascent	R. Kondo, K. Diemberger	Chiba Pref.
1968	Istor-o-Nal rock Pk on west ridge (7200)	Jul. 29	2nd ascent W ridge	K. Sato + 2	Japan female (Non-univ.)
1969	Koyo Zom (6872)	Jul. 21	3rd ascent	S. Ogasawara + 1	(Non-univ.)

Japanese parties went to every corner of Hindu-Kush. Many unclimbed peaks such as Yajun Peak (6,024m) and Sha-i-Anjuman (6,026m) were scaled.

## Repeat Ascents and Attempts by New Route (1970s)

Five years later the Nepalese government removed the ban on climbing and the Nepal Himalaya was reopened in 1970. In succession, the ban on Karakoram of Pakistan was lifted in 1974. The Indian government opened Garhwal and mountains in Kashmir. Though the Himalaya in Chinese territory was still unopened, now major areas of the greater ranges became accessible. Mountaineers felt that the time of the Himalaya was coming and anyone could have a chance.

Climbers with no expertise on difficult climbs tried to open new routes, but they were bitterly defeated. As already mentioned, main climbers in 1960s were from the university alpine clubs, whilst the non-university club members were less experienced and had insufficient basic knowledge on high altitude medicine and meteorology. Nevertheless, their strong desire drove them to the first ascent of above 7,000m peaks. This entailed many accidents including death.

## The Highest Mountain “Everest” – Hurdles to be Cleared

### The Japanese Alpine Club's Expedition to Everest

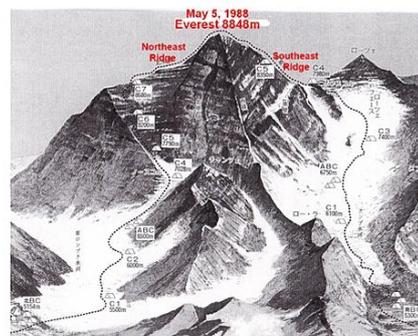
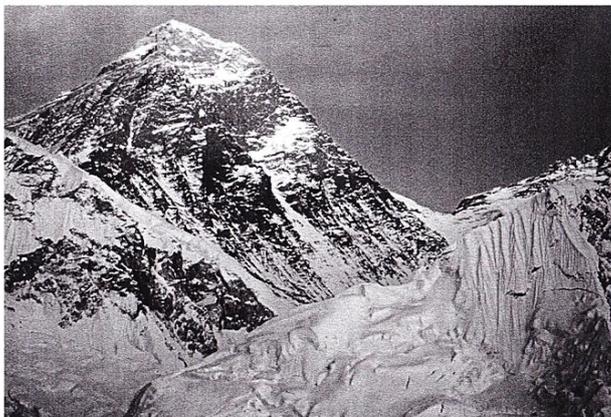
#### JAC's challenge to Everest started in 1969.

After two times reconnaissances, JAC attempted Southwest Face, but failed, in 1970. Nevertheless Naomi Uemura & Teruo Matsuura reach the summit via Southeast Ridge. In 1980 North Face and Northeast Ridge were climbed.

1988 is a memorable year of JAC. Three (3) countries teams successfully reached the summit from Nepal and China (Tibet).



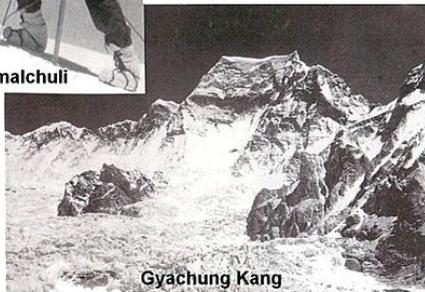
Uemura disappeared in Makalu, winter 1984



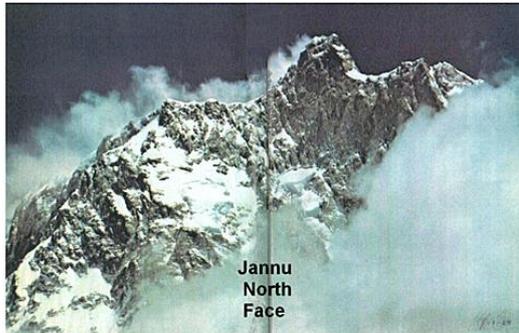
## Japanese 10 Outstanding Climbs in Himalaya



Himalchuli



Gyachung Kang



Jannu  
North  
Face

1956 Manaslu 8163m (Nepal) – First ascent (JAC)

1960 Himalchuli 7893m (Nepal) – First Ascent (Keio Univ.)

1962 Saltoro 7742m (Paksitan) – First ascent (AACK)

1964 Gyachung Kang 7952m (Nepal) – First ascent

1970 Makalu 8463m (Nepal) – New route on SE ridge (JAC)

1976 Jannu 7710m (Nepal) – New route on a big wall of N face

1980 Kangchenjunga 8586m (Nepal) – New route on N face  
with no oxygen

1982 Qogori -K2 8611m (Pakistan-China) – New route N ridge  
with oxygen

1992 Namcha Barwa 7782m (Tibet China) – First ascent (JAC)

1993 Everest 8848m (Nepal) – Winter ascent on SW face

2006 Lhotse 8516m S Face (Nepal) – Winter 1st ascent (JAC)

In 1970s–1990s, Japanese accomplished notable ascents in big walls of the Himalaya as below:-

1971 Salaghrar 7184m SE face (Pakistan) new route, 1976 Jannu 7710m (Nepal) – New route on a big wall of N face, 1979 Latok I 7145m (Pakistan) 1st ascent, 1981 Kun 7077m W face (India) new route, 1981 Annapurna I 8091m S face (Nepal) 1st winter ascent, 1982 Hachindar Chhish 6,870m E face (Pakistan) 1st ascent, 1994 Cho Oyu 8153m SW face (Nepal) new route, solo climb

Mt. Everest is the most outstanding target and has a special meaning among the 14 peaks above 8,000m. Japanese alpinists, like those of other countries, had long been aspiring to leave their footmarks on the top of Everest. But the chance did not come because of the ban imposed by the Nepalese government in the late 1960s. Only in 1970 JAC could secure a permit to climb Everest. JAC worked out a very ambitious scheme to focus on opening a new climbing route on the southwest face of Everest, which had been considered the last challenge in the Himalaya.

Large expedition team of 30 members was organized in 1970 under the leadership of Saburo Matsukata. Members were selected not only from the university-oriented clubs but also the non-university clubs and associations. Masatsugu Konishi, who made the third winter ascent of the north face of Matterhorn in 1967, was recruited as a powerful candidate. That was a unique judgment taken by JAC. Reconnaissance was made twice in the previous year. However, although the climbing party concentrated on opening a new route, the highest point reached on the southwest face did not exceed 8,000m. Their experiences led to the first ascent of the southwest face of Everest by Britain's Chris

Bonington's party. It is noted that Hiroshi Nakajima, who reached 8,000m on the southwest face, made the information available to the British.

Even though no luck favored the Japanese team on the southwest face, Teruo Matsuura and Naomi Uemura reached the summit via the southeast ridge on the 11th May, 1970. That recorded the sixth ascent of Everest following Britain, Switzerland, China, USA and India.

## **8,000m+ Peaks –Second Ascents and Challenging Variation Routes**

A Chinese party made the first ascent of the last 8,000m peak, Xixabangma (8,027m) in Tibet. International competition for the first ascent of 8,000m+ peaks in the Himalaya ceased, and the climbers turned to the next targets, that is, to open more difficult new routes than in the first ascents. The epoch-making ventures accomplished by Japanese in the 1970s are as follows..

### **1. Makalu (8,463m) – Second ascent via a new route on the southeast ridge**

In 1970, JAC Tokai Section organized an ambitious expedition of 18 members. The objective was the first ascent of the unclimbed southeast ridge. On the 23 rd May, Y. Ozaki and H. Tanaka achieved the ascent.

### **2. Dhaulagiri I (8,167m) – Second ascent (first post-monsoon ascent)**

In 1970, Doshisha University expedition of 14 members had T. Kawada and Lhakpa Tenzing reach the top on the 29th October via the northeast ridge.

### **3. Manaslu (8,163m) – Second ascent via a new route on the northwest spur**

In 1971, Tokyo Mountaineering Federation sent an expedition of 11 members. On the 16th May K. Kohara and M. Tanaka succeeded in the first ascent on the northwest spur.

### **4. Attempt on Yalung Kang (8,505m)**

In 1973, AACK challenged the west peak of Kangchenjunga, which remained the highest unclimbed peak in the massif. Eizaburo Nishibori headed an expedition of 15 members. A climbing route was taken on the southwest face. On the 14th May T. Matsuda and Y. Ageta reached the main ridge. They continued to climb in fog and snowstorm and judged that the point they reached was the summit. On the following day Matsuda fell and was lost. AACK announced the two members reached the summit. However, a question arose. When a party of the Himalayan Association of Japan (hereafter called HAJ) stood atop in the finest weather in 1981, HAJ

members noticed that the scenery from the top of the peak was different from AACK's description.

**5. Everest – First post-monsoon ascent**

In 1973, RCC II party of 41 members again challenged the Everest southwest face but gave up at 8,380m. On the 26th October, H. Ishiguro and Y. Kato made the first ascent via the southeast ridge in post-monsoon season.

**6. Females' first ascent of above 8,000m peak – Manaslu (8,163m)**

In 1974, a female team called Jungfrau Club sent an expedition to Manaslu. They first attacked the east ridge, but gave up at 6,000m and then turned to the JAC route. On the 4th May, N. Nakaseko, M. Uchida and M. Mori succeeded in the ascent of the peak, the first on record. On the following day S. Suzuki attacked the summit but was lost.

**7. Female's first ascent of Everest**

In 1975, Female Climbing Club sent an expedition of 15 members to Everest. On the 16th May, Junko Tabei recorded the female's first ascent in the world of Everest via the southeast ridge. Ang Tshering accompanied her to the top.

**8. K2 (8,611m) – Second ascent**

In 1977, the Japanese Mountaineering Association (hereafter called JMA) organized a powerful national team to assault K2. On the 8th August, T. Shigehiro, S. Nakamura and T. Takatsuka succeeded in the second ascent of K2 via the southeast ridge. On the following day three more members reached the top.

**9. Broad Peak M (8,051m) – Second ascent**

In 1977, Aichi Gakuin University Alpine Club sent an expedition of 13 members. On the 8th August, Y. Tsuji, K. Noro and T. Ozaki made the second ascent via the west ridge, on which was a route of the first ascent.

**10. Dhaulagiri I – First ascent of south pillar**

In 1978, Yeti Club challenged the south face. On the 10th May, T. Shigeno and T. Kobayashi first completed the ascent via the south pillar. On the following day, four others traced the same line.

**11. Dhaulagiri I – First ascent of southeast ridge**

In 1978, a party of 18 members from Gunma Pref. Mountaineering Federation lost three members by avalanche near 6,500m. They were swept down on the south face and were lost. On the 19th

October, however, T. Miyazaki, A. Ube and H. Tani succeeded in the first ascent of the southeast ridge. On the 20th the climbing leader, K. Kogure died, but on the 21st N. Yamada and S. Suzuki took over.

**12. K2 – First ascent of west ridge**

It was one of the most remarkable ascents performed by Waseda University Alpine Club. In the summer of 1981, a twelve member expedition to K2 focused their target on the unclimbed west ridge. They first climbed the west face, and then moved to the SSW ridge. After having bivouacked on the ridge, E. Ohotani and Nazir Sabir from Hunza succeeded in the first ascent of the west ridge. They reached the summit simultaneously hand in hand together. That is a good episode.

