

# ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

Issue No.7, July 2017

Asian Alpine Associates



(left) Karejiang Main 7221m, (center) Kulha Kangri 7538m, (right end) Gangsha 6722m  
Lake Puma Yumco 5,000m South Tibet

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# CHINA TIBET

## Mountaineering Association

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*TO:*

*DATE:* June7, 2017

*FROM:*

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### Notice

We are sorry to inform you, due to one of the Polish climber Mr. Janusz Adam Adamski who illegally scaled Mt. Qomolangma from the north side and traversed towards south side on May 21, 2017 which causes industry internal related rules and regulations need to be adjusted and improved. Meanwhile, internal personal adjustment and property inspection of CTMA will start in this July.

In order to solve the series of above problems in time, and provide a good condition to all of expeditions in 2018, with the approval of the Sports Bureau of Tibet Autonomous Region of China and China Mountaineering Association, the climbing permits will not be granted in autumn 2017.

Tibet Mountaineering Association of  
Tibet Autonomous Region of China

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Editor's Notes:

There are no restrictions of climbing permit in the mountains in Sichuan and Qinghai Provinces.

DALIU (LIYONG)  
New Route on the Southwest Face of Dragon's Horn  
Tioman Island, Malaysia





Tioman Island's southern mountains



Map of Tioman Island

*Its beaches have been claimed to be depicted in the 1958 movie, [South Pacific](#) as [Bali Hai](#) but available evidence suggests this is a false claim. In the 1970s, [TIME Magazine](#) selected Tioman as one of the world's most beautiful islands.*

*Tioman Island ([Malay language](#): Pulau Tioman) is a [mukim](#) and an island in [Rompin District](#), [Pahang](#), [Malaysia](#). It is located 32 kilometres (20 miles) off the east coast of the state,<sup>[2]</sup> and is some 20 kilometres (12 miles) long and 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) wide. It has eight main villages, the largest and most populous being [Kampung Tekek](#) in the north. The densely forested island is sparsely inhabited, and is surrounded by numerous [coral reefs](#), making it a popular [scuba diving](#) spot. There are also a lot of resorts and chalets around the island which has duty-free status.*

*The island is served by ferries from the Malaysian mainland, Up to 2013, [Berjaya Air](#) serviced the island with a propeller plane service from the [Changi Airport](#) in [Singapore](#) and nowadays, there is only one company operating the route from [Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport](#) in [Subang](#), [Selangor](#) to Tioman Island. The company are called [Systematic Aviation Services](#), and with a fleet of small single prop [Cessna](#) aircraft, the trip takes around 1 hr 15 minutes.*



On April 8, 2017 a Malaysian-Chinese team set a new rock climbing route “Naga (the dragon) ”on the south west face of Dragon’s Horn, Tioman Island.

This succeed expedition was led by Chinese climber Daliu (Liyong) with Chinese mountain club members and also joint team from Malaysia.

Tioman Island is located at the southeast of Malaysia. Dragon’s horn is a 400 meters granite sharp twin tower.

It’s very far from the mainland Malaysia, it normally takes two days to get to the last Muslim village “Mukut”, from there, climbers need to hike over one to two hours to get through the hot& humid tropical jungle, then the giant wall suddenly appears in your eyes.



2009, American climber Cedar set the first route on Dragon's horn.

2011, Polish climber David Kaszlikowski and his wife Eliza Kubarska set the second route "Polish princess" 7b+,270m.

2012, Arnuld Petit, Stephone Booet (French), David Kaszlikowski (Polish) and Daliu (Chinese) made the first ascent of the third route "Daimo Sataos" 6C+,280m. Local Malaysian climber Tom also joined the team in the first ascent climbing.

And after few years, there are six routes' been down on this big wall. but there are still very few climbers go to Tioman to try those amazing routes.

In early of this year, I had some contact with Tom again, we discussed about setting some easy routes for more climbers.

On the first day of April, five members of Chinese mountain club led by Daliu arrived at Kulala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. There, they met up with Malaysian climbers Fizi lashak, Aril hasril and Apek Long Biru.

After whole night road trip, team arrived to Mersing, a small town at the very east of Malaysian mindland. From here, we took 5 hours ferry boat to Geating port and then transfer with a small boat to Si Mukut village. The whole trip took us 17 hours.

As soon as I saw Uncle Sam who was running the only resort in Si Mukut. I realized our exciting adventure had started.

On April 3, all team members carry our equipment to the foot of the wall. Our plan was finding a possible route on the south west face, we planned to set up a base camp on the foot of dragon's horn, and climbed the route "free bird" at first, then check out some possibility to open a route on the left of "free bird". After two hours, we carried 200 meters ropes, some food and water, all our trad gears to a safe place under the route, we hiked around the wall to make sure we were in the right place for our starting.

At 11:00 of next day, four of us, Fizi, Aril, Apek and I started climb the first pitch of "free bird".it's traditional climbing route, we finished first pitch with some slab climbing on wet wall. Aril found a crack lead to a beautiful face, I followed his climbing and I find the traverse he did was too long without any protection. After this 20 meters traverse, we made a good anchor on a tree in the small ledge. From there, I found we were already on the new route which we wanted to climb.

Then, Fizi started led next pitch, it was vertical face with some small crack but good for protection, 40 meters later, he set the anchor, later on, four of us climbed up to the anchor. Sunset time was coming. We decided to descend back to ground, when we hiked down to Si Mukut,it was already 22:00 at night.

We spent another day to clean the ropes on “free bird”, and then climbed up to the fifth pitch, it was not easy climbing because we had to clean lots of loss rock and some vegetation on the route. All the members of the team tried to climb up to pitch four which is 100 meters above the ground.

In the afternoon, we descend to lower part and we finished the first two pitches climbing. The first few moves of the start made me feel exhausted.

The weather in South China Sea is like baby face, it changes every hour.

We stocked in our bungalow for two days since the endless rain. It reminds me a lot when David and I caught the storm when we climbed the hard face climbing part on “Daimo Sataos” three years ago. We chilled out in the quiet Muslim village. Local people are very nice and friendly, climbing dragon’s horn already became a big public topic in here. Everybody gave us good wishes.

April 8 was the summit day. Aril, Fizi, Apek and I started to hike up at 10:00 in the morning, when we got to the wall, rain started, we had no choice, time almost runs out. We had to wait until 12:50, then started climbed the new route. Aril had a ground fall from 7 meters above the ground. Fortunately, he could stand up and start climb again. The wall was quite wet after raining. It made the route become harder to climb.

Four of us climbed very carefully.

The Malaysian climbers are very strong sport climbers, they had lots of passion on this route because it would be the first big wall route which is opened by local rock climbers.

When I was on the fourth pitch, rain became heavier. They gave me call of descending, but the anchor was just few meters higher than me, I insisted to move to the anchor. And then they climbed up to me, we had short talking about the situation. At last, no one wanted to give up. We decided to finish the route in the rain. As soon as we kept climbing it, the rain stopped, we climbed the rest of the part with lots of cloud on our back. It made us feel we were climbing in the paradise.

The rest part of climbing took us around three hours, because we have never been here few days before. It was more difficult than I expected since the wall was very wet. But we were relaxed on the last two pitches. At 19:30 on April 8, we stood on the top of Dragon’s horn.

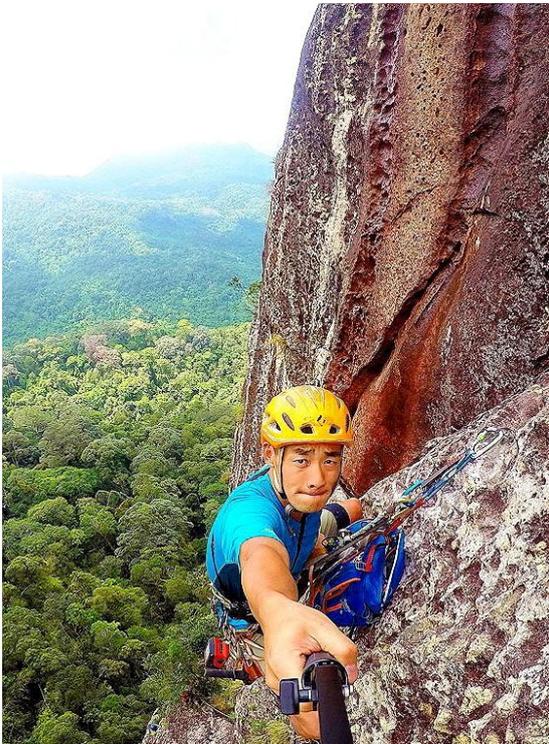
We walked to the famous Ketumbit rock. I saw the smiling face of these solid young climbers. We luckily made the first ascent of the new route “Naga (the Dragon)”.

Descending was in the dark, it took us about more than three hours to get back to ground, but in very good weather conditions with no rain, no wind.

We finally made our way back to Si Mukut at 23:40.







We wrote down the climbing information of this route and also draw the topo of “Naga”, left it at Sam’s guesthouse. We hope there will be more and more climbers come to visit beautiful Tioman Island.

Route info: Naga (The dragon)

270m 8 pitches

6B+ C2 (Chinese grade)

FFA by

Fizi Iashak (MAS)

Aril Hasril (MAS)

Dorge Apek Long Biru (MAS)

Daliu (liuyong) (China)

April 8, 2017



TOM NAKAMURA  
Journey to Dharamsala and Kashmir 2017

Part I

**The Himalayan Club 90th Anniversary Celebrations**

A little bit of history is due:

*The Himalayan Club is founded and we hope great things of it; the geographer that the blank spaces on our map may be filled in, the scientist that our knowledge of the Himalaya, its rocks and glaciers, its animals and plants, its peoples and their way of living, may continually expand; the artist that its glories may continually inspire fine pictures. The mountaineer may dream of the ascent of a thousand unclimbed peaks, the shikaries of record heads shot in nullahs yet unknown. My own hope is that it may help to rear a breed of men in India, hard and self-reliant, who will know how to enjoy life on the high hills.*

So wrote Geoffrey Corbett the first Hon. Secretary of the Club, in his article in Vol.1 of the *Himalayan Journal*.

The Himalayan Club (HC) was founded on 17th February 1928 in the room of Field Marshall Sir William Birdwood, the then Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.

The idea of the Club took shape in Shimla when Sir Geoffrey Corbett took the initiative in the matter. Sir Geoffrey was a member of I.C.S. and held the post of Secretary for Industry in the Government of India. He wrote to Major Kenneth Mason of the Survey of India and the Chief of Army Staff who also showed great keenness. Corbett and Mason drew up a list of all the most important people that they could think of as connected with the Himalaya and invited them to be founder members of the club. A list of 127 founder members included Sir Thomas Holdisch who pioneered the survey of the frontiers, Sir Francis Younghusband who crossed the Gobi Desert to enter India through the Muztagh Pass in Karakoram, Brig. Gen. Bruce of the Gurkhas, Brig. Gen. Sir George Cockell of the Survey of India, Sir Martin Conway, Norman Collie, Douglas Freshfield, Sir Aurel Stein, Duke of Abruzzi, Sir Pilippo de Filippi, the Duke of Spoleto, Mr. Visser of the Dutch Foreign Service among others. In India founders included the Viceroy Lord Irwin, Governor of the Punjab Sir Herbert Emerson, Surveyor General Brigadier Tandy, Director of Archaeological Survey, Sir Edwin Pascoe, General Sir Alexander Lobbe C-I-C Northern Command, Raja of Jubbal, Field Marshal Sir William

Birdwood and Bast, Commander-in-Chief who readily agreed to be the President of the Club.

From these small beginnings the Himalayan Club (HC) started helping the expeditions coming from abroad. It supplied information, arranged porters and sometimes members of the club accompanied the teams to smoothen out things. Paul Bauer's two famous German expeditions to Kangchenjunga were a case in the point. Many other expeditions owned a debt to HC in those days.

With the Independence of India in 1947 gradually all the British left India. But HC was well served by Indian members and those who stayed in India. -----  
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Dear Nakamura san,

### **An Invitation to Seek Blessings from His Holiness The Dalai Lama**

On behalf of the Himalayan Club, I am happy to invite you join us on a special trip to Dharamsala during April 23 – 26, 2017. The year 2017 - 2018 is the 90<sup>th</sup> year of the Himalayan Club. This being an important milestone for us, we requested His Holiness The Dalai Lama to grant us an audience and give us his blessings during this year. We are honoured that he has agreed to do so and have just received the date. HH will bless us at 9.00 AM on Monday, April 24, 2017.

