



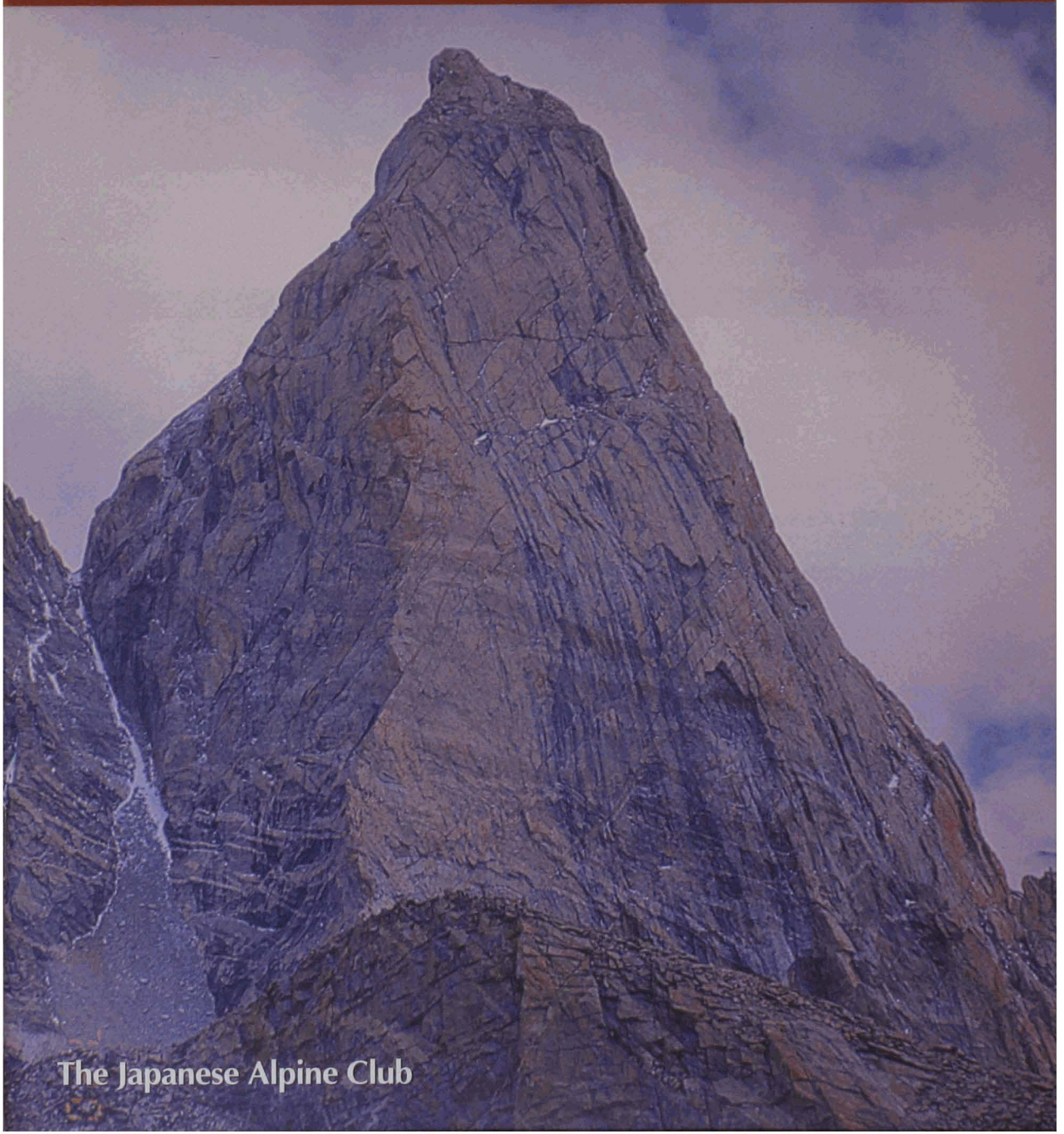
Supplement to Japanese Alpine News

Vol.5 May 2004

UPPER DOLPO IN NEPAL

Summer 1999 & 2003

Pioneering Expeditions, Notable Ascents & Adventures and Scientific Field Research



The Japanese Alpine Club

SUPPLEMENT TO
JAPANESE ALPINE NEWS
Vol.5 MAY 2004



View toward Gyang Dzong Kang 6080m seen from Gyang Dzong La.