**13. Annapurna I (8,091m) – New route on south face**

In 1981, a 13 member expedition of Yeti Club opened a new route on the south face. On the 31st October, Y. Yanagisawa and H. Aota completed the ascent. A second assault was given up. While descending K. Kato fell at 8,000m and was lost.

**14. Dhaulagiri I – First ascent of northwest ridge**

In 1982, Kamoshika Club challenged the unclimbed “Pear route” that had refused nine parties. The expedition had 18 members and they took advantage of oxygen supply to the maximum extent. On the 18th October, N. Yamada, Y. Saito and K. Komatsu succeeded in the first ascent.

**7,000m+ Peaks – First Ascents and Opening New Routes**

The first ascent of 7,000m peaks (including some 6,000m peaks) and the first ascent of new route on 7,000m peaks in this time are summarized in the following tables:-

<b>First Ascent of above 7,000m Peaks in Nepal</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Mountain (height)</b>	<b>Climbing party</b>
1969	Gurja Himal (7,193m)	Toyama Pref. party
1970	Ngadichuli (7,871m P 29)	Osaka University
1971	Churen Himal (7,371m)	Shizuoka University
1975	Dhaulagiri IV (7,661m)	Osaka Mountaineering Fed.
1975	Dhaulagiri V (7,618m)	Okayama University
1977	Nuptse NW (7,742m)	Tohokeiryu Club
1978	Ganesh Himal IV (7,052m Pabir)	JWAF & Nepal
1978	Himalchuli W (7,540m)	Snow & Rock Club

1978	Langtang Lirun (7,234m)	Osaka Municipl University
1978	Nilgiri S (6,839m)	Shinshu University
1979	Ganesh Himal III (7,110m Salasungo)	Okayama University & Nepal
1979	Nilgiri Central (6,940n)	Matsuyama University

Note: JWAF=Japan Workers' Alpine Federation

### First Ascent of above 7,000m Peaks in Pakistan

Year	Mountain (height)	Climbing party
1971	Saraghrar SW (7,184m)	Shizuoka Climbing Club
1972	Chongra Peak (6,824m)	Ganpo-Tokokai Club
1974	Thui I (6,660m)	Unpyou Alpine Club
1975	Kampire Dior (7,143m)	Hiroshima Alpine Club
1975	Malubiting Central (7,260m)	JAC Iwate Section
1975	Teram Kangri I & II (7,464m & 7,407m)	Shizuoka University
1975	K12 (7,469m)	Ichikawa Alpine Club
	[Kyoto University announced that they had made the first ascent of K12 in 1974]	
1976	Singhi Kangri (7,202m)	Tohoku University
1976	Sherpi Kangri (7,303m)	Kobe University
	[They did not climb a rock projection (the highest point) on the summit.].	
1976	Skyan Kangri (7,357m)	Gakushuin University
1976	Apsarasas I (7,245m)	Osaka University
1977	Biale (6,729m)	Matsuyama University
1977	Tafu Rutum (6,651m)	Osaka Climbing Club
1978	Pasu E (7,295m)	Japan Defense University
1978	Batura IV (7,594m)	HAIJ
1979	Khunyang Chhish N (7,108m)	Hokkaido University
1979	Pumari Chhish (7,492m)	Hokkaido Mountaineering F.
1979	Latok I (7,145m)	Kyoto Karakoram Club
1979	Latok III (6,949m)	Hiroshima Alpine Club
1979	Teram Kangri III (7,382m)	Hirosaki University
1979	Lupghar Sar Central (7,200m)	Hosei University
1979	Skamri (6,763m)	Yokohama Alpine Club

### First Ascent of 7,000m-class Peaks in India

<u>Year</u>	<u>Mountain (height)</u>	<u>Climbing party</u>
1975	Kalanka (6,931m)	Kamiichi Housou Club
1975	Rishi Pahar (6,992m)	HAI
1975	Saf Minal (6,911m)	HAI

### **New Challenge on Climbed above 7,000m Peaks**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Mountain (height)</u>	<u>New challenge</u>	<u>Climbing party</u>
Nepal	1979	Dhaulagiri II-III-V (7,751-7,715-7,618m)	Traverse from both sides	Kamoshika Club
Pakistan	1979	Rakaposhi (7,788m)	First ascent of N ridge	Waseda Univeusity
India	1975	Dunagiri (7,066m)	First ascent of N ridge	JAC
India	1976	Nanda Devi E – W (7,434-7,816m)	Traverse from E to W	JAC/India
India	1976	Changabang (6,864m)	First ascent of SW pillar	Group de Corde
Nepal	1976	Jannu (7,710m) (Kumbhakarna)	First ascent of N face	Sangaku Doshikai
India	1978	Trisul I (7,120m)	First ascent of S ridge	HAI

## **Seeking for New Climbing Styles (1980 – 1989)**

The age of high economic growth continued and young people asserting “individualism” rapidly increased. They were no longer satisfied with the well-organized but strongly disciplined ways of traditional mountaineering clubs and organizations. Thus, in the 1980s a change occurred in the minds of climbers. They wanted to go to mountains to enjoy climbing freely in a small group.

As a result, the university alpine clubs and established non-university clubs gradually declined and lost their influence. However, the newly-made small clubs soon realized that they could not exceed the potentials of the clubs and associations of long standing. It did not take time before the small groups had disappeared because of lack of experience and ability. The importance of leadership and membership in an organization was recognized as a vital issue to in a group activity for mountaineering. That was a serious problem which faced Japanese mountaineering at this period.

In another aspect, however, a new movement was growing among aggressive climbers inspired by younger generations. They desired to look back on the principles of climbing and mountaineering. They sought for new climbing styles.

1. **Free rock climbing**
2. **Alpine style climbing on high peaks**
3. **No oxygen-mask climbing over 8,500m**
4. **Winter ascent of 8,000m+ peaks**
5. **Sherpa (HAP)-less climbing**
6. **Solo climbing**

The results that they accomplished are summarized as follows.

### **Alpine Style Climbing**

1. **Dhaulagiri I:** H. Kamuro of High Altitude Research Institute soloed the northeast ridge to the summit on the 2nd June, 1981.
2. **Masherbrum:** T. Minamimura and M. Nomura of Kyoto Climbers Club ascended the southwest ridge on the 17th August, 1983.
3. **Broad Peak:** S. Wada, T. Shigehiro and four other members of Kansai Karakoram expedition ascended the normal route by alpine style on the 12th August, 1985.
4. **Manaslu:** N. Yamada and Y. Saito of Kamoshika Club reached the top via the northeast face on the 16th December, 1985. Yamada recorded ascents of K2, Everest and Manaslu in that year.
5. **Cho Oyu and Xixabangma:** N. Yamada, T. Saegusa, O. Shimizu and A. Yamamoto of HAJ climbed Cho Oyu via the northwest face on the 6th November 1988. Yamada, Saegusa and Yamamoto had climbed Xixabangma on the 24th October.

### **No oxygen-mask Climbs**

1. **Kangchenjunga Main Peak:** Seven members of Sangaku-Doshikai led by M. Konishi headed for the mountain in 1980. R. Fukada, N. Sakasita, S. Kawamura and S. Suzuki made a no oxygen-mask first ascent of the main peak (8,586m) on the 15th May. But they used HAP. Two other members stood atop on the 17th.
2. **Qogori (K2):** A powerful team of the Japan Mountaineering Association challenged a new route on the north ridge with no oxygen-mask from the Chinese side in 1982. N. Sakashita, H. Yanagisawa and H. Yoshino completed the first ascent on the 14th May. On the return way, they bivouacked, but Yanagisawa fell and was lost at 8,000m. On the following day, five other members reached the top.
3. **Makalu:** K. Yuda, M. Ishibashi and Y. Michiwaki of Sangaku-Doshikai succeeded in the no

oxygen-mask ascent via the northwest ridge on the 30th September, 1982.

4. **Everest:** In 1983, S. Suzuki and H. Kawamura of Sangaku-Doshikai and H. Endo, H. Yoshino and H. Kamuro of Yeti Club succeeded in the no oxygen-mask ascent via the southeast ridge on the 8th October. On the descent they bivouacked, but Yoshino and Kamuro fell to death from a col of the south peak.
5. **Broad Peak:** S. Wada, T. Shigehiro and four other members ascended the normal route by alpine style on the 12th August, 1985.
6. **K2 to Everest – continuous climbs:** N. Yamada, who joined the HAJ K2 expedition, reached the summit via the southeast ridge with no oxygen use on the 24th July, 1985. In succession, Yamada climbed Everest via the southeast ridge with no oxygen-mask on the 30th October.

### Winter Ascent

1. **Dhaulagiri I:** Hokkaido University expedition of 13 members challenged the first winter ascent. A. Koizumi and Nima Wongchu succeeded in the ascent on the 13th December, 1982. But they had already set up a depot-camp at the northeast col in October.
2. **Manaslu:** Three of the 10 members of a HAJ party reached 7,650m from the northeast side on the 18th December, 1982, but were defeated by a strong wind. On the descent T. Sakuma fell and was lost.
3. **Everest:** Y. Kato of Yeti Club made the second winter solo ascent via the southeast ridge on the 29 December, 1982. On the descent he bivouacked at the south peak together with T. Kobayashi but was lost on the 30th. Kato had made the first post-monsoon ascent in 1973 and a solo ascent via the north ridge in 1980.
4. **Everest:** Kamoshika Club sent a 10 member expedition in 1983. N. Yamada, T. Ozaki, K. Murakami and Nawang Yondeng made the third winter ascent via the southeast ridge on the 16th December.
5. **Makalu:** N. Yamada and Y. Saito reached 7,500m on the southeast ridge by alpine style on the 14th December in 1986, but gave up further climbing due to strong wind.
6. **Annapurna I:** In 1987, Gunma Pref. Mountaineering Federation sent 14 members expedition to the south face British Route for the first winter ascent. N. Yamada, Y. Saito, T. Saegusa and T. Kobayashi completed the ascent on the 20th December. On the descent Kobayashi slipped to death and Saito also fell and was lost before the final camp. That challenge was a revenge for a failure in 1984.

The 1980s was the age of abundant successes in the Himalaya. Many outstanding and notable climbs worthy of attention were achieved by Japanese as shown in the following

tables (the asterisk indicates the first ascent of a peak and no mark represents the first ascent of a newly opened route, but not the peak itself).

### Nepal

Year	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route & Notes	Climbers	Party
1980	Langtang Lirun (7234)	Oct 26	1st ascent, SE ridge	I. Ohtsuka + 5	F.C.C
1981	Langtang Ri (7205)	Oct. 10	*1st ascent, SW ridge	N. Yamada + 5	HAI
1981	Ganesh Himal II (7111)	Oct. 16	1st ascent, NE-N ridge (The Japanese party stood atop 30 minutes later than a German party led by Hermann Warth.)	N. Kuwabara + 4	Kyushu D U
1981	Dorje Lakpa (6989)	Oct. 18	*1st ascent, W ridge	K. Kataoka + 4	Hosei Univ./ Nepal
1983	Nemjung (7139) (formerly called as Himlung Himal)	Oct. 27	*1st ascent, SE ridge	W. Saito + 2	Hirosaki Univ./Nepal
1984	Kangchenjunga S (8476) – C (8482)	May 18	1st traverse: S to C	T. Shigehiro + 2	JAC
1986	Himalchuli E (7893)	Oct. 26	1st ascent of S ridge	K. Furuno + 3	Nihon Univ.