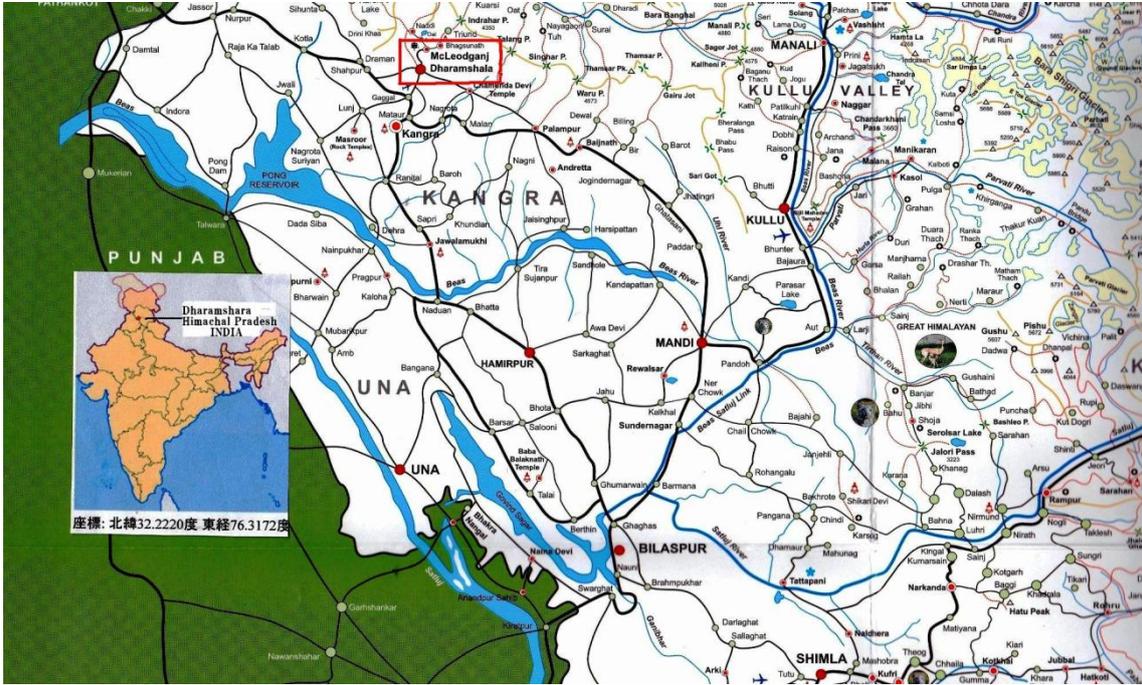
It would be wonderful if you would join us on this wonderful occasion in Mcleodganj, Dharamsala Himachal Pradesh India.

Please plan to reach Mcleodganj on the 23rd. We will structure some walks and talks, outings and excursions over a few days before and after this important event.

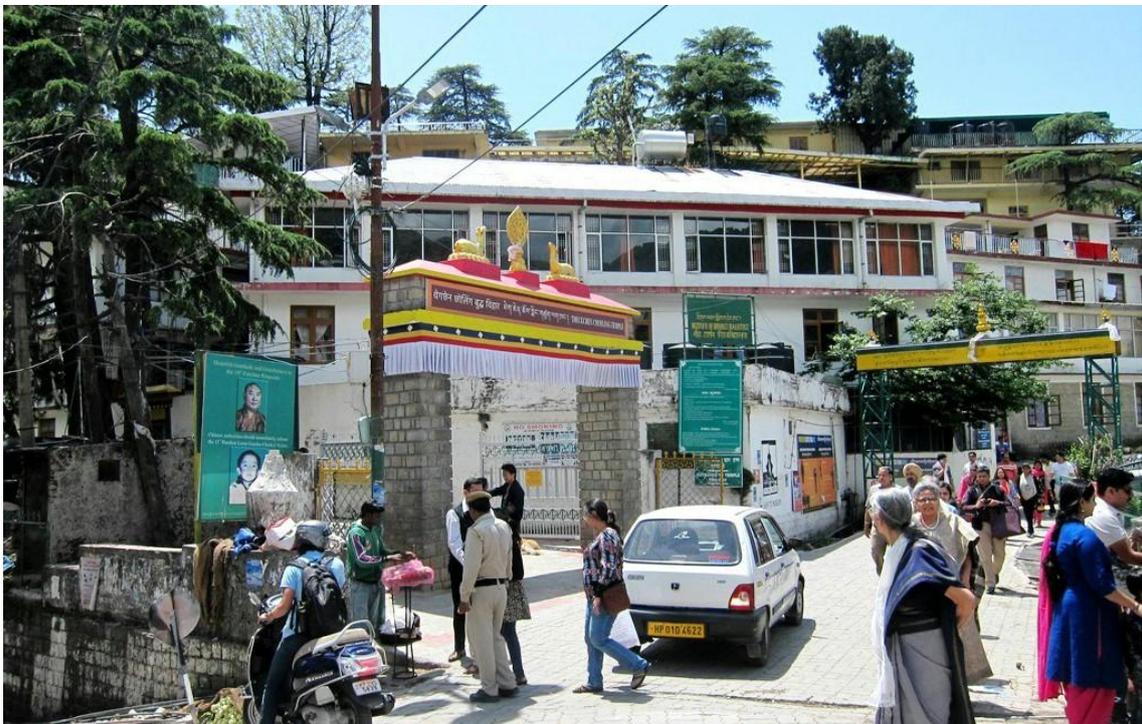
Regards

Nandini Purandare  
Hon Secretary,  
The Himalayan Club  
March 23, 2017

## Photo Gallery “Himalayan Club 90th Event at Dharamsala”



Map of Dharamshala (or Dharamsala) in Himachal Pradesh, India



Palace of Dalai Lama



THE DALAI LAMA

## MESSAGE

First of all I offer my congratulations to the members of the Himalayan Club in the 90th year of its existence. I appreciate your enthusiasm to share with others across the world useful knowledge about travel and exploration in the Himalayas. Much of this is, of course, focused on climbing these great mountains. We Tibetans have, I confess, generally shown little interest in scaling the peaks that surround us, perhaps for the practical reason that we have had far too many mountain passes to ascend to have any wish to climb higher than we must.

Nevertheless, perhaps mountaineering can be compared to pilgrimage. Both require dedication, careful preparation, courage and determination not to give up whatever the cost, and caution in the face of danger. I believe members of mountaineering teams become acutely aware of their dependence on their companions and at the same time their mutual responsibility to each other. This exercise in loyalty and trust is a crucial insight we would all be the better for realizing and in this context I admire your efforts to involve young people in your activities.

I am also impressed by your dedication to providing help where you can to people who live in the Himalayan region and to contributing to the preservation and protection of the natural environment.

May your membership thrive, your charitable activities increase, and may those of you who embark on climbing expeditions fulfill their goals and return home safe and sound.

April 24, 2017



**Dalai Lama talks to the Himalayan Club members at Dharamsala on April 24**



**HC members listening to Dalai Lama talks**



**The Himalayan Club members at the Dalai Lama Palace**

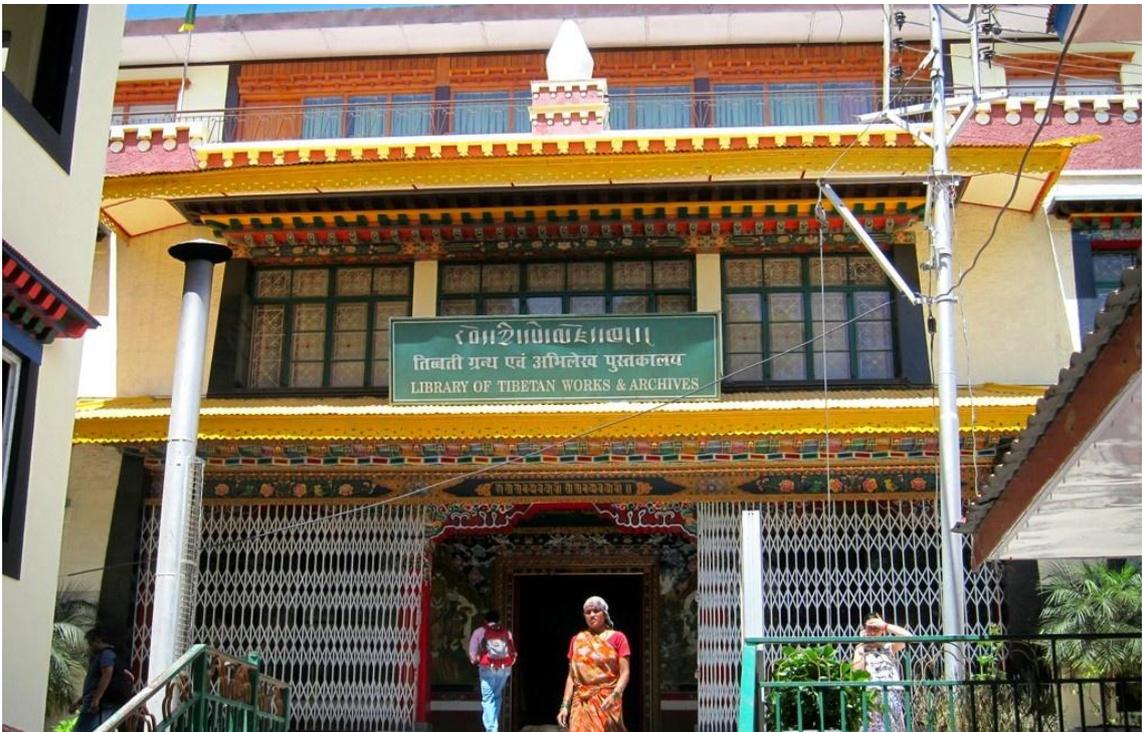


**Tibetan Parliament House in Exile**



**Tibetan Parliament in Exile**

**45 Excectives (Each 10 from Kham-Amdo-U Tsang, Each 2 from 4 major religious sects, 2 from Bon, 6 from overseas Tibetan (USA, Asia, Europe, Australia))**



**Library of Tibetan Works and Archives**



**Town of Dharamsala – McLeod Ganji**



**Saint John's Church at Dharamsala built in 1852 (settlement by British and Gurkas)**

Hindu Rock Temple destroyed by earthquake in 1905 (Photo below)



View of Dharamsala





**Dal Lake and golf course, Srinagar**



**Dal Lake, boat houses and mountains in Srinagar**



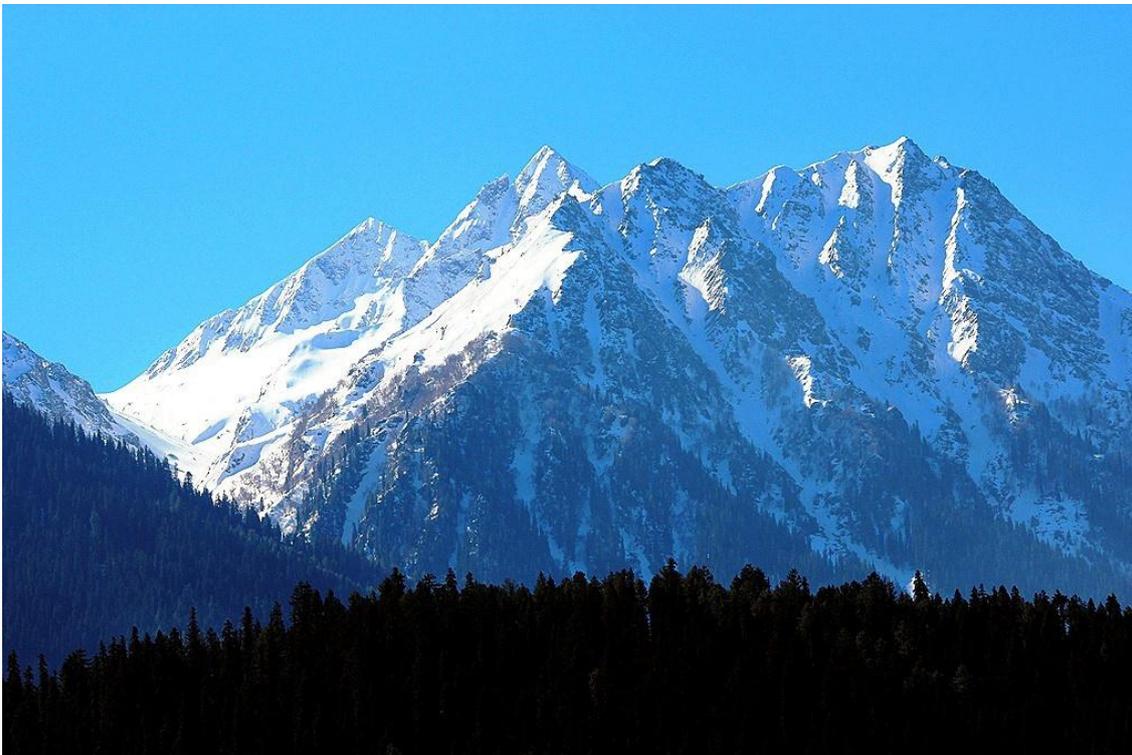
**Birds and floweres are abundant in Kashmir valley full of green**



**Old house in Srinagar (not well maintained)**



**Peaks surrounding beautiful Pahalgam valley at 2400m**



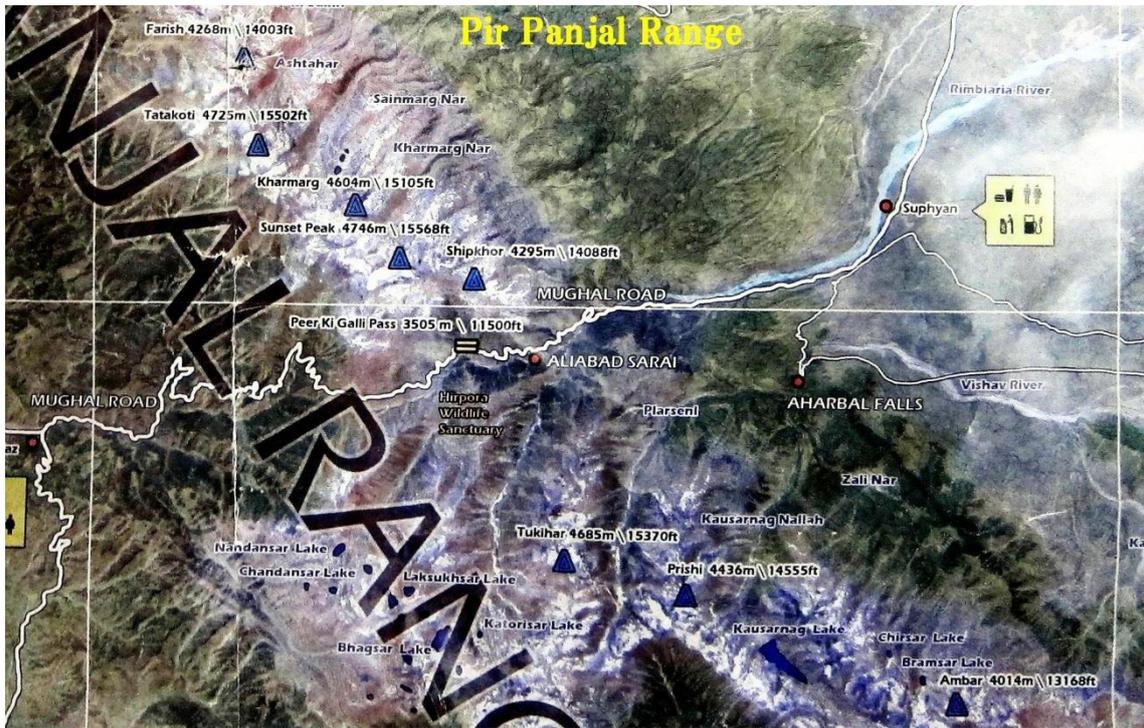
**Attractive peaks surrounding Pahalgam valley at 2400m**