UPPER DOLPO IN NEPAL

Tamotsu Ohnishi

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Front cover: Gyang Dzong Kang 6080m South face.

SUPPLEMENT TO
**JAPANESE
ALPINE
NEWS**
VOL.5 MAY 2004

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Design & printing
Showa-p Co.,Ltd.

Published by:
The Japanese Alpine Club
5-4 Yonbancho Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 102-0081 Japan
Phone : 03-3261-4433 Fax : 03-3261-4441
E-mail : jac-info@jac.or.jp
Web : <http://www.jac.or.jp>
http://www.jac.or.jp/english/jac_e.htm
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UPPER DOLPO IN NEPAL

Summer 1999 & 2003

Tamotsu Ohnishi

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EXPLORATIONS IN THE BORDERLAND OF UPPER DOLPO

In succession to the previous expeditions to Kanti Himal, Gorakh Himal in 1997 and Changla Himal in 1998 in Northwest Nepal, we continued our quests for Dolpo in 1999, Mustang in 2000 & 2002, Nalakankar Himal of the far western part of Nepal in 2001, and returned to Dolpo in 2003.

The following is a report of our first expedition to the borderland of Dolpo in 1999. The objective of the 1999 expedition to Upper Dolpo was firstly to unveil least-known mountain ranges in the upper Dolpo region which had long been kept secret because of geopolitical reason, and secondly, to search for and to ascend to the unvisited passes on the border between Nepal and Tibet. There are two mountain ranges called Gautam Himal (southeastern part) and Palchung Hamga Himal (northwestern part) which are shown on the maps of Survey of India (1962-63). The former range from Sana La Bhangjyang (5465m), very close to Arnikochuli(6034m) of Mustang-Dolpo border to the west, to Laru Bhangjyang (5239m). Most peaks on the border are nameless and not exceeding 6000m, except a few rocky towers. The latter, Palchung Hamga Himal, which was the main target of our expedition, ranges from Laru Bhanjyang to the Peak 6236m (N29 41 20, E82 49 40) at the northwesternmost of Dolpo district, most part of which had never been explored. Peaks and topography of the range had been left quite unknown till our approach. Some peaks would presumably exceed 6500m. However, only one peak named as Daphe Sail 6103m high (N29 40 20, E83 00 32) is indicated on a recent map. This might not be the highest peak. In the vicinity there are several passes on the border between Nepal and Tibet which had been used by local people. The Indian maps showed only the important passes. In 1900, a Japanese Buddhist monk and explorer, Ekai Kawaguchi, entered Dolpo, a "terra incognita" for foreigners and crossed one of the passes to the Tibetan high plateau. In his travel book, however, he described very little about the route that he had traced in Nepal. As a result, an identification of the pass that he had crossed has long remained controversial in Japan. Therefore we wish to highlight the Kawaguchi's footsteps in the later part of this report.



On the way between Sangda village and Tuje La, a splendid view of two peaks, Yakawa Kang (6482m) at left and Khatung Kang (6484m) at right can be seen at the direction toward Muktinath. These two peaks were added in the list of open peaks in May 2003, as the 50th memorial of the first ascent of Sagarmatha (Mount Everest).



Sangda

At the evening of the 2nd day, we arrived at Sangda in heavy sand storm, where peoples of Tibetan stock same as Dolpo is living. The village is now in the midst of late spring and terraced field among the steep slope in the valley was irrigated and covered with fresh green. Geba La (GPS 5136m, N28 54 904 E83 36 259) is seen at right of the photo.