### Pakistan

Year	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route & Notes	Climbers	Party
1980	Yutmaru Sar (7330)	Jul. 22	*1st ascent, N ridge (Did not stand atop rock tower on the summit.)	T. Sugimoto + 1	Tokyo Shigakukai
1981	Kanjut Sar (7760)	Aug. 4	1st ascent, W face	H. Sakai + 1	Chiba I. Tech. U
1982	Hachindar Chhish (6860)	Aug. 4	*1st ascent, E face	K. Yoshida + 6	Kanazawa U
1984	Ultrar I (7329)	Jul. 28	*1st ascent, SW ridge	M. Nagoshi + 2	Hiroshima AC
1984	K7 (6934)	Aug. 8	*1st ascent, SW ridge	E. Mitani + 2	Tokyo Univ.
1985	Masherbrum (7821)	Jul. 23	1st ascent, NW face	S. Wada + 9	Kansai group
1986	Gasherburm I (8068)	Aug. 2	1st ascent, couloir route on N ridge (now called as Japanese Couloir)	O. Shimizu + 1	Tohokeiryukai

## Mountains in China and East Karakoram – Shining 80s

In the 1980s expeditions from abroad rushed to the Himalaya. The greater ranges in Asia became grounds for international competition. It started with an announcement by the Nepalese Government to open “Trekking Peaks” to foreign visitors in 1978.

The mountains in China were opened in 1980 (a word “Chinese Himalaya” is used hereafter for convenience). Three-quarters of a century rewrote Chinese history. A wave of reform in China transformed the remotest borderlands in West China. The open-door policy carried out by Deng Xiao-ping since 1980 has enabled foreign climbers to gain access to the unknown Greater Ranges in Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang. Currently the West China Development Plan is being promoted as far as the most isolated frontier. But the less-frequented Tibetan rural areas are suffering from rapid social and economic changes which affect their life styles.

The Gangotri Massif of the Indian Himalaya was opened in the same year. In 1983, the ban on the Bhutanese Himalaya was lifted. In the summer of 1983, the Nepalese Government widely changed the names of peaks and further removed the ban on many peaks. In 1984, East Karakoram of the Indian Himalaya was conditionally opened. International camp festivals were held in Russian Pamir and Tian Shan mountains in 1989.

A new horizon now appeared within easy reach of every climber. Chance came to those who had long desired to visit previously forbidden lands in the far-flung border regions and enjoy climbing freely in their own styles. In other words, the 1980s was when the Himalaya was being popularized.

## **Japanese Records in the Chinese Himalaya**

### **Two most memorable achievements on Qomolangma**

A permit on Qomolangma to foreigners was first issued to JAC. In 1980, JAC sent a large expedition of 26 members headed by Hyoriki Watanabe. On the 3rd May, Y. Kato successfully made the 3rd ascent of the north ridge alone though it was in an irregular style. On the 10th T. Shigehiro and T. Ozaki took a new route on the lower wall of the northwest face and entered a couloir, and then succeeded in the first ascent of the lower part of the northwest face. At 7,900m on the northwest face A. Ube was killed in an avalanche. In the previous year, three Chinese supporters for reconnaissance had also been lost in an avalanche.

In 1988, a three country friendship joint venture of Japan (JAC), China and Nepal was conducted. The objective was cross-climbing over Qomolangma, from China (Tibet) to Nepal and from Nepal to China. N. Yamada ascended the north ridge from China and descended the southeast ridge down to Nepal.

Apart from Qomolangma, many first ascents, remarkable challenges on new routes and

winter ascents were recorded in China as shown in the following tables.

### Fist Ascent

<u>Year</u>	<u>Mountain (Height)</u>	<u>Ascent</u>	<u>Routes</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Summiteers</u>	<u>Party</u>
1981	Kangboqen (7281)	Apr. 21	E face	Tibet	R. Morimoto + 7	AACK
1981	Anemaqin I (6282)	May 22	S face	Qinghai	Y. Yamamoto + 2	Joetsu AC
1981	Siguniang (6250)	Jul. 28	SE ridge	Sichuan	Y. Suita + 1	Doshisha Univ.
1982	Porong R. (7292)	May 17	NE ridge	Tibet	Y. Eto + 1	Oita Pref. M F
1985	Naimona'nyi (7694)	May 25	W face-W ridge	Tibet	T. Wada + 7	Kyoto/Doshisha
1985	Geladaindong (6621)	Aug. 19	N face	Qinghai	S. Kurachi + 4	QTPG/Kyoto
1986	Khula Kangri I (7538)	Apr. 21	W ridge	Tibet	T. Itani + 3	Kobe Univ.
1986	Nyainqentanglha (7162)	May 8	W ridge	Tibet	H. Naganuma + 2	Tohoku Univ.
1986	Kunlun (7167)	Aug 16	E ridge	Xingjiang	S. Kobayashi + 4	Tokyo Agr. U
1986	Cyo Aui (7354)	Oct. 12	W ridge	Tibet	Y. Endo + 3	HAJ
1986	Karajiang N (7216)	Oct. 14	W ridge	Tibet	H. Iwasaki + 2	HAJ
1986	Gyala Peri (7294)	Oct. 31	S ridge	Tibet	Y. Ogata + 2	HAJ
1987	Lapche Kang (7367)	Oct. 24	W face-W ridge	Tibet	O. Tanabe + 7	HAJ/China
1988	Kanggardo (7055)	Mar. 24	NW ridge	Tibet	T. Miyazaki + 1	Doshisha Univ.
1988	Genyen (6204)	Jun. 11	S ridge	Sichuan	K. Tobita + 2	HAJ
1988	Unnamed Kunlun (6903)	Aug. 22	S-W face	Xingjiang	N. Mohri	AACK
1988	Chakragil (6687)	Sep. 1	SW ridge	Tibet	M. Hirano + 2	Meiji Gakuin
1989	Sicuang Ri (7308)	Apr. 21	W ridge	Tibet	N. Okuda + 1	Osaka City U

There were some notable ascents and attempts though they were not the first ascents.

- Xixabangma Main Peak:** Junko Tabei of Female Climbing Club made the 3rd ascent on 30th April, 1981.
- Qomolangma:** Kamoshika Club challenged the winter ascent of the northwest face. Y. Ohkura and K. Kondo reached 8,450m but returned because of bad weather, on 15th December, 1985.
- Cho Oyu:** The first permit to foreigners was given to Kamoshika Club. A. Hayakawa and K. Kondo reached the summit via the WNW ridge. All the previous ascents of the WNW ridge were illegal, as they entered Tibetan side crossing the Nampa La with no permit from China, though they had a permit of the Nepalese Government.
- Kongur (7,719m):** T. Sudo, C. Yoshimura and seven other members of Kyoto Karakoram Club made the first ascent of the north face on 11th July, 1989.
- Ulugh Muztag (6,973m):** Y. Fujie and five other members of the joint expedition of Rissho

University and Xinjiang University made the second ascent via the south face on 31 th August, 1989. That was the first ascent by foreigners.

## The Indian Himalaya and Bhutanese Himalaya

The asterisk indicates the first ascent and no mark represents the first ascent of a newly-opened route but not the peak itself. Among them, the first ascent of Mamostong Kangri (7,526m) and Rimo I (7,385m) in East Karakoram and attempt on the central ridge of the west face of Gankarpunzum (7,590m), which was the unclimbed highest peak on the Bhutan-China border, were the most noteworthy.

### India

Year	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route & Notes	Climbers	Party
1980	Bhagirathi I (6856)	Sep. 29	*1st ascent, SE ridge	K. Kanazawa + 2	JWAF Kagawa
1980	Kharchakund (6632)	May 29	*1st ascent, N ridge	T. Hashimoto +1	Torei Club
1980	Meru (6672)	Oct. 10	*1st ascent, SW ridge	T. Takahashi + 1	Toyo Univ.
1980	Shivling (6543)	Sep. 4	1st ascent N ridge – NW face	M. Yamamoto + 2	Tokyo Univ.
1981	Kun (7077)	Jul. 5	1st ascent, W face	K. Kondo + 1	(Private)
1983	Satopanth W (7045)	May 22	*1st ascent, NW ridge	A. Suzuki + 2	(Private)
1983	Shivling (6543)	Sep. 9	1st ascent, S ridge	K. Ohhama + 2	Basarashu
1984	Mamostong Kangri (7526)	Sep. 13	*1st ascent, NE ridge	N. Yamada + 4	HAI/IMF
1985	Saser Kangri II W (7518)	Sep. 7	*1st ascent, NW ridge	2 Indian members	HAI/IMF
1988	Rimo I (7385)	Jul. 28	*1st ascent S face – SW ridge	Y. Ogata + 3	HAI/ITBP
1991	Kangchenjunga (8586)	May 24	3rd ascent, NE ridge by foreigners	S. Nazuka + 2	HAI/ITBP

### Bhutan

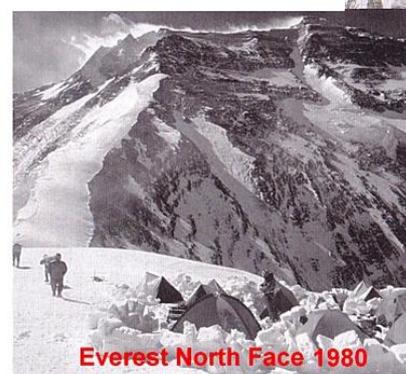
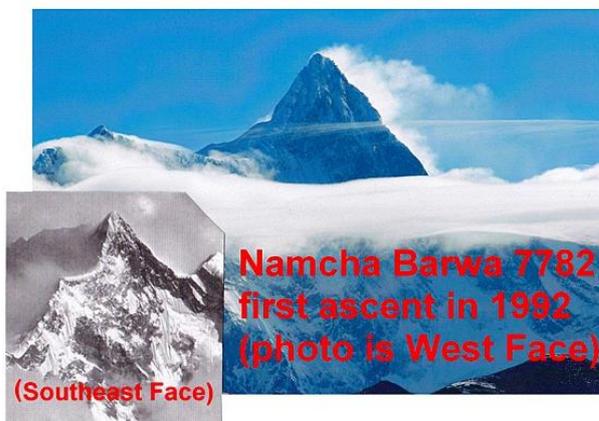
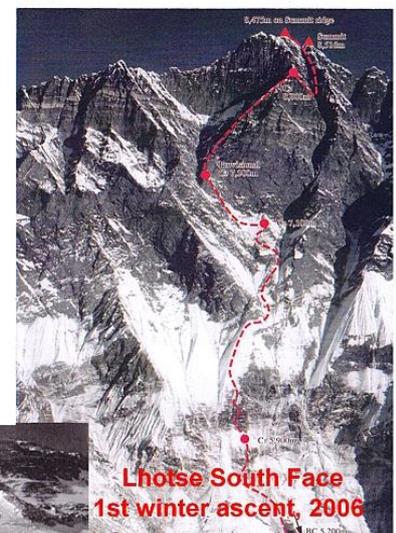
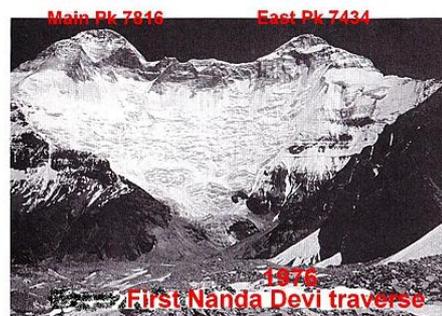
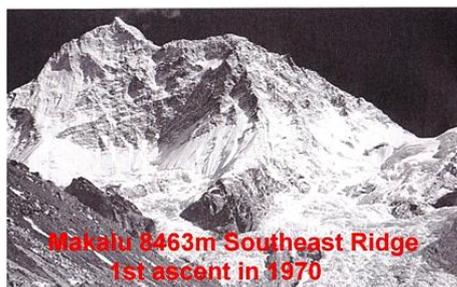
Year	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route & Notes	Climbers	Party
1984	Jitch Drake (6809)	May 20	1st ascent, E ridge to South Peak	K. Yagihara + 4	HAI
1985	Gankarpunzum (7590)	Sep. 30	Reached 6800m C ridge on W face	Y. Ogata + 1	HAI
1985	Masa Kang (6800)	Oct 13	*1st ascent, N face The height was changed from 7200m to 6800m.	G. Hitomi + 3	AACK

## International Camps in the Soviet Union

Participants attending the International Camp held in the Pamir range of the Soviet Union increased in the 1980s. The event attracted many climbers from overseas as it was held in summer, and they ascended 7,000m peaks in a short period, and the rescue system was well arranged. Later on in 1989, the International Camp spread to other fields and was held in Tian Shan Mountains too. However, the collapse of the Soviet Union caused a political uncertainty in neighboring country including Tadzikistan, and climbers had to be careful about what was happening in these regions.