**On the way from Pahalgam to Gulmag by-passing Srinagar**



**Lesser Himalayan peaks, wheat field and apple trees**



Two pictures of the following page are mountains of Pir Janjal Range



Panorama of Pir Panjal Range east face and paddy field



Peaks ca 4600m of Pir Panjal Range east face



Armed solders are watching in many placed in Kashmir valley



**Sunshine Peak ca 4600m of Pir Panjal Range seen from Gulmarg at 2650m**



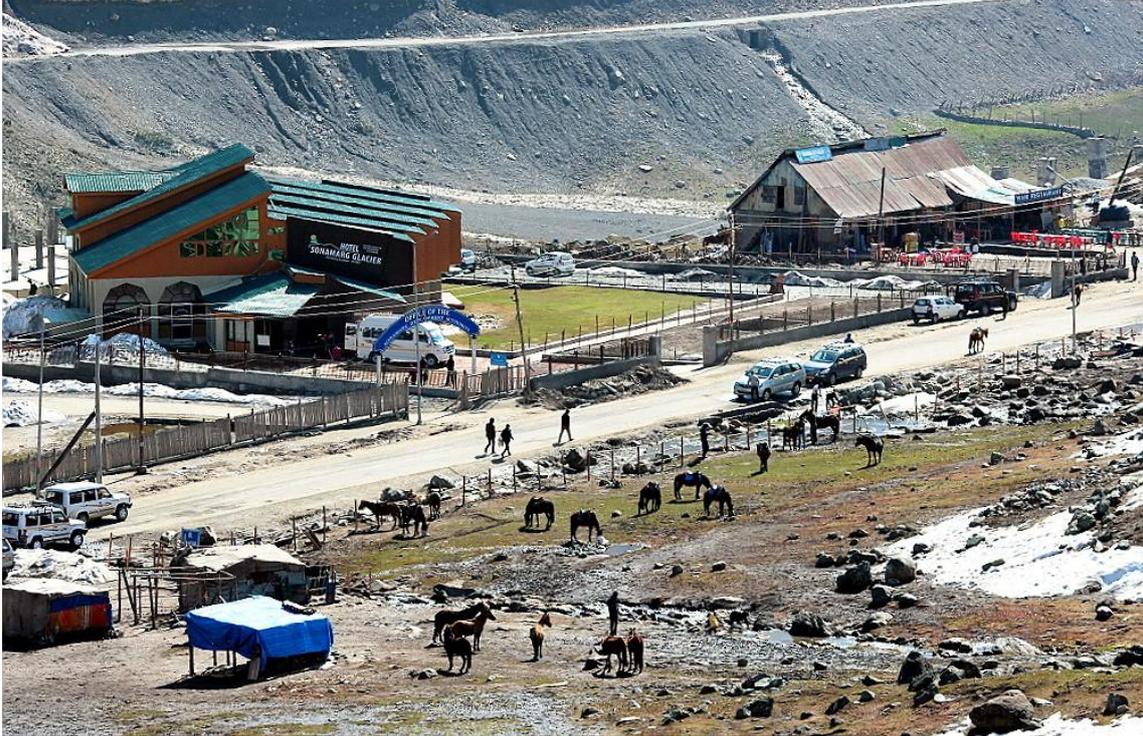
**Ropeways in two steps to the world highest ski field at 4100m in Gulmarg  
(Himalayan Range seen in far distance)**



The world highest ski field and premium 5 stars hotel “The Khyber” in Gulmag



Peaks 4,900m immediate southwest of Sonamag at 2700m (en route to Leh)



**Sonamarg at 2,700m**



**Challenging peaks 4,900m immediate southwest of Sonamarg**



**Challenging peaks 5,000m south of Sonamarg**



**Approach to Thajiwas Glacier to be visited from Sonamarg**



**Stunning peaks ca 5,000m surrounding Thajiwas Glacier**



**ca.5,000m peak northeast of Sonamarg**

VIRAF MEHTA

## **Ladakh – A century of rock art exploration and research**

For those of us who share a special passion for Ladakh, it is encouraging to note that Vol 1, No1 (1929) of the Himalayan Journal, after the inaugural article describing the history of the founding of the Himalayan Club, brings our attention to Ladakh, and in this instance to the recent floods of the Indus and Shayok rivers. Despite this early pre-Independence coverage, and being open for tourists since 1974, it remains a little-known fact that Ladakh possesses a rich heritage of rock art, details of which were first recorded and made known to the public by Moravian missionary scholars posted in Ladakh in the late 1800's –early 1900's. It is even less known that today, due to the efforts of local and foreign researchers over the past two decades, rock art has been recorded from all major regions of Ladakh including Changthang, Leh , Kargil, Nubra and Zaskar. In totality there are over 300 recorded rock art sites- with many more awaiting discovery-primarily located along the Indus River system, ancient trade and religious missionary routes, camping sites and at places propitious for hunting animals. My encounter with the rock art of Ladakh was a magical opportunity to satisfy the deepest instinct of a young student of anthropology: to spend an entire lifetime dedicated to the discovery of human origins and its earliest cultural expressions, especially if this meant long stretches of solitary work in wild and desolate landscapes, with only basic needs provided for. And so, on a luminous afternoon in 2009- my 15<sup>th</sup> visit to Ladakh-I stumbled across an ancient looking rock carving depicting animals. I can recall clearly that in the hour it took to drive to Leh, I had determined that I must explore this remnant of an ancient cultural heritage more fully. I scoured the few bookshops of Leh, and fortuitously came across a few books written by past and present day foreign researchers, almost a century apart, and made it my business to try to visit the over one hundred sites scattered all over Ladakh. There was very little precise guidance about the location of these listed rock art sites, and so I set about locating them and new ones across all seasons and corners of the high altitude vastness of Ladakh. Endless months of learning in the field slowly started reaping rich dividend, and I became more adept at recognising potential rock art sites. It would take more space than presently available to do justice to the 'art of exploration', of oneself, in the ultimate, in the trusted companionship of a passion and a yearning, or to narrate anecdotes and tales of risk and adventure, the blessings of new friendships, or the mysteries encountered along these journeys. Follow your heart- you will surely encounter hardship, but you will never feel lost or alone, seems a fitting motto.

Forty-one visits to Ladakh, I am as excited as ever about my next visit!

Returning to rock art: as per our present knowledge, the rock art of Ladakh spans several millennia, from prehistoric to modern times. The rock art of Ladakh is predominantly in the form of petroglyphs-images etched, carved, pecked or incised on the rock surface using stone or metal tools in a variety of techniques. These images were rendered upon the shiny patina or 'desert varnish' that forms over millennia upon the surfaces of boulders and rocky outcrops. Unsurprisingly, given its geographic location and crossroads of travel routes, the rock art of Ladakh reflects varying cultural influences- from Central Asia and Western Tibet, in the north and east, and the Kashmir and Gilgit-Skardu regions downstream along the Indus River, to its west and south. Within Ladakh, if one takes the approximately 350 km long section Indus River flowing from Nyoma to Batalik as a main south west to northwest axis, we note a prolific number of rock art sites alongside almost every major village along the river, and more so along the lower Indus. The major tributaries of the Indus, the Zaskar and the Shayok, also showcase important rock art sites, as do other rivers in the Nubra, Markha and Suru Valleys, and in Zaskar. For the convenience of visitors to Ladakh, a list of some of the best-known and more easily accessible rock art sites are mentioned below:

- 1) Nubra: Diskit, Murgi, Sasoma
- 2) Upper Indus Leh (East of Leh): Saboo, Stakna, Stagmo, Kharu, Upshi, Shara.
- 3) Lower Indus (West of Leh): from Chilling to Zaskar-Indus confluence, Alchi, Nurla, Khaltse, Domkhar, Dargo, Sanjak, Baima-Dah.
- 4) Kargil and Purig: Baroo, Bypass to Hamboting La and Batalik, Mulbek.
- 5) Zaskar: Stongde, Char/Zamthang.
- 6) Changthang: Kere, Tangtse, Durbuk.

The rock art of Ladakh displays a variety of themes and motifs, and predominant amongst these are representations of a wide variety of animals including the yak, ibex, deer, sheep and goat, horse, dog, camel, snow leopard, wolf and others. In addition, we also find representations of birds, fish, lizard and snakes. Human beings are predominantly depicted as participants in hunting scenes, alone or in a group, and armed with bow and arrow, on foot or on horseback. There are also scenes that could be interpreted as either propitiation ceremonies for, or a celebration of a successful hunt. Additionally, we note the relatively uncommon depictions of human hands (and more rarely, feet), frequently depicted in a relatively elongated or enlarged manner. It would be misleading to imply that all visual depictions of animals are to do with hunting: for

instance, representations of the Ibex, could be more closely related to its significance as an animal revered in fertility cults. The rock art of Ladakh, as it proceeds to the historic period reveals many treasures. Quite apart from the Buddhist and religious iconography in the form of chortens (stupas) and swastikas, we encounter, notably at Khaltse, Alchi and Tangtse a number of inscriptions in various languages including, Karoshthi, Brahmi, Sogdian, Arabic, Chinese and archaic Tibetan, which provide us with unique information and clues about little-known periods of Ladakh's history. Very recent discoveries of human activity in the Nubra Valley have been dated to about 10,000 years BP, far beyond in time than previously imagined, and it is upon this immense canvas of time that rock art can provide a few pieces of the jigsaw puzzle towards a picture of times long gone. In conclusion, it is necessary to note that the rock art of Ladakh faces a severe threat of damage and destruction due to a host of circumstances including apathy and lack of awareness of local communities, and 'development' projects (roads, dams, construction activity), that do not take into sufficient account their impact on cultural heritage. There is however, a growing awareness amongst Ladakhi's of this priceless cultural heritage, and we have a few encouraging examples of their protection and conservation.

**Figure 1: Human figures with bow and arrow, on foot and on horseback, hunting wild sheep**



Figure2: Solitary bowman and ibex



Figure 3- A maned horse with young



Figure 4- A Bactrian camel being drawn by a horseman. (Small populations of these camels still exist in the desert areas of Nubra)



Figure 5- Handprints



Figure 6: a deer in the Animal Style with Chinese inscription at left



Figure 7- Various symbols- swastika, lotus, inscriptions shown alongside deer and wild sheep

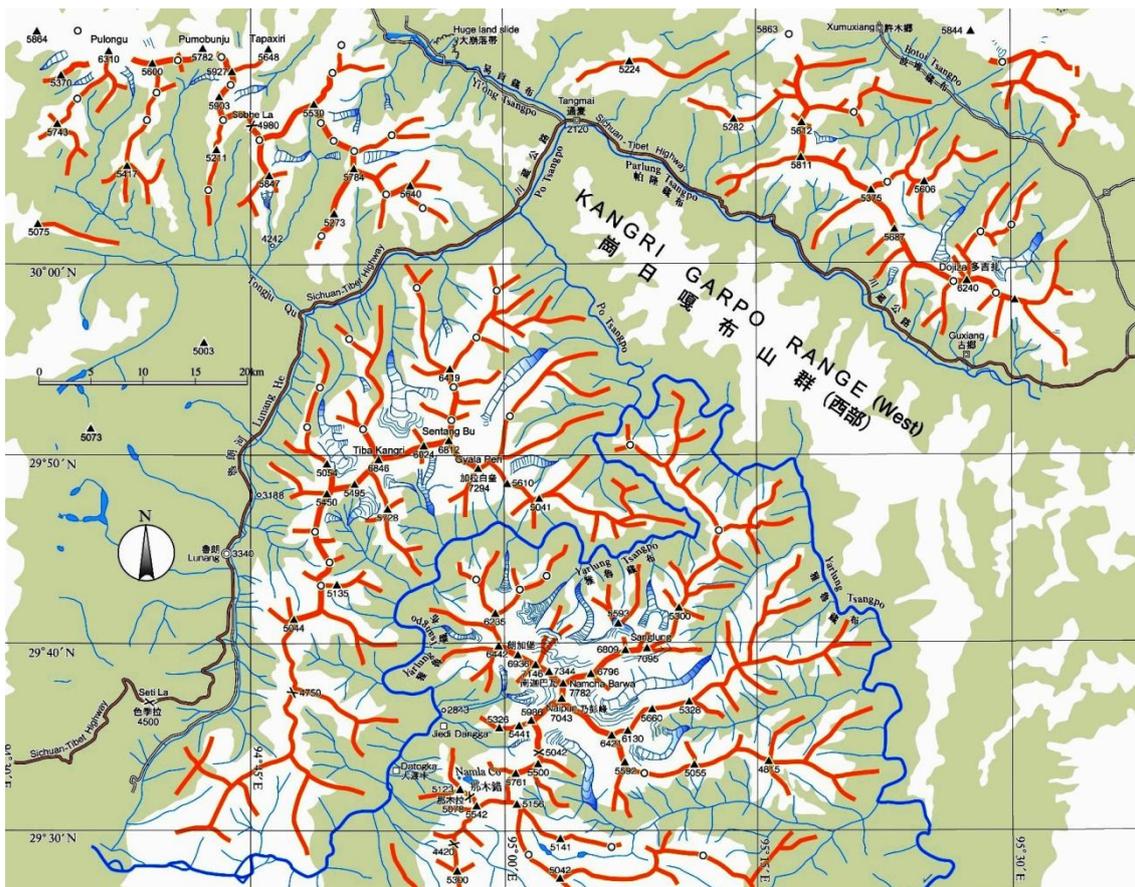


## HENGDUAN MOUNTAINS CLUB

# Easternmost Rim of the Himalaya

(compiled by Tom Nakamura)

The Tsangpo transforms itself into the Brahmaputra and flows into the Bay of Bengal after surging between two striking peaks, the 7,782 meters giant, Namcha Barwa and the Gyala Peri 7,294 meters massif. But in the late 1800s, the Tsangpo Gorges were romoured to conceal a waterfall that rivalled Victoria Falls. Cloached in mystery and protected by fierce tribesmen and impenetrable terrain, the Tsangpo was the center of considerable geographical debate. Determined probes to unravel its secrets were made by the Pundit surveyor Kintup (1880) and British explorers Frederic M. Bailey and Henry Morshead (1911 – 1913).