Dhaulagiri 1 peak (8167m) from the inner pass to Chharka. In 1999 and 2003, we took an alternative route for Chharka, not ordinary Tuje La route. Kiraphuk La (5580m) is led by Lhang Hinal Khola and on the way up to the pass, we can see a splendid figure of Dhaulagiri 1 on the southern view.



Dhaulagiri 1 (8167m)



Kiraphuk La (5580m)

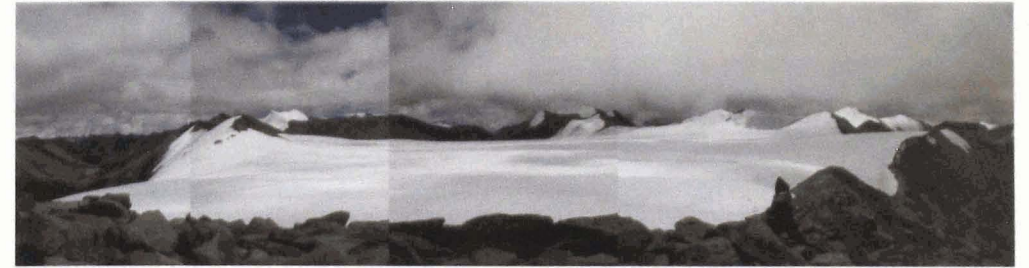