A title "Snow Leopard" is given to those climbers who ascended the five summits: Ismoil Somoni (Kommunizma 7,495m), Korzhenevskoi (7,105m), Lenina (7,134m) in Pamir and Pobeda (7,439m), Khan-Tengri (7,010m) in Tien Shan. Four Japanese: Kazuyoshi Kondo, Masaki Hayashi, Yukihiro Shinagawa and Junko Tabei won the title.

## JAC's remarkable achievements in the Himalaya



## **Increase in Senior Trekkers and Diversification of Himalayan Climbing (1990s – )**

In the 1980s the average life span of Japanese had become significantly long. The population of middle and senior generations (over 40 years) became larger. Their living standard eminently improved, with more time and money to spare for individual hobbies. Notwithstanding the economic recession in the 1990s, the middle-aged and senior trekkers with less experience in climbing began to throng in the mountains. Outdoor sports were also booming.

### **Commercial Expedition and Excursion to High Altitudes**

The expedition leader, Max Eiselin, of the first ascent of Dhaulagiri I in 1960, organized a commercial expedition in 1980 in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the first ascent, and successfully guided 14 people to the top of Dhaulagiri I. That opened the age of commercial expeditions to the Himalaya. The field spread from Nepal (Manaslu) to Karakoram (Gasherbrum I & II, Broad Peak) and then to Tibet (Cho Oyu, Xixabangma), and finally reached to Everest/Qomolangma. The clients have mostly attracted to mountains of great renown.

The most important role in the commercial expeditions is performed by Sherpas. In place of professional guides, Sherpa often accompanied the clients to the summit. Thus Sherpas accumulated experiences and climbing know-how, ensuring the safety of the clients. After the mid 1990s Japanese began to participate in the commercial expeditions.

I call such climbing “Excursion to High Altitudes”, since all the critical paths of obtaining a permit, transport and logistics, route opening operation, setting up high camps and climbing are left to the company and their guides.

Popularization of “Excursion to High Altitudes” to 8,000m-level peaks is reflected in fatality rate in the Himalaya. 2,986 people died from 1952 to 1989, whilst 1,685 people died during the 1990s. A close analysis of fatal accident reveals that the decrease in the fatalities is partly due to higher levels of technical expertise, knowledge and experiences on the part of individual climbers but largely because trekkers of “Excursion to High Altitudes” had increased in proportion.

However, despite of commercial expeditions and excursions to high altitude, Japanese alpine climbers continued their challenges in the greater ranges even in the economic

difficulties from the 1990s to the advent of the 21st century.

### First Ascents 1990 – 2004

The first ascent of Namcha Barwa (7,782m) on the eastern rim of the Himalaya, which had long remained a veiled mountain embraced by the forbidden Tsanpo Great Bend in Eastern Tibet till China opened the door to foreigners in 1980, must be most remarkable in the chronicle of the 1990s. This may be called the last major achievement by Japanese in the greater range. The other notable first ascents are tabled below.

Year	Area	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route	Summiteers	Party
1992	China	Xinqin (6860)	May 18	SW ridge	T. Masuda + 1	HAJ
1992	China	Namcha Barwa (7782)	Oct. 30	S face-S ridge	A. Yamamoto + 10	JAC/China
1992	Nepal	Himlung Himal (7126)	Oct. 3	NW ridge	A. Koizumi + 1	Hokkaido Univ.
1993	India	Pyramid Pk M (7123)	Apr. 24	via NE Peak	H. Iwasaki + 6	HAJ/ITBP
1993	China	Crown (7295) Karakoram	Jul. 22	E face	K. Tokushima + 2	JAC Tokai
1993	India	Aq Tash (7016) East Karakoram	Aug. 6	SW face	N. Yamamoto + 1	Hiroshima AC ITBP
1994	China	Chiring (7038) Karakoram	Jul. 19	E face-S ridge	H. Yoshida + 2	Gifu Univ.
1994	Nepal	Gyajikang (7038)	Oct. 7	W ridge	O. Tanabe + 5	Shinshu Univ. Nepal Police
1994	India	Twins (7350) Sikkim	Oct. 31	via E Peak	I. Takashima + 1 (Died on descent)	Japan-Sikkim
1995	India	Mana NW (7092)	Aug. 18	via Kamet Gl	M. Suzuki + 3	Yamagata/ITBP
1996	Nepal	Ratnachuli (7035)	Oct. 14	S face-W ridge	O. Tanabe + 3	Shinshu Univ. Nepal Police
1996	Pakistan	Utar II (7388)	Jul. 11	SW ridge	Yamasaki + 1	JAC Tokai
1999	China	Liangkang Kangri (7535) Tibet	May 5	N ridge	K. Suzuki + 4	(Private)
1999	Pakistan	Koz Sar (6677)	Aug. 17	SW ridge	N. Ohta + 2	Sendai H. S.
2001	China	Khula Kangri II (7418)	May 2	NW ridge	A. Kawamura + 4	Tokai Univ.
		Khula Kangri III (7381)	May 4	NW ridge	G. Sasao + 8	Tokai Univ.
2002	India	Padmanabh (7,030) East Karakoram	Jun. 25	S ridge	H. Sakai + 1	JAC/Bombay

2002	China	Kaqr-Kangri (6859) Tibet	Sep. 24	E face	T. Wada + 7	Doshisha Univ.
2002	Nepal	Tengi Ragi Tau (6943)	Dec. 4	SE face	K. Ezaki + 3	Hokkaido M. F.
2003	Nepal	Hungchi (7029)	Apr. 19	SW ridge	K. Shimizu + 6	Osaka Eiho C
2004	Nepal	Chhiv Himal (6650)	Sep. 18	NW ridge	K. Kato + 3	JAC Students

## New Routes Climbed 1990 – 2004

The highlight was the first complete ascent of the long and massive northeast ridge of Qomolangma (Everest) accomplished by Nihon University Alpine Club in 1995.

Year	Area	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route	Summiteers	Party
1990	China	Qogir (K2 8611)	Aug. 8	Lower NW face	S. Nazuka + 1	Yokohama M. A.
1991	Pakistan	Trivor (7728)	Aug. 30	NE ridge	T. Ohnuki + 1	Waseda Univ.
1992	China	Siguniang (6250)	Jul. 24	S face	K. Kodera + 1	Hiroshima AC
1993	China	Chomo Lonzo (7816)	Aug. 8	NW face-W ridge	H. Takeishi + 1	Rikyo Univ.
1995	China	Qomolangma (8848)	May 11	NE ridge	K. Furuno + 1	Nihon Univ.
1995	China	Makalu (8463)	May 21	Lower E ridge	O. Tanabe + 3	JAC
1995	Nepal	Givigela (7350 Twins)	Oct. 16	W face	T. Tanigawa + 10	Tokyo Agr. U
1996	Pakistan	Ultar II (7388)	Jul. 31	S ridge	K. Takahashi + 5	Kathmandu C
1977	Pakistan	K2 (8611)	Jul. 19	Upper W face	O. Tanabe + 2	JAC Tokai
1999	China	Naimona'nyi (7694)	Oct. 25	N face (Alpine S)	H. Iwasaki + 2	HAI

## Ultimate Challenges of Winter Ascents on the Big Wall – Everest & Lhotse

In 1993, Gunma Pref. Mountaineering Federation organized a powerful team of nine members led by K. Yagihara to attempt the first winter ascent of the Everest southwest face. On the 18th December, H. Nazuka and F. Goto succeeded in the first ascent. They took a route from the southwest face to the southeast ridge. On the 20th O. Tanabe and S. Ezuka, and on the 22nd, Y. Ogata and R. Hoshino completed the ascent successively. JAC Tokai Section challenged twice the Lhotse south face in winter. In December 2001, a party headed by O. Tanabe reached 7,600m. In 2003 Tanabe again led an expedition of six members and they almost perfected an ascent, only 250m being left. Tanabe and Kitamura reached 8250m, leaving BC on the 18th December, but due to bad weather and high risk of avalanches they had to retreat. JAC Tokai Section will send a team led by Tanabe to the Lhotse south face in the winter of 2006 – 2007.

## Notable Solo Climbs 1990 – 2004 (Yasushi Yamanoi and follower)

Year	Area	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route	Climber	Notes
1992	Nepal	Ama Dablam (6812)	Dec. 7	W face	Y. Yamanoi	1st winter solo ascent
1994	China	Cho Oyu (8201)	Sep. 23	SW face	Y. Yamanoi	1st solo ascent by new route
1996	Pakistan	K2 (8611)	Jul. 29	SE ridge	M. Todaka	No oxygen-mask solo ascent
2000	Pakistan	K2 (8611)	Jul. 30	SSE rib	Y. Yamanoi	No oxygen-mask solo ascent
2003	China	Gyachung Kang (7952)	Oct. 8	N face	Y. Yamanoi	1st solo ascent

## Own Style and Light Expeditions 1990 – 2004

Climbing styles became diversified and alpinists sought for and enjoyed their own styles. Variety is seen in the following table.

Year	Area	Mountain (Height)	Ascent	Route & Notes	Climber	Party
1991	Nepal	Makalu (8463)	Oct. 7	NW face, female No oxygen-mask ascent (partner died at 8,000m)	T. Nagao + 1	Bernina C
1994	China	Cho Oyu (8201)	Sep. 25	SW face, alpine style 2nd ascent of Swiss-Polish route	T. Yamanoi + 1	(Private)
1995	Pakistan	Broad Peak N (7543) C (8008) M (8051)	Jul. 19	Traverse N-C-M peaks alpine style	M. Todaka + 2	FOS
1996	Pakistan	Ultrar II (7388)	Jul. 11	1st ascent by alpine style via W face-SW ridge	A. Yamasaki + 1 (Yamazaki died at ABC)	JAC Tokai
2002	Nepal	Lhotse (8516)	Oct. 8	No oxygen-mask ascent, W face	K. Amano	Meiji Univ.
2004	Nepal	Annapurna I (8091)	May 29	Alpine style, N face	H. Takeuchi + 2	(Private)
2004	Pakistan	K2 (8611)	Aug. 7	No oxygen-mask ascent, SE ridge	Y. Mochizuki	JWAF

## Conclusion

Climbers who ascended the peaks exceeding 6,000m in the Himalaya for the 53 years' time amounted to 12,720. Those who ascended both 8,000m and 7,000m-class peaks totaled 350 (including 29 females). Climbers who stood atop 8,000m+ peaks only once

numbered 213 (including 25 females). Similarly, those who ascended above 7,000m only once were 857 (including 61 females). The total number of the summiteers of 8,000m – 7,000m peaks is 1,420 (including 115 females). Climbers who attempted the peaks over 7,000m in the same period numbered 7,843.

Mountaineering in Japan has not developed in a day, as we have seen in the foregoing chapters. Super climbers would not appear suddenly. Experience and expertise have been handed down from generation to generation. Climbing techniques continued to be innovated and gears and tools were improved. The new generations availed themselves of the advanced techniques and devices. Needless to say, information and climbing techniques from foreign sources were important and influential.