**Namcha Barwa West Face seen from Seti La 4500m**

## **1. Namcha Barwa 7782m**

Being located on the easternmost rim of the great Himalaya in East Tibet, Namcha Barwa had long been inaccessible until the China implemented an open-door policy by Deng Xiao Ping in late 1970s. It is about 390km away to east from Lhasa and encircled with the Tsangpo Great Bent. In 1912 a British of the Survey of India, H. T. Morshead first had a glimpse of the summit from a hill in Assam and in 1913 Morshead and F. M Bailey found the Graat Bent of the Yarlung Tsangpo. Namcha Barwa means 'a red flush of lightening streaking across the sky'. In 1973, the Chinese Academy of Sciences began to send teams from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau institute for conducting scientific survey and research of the basin of the Yarlung Tsangpo. But an attempt to climb the mountain had to wait until the Japanese Alpine Club and the China Mountaineering Association organized a powerful joint expedition in late 1980s.

In succession to the first attempt in 1991, the Japan-China joint team headed by Jiro Yamada (Japan) and Losang Dawa (China) challenged again in 1992.

BC 3520m was established in the southwestern side on September 14. C1 4300m was set up above primeval forest. C2 4850m was built on a flat place of the glacier which

flowed from Naipun peak 7043m on the south ridge. Rock wall to the C2 mixed with snow and ice. They traversed a couloir in deep snow and set up C3 5600m on the south ridge. They followed the long south ridge in deep snow to C4 6200m, and C5 6900m was place just beneath the Naipun peak. On October 27, they descended 200m along the south ridge and set up the final assaulting camp, C6 6700m. On October 28, the route was to traverse the south face and 14 ropes were fixed on the most critical pitches to rock band. On October 29, they fixed further 24 ropes onward and bivouacked at 7600m. On the following day they pushed three pitches before reaching NNE ridge. Struggle against deep snow to waist on the NNE ridge led to the summit. The first party stood atop at 12:09 on October 30. The second party stood atop at 14:30 on the same day. The ascent must be one of the hardest and most remarkable climbs in the Himalaya.

## **Climbing Record of Namcha Barwa**

The following is a summary of Climbing Record of Namcha Barwa described on an official report of the Japan-China Joint Expedition in 1992.

### **1. Attempt by Chinese parties 1960 – 1984**

The first attempt was made by a Tibetan party in 1960. They reached a point at 5,000m on the south ridge. Then there was a long blank time and full scale expeditions commences in 1982 after 22 years. In the same year the Chinese Academy of Sciences conducted survey and research of the Yarlung Tsangpo and adjacent unvisited areas. The mountaineering expeditions made a reconnaissance of a viable climbing route in 1982 and succeeded in the first ascent of Naipun peak 7,043m 1983. In the following year they again challenged with powerful members of strong Tibetan climbers, but could not go farther than Naipun peak. The season of their attempts in 1982 - 1984 was in the pre-monsoon which fosters much snow precipitation.

### **2. Failure in 1991**

The Japan-China Joint Expedition started in 1990. In this year a joint reconnoitering party ascended up to a point 6,900m of Naipun peak in only 8 days and could have a confidence to reach the summit of Namcha Barwa from there. In 1991 a full scale joint team was dispatched for climbing. They set up BC on September 30, but unexpected

deep snow caused a fatal accident. On October 16, Hiroshi Ohnishi was killed by avalanche en route to C4. This happening made climbing speed very slow and consequently they failed to reach the summit due to lack of time and supplies and fierce winds prevailing in high altitudes.

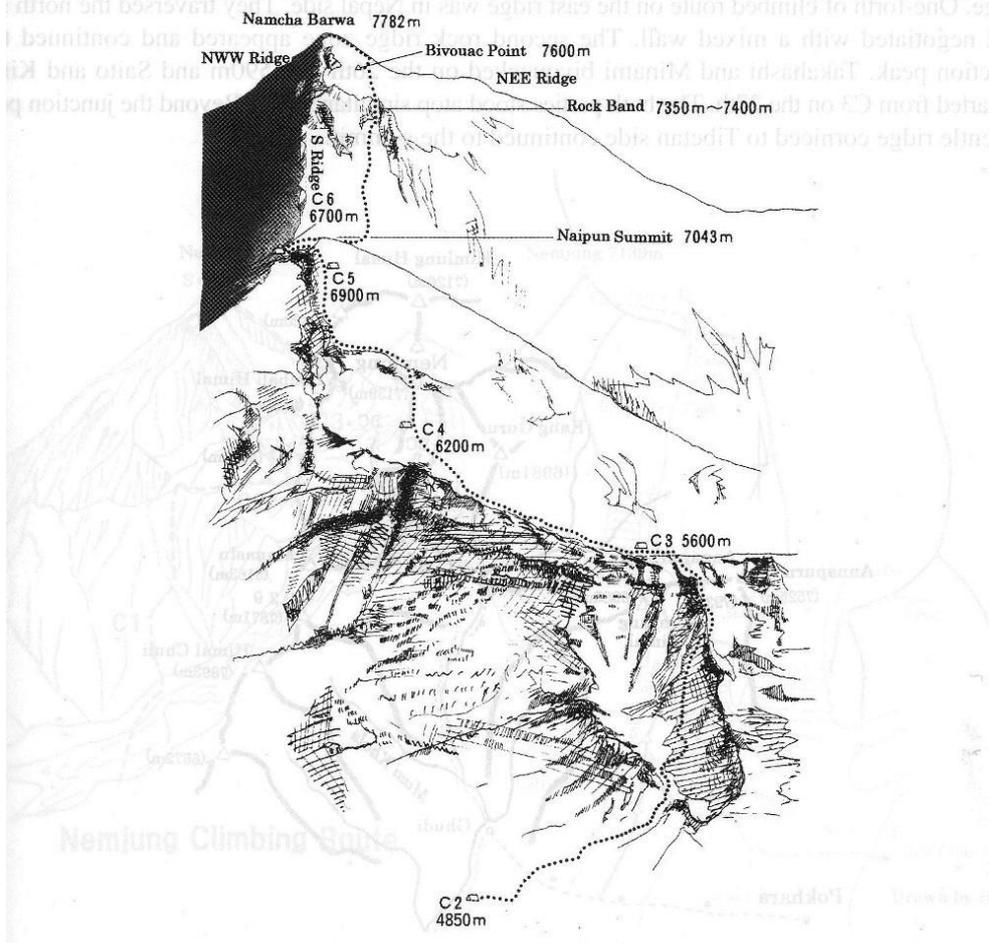
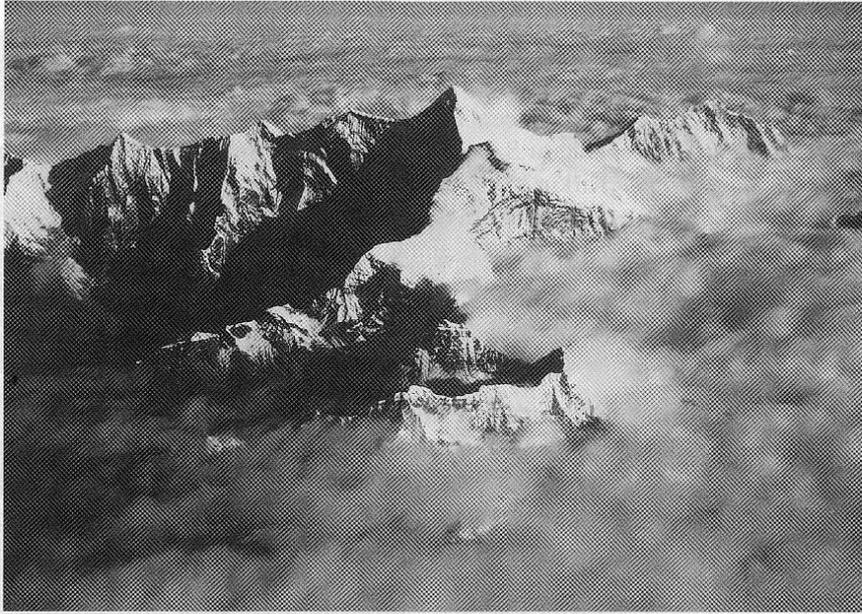
## 2. Tactics in 1992



Namcha Barwa seen from Gyala Peri



The failure in 1991 taught a good lesson.



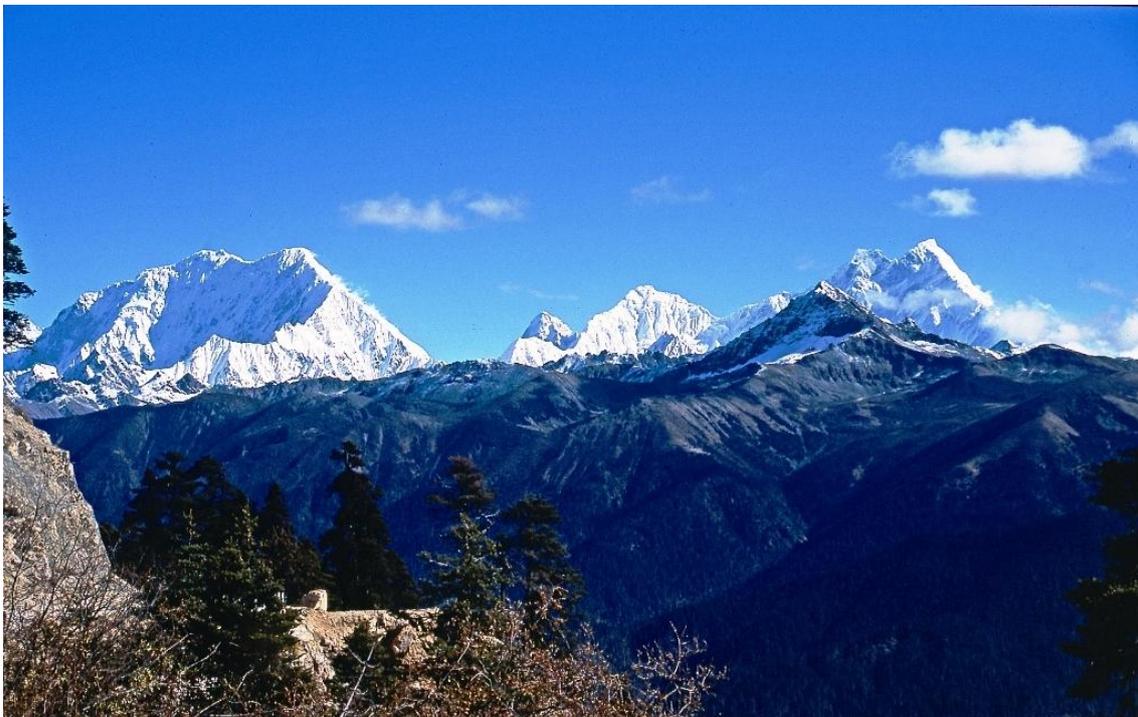
Post-monsoon season (October) would be the best timing for assaulting the summit in consideration of weather conditions. This is the most important factor for the success.

Their climbing tactics were:-

1. C2 must be set up by mid September.
2. Climbing period was staged in 3 steps:
  - (1) Placing BC. C1, C2 and route paving to C3 for ferrying loads.
  - (2) Placing C3, C4 and route paving to C5.
  - (3) Placing C5 and route work to C6 and farther to the rock band, and assaulting the summit.
3. Controlling logistics in most efficient and optimum supplies distribution.
4. Best combination of members in two teams.
5. Enhancing an ability of weather forecast: one specialist was included in the members. Though the meteorological satellite “Noa”, an access to information from the Japan Meteorological Association was possible.

Note: One of 6 Tibetan summitters is Bianba Zaxi (27 years old in 1992). He is a potential eight-thousander now well-known in world mountaineering community.