Chharka

Looking down to Chharka Tolsi Khola and Bhabung Khola from hills (Ghyamdu Lek 5565m).





Nepal side, and Tibet side with Guide of Tinkyu boy and climbing Sherpas on Pindu La.



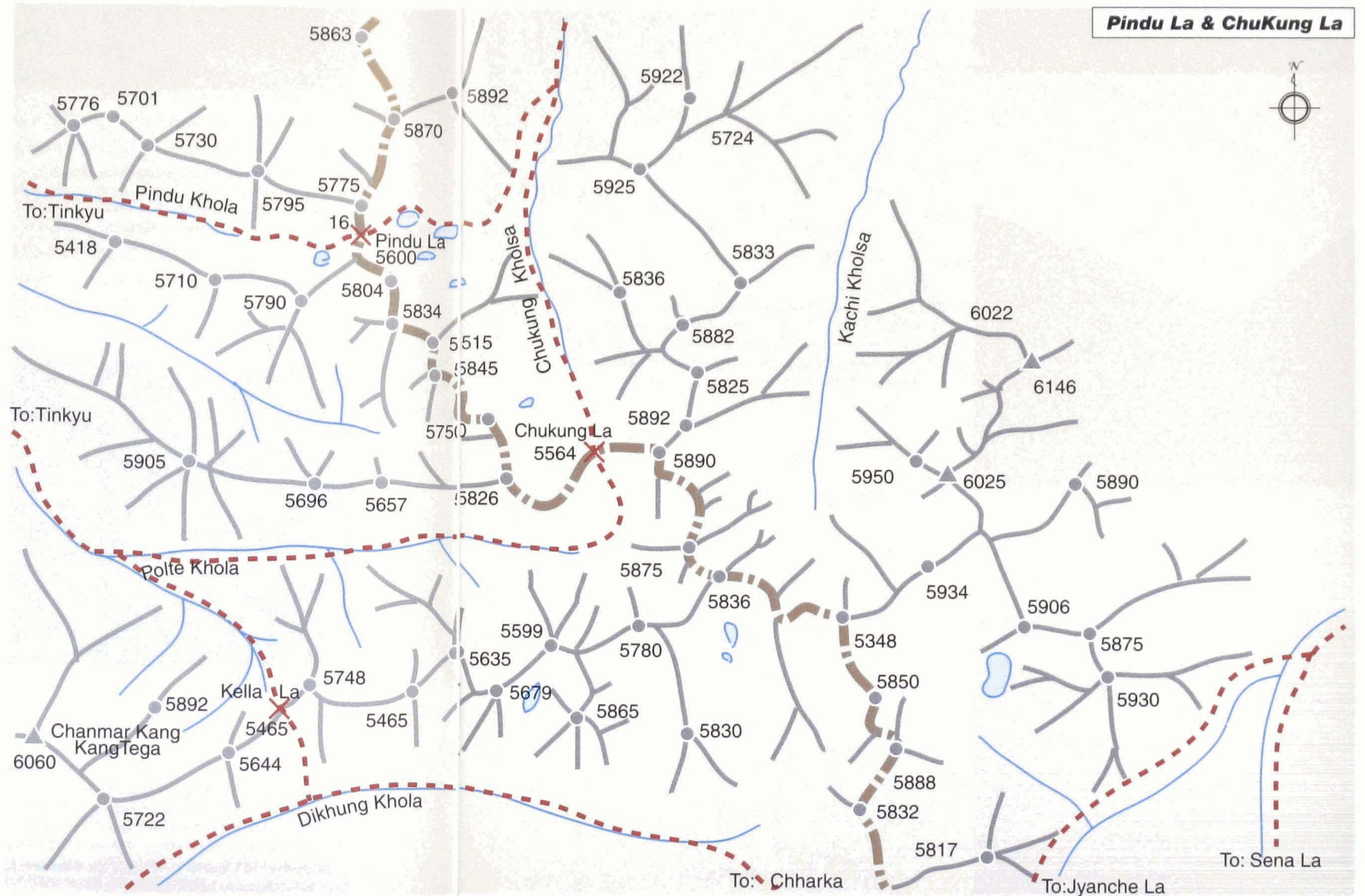
Araniko Chuli has a great snowfield extending toward north, northeast, and east. We repeated the ascent to this peak in 2002 and 2003.