We must mention not only success stories but also accidents. As shown in Appendix I, the death rate on the high peaks over 6,000m is 2.1%, that is, one out of every 48 died. No such figure exists except in wars and civil riots. Fatal accidents have been occurring every year continuously for 37 years since 1968. 269 persons were killed. 138 (51.3%) died due to “weather conditions”: avalanches, falling rocks, thunderbolts and strong winds. 113 (41.0%) died of “high altitudes”: high altitude sickness, falling/slipping and freezing to death. Falls and avalanches account for the remaining 18 who disappeared. It is obvious that direct causes of accidents in the Himalaya are climate and high altitude.

Keeping pace with an appeal made by Junko Tabei for enlightenment on protection of mountain environments, four organizations of JMA, JWAF, JAC and HAJ established “HAT – J” (Himalayan Adventure Trust – Japan) in the autumn, 1990. In compliance with Tabei’s request, HAJ worked out a manual of “Take in – Take out” campaign. This movement gradually contributed to forming consensus and common discipline among visitors to the Himalaya, and their manners improved remarkably.

As the Himalayan climbing became popular in the 1980s, Japanese climbers were subjected to harsh criticism. Westerners blamed Japanese climbing style to place fixed ropes excessively en route, to carry on low level climbing in a group and to abandon a lot of gear and supplies that caused pollution of the mountain environments. To our best knowledge, their claims and complaints did not always point out the truth. Because of language difficulty the Japanese people were unable to respond promptly or to explain correctly the situation to the climbing societies from other countries.

As the alpine style climbing came into fashion, some western climbers attempted to ascend with insufficient gear and foodstuff. There are numerous reports that they made use of Japanese fixed ropes with no consent, and that at higher camps they consumed food and even oxygen without permission. There was a surprising report that a western

climber purposely cut a fix rope in front of a Japanese climber who had complained. For the Japanese and for the westerners alike, the Himalaya is no longer a field of challenge. There are fewer ambitious and dream-seeking climbers and explorers interested in opening new routes or attracted to, unknown peaks and far-flung regions. The majority's concern is "good for health" and "fame" to establish a record on famous mountains. Nowadays lovers of "Excursion at high altitudes" are concentrating on certain famous mountains of, whether by commercial expeditions or individual attempts.

As the mountain lovers flock to the Himalaya, the local natural conservation will face a serious crisis. Stricter regulations for the must be established as soon as possible to protect the environment.

## Summary of Remarkable Records on 8000m+ Peaks

### Everest (Sagarmatha/Qomolangma)

#### **No Oxygen-mask Climbs**

1. Syomi Suzuki (30)	Southeast ridge	Oct. 8, 1983	
2. Haruichi Kawamura (35)	Southeast ridge	Oct. 8, 1983	
3. Haruyuki Endo (26)	Southeast ridge	Oct. 8, 1983	
4. Hironobu Kamuro (31)	Southeast ridge	Oct. 8, 1983	Died on descent
5. Hiroshi Yoshino (33)	Southeast ridge	Oct. 8, 1983	Died on descent
6. Noboru Yamada (35)	Southeast ridge	Oct. 30, 1985	

#### **Winter Ascents (including 1st winter ascents)**

1. Yasuo Kato (33)	Southeast ridge	Dec. 27, 1982	Died on descent
2. Takashi Ozaki (31)	Southeast ridge	Dec. 16, 1983	3rd winter ascent
3. Noboru Yamada (33)	Southeast ridge	Dec. 16, 1983	same as above
4. Kazunari Murakami (28)	Southeast ridge	Dec. 16, 1983	same as above
5. Hideji Nazuka (39)	Southwest face	Dec. 18, 1993	1st winter ascent
6. Fumiaki Goto (28)	Southwest face	Dec. 18, 1993	same as above
7. Osamu Tanabe (32)	Southwest face	Dec. 20, 1993	2nd winter ascent
8. Shinsuke Ezuka (32)	Southwest face	Dec. 20, 1993	same as above
9. Yoshio Ogata (45)	Southwest face	Dec. 22, 1993	3rd winter ascent
10. Ryushi Hoshino (26)	Southwest face	Dec. 22, 1993	same as above

## Other Notable Records

### 1st Ascent by New Route:

Takashi Ozaki (27)	Lower northwest face	May 10, 1980	JAC
Tsuneo Shigehiro (32)	(new route) to upper Hornbein couloir		

### First Complete Trace

Shigeki Imoto (32), Kiyoshi Furuno (34)	Northeast ridge	May 11, 1995	Nihon Univ.
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### 1st Winter Ascent

Hideji Nazuka (39), Fumiaki Goto (28)	Southwest face	Dec. 18, 1993	Gunma Pref. MF
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### First Female Ascent

Junko Tabei (35)	Southeast ridge	May 16, 1975	Female CC
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### First Post-monsoon Ascent

Yasuo Kato (24), Hisashi Ishiguro (26)	Southeast ridge	Oct. 26, 1973	RCC II
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## **K2 (Qogir)**

### Solo & No Oxygen-mask Climbs

1. Masafumi Todaka (34)	Southeast ridge	Jul. 29, 1996	
2. Yasushi Yamanoi (35)	SSE rib	Jul. 30, 2000	

### No Oxygen-mask Climbs

1. Naoe Sakashita (35)	North ridge	Aug. 14, 1982	1st ascent
2. Hiroshi Oshino (35)	North ridge	Aug. 14, 1982	1st ascent
3. Yukihiro Yanagisawa (27)	North ridge	Aug. 14, 1982	Died on descent
4. Kazushige Takami (37)	North ridge	Aug. 15, 1982	2nd ascent
5. Tatsuji Shigeno (39)	North ridge	Aug. 15, 1982	
6. Hironobu Kamuro (30)	North ridge	Aug. 15, 1982	
7. Haruichi Kawamura (34)	North ridge	Aug. 15, 1982	
8. Noboru Yamada (35)	Southeast ridge	Jul. 24, 1985	
9. Yasuhiko Mochizuki (44)	Southeast ridge	Aug. 7, 2004	

## 1st Ascent of New Route

1. Eiho Ohtani (34), Nazir Sabir	West ridge-upper SSW ridge	Aug. 9, 1981	Waseda Univ.
2. Above three members	North ridge	Aug. 14, 1982	JMA
3. Hideji Nazuka (35)	Lower northwest face	Aug. 9, 1990	Yokohama
4. Osamu Tanabe (36)	West ridge-upper west face	Jul. 19, 1997	JAC Tokai

## Kangchenjunga

### No Oxygen-mask Climb & 1st Ascent by New Route

Haruichi Kawamura (32), Syomi Suzuki (27)	North face	May 14, 1980	Sangaku Doshikai
Naoe Sakashita (33), Ryoichi Fukada (37)			

### Traverse

Toichiro Mitani (26), Seishi Wada (34)	South – central pks	May 18, 1984	JAC
Tsuneo Shigehiro (36)			

## Lhotse

### No Oxygen-mask Climb

Kazuaki Amano (25)	West face	Oct. 8, 2002
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## Makalu

### No Oxygen-mask Climbs

1. Makoto Ishibashi (30)	Northwest ridge	Sep. 30, 1982
2. Kazuo Yuda (34)	Northwest ridge	Sep. 30, 1982
3. Yukihiro Michiwaki (25)	Northwest ridge	Sep. 30, 1982
4. Taeko Nagao (35)	Northwest ridge	Oct. 7, 1991

### 1st Ascents by New Route

1. Hajime Tanaka (33), Yuichi Ozaki (31)	Southeast ridge	May 23, 1970	JAC Tokai
2. Osamu Tanabe (34), Toshihiko Arai (23)	Lower East ridge	May 21, 1991	JAC
Atsushi Yamamoto (31), Masayuki Matsubara (30)			

## Cho Oyu

## **Solo, Alpine Style & 1st Ascent by New Route**

Yasushi Yamanoi (29) Southwest face Sep. 24, 1994

## **Alpine Style**

1. N. Yamada (38), Teruo Saegusa (31) NWW face Nov. 6, 1988 HAJ  
Osamu Shimizu (30), Atsushi Yamamoto (26)
2. Taeko Nagao (38), Yuka Endo (28) SW face, Swiss-Polish R Sep. 25, 1994

## **Dhaulagiri**

### **Solo & Alpine Style**

Hironobu Kamuro (29) Northeast ridge Jun. 2, 1981 High Altitude R

### **1st Ascent by New Route**

1. Toshiaki Kobayashi (29) South ridge May 10, 1978 Yeti Club  
Tatsuji Shigeno (35)
2. Tsutomu Miyazaki (30) Southeast ridge Oct. 19, 1978 Gunma Pref. MF  
Akira Ube (30), Hiroyuki Tani (26)

### **1st Winter Ascent**

Akio Koizumi (26), Nima Wongchu Sherpa Northeast ridge Dec. 13, 1982 Hokkaido Univ.

### **1st Post-monsoon Ascent**

Tetsuji Kawada (31), Lhakpa Tenzing Sherpa Northeast ridge Oct. 20, 1970 Doshisha Univ.

## **Manaslu**

### **1st Ascent**

Toshio Imanishi (42), Gyaltzen Norbu NE face May 9, 1956 JAC

### **Winter Alpine Style**

Noboru Yamada (35), Yasuhira Saito (32) NE face Dec. 14, 1985 Kamoshika C

### **1st Ascent by New Route**

Kazuharu Kohara (31), Motoki Tanaka (22) West ridge May 17, 1971 Tokyo

## **Nanga Parbat**

### **1st Ascent by New Route**

Hiroshi Sakai (38), Yukio Yabe (29) Lower North face Jul. 23, 1995 Chiba I. T.  
Takeshi Akiyama (31)

## **Annapurna I**

### **Alpine Style**

Hirotake Takeuchi (33) North face May 29, 2004

### **Winter Ascent**

Noboru Yamada (37), Yasuhira Saito (34) South face Dec. 20, 1987 Gunma Pref. MF  
Teruo Saegusa (30), Toshiyuki Kobayashi (22)  
(Kobayashi and Saito fell and were lost on descent)

### **1st Ascent by New Route**

Yukihiro Yanagisawa (26), Hiroshi Aota (23) South face Oct. 29, 1981 Yeti Club

## **Gasherbrum I**

### **1st Ascent by New Route**

Osamu Shimizu (28), Kiyoshi Wakui (27) North ridge couloir Aug. 2, 1986 Tohokeiryu C

## **Broad Peak**

### **Alpine Style Traverse**

Masafumi Todaka (33), Toru Hattori (25) N – C – M peaks Jul. 19, 1995 FOS  
Toshiyuki Kitamura (32) (descent on W face)

## JAC fosters younger climbers.

### Japanese Teams awarded Piolets d'Or

2008 (2009) 17 th Piolets d'Or

The first ascent of the Southeast Face of Kamet 7756m, Garhwal Himalaya  
Kazuya Hiraide and Miss Kei Taniguchi. ("Samurai Direct" route)  
Kei Taniguchi is the first female winner.