### **3. Gyala Peri 7294m massif**



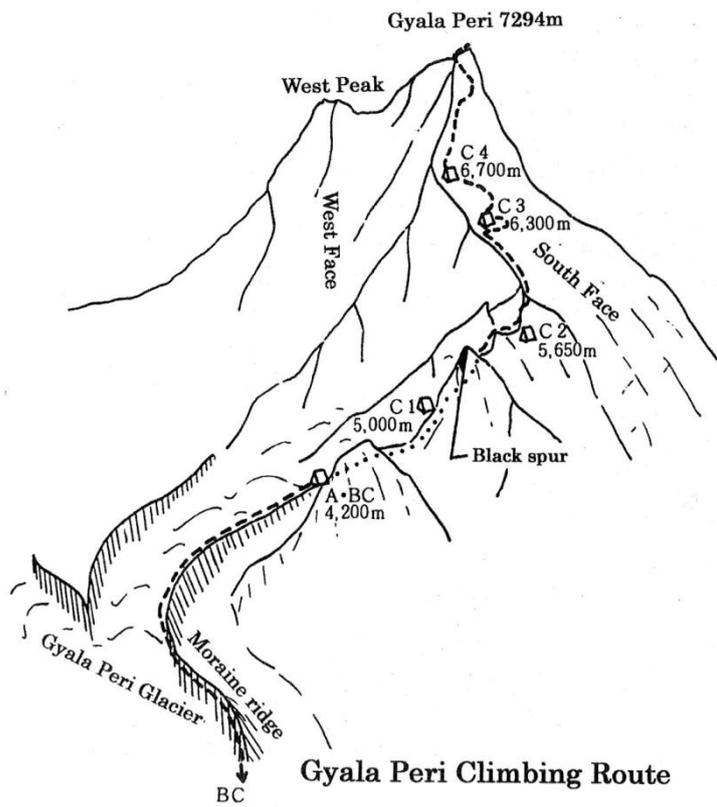
**(from left) Tiba Kangri, Sengtan Bu, Gyala Peri**

There are outstanding mountains massif with three prominent peaks north of Namcha Barwa and the Tsangpo Great Bent. They are Gyala Peri 7294m, Tiba Kingri 6846m and Sentang Bu 6812m. Gyala Peri is 24km NNW of Namcha Barwa. In 1912, H. T. Morshead and F. M. Bailey first had a look. In 1913, F. M. Bailey viewed this peak from the ridge near Sangulung Glacier.

In 1936, '38, '46 – '47, Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff entered the region for quest for flowers and plants hunting. They brought back plenty of pictures. Gyala is the name of a village on the right bank of Yarlung Tsangpo. Peri means a high mountain. The first ascent was made a Japanese party of the Himalayan Association of Japan headed by Yoshio Ogata via the south ridge on October 31, 1936. But the other two peaks, Tiba Kangri and Sentang Bu have not been yet attempted and remain untrodden accordingly.

On September 15, the Japanese party set up BC 3200m on the right bank of the Gyala Peri Glacier. From there they started climbing of 4000m in elevation. Advance base camp 4200m was established at the foot of the west face in the opposite side of the Glacier. Climbs first began with a long rock ridge of the right rim of the face. After three pitches of knife-edged ridge from the plateau, C1 5000m was set up. Four pitches on rock ridge, detour of pinnacles, eight pitches of snow ridge and further push on a slab at 60 – 70 degree angle covered with unstable snow led to a place for C2 5650m. Above the C2, they climbed the south ridge, negotiating crevassed ice cliffs and set up C3 6300m. Ice cliffs continued. Climbing route was taken upwards among the ice cliffs to C4 6700m. After taking rest, four members returned to C3 on October 28.

On October 31, three members reached the foot of the summit rock wall after being bothered by deep snow. There were complicated crevasses beneath the summit. They climbed ice wall with double axes from the bottom of couloir like a well. They stood a top at 16:55. It took 13 hours from C3.

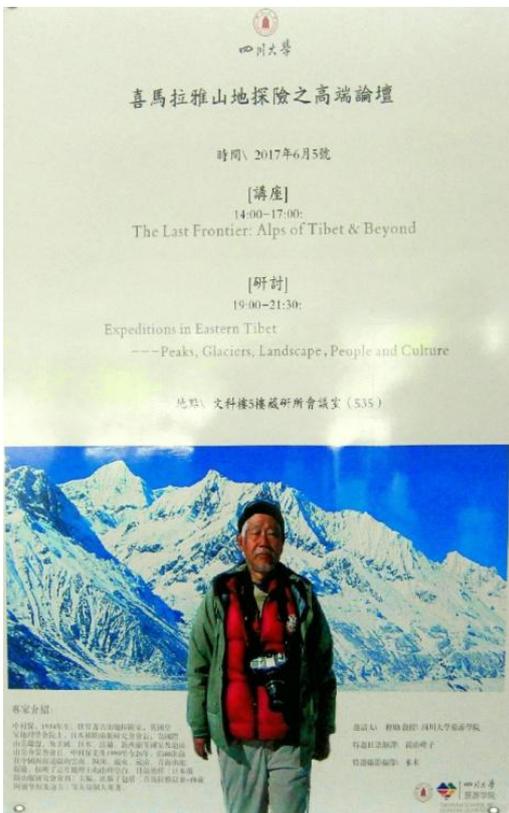


**Gyala Peri South Face**

TAMOTSU (Tom) NAKAMURA  
 Sichuan China – June 2017  
 Sichuan University-Lectures and Interview



(above) Main gate-Sichuan University (below) Board & Bldg for Nakamura's lectures



Nakamura was invited by Professor Li Cheng of the tourism school of Sichuan University (SCU) as a visiting professor for lectures and interview on June 5 – 6, 2017. The subjects were “The Last Frontier-Alps of Tibet and Beyond” and “Forbidden South Tibet, Changing Tibet’. Many undergraduates and master course students gathered to hear his presentation.

The Sichuan University, which ranks fifth among the Chinese universities, is located in Chengdu of Sichuan Province known as “land of abundance”. It is an institution that comprises three former national universities.

1. The Sichuan University: The history dates back to the Sichuan Chinese and Western School founded Governor of Sichuan in 1896, the earliest modern institute of higher education in Southwest China.
2. Chengdu University of Science and Technology: The earliest multi-disciplinary engineering university. Merged into the Sichuan University in 1994.
3. West China University of Medical Sciences: Was established by western Christian missionaries in Chengdu in 1910. Merged into the Sichuan University in 2000.

The Sichuan University has disciplines of 12 categories – humanities, science, engineering, medicine, economy, management, law, history, philosophy, agriculture, education, and art. It consists of 34 colleges.

The Sichuan University has exhibited great strength in research and made remarkable achievements over the years. It has 13 key national laboratories and engineering centers, 4 state-level international scientific and technological cooperation bases, 11 key laboratories and 6 engineering research centers supervised by Ministry of Education.

Current student body includes approximately 37,000 undergraduate students, over 20,000 master and PhD candidates and more than 3, 400 international students (10 Japanese) and students from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

The Sichuan University has established contacts and cooperative relationships with over 250 renowned colleges and university as well as research institutes from 34 countries and regions. It has established well-rounded joint education programs of at different levels and in various forms with 214 famous universities from over 33 countries, including United States, Australia, and some European Countries.

The University has established five Confucius institutes in collaboration with five universities in South Korea, the US and Belgium. It has set up the Jiuzhaigou International Research Center for Ecology, Environment and Sustainability in a joint effort with the University of California and the University of Washington, Sino-US Institute for University Design with Arizona State University, Sino-German Joint Center for Energy Research with Clausthal University of Technology.



**Prof. Li Cheng's opening address**



**Students and audiences listening to Lectures**



(from left) Mineko Matsuyama-interpreter, Tom Nakamura, Prof. Li Cheng



Nakamura's presentation using 150 slides of "Last Frontier-Alps of Tibet & Beyond"



TAMOTSU (TOM) NAKAMURA  
**Jiulong County, Sichuan–China. June 2017**  
**Exploring Unknown Mountains and Rock Peaks**

You would find a mountain, which is noted as “Niceu (尼色峨) 5564m”, on the Chinese map. This mountain is located in the southernmost end of Daxue Shan Range (大雪山山系), the largest mountains range in the West Sichuan Highlands. The geographical definition of this mountain range is rather ambiguous. For the sake of convenience, however, I apply the scope commonly used among mountaineers in China. It stretches about 230km north to south from Xiaqiangla 5470m, the northernmost peak, to Niceu, comprising of the following outstanding massifs.

- ① Xiaqiangla 5470m NW of Danba
- ② Yala Shan (Haizi Shan) 5820m north of Tagong
- ③ Lotus Flower Mtns 5702m NE of Kangding
- ④ Lamo-she 6070m east of Kangding
- ⑤ Nine lake ten peaks 5528m
- ⑥ Minya Konka 7556m massif, north and south
- ⑦ Ren Zhong Feng 5731m massif south of Minya Konka
- ⑧ Niceu 5564m massif west of Wangba, Jiulong County

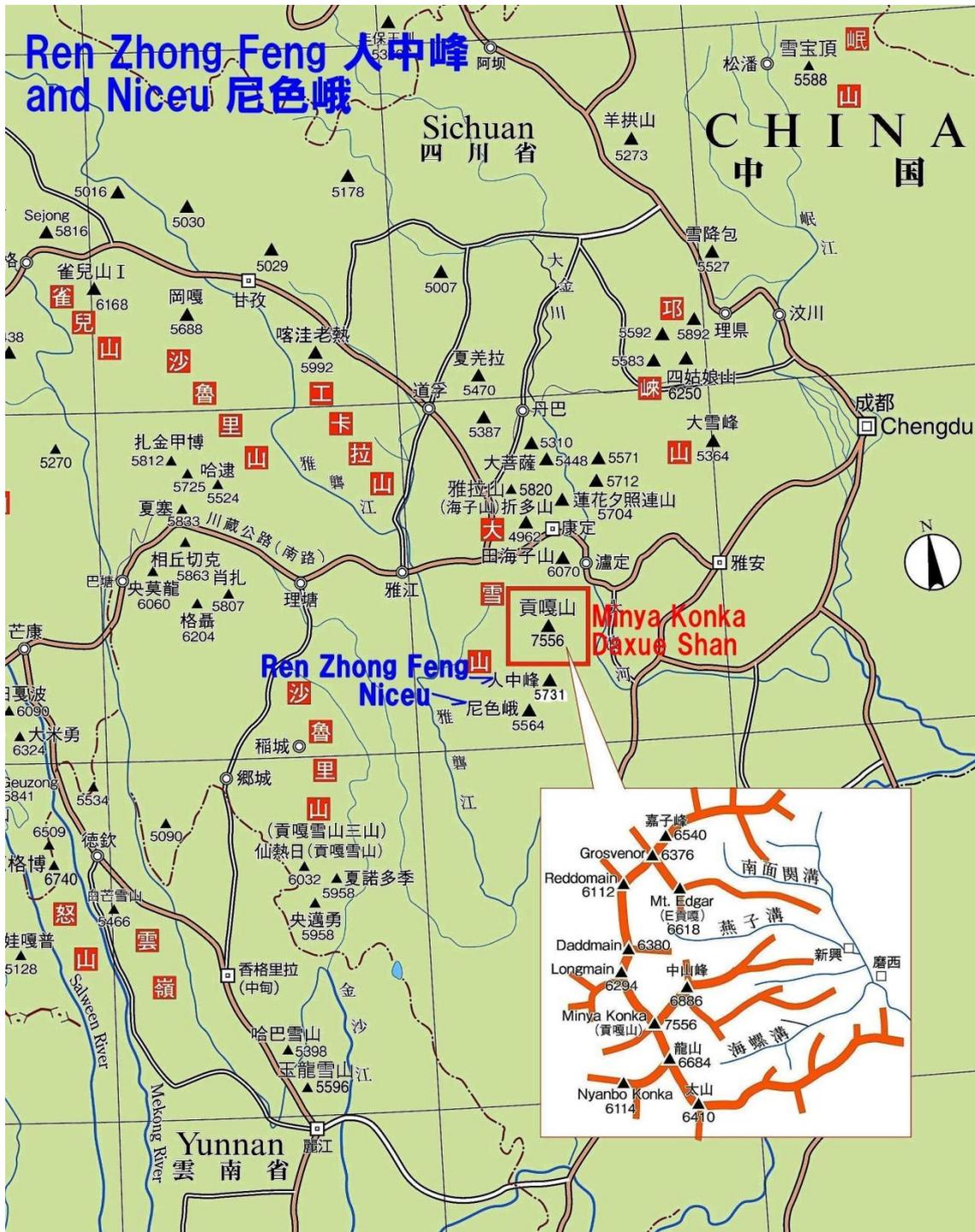
The objectives of June 2017 journey were:-

1. To view the Southern side of Ren Zong Feng 5731m and to recognize and photograph the whole of unfrequented and unexplored Niceu massif
2. To photograph unclimbed rock peaks surrounding a scenic spot “Wuxu Hai (lake)” at 3700m north of Jiulong town of Tibetan Minority at 2860m.