At Polte Te village. A woman wears the typical head dress (Tipu) on her head. However now a days this custom seems to be disappearing.



Changmar Kang (6060m) N29 14 08 E83 21 48
This peak can be seen to NE (compass direction 41 degrees) from the point just before crossing Charku La. Panzang Khola side of this peak is called Kang Tega.





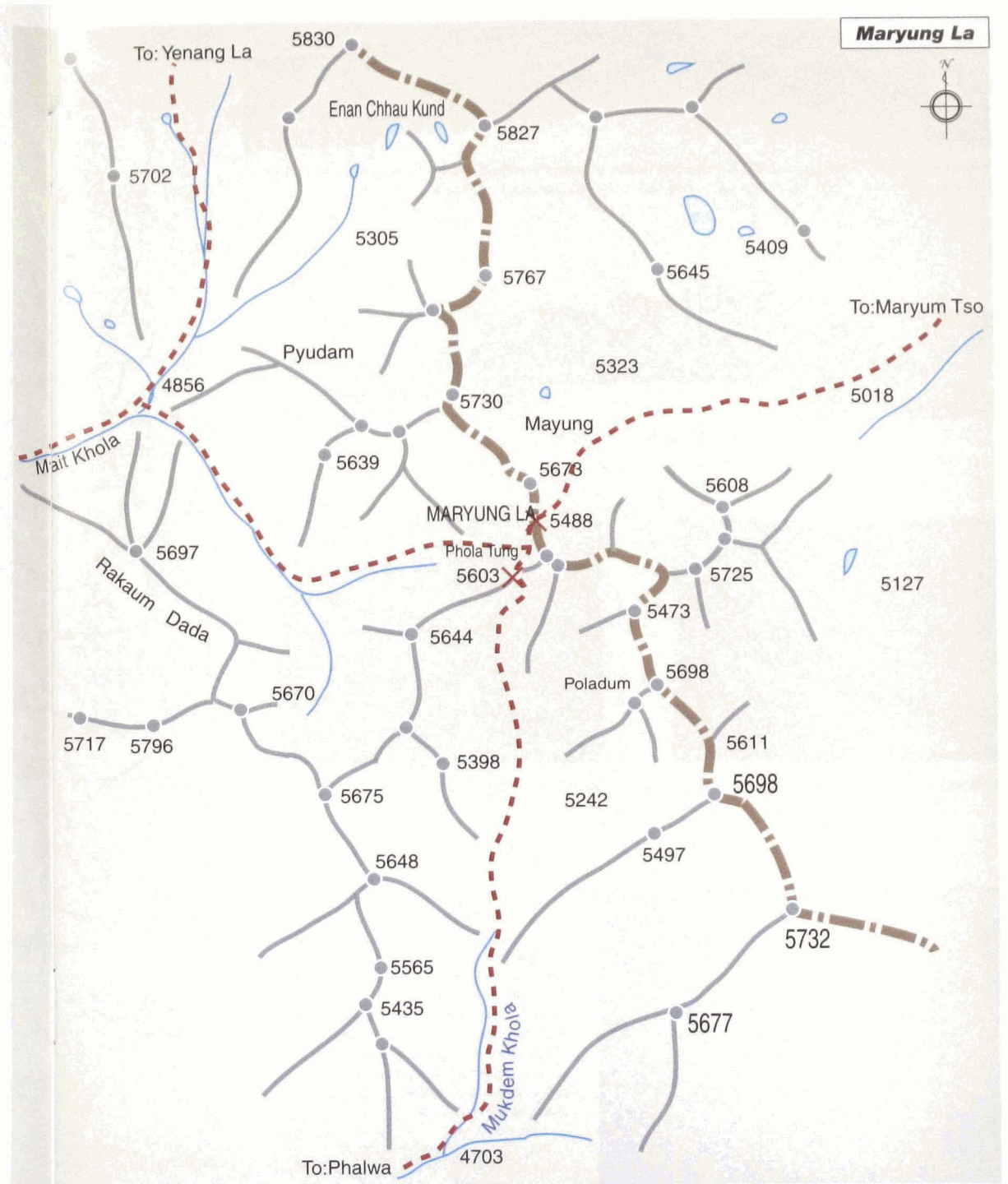
Looking toward northeast from Maryung La. The main river of Zhangbo is not visible. Swelling mountain range in the background is Trans Himalaya, and a lake is coming in the middle distance.



Maryung La, as seen from a col on the western ridge from Pholatung (5603m.). To the summit of the pass, we have to traverse more 0.7km from the col on the slippery slope, and it becomes more difficult to ascend the pass when snow covers the surface because of avalanches.



Southern view from Maryung La.





View toward north from Mengang La. A rock strata widely covered the present whole of border areas in ancient geological ages, which now remains as the belt of rock wall at the north side of the pass.



And also, peaks of south side.