The first ascent of the North Face of Kalanka 6931m, Garhwal Himalaya  
Fumitaka Ichimura, Yusuke Sato and Kazuaki Amano. ("Bushido" route)

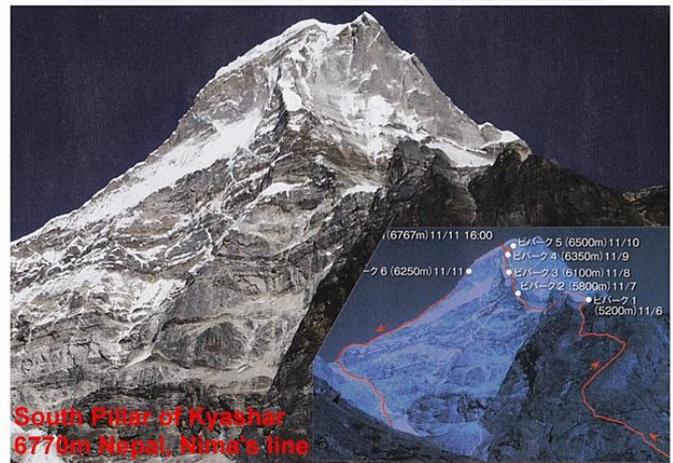
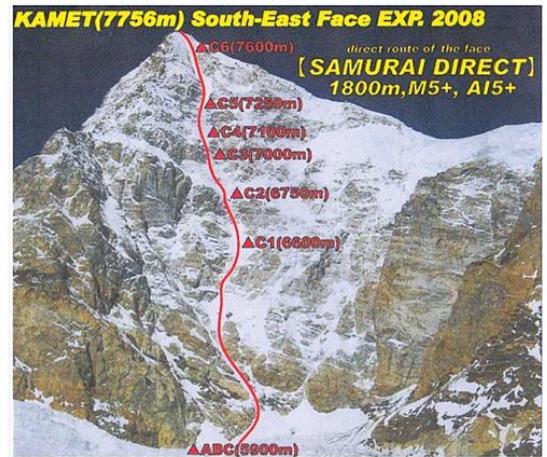
2010 (2011) 19 th Piolets d'Or

The first ascent of the Southeast Face of Mt. Logan's East Peak c.5900m, Yukon  
Katsutaka Yokoyama and Yasushi Okada. ("I-To" route)

2012 (2013) 21 th Piolets d'Or

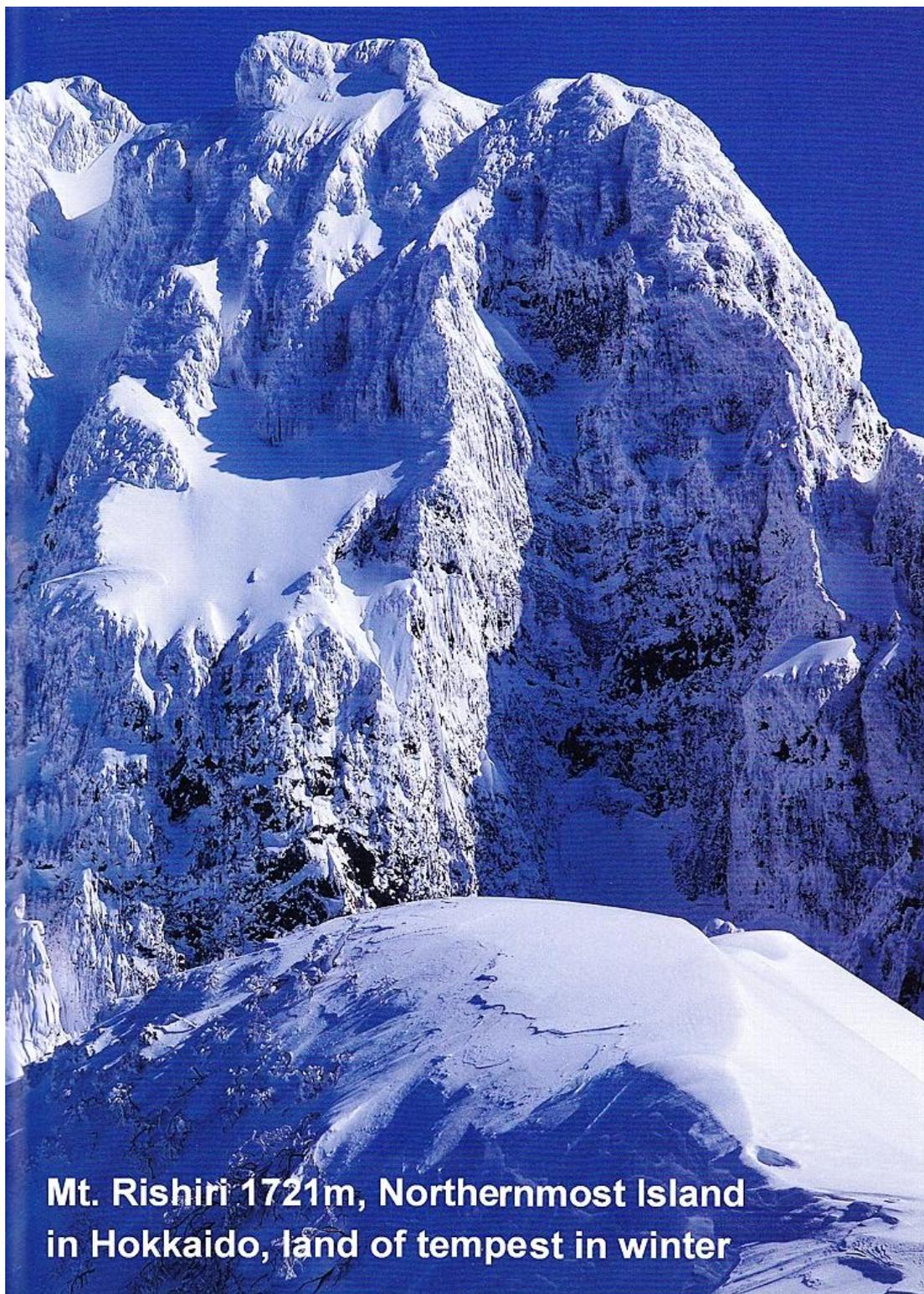
The first ascent of the South Pillar of Kyashar 6770m, Nepal Himalaya  
Yasuhiro Hanatani, Hiroyoshi Manome and Tasuya Aoki. ("Nima's Line")

**Above four teams received  
JAC's grants for overseas  
expeditions.**

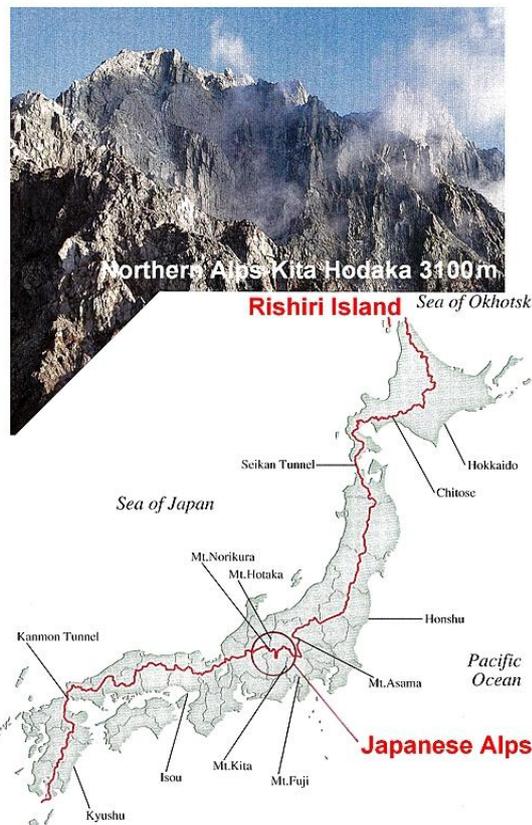
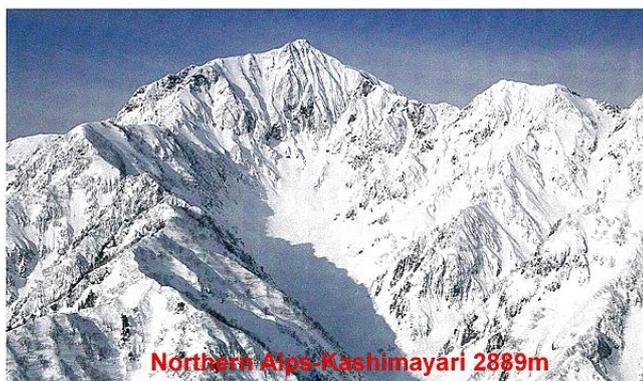
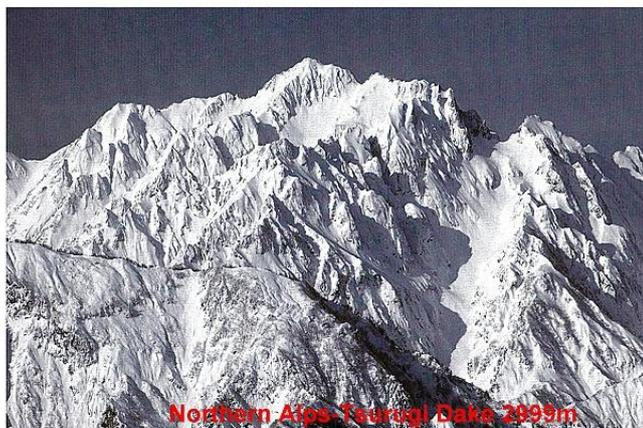


TSUNEMICHI IKEDA

**From the Japanese Alps to the Greater Ranges of the World  
Winter Climbs in Home Grounds Fostered Japanese Himalayan Expeditions**



## From Japanese Alps to the Greater Ranges **Winter as a training site for Himalaya Catching up with the world first class**



Although its highest Mt. Fuji is merely with 3,776 meters of altitude, and the mountains without glacier in the Japanese archipelago, the spine mountain chains of its largest Honshu Island in the winter dramatically change their appearance. They are deeply buried under thick snow, and ice cover steep surface. Hikers enjoy the walks on the ridges of 3000-meters in the snowless seasons, but the bitter coldness and one of the deepest snow in the world, up to 6 meters, turns the mountains severe targets even to access.

The Japanese archipelago lays long from northeast to southwest along the Asian Continent at latitudes from 20 degrees to 43 degrees north for 3,500km. Arctic cold air through Siberia and over the Sea of Japan brings snow to the northern section of its western side from December through April.

Winter mountaineering in Japan began in the 1920s and the practices were gradually regarded as the important training for the Himalayan expedition climbing, the ultimate targets for the serious mountaineers. This is a brief history of who did what and how on the heavy snow mountains.

## Winter mountaineering that prepared the first ascent of Nanda Kot

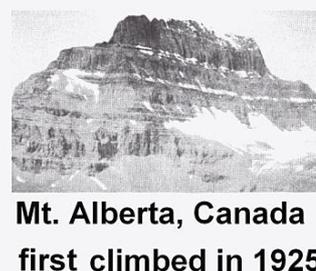
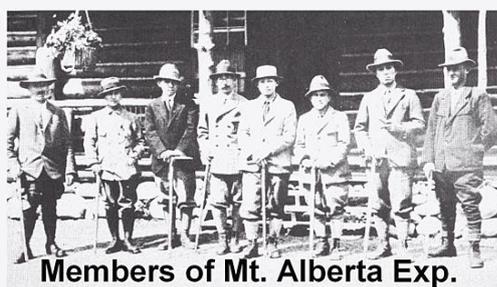
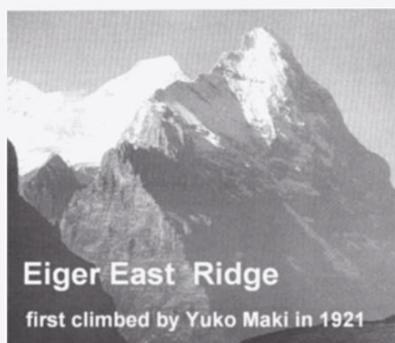
Local hunters went deep into the snow covered mountains and valleys before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. But it was Katsunobu Itakura who originated Japan's winter mountaineering to make the first solo attempt of Mt. Yarigatake 3,180m, standing in the center of the Northern Japanese Alps in March, 1919.