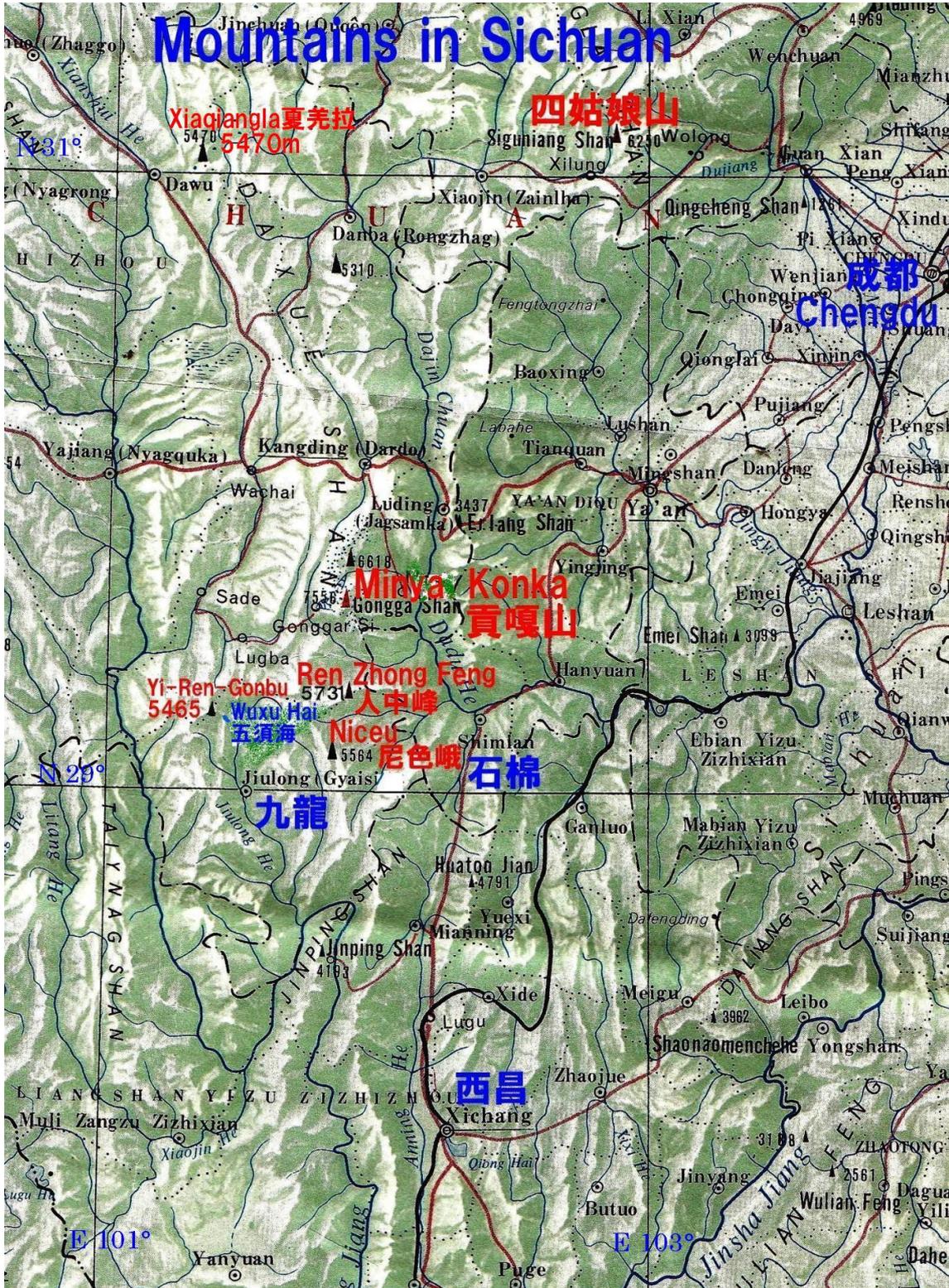
After the lectures at the Sichuan University, Chengdu, I and Zhang Jiyue of Sichuan Earth Expeditions entered Wangba valley of Yi Minority territory on June 8 via Ximien to which we drove the Chengdu-Kunming Highway in 3 hours. June is a not good season for seeing the mountains. We were so fortunate this time however that we might take advantages of a narrow chance. In only one hour interval of clear weather we could take pictures of the east face of whole massif of Niceu and the south face of Ren Zhong Feng and 5000m peaks ranging eastward from near Gold Mine at 4300m west of Wangba village 2130m at noon time. We thanked a good local guide to take us to the Mine.

On June 10, we moved to Jiulong town from Ximien via the Highway passing Miening then headed north along the gorge of Yalong Jiang (River), one of the largest tributaries of the Yangtze River. On June 11, we were lucky also here. We surveyed and photographed almost all the rock peaks surrounding an alluring and fascinating lake of

Wuxu Hai, the first class scenic spot in Jiulong County. All the rock peaks remain untrodden. Heights are less than 6000m but they would attract climbers in future. Maps and pictures are shown hereinafter.



Map of Mountains in West Sichuan Highlands 四川西部高地の山の地図

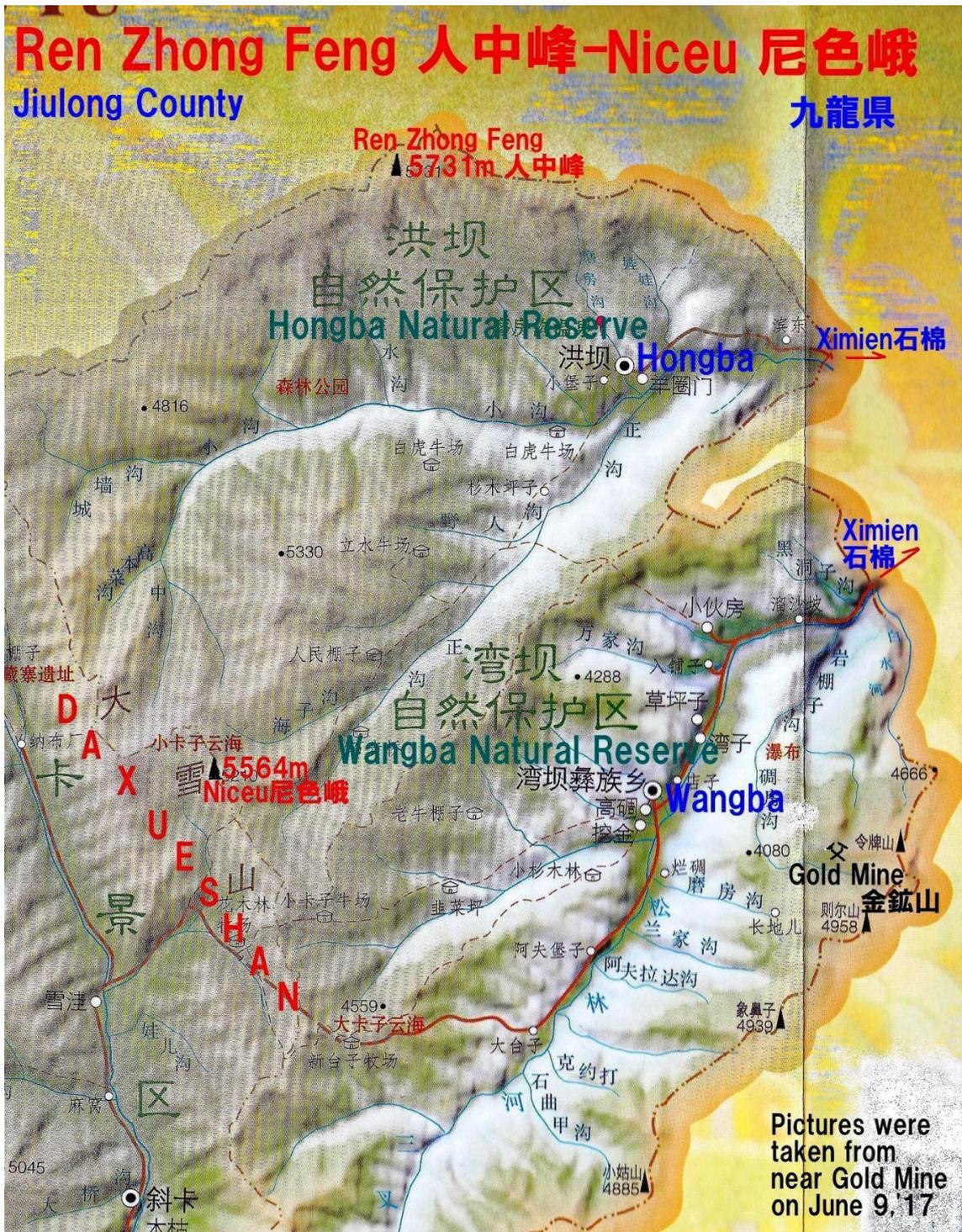




At service area of Chengdu–Yaan Highway, Clean Toilet Campaign 成都—雅安高速公路



Developing local city Ximien 970m 石棉の街 急速に発展を続ける地方都市



Map of NE Part of Jiulong County 九龍県北東部の地図

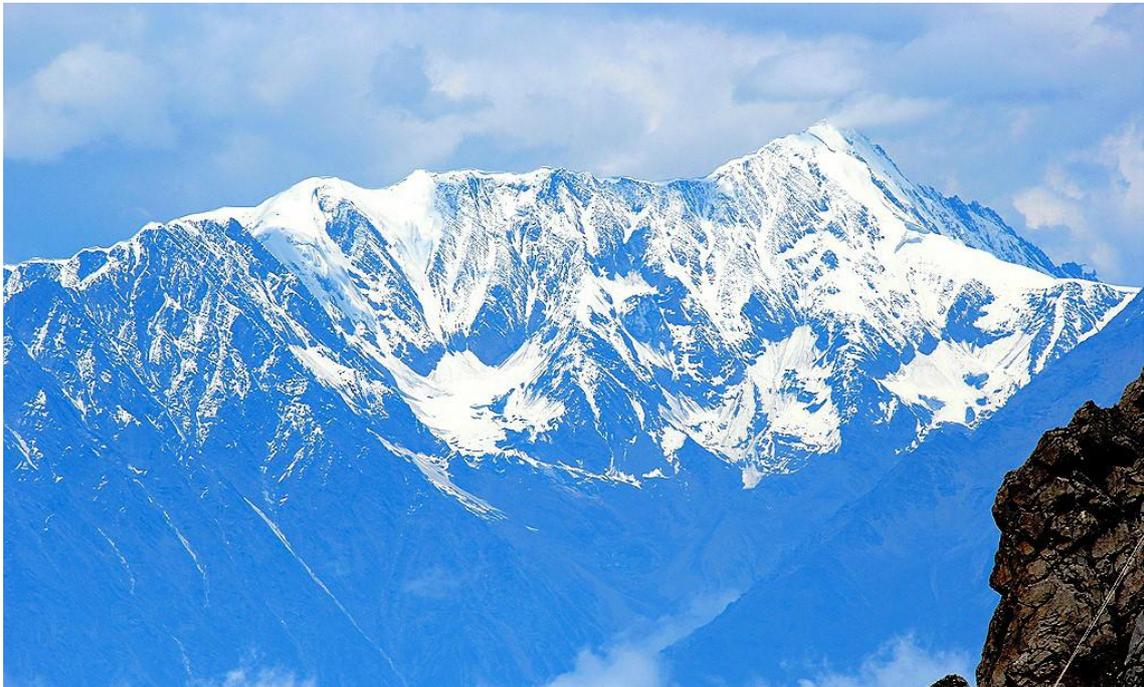
Location of Ren Zhong Feng/mountains ranging to east and Niceu and neighboring mountains massif is shown. Pictures which are shown hereinafter were taken near the Gold Mine at 4300m east of Wangba village towards north/west, west, southwest direction on June 9, 2017.

人中峰山塊、尼色峨山塊の位置を示す。写真は湾霸村の東、4,300mの金鉱山付近から撮られた。



Wangba at 2130m, a village of Yi Minority people. Base for exploring unknown mountains-Ren Zhong Feng and Niceu massif

イ族の村・湾壩 — 「尼色峨」踏査の起点



Ren Zhong Feng 5731m S face south of Minya Konka 人中峰南面、ミニヤコ・ンカの南



Ren Zhong Feng & pks 5300-5500m S face ranging to east 人中峰の東、5300-5500m 峰



Unclimbed rock peaks 5300-5500m, south face, ranging to east from Ren Zhong Feng  
人中峰から東に連なる未踏の 5300-5500mm 峰南面



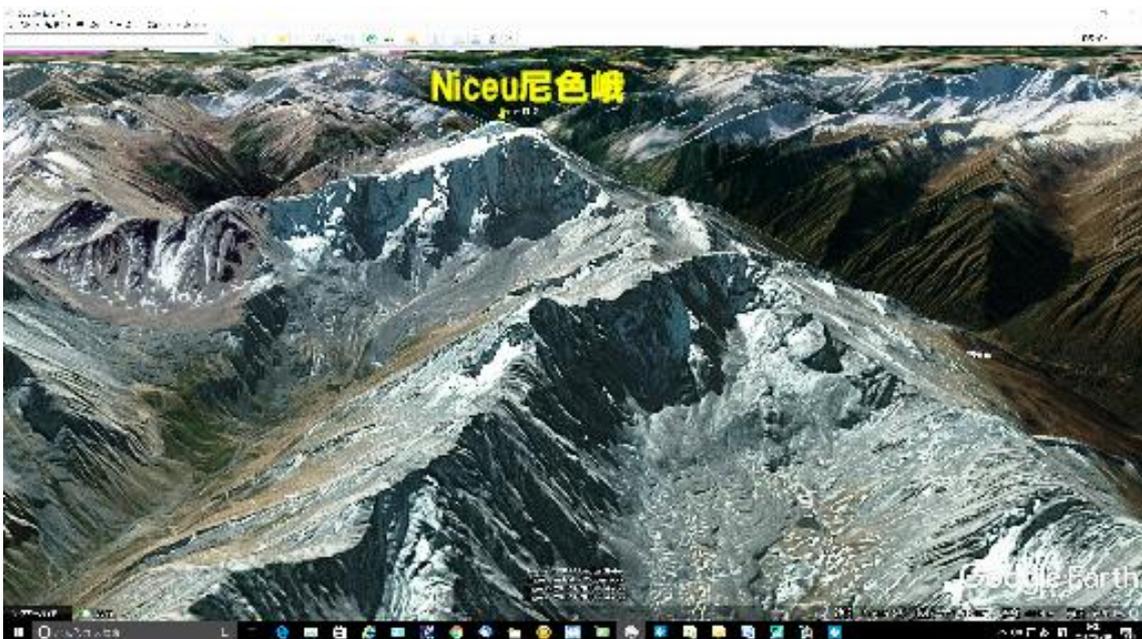
**(left) unnamed ca. 5300m Pk (center) Niceu 5564m east face, both unclimbed.**  
**(左) ca. 5300m 無名峰 (中央より少し右) 尼色峨 5564m東面、全て未踏峰**