Prior to Itakura, in 1911 Theodor von Lerch, Austrian major, introduced skiing for Japanese army, and himself attempted ski mountaineering on Kubiki Mountain group(2500ms), and Mt. Fuji. In the Alps Isuke Tsujimura with two guides climbed Jungfrau in January, 1914.

Itakura was inspired by these achievements proclaimed and practiced "dynamic mountaineering", which means rock climbing, snow climbing and skiing rather than walking slopes up. But he was lost in the deep snow on Mt. Tateyama in 1923.

### Overseas Mountaineering in Early Days of JAC Members & Activities

Yuko Maki made 1st ascent of Eiger East Ridge, Mt. Alberta, Canada, and later led Manaslu Expedition



Aritsune "Yuko" Maki, accompanied by three guides made the first ascent of the Mittellegi Ridge of Eiger in 1921. He introduced the Alpine climbing and brought back number of gears to Japanese mountaineers of university clubs. Their practices in 1920s were mainly intending the first winter ascents of major Japanese peaks with guides and

porters, and little was practiced in difficult rock wall routes. Meanwhile Maki led a party to Mt. Alberta of Canadian Rockies in 1925.

In the 1930s hunting for the first winter ascents of major peaks were over, and races to traverse plural peak ridges became popular in the winter. Mountaineering clubs of the universities such as Keio, Gakushuin, Kyoto and Tokyo were the contenders. An exceptional non-university club mountaineer at that time was Buntaro Kato, who made significant number of first winter solo traverses, was lost on Mt. Yarigatake in 1936 before realizing his dream to go to the Himalayas.

In the early 1930s Japanese mountaineers were attracted by the challenges by Paul Bauer to the *Nordoetsporn* (Northeast Spur) of Kangchenjunga in the eastern Himalayas in 1929 and 1930. They were more interested in the German climber than the main-stream British expeditions to the Himalayas by Britons to Mt. Everest that started in 1921, and who made the first ascent of Kamet in 1931.

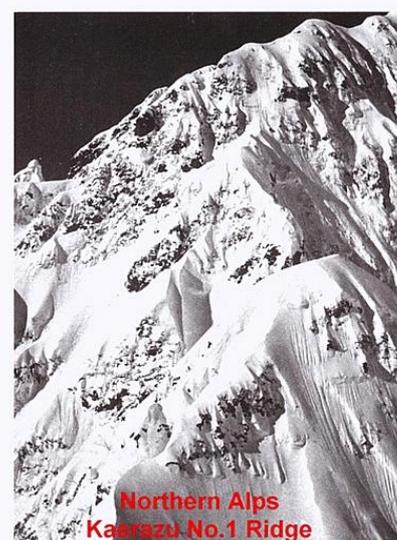
Probably the Japanese at that time were sympathetic to the Germans who challenged boldly to the giant in the depressive period after the defeat of the country in the World War I. Particularly the snow caves that Bauer frequently employed for bivouacs became a fashion among the Japanese students for their sieges in the winter on the Japanese mountains after Eizaburo Nishibori of Kyoto University deployed siege as a training on the slopes of Mt. Fuji in the winter of 1932.

On the other hand, Yaichi Hotta of Rikkyo University practiced “rush tactics” together with siege. The party led by Hotta made the first ascent of Nanda Kot in Garhwal in 1936. Rikkyo, which was relatively small and late starter, made the first Japanese Himalayan ascent, while the major Kyoto University club, led by Kinji Imanishi, prepared for ambitious attempt to K2. But it was shortly before the World War II, the Kyoto University Club was forced to give up expedition to the Himalayan peaks. Instead, they changed targets to Baegudusan (2744m) in Korean Peninsula, and Dixan’anling Shanmai Range (1500m class) in the Northeastern China. They repeated siege expeditions to these East Asian mountains as their alternative targets.

On the Japanese mountains Waseda University club concentrated in the climbs on the western rock face of Mt. Kita-Hotakadake 3100m, named Takidani in 1932. The rock wall is difficult even in the snowless season. It was the first winter rock route in Japan.

Wседа's style was relatively few in the Alps at that time. (The first winter ascent of the North Face of Cima Grande was made in 1938 and the South West Face of Marmolada was made in 1950.)

**University Alpine Club challenged New Routes  
in winter ascents of Japanese Alps in pre-war  
time 1930s. Cradle of Alpinism in Japan**



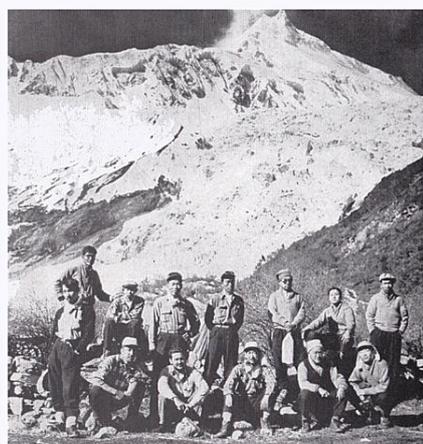
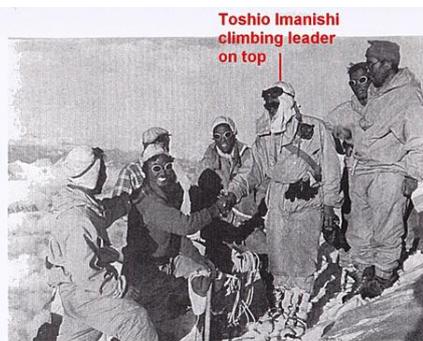
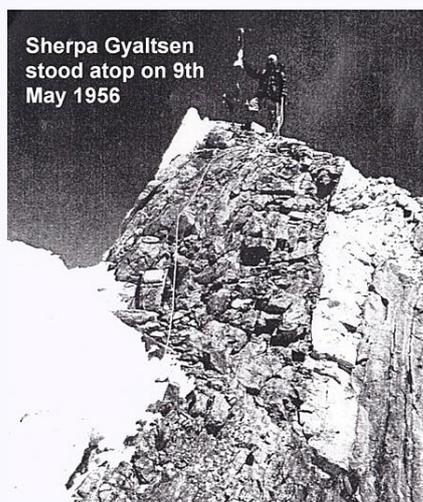
Conspicuous climber at the time was Zensuke Oyabe at Tokyo College of Commerce (now Hitotsubashi University) rejected siege and made number of first winter ascents on Japanese rock faces in the winter.

What he did was the Alpine style. Very regrettably however, Oyabe died in 1945 and could not get the chance to challenge in the Himalayas. Another notable climber was Akira Matsunami, who made number of ascents in progressive style for traverses and on rock faces died on Mt. Yarigatake in the winter, 1949. His dream to the Himalayas also was not materialized.

## First Ascent of Manaslu, the first Japanese climb of 8000m giant

**Manaslu 8,163m is a pronoun  
of Japanese Alpine Club**

**The third expedition led by  
Yuko Maki made the first  
ascent of Manaslu in 1956.**



Japanese Alpine Club's expedition in 1956 made the first ascent of Manaslu (8125m) in their third attempt. It was a nationally celebrated achievement in the year commemorated by a special postage stamp in Japan. But the successful siege overwhelmingly confined the Japanese expeditions to the Himalayas and other big mountains thereafter. The term "kyokuchiho"(polar method) was added in Japanese vocabulary even out of mountaineering circles.

Two Japanese climbers, Jiro Taguchi and Masataka Takagi both of who were studying in Europe and the outbreak of the World War II prevented them to go back home. They stayed in Switzerland and devoted in climbing on the North faces of Moench and Wetterhorn and others during the war time. What they absorbed were the updated ice wall climbing techniques, and the safe passing method of glaciers. Big improvements had been made in the Alps since Maki and others' acquisition in the early 1920s. JAC decided to tackle Manaslu in 1952 and a reconnaissance party was sent in the same year. The two were actually the core members of the team to transfer new climbing techniques to other members.

The first expedition was sent next year in 1953, led by Yukio Mita, and the second team in 1954, led by Yaichi Hotta. But both challenges ended unsuccessful. The third team in 1956, led by Aritsune “Yuko” Maki, employed loyally the siege tactics of the successful British Everest team in 1953. And they succeeded in reaching the top of Manaslu.

When we look back the siege for the 8125m peak, it was a little bit too much, and that reminds us of the old Chinese proverb, “using a meat cleaver to bone a chicken”. For the members who had no experience in the big mountains of the Himalayas or even in Andes or Alaska, the employment of cautious siege was inevitable. Another reward by the success was that the Japanese mountaineers had confidence that their decades of trainings on the Japanese mountains in the winter, could be applied to the Himalayan Giants.

The successful ascent of Manaslu stimulated Japanese pride in the period of national depression after the defeat in the World War II in line with the world record of the free-style swimmer Hironoshin Furuhashi (1947-49), wrestler Shohachi Ishii’s gold medal in the Helsinki Olympic Games (1952), Dr. Hideki Yukawa’s Nobel Prize in Physics (1949) and Kinuko Ito’s third prize in the Miss Universe Contest (1953).

The heavy press coverage of the ascent of Manaslu drew public attention and mountaineering boom emerged in Japan. Improved mountaineering gears used by the Manaslu team such as Vibram sole boots, nylon ropes and tents, wind breaking jacket and down jacket appear in the market. Above all, the newly developed canvas boots for the approach march with the brand name “Caravan” got a big hit.

### **Japanese mountains in the winter as a training site for the Himalayas**

In the two decades from Nanda Kot to Manaslu, overwhelming number of leading mountaineers were from university clubs. Their ultimate targets were Himalayan Giants. Therefore they concentrated in training the siege tactics on Japan’s 3000m class mountains by setting to start far away from the top and fixing ropes on long ridge lines and repeated load ferrying. Actually, the distance was enough with a several bivouacs, unless bad weather bothers them.

The pseudo Himalayan expeditions on the Japanese mountains sometimes extended a month-long and only a few selected members stood on the top. The siege provided a merit for club leaders that they could train all members at a time. It became the standard for university mountaineering clubs. Dissent to the polar method was a weak voice, and each university club began to organize individual expeditions after the 1956 Manaslu. And number of them piled first ascents of 6000ms and 7000ms in the

Himalayas in the 1960s.

Beginning Chogolisa in 1958 by Kyoto University team, Himalchuli in 1960 by Keio University, Api by Doshisha University, Noshag by Kyoto University in the same year, and Chamlang in 1962 by Hokkaido University, Salto Kangri by Kyoto University and Saipal in 1963 by Doshisha University were climbed.

Climbing clubs out of university mushroomed and the leading edge of them actively began to climb steep rocks in the winter in the late 1950s. Because they were difficult to get long vacations out of work, they formed small parties in the weekends, and focused to climb rock faces with a several bivouacs. First winter ascents were marked by them particularly in the winters of 1957/58 and 1958/59 and their achievements filled the record pages of mountaineering magazines. The first climbing magazine in Japan, "The Iwa to Yuki" (means rock and snow) was published in 1958 to cover the climbing scene responding to the quickly growing new trend in the mountaineering in Japan.

They organized All Japan Mountaineering Federation and sent Himalayan expeditions in 1960 and 1961, both of which failed, and made the first ascent of Big White Peak 7083m (now Loenpo Gang 6979m) in 1962. Two years later in 1964 they made the first ascent of Gyachung Kang (7952m). The party employed a siege and used Oxygen as JAC's Manaslu team did, though the peak is technically more difficult.

Other forces of non-university clubs aimed at the difficult "grade 6" walls in the Alps. Three Big North Faces were their popular targets. In order to achieve their ambitious targets, they trained by inventing successive-wall-climbing in an attempt on the shorter Japanese faces than of the Alps. They were not interested in the siege but with minimum rope fixing and support members and repeated bivouacs on the walls.