**Unnamed 5000m peaks east face ranging to SW from Niceu**  
**尼色峨から南西に連なる無名の 5000m峰東面**



Niceu 5564m east face viewed from at 4300m near Gold Mine west of Wangba village  
湾壩村の西の金鉱山付近 4300m地点から望んだ尼色峨 5564mの東面



Google Earth image of northwest face of Niceu 5564m (compliment of Mr. T. Maeda)  
尼色峨北西面のグーグルアース・イメージ (前田種雄氏提供)



**Unnamed 5000m peaks ranging to SW from Niceu**  
尼色峨の南西に連なる無名の 5000m峰東面



**Unnamed 5000m viewed to south from at 4300 near Gold Mine**  
金鉱山から付近 4300mから南に望む無名の 5000m峰

Pictures in this page were taken by Mr. Liu from near Gold Mine in February 2017

この頁は 2017 年 2 月に劉渝宏氏によって金鉱山の近くで撮影された写真



(left) Minya Konka 7556m (center) Tai Shan 6410m, south face

(左) ミニヤ・コンカ 7556m (中央) 太山 6410m、南面



Zhongshan 6886m northeast of Minya Konka, south face

ミニヤ・コンカの北東、中山峰 6886m 南面



Ren Zhong Feng 5731m south face 人中峰 5731m 南面



Chengdu-Kunming Expressway between Ximien and Xichang: Tunnel-Bridge loop  
 成都（四川）－昆明（雲南）高速道路、石棉・西昌間のトンネル橋梁ループ



Yi Minority's letter 少数民族イ族の独特な文字

(Notes: Yi Minority population is 8 million, while Tibetan population is 6 million)

(註記：イ族の人口は 800 万人、チベット族の 600 万人より多い)



撮影・鷹見安浩

中国少数民族・イ族の未解読史料の研究成果を刊行した

# 顔

清水 しみず

享さん とむる

44

売間  
読新  
2012年  
2月  
10日

中国西南部の少数民族・イ族に関する研究者は日本に数人しかおらず、私自身がマイノリティー」と笑う。独自の文字を持つイ語の未解読史料が残る台湾の図書館に3年通いつめて19世紀のイ族社会を分析、「礼儀知らずは死後家畜になる」といった道徳観を浮き彫りにした。

研究成果は3月に刊行され、イ族の中国人研究者に「大陸にない史料だ。大発見だ」と称賛された。「何度も音を上げそうになった」苦勞が報われた。

北京に留学していた約20年前、イ文字の「子どもが書いて

たようなひょうきんさ」に魅了され、この世界に入った。現在は東京外大の研究員。毎年3〜4回の現地調査を行い、イ族の友人とドブロクを痛飲する。友人からもらったイ語の名前は「ミエツササ」（幸せなヒゲ）。大学の講師を掛け持ちする多忙な日々で、「欲しいのは研究する時間と嫁さん」と冗談を飛ばす。

イ族は約800万人いる。だが、漢族文化の浸透で史料を読める若者は少ない。「これだけ付き合っただけ、情もわいた。彼らのお手伝いをしたい」。急務となった文献解読を続ける。（国際部 比嘉清太）

A Japanese scholar studying Yi Minority language, イ族の言葉を研究する学者を紹介

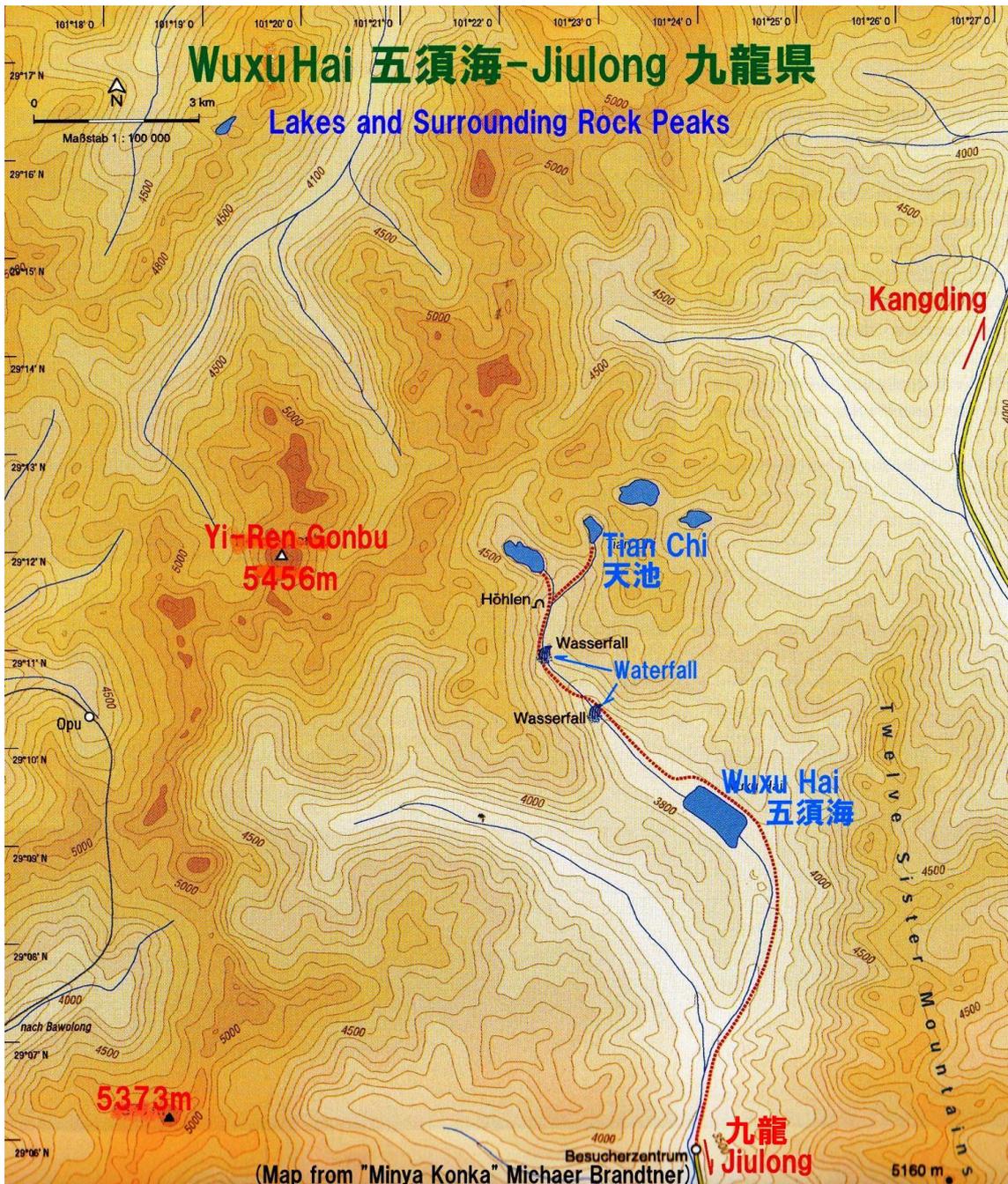


**Fertile land of Yi people, Tobacco plants (left), paddy field and dressed up Yi girl.**

イ族の豊穡の土地、タバコ葉栽培（左）、稲の水田、着飾ったイ族の娘さん



**Gorge of Yalong Jiang and road to Jiulong 雅礮江ゴルジュと九龍への藏族イ族街道**



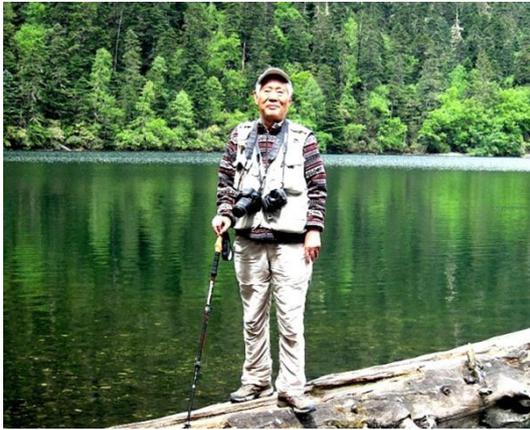
Jiulong County of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture has many touristic spots but they are not much popular for foreigners. Among these a scenic area of Wuxu Hai (Lake) is most reputed. All unclimbed rock peaks of 5000–5500m surrounding the lake would attract climbers' attention, though altitude of the mountains is not high and scale is small. 甘孜藏族自治州の九龍県は観光資源に恵まれているが、外国人にはあまり知られていない。しかし、五須海（湖）は一級の観光スポットであり、湖を囲繞する 5000-5500m の岩峰の連なりはスケールこそ小さいがクライマーの関心を惹く。全て未踏である。



Jiulong town plaza, Tibetans gather for dancing. 九龍の広場、チベット族はダンス好き



Beautiful and fascinating Wuxu Hai (Lake) 美しい五須海（湖）一級の観光スポット



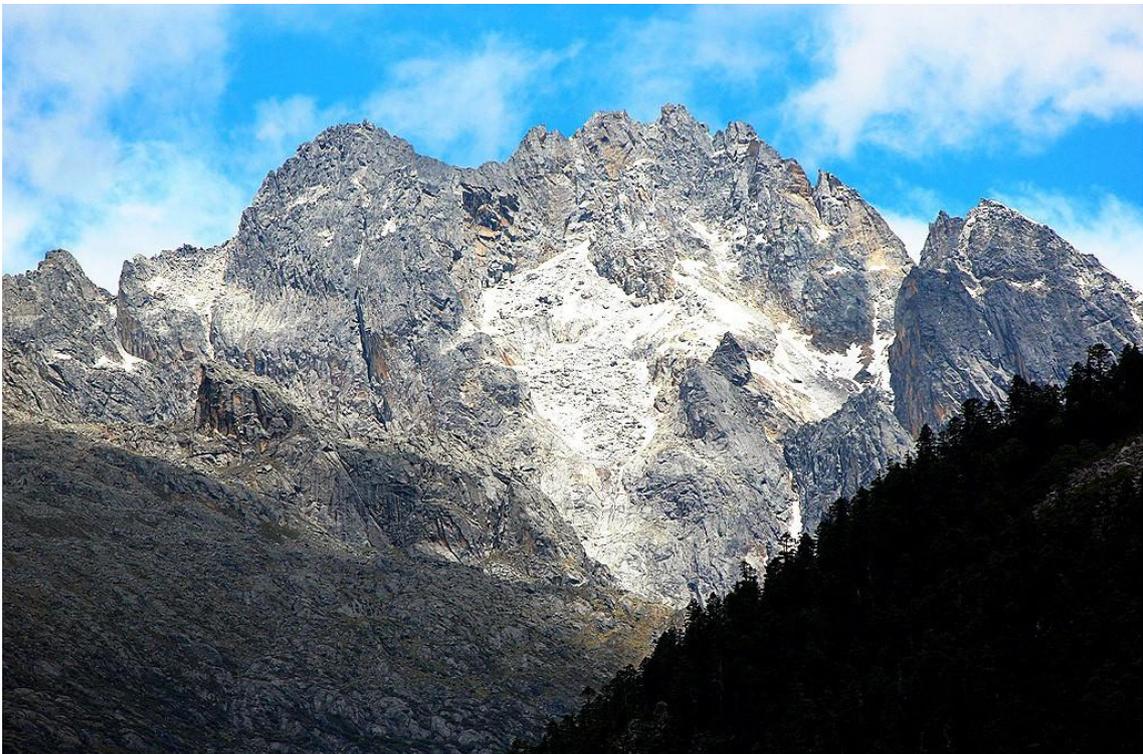
(left) Tom Nakamura 中村保、(right) Zhang Jiyue 張繼躍、四川大地探検—Wuxu Hai



Rock peaks immediate northwest of Wuxu Hai 五須海の直ぐ北西に連なる岩峰群



Yi-Ren-Gonbu 5456m southeast face イレンゴンブ 5456m 南東面



ca. 5300m peak north of Yi-Ren-Gonbu イレンゴンブの北、ca. 5300m peak



Rock peaks 5200-5300m south of Yi-Ren-Gonbu east face イレンゴンブ南のピーク東面



Rock peak ca. 5300m south of Yi-Ren-Gonbu east face イレンゴンブ南のピーク東面



5373m peak east face southwest of Wuxu Hai 五須海の南西の5373m峰東面



Wuxu Hai and rhododendron 五須海と石楠花



(above two photos 上の二つの写真)

“Twelve (12) Sisters Mountains” 5000m plus-minus west face ranging east of Wuxu Hai  
五須海の東側に連なる “十二姉妹マウンテン” 5000m前後、西面