The common perception shared by JAC and AJMF was that both forces regarded that the Japanese mountains as a minor stage merely as the training sites for either Himalayan or Alpine climbs. When looking back the climbing scene on the Japanese mountains at that time they were not so serious to try to find more sophisticated climbing style. We need to wait until 1970s to find a renaissance on the Japanese rocks not only in the winter but also in the rock climbing.

Political tensions between Nepal and China on the border intensified in 1965, and the Nepalese government banned foreign expeditions to the Nepalese Himalayan range. The Japanese expeditions were forced to find alternative targets in Hindu Kush, Andes and Alaska. And climbing-oriented forces aimed at more on the Alps. On the Japanese rocks climbers sought the remaining problems and new routes. Newly imported Climbing gears newly imported from the Alps after 1965 advanced both techniques and gears on the Japanese rocks.

The new direct routes in the Alps such as *Sachsenweg* of Cima Grande in 1963 or the Eiger Direct in 1966 gave impacts to the Japanese climbers. Some of them used fixed ropes and expansion bolts and the Italian term “direttissima” became a fashionable word. Some extremists fixed ropes and set pitons and bolts in the snowless time in advance of their challenge in the winter. Their deeds invited criticism in the climbing circles. Ethics and style at last became concerned in the Japanese climbing circles.

### **Catching up with the world's first class**

Himalayan expeditions quickly became to focus variation routes after Nepalese lift of the ban in 1970. Major peaks had already been climbed in the 1960s. JAC resumed its expedition plan of 1966 to Everest in the spring of 1970. The party aimed at its South West Face. The party recruited 5 non-university club climbers. The attempt retreated from a 8050m point on the South West Face. It was a big change on the side of JAC that they realized usual siege training on the Japanese mountains in the winter was not effective to make powerful climbers.

JAC Tokai Branch expedition led by Makoto Hara climbed the South East Ridge of Makalu in 1970 with the combined university and non-university clubs members. A Tokyo party led by Akira Takahashi climbed the North West Spur of Manaslu in 1971 with the non-university clubs members only.

The South West Face of Everest rejected repeatedly the challenges by international teams in the springs of 1971 and 1972, and by a British team in the autumn of 1972, and by a Japanese party in the autumn of 1973. The big face was finally climbed by the British team led by Chris Bonington in the autumn of 1975.

The Japanese Everest team of 1973 had weakness in the management of expedition and logistics operation. The mood of necessity to fill each weakness were shared both by JAC and non-university clubs and a merger to fulfill each strong-point was sought. A joint team successfully made the first traverse from the East Peak to the Main Peak of Nanda Devi in 1976. JAC led with non-university club members made the first ascent of the Direct North West Face of Everest in 1980, and another team traversed South-Central summits of Kangchenjunga in 1983.

A conspicuous non-university club climber in the time from late 1960s through 1980s was Masatsugu Konishi. With two others he made the third winter ascent of the North Face of Matterhorn in 1967. His club mates made the second winter ascent of the Harlin route on Eiger in 1970. Konishi himself was invited to the JAC Everest expedition in the same year.

Konishi's hard training imposed upon club members is now a legend. He urged members to tackle the steep Takidani Face of Mt. Kita-Hotakadake (3100m) without gloves in the winter in order to gain durability against frostbite. Or he demanded jumarrings by hanging ropes on the volcanic wall at the top of Mt. Fuji. His club, Sangakudoshikai made the first ascent of the North Face of Jannu in 1976. Nearly all members reached the top in the feat. Konishi also led his club team to make the first ascent of the North Face of Kangchenjunga in 1980 and led an all-Japan team to the North Ridge of K2 in 1982, both without Oxygen bottle aid.

Japanese climbers' strenuous efforts, which are symbolically represented by Konishi, were single-mindedly aiming at "catching up with the world's top level". Their achievements, e.g., the climbs of difficult variation routes without the aid of Oxygen bottle on the 8000ers, by all means were brilliant accounts of the time. However, the way they did to make strong members by imposing hard training and sought joint target was quite similar to the deeds conducted by team sports at the Olympic Games, and the companies of manufacturing industry during the rapid economic growth period. We gave to point out now that those "group oriented" and "sharing united target" overshadowed the originality of each member in target and style selection.

### **Speedy climbing with light gears and loads**

Double-axe climbing on the iced face, which was developed in the Alps, was introduced to Japan in early 1970s. The new technique enabled developing new routes on gullies and couloirs which usually had been unclimbable because of the danger of avalanches. Climbers found many new climbing routes in the heavy snow regions. Moreover they tried frozen waterfalls and vertical ice walls. The winter climbing stages expanded at a stroke. Free climbing on the various rocks began in late 1970s and became popular through 1980s in Japan.

A big change in the whole mountaineering scene was visible in those days. Contrary to the scarce mountaineering information overseas up to early 1960s, the Japanese were allowed to go abroad freely in 1964, and they began to go out overseas repeatedly in the 1970s and some climbers stayed long time at major climbing sites. Their experiences and hot information accelerated the changes in the practices on home mountains, and their activities on the Himalayas and other greater mountaineering ranges also became faster.

In the Himalayan range, Japanese parties made the first ascents on Latok 1(led by Naoki Takada), Latok 3(led by Youji Teranishi) and the North Ridge of Rakaposhi (led

by Eiho Otani) in 1979. The North Ridge of Shivling (led by Norio Yasuda) in 1980, and the West Face of Kun by Kunihiro Kondoh and Minoru Nagoshi in capsule style in 1981. The West Ridge of K2 (led by Eiho Ohtani), the Central Pillar on the South Face of Annapurna (led by Hiroshi Yoshino) in 1981.

In the Andes the party led by Ikuo Kakimoto made the first ascents of the South Face of Huandoy Sur, the South Face of Chacaraju Este, and the North East Face of Yerupaja in 1976. The team led by Saburo Mizobuchi made the first ascent of the South Face of Taulliraju in the same year.

### **Sticking to the siege in the Himalayas**

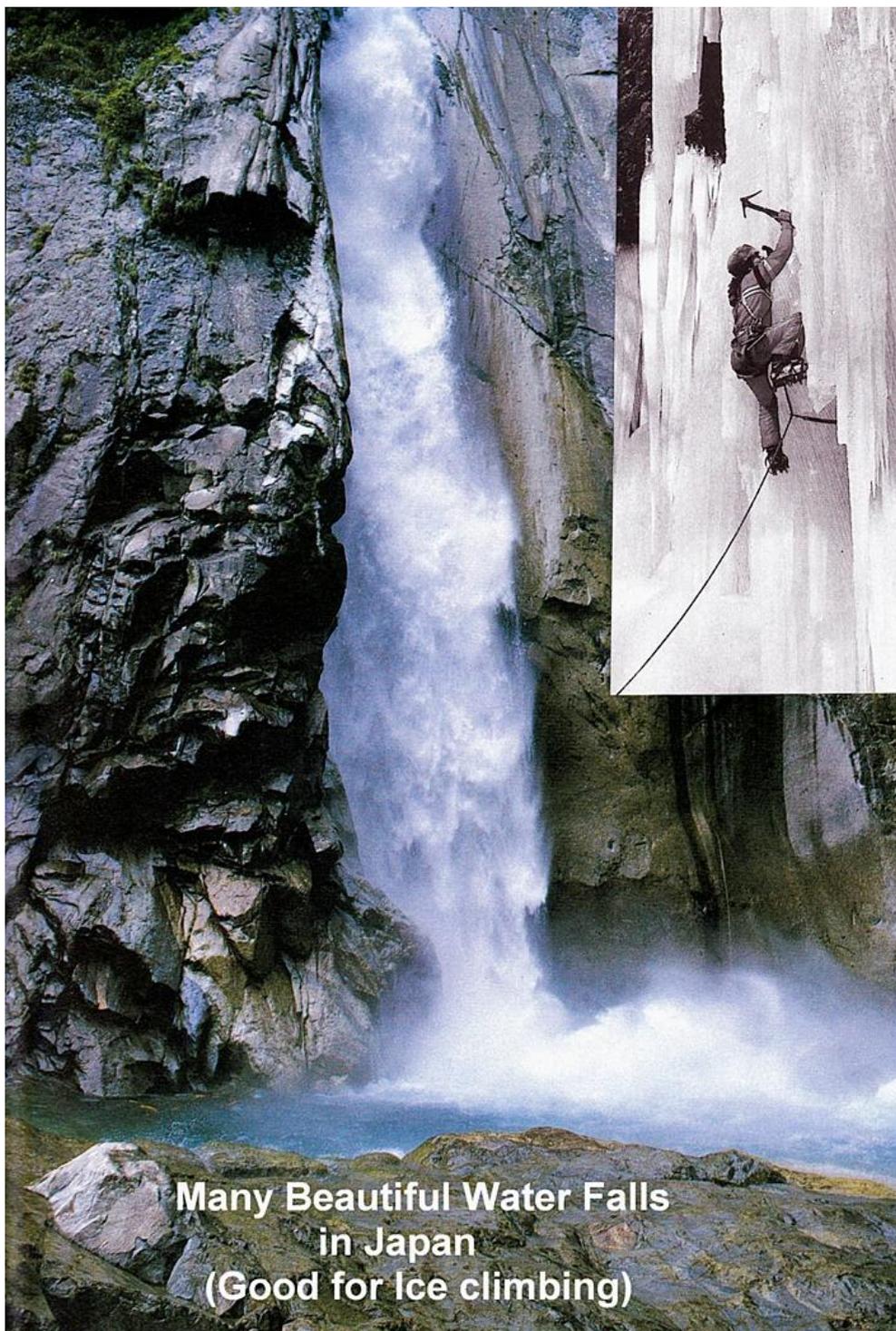
Still, however, majority of Japanese first ascents have been made by fixing ropes. The rope-fixed siege is employed more frequently, the altitude of the mountains are higher. The tendency has changed little in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The successive fatal accidents in the early 1980s due to the bold challenges on high-altitude drew criticism on “sticking to styles too heavily”, and the number of Japanese expedition to the Himalayas temporarily shrank. It may be an after-effect of the set back that the majority of Japanese expeditions is depending on the rope-fixing siege.

A few Japanese Himalayan expeditions rejected the siege with rope-fixing. The North Ridge of Kungur was first climbed in semi-alpine style by the party led by Etsuro Yasuda in 1989. Masafumi Todaka with two others made the second ascent of the traverse of Broad Peak's North-Central-Main summits in Alpine style in 1995. Akihito Yamasaki and Kiyoshi Matsuoka made the first ascent of Ultar Sar in 1996 in Alpine style. Yasushi Yamanoi climbed a new route on the South West Face of Cho Oyu in 1994. The women pair, Taeko Nagao (now Yamanoi) and Yuka Endo made the second ascent of the Swiss-Polish route on the South West Face of Cho Oyu in the same year. Up until now they are the only women that climbed a difficult variation route in Alpine style on the 8000er. Now climbers are attracted more at free rock climbing, vertical ice and modern mix climbing. The participants to expedition have been decreasing in number year by year.

On the other hand, some have begun mobile approach on skies for climbing. We now do not see any group struggling to maintain long rope-fixed lines to siege a summit in the winter on the Japanese mountains. Japanese climbers' ability has dramatically enhanced both physically and technically through the practices of free rock climbing and vertical ice climbing. The number of expedition to the Himalayas has decreased but a few who still do it now are the climbers are greatly different from the predecessors two

decades ago in their climbing attitude and technical skill. The term “Alpine style” means that the climbing of Himalayan giants in the same manner as the way done on the Alps. It is desired that the Japanese climbers go and challenge the Himalayan peaks as the way they are doing on the Japanese mountains in the winter.

(translated by Kanji Takamasu)



**Many Beautiful Water Falls  
in Japan  
(Good for Ice climbing)**