Ancient stone towers, road from Jiulong to Kangding 昔の石塔、九龍から康定への道



Road and Tibetan houses rapidly being refurbished, 道路とチベット族民家、急速に整備



Neverending expansion of Kangding new town 膨張するニュータウン、康定


**康定新城广场**  
 KANGDING  
 NEW PLAZA

# 城市温泉生活广场

奢居华宅 | 休闲商业 | 温泉酒店  
 { 2017耀世首发 }

 **0836-7775 777**

项目地址：康定新城翰林路（广电局515台旁） 临时接待中心：康定情歌大酒店大堂（老城）/康定新城地广场（新城） 开发商：盛和地产



Hive of construction – Yaan-Kangding Highway: Bridge, Tunnels and elevated road



建設の槌音が響く：雅安—康定高速道 200 k m、吊橋(大渡河)/トンネル / 高架で繋ぐ

WURI WUSA 烏里烏沙

## Photo Gallery

### Dulong River 独龍江 Valley and Minority People

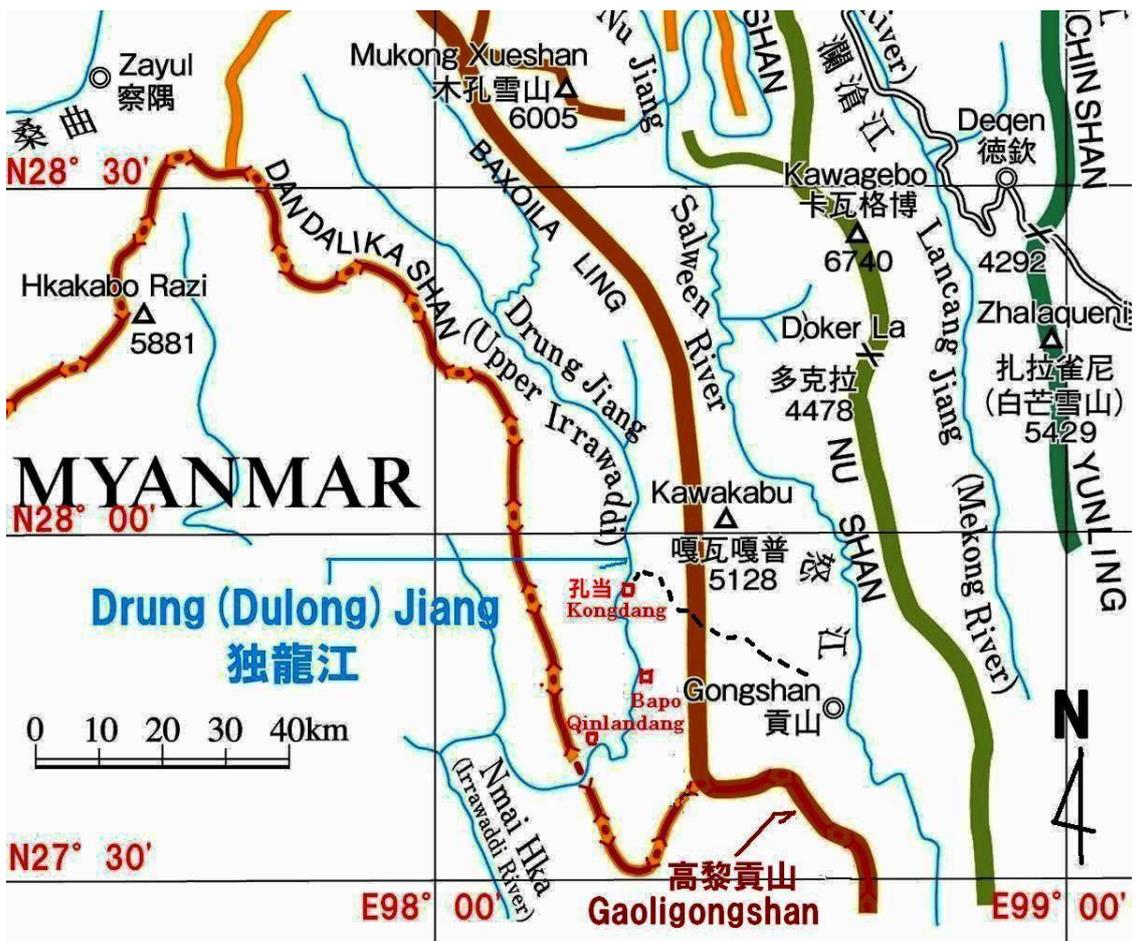
In June 2016, I entered Dulong Jiang (River), the remotest corner of Northwest Yunnan from Gongshan after visiting first Lijiang, a homeland of Naxi Minority, Shangri-La and Nu Jiang (Salween River) basin. The Dulong Jiang constitutes the main upper stream of the Irrawaddy River flowing through Myanmar. Because of time constraint I was unable to stay in the Dulong River basin for longer time but could know and photograph “Todays” of the borderlands.

What I found there, however, contrary to my imagination the Dulong valley is no longer an isolated and secluded region of the legend but we came across a hive of construction as being witnessed wherever we go to the other parts of West China. I do hope the Photo Gallery would well explain the present Dulong valley and minority people.

#### *About Dulong Minority*

*The Douong (Drung 独龍族) is an [ethnic group](#). They form one of the [56 ethnic groups](#) in [China](#). Their population of 6,000 is found in the [Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture](#) of [Yunnan](#) in the Dulong Valley of [Gongshan Dulong and Nu Autonomous County](#). Another 600 can be found east of the Dulong valley, living in the mountains above the Nu River ([Salween River](#)) near the village of Binzhongluo in northern [Gongshan Dulong and Nu Autonomous County](#). They speak the [Dulong language](#), one of the [Sino-Tibetan languages](#). Their language is unwritten; in the past the Dulong have transmitted messages and have made records by making notches on wooden logs.*

*It is known, nevertheless, that during the period of the [Tang dynasty](#), the Dulong were under the jurisdiction of [Nanzhao](#) and the [Dali Kingdom](#). From the [Yuan dynasty](#) to the [Qing dynasty](#), the Dulong were governed by the local heads of the [Nakhi people](#). In 1913, the Dulong helped to repel a British attack in the area. Prior to the formation of the People's Republic, Dulong society was based on a system of clans. A total of 15 clans existed, called nile; each one of them was formed by diverse familiar communities. Each clan divided itself into ke'eng, towns in which the Dulong lived in common houses. Marriages between clans were prohibited.*



First bend of Nu Jiang (Salween River) near Bingzhonglou



On the way to Dulong valley from Gongshan, a swamp of Gaoligongshan



Rhododendron in Gaoligongshan



A kind of orchids in Gaoligongshan



**Old tea road along Nu Jiang (Salween River)**



**Dulong Jiang (River) and valley**



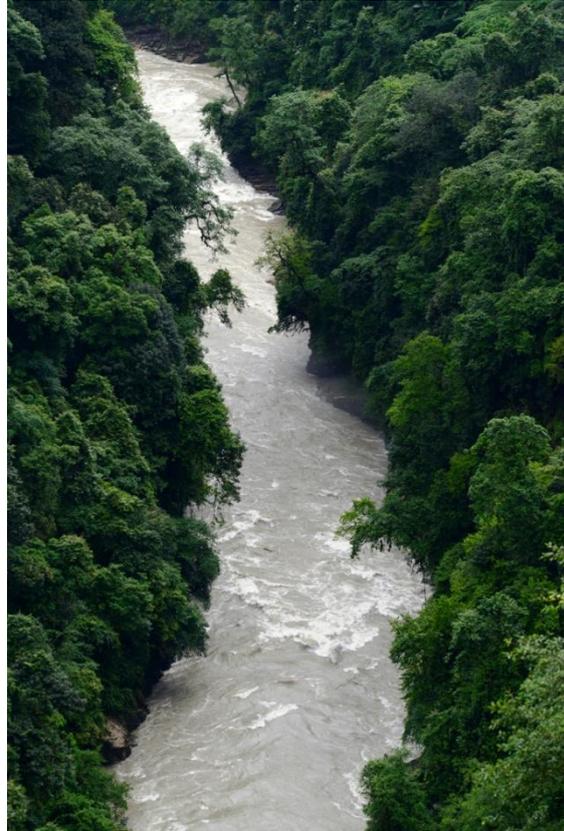
**New building in Kongdang village in Dulong Valley  
Dulong Jiang is no longer an isolated and secluded region.**



**Hotels constructed in Dulong house style, Puka village**



**Water fall of Dulong Jiang (River)**



**Dulong Jiang covered by dense forest**



**Misted stream of lower Dulong Jiang near Didangdang village**

*The typical dress of the women consists of a dress made of fabric lined with colors black and white. Formerly, the women used to tattoo their faces when they reached the age of twelve or thirteen. The tattoos of some women resembled masculine mustaches. Houses are usually constructed out of wood. They are two stories in height; the second floor is designed as the living quarters for the family whereas the first level serves as a barn and stable.*



Dulong woman with tattoo on face



Tattooed women in Dulong valley



A family in a village of Dulong valley

*Some Dulong have converted to [Christianity](#), the vast majority continue to believe in their animist native religion. There is a belief that all creatures have their own souls. Usually diverse sacrifices are made in order to calm down the malignant spirits. The role of the shaman is of great importance since they are the ones in charge of the rituals. During the celebrations of the Dulong New Year, which is celebrated in the month of December of the lunar calendar, diverse animal sacrifices are celebrated to make an offering to the sky.*



Protestant church in Dulong valley



Protestant church in Gongshan, Nu Jiang

DEREK BUCKLE  
**A Tour of the Cordillera Huayhuash**

Towards the end of May 2017 Stefan Jachmich and I flew to Lima in Peru from where we travelled north to Huaraz for a few days of acclimatisation. The grand plan was to complete a clockwise circuit of the Cordillera Huayhuash, photographing and climbing as many of the peaks as we could during our two week stay in this mountain range. Unfortunately it all started rather badly with a spell of unsettled and warm weather, which resulted in unstable snow conditions and high avalanche risk on the steeper slopes. We subsequently modified the programme to limit the objective danger.



Rondoy from the east

The first problem was recent washout damage that necessitated beginning our tour on the outskirts of the village of Rondoy where a two metre deep trench made the road impassable to motorised transport. Bernardo, our *arriero*, and five donkeys joined us here, together with our *concierno* Antonio, for the trek over the 4,700m Cacanapunta

Pass to our first stop at Janca. Despite substantial low cloud there were some excellent views of Rondoy (5,870m) *en route*. It rained for over 6-8 hours at this camp but by morning conditions had improved so we continued south across the Pucapuca Pass to our second camp at Laguna Carhuacocha (4,190m). There was some hail during the day but by late afternoon visibility had improved sufficiently for us to get panoramic views of Siula Grande (6,344m, of *Touching the Void* fame), the impressive Yerupajá (6,617m), Yerupajá Chico (6,089m) and Jirishanca (6,094m).



Panorama of the Yerupajá range from the east



Yerupajá from the east



Jirishanka from the east



Siula Grande from the east

From Laguna Carhuacocha we continued south beneath the impressive faces of Yerapajá and Siula Grande to climb steeply up to Siula Punta Pass (4,834m) before descending a very boggy track to camp at Laguna Carnicero at 4,473m. The descent to camp offered excellent views of Trapecio (5,653m), Quesillo (5,600m) and Huaraca (5,425m). We had planned to attempt one or more of these peaks but an exploratory foray beyond Laguna Sueracocha to the snowline on Quesillo convinced us (and another team that we met) that conditions were unfavourable and potentially dangerous. The frequent rumble of avalanches and continuing unstable weather were omens enough.



Trapeccio (left), Quesillo and Huaraca from the northeast. Jurao D is at the far right.

Following more rain overnight we decided to continue further south the next day rather than hope that conditions improved where we were. The modified plan was to continue to Lago Viconga from where we hoped to attempt Leon Huaccanan (Kuajadajanka, 5,421m), an easier peak with less avalanche potential. While Leon Huaccanan lies in the neighbouring Cordillera Raura rather than the Cordillera Huayhuash, it requires only a short detour to include it as part of the Huayhuash circuit. A long haul over the 4,780m Portachuelo de Huayhuash Pass led easily to a camp at 4,596m above Lago Viconga from which we hoped to make the ascent. After a preliminary foray, which established that we could not easily access Leon directly from the north, we eventually followed the recommended route *via* the Lagunas Aguascochas and moraine to scramble up the west face to the glacier. A moderate climb up the northern slopes then led to the corniced summit. We returned to camp by the same route.



Stefan on the summit ridge of Leon Huaccanan

From Lago Viconga we now made our way westwards beneath the imposing southerly slopes of Cuyoc (5,550m) to camp at Plataforma. Originally it had been our intention to attempt Cuyoc but with the conditions as they were this was looking increasingly

unlikely. We therefore continued over the Punta Cuyoc Pass (5,025m) to the hamlet of Huayllapa where we camped at 3,537m, the lowest we had been for many days.



Cuyoc from Punta Cuyoc

Climbing steeply out of the valley following the Oda Milo river we eventually reached the barren Tapush Punta Pass (4,805m) from which we descended to the Cashapampa camp site at 4,549m. It was a tiring day with over 1,300m of ascent. Two days later we left early to attempt Diablo Mudo (5,360m), a popular peak, although we understand that it has not been climbed yet this season. Following a stiff climb up the terminal moraine the route followed a complex boulder field before leading to a short buttress climb onto the glacier. After being forced left to bypass a steep gendarme we ended up on steep, mud/gravel before exiting onto clean snow once more. At 5,137m however, ominous clouds hovered around so we decided to retreat and claim the lesser north summit (5,070m) as a consolation prize. It later transpired that a better route exists from the valley to the northeast, but by this time we had no opportunity to explore other options as we had a deadline to return to Huaraz.



View towards the summit of Diablo Mudo

With time running short we continued north to camp at Jahacocha (4,078m) on 12 June from where we again got fantastic views of Rondoy and Jirishanka (this time from the west), and the next day we followed the 8km long canal path down the valley before branching right to the road-head at Llamac to end a delightful, but strenuous, circuit of the Cordillera Huayhuash.



Rondoy (left) and Jirishanka from Jahuacocha