Left peak of Gyang Zdong Kang from Laru La

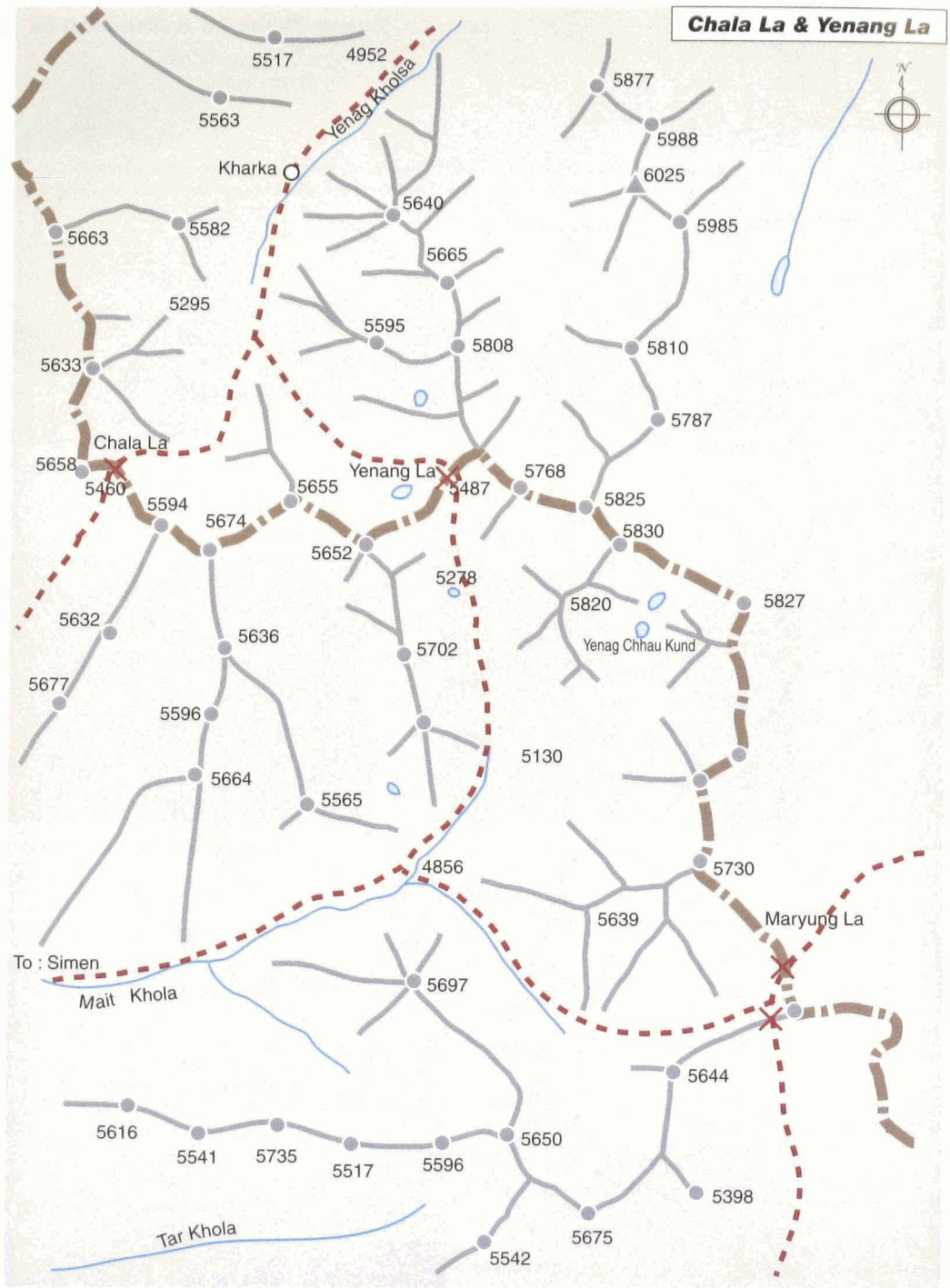


Nepal side of Laru La pond



To Gyang Dzong La (5600m, N29 35 00 E83 13 12) : The kharkas belonging to Moe villagers are dotted near the pond of 500m in circumference, at the confluence of two valleys from the border passes and is called Mai Sumdo (Moe Sumdo). We went up along a stream to Mengang La route. There is a huge rock tower just like Dru in Chanonix on the way, and then reached a pass on the border which has ever been unknown for us to this time. We found a lapse on the pass.





Tibet side of Yenang La



Yenang La is one of the typical pass in Upper Dolpo. From the pass we observed to the west, 7km (from south) length of border ridge, part of Gautang Himal before our eyes. To the Tibetan side (north), 5658m peak is 4 km distance from the pass and Tak Lhago was seen 7km beyond the up stream of Yenang Kholsa. The name Tak Lhago means "Finger Rock" in Tibetan, although we call this rock tower as " can opener rock". When Ekai kawaguchi stood on a pass, he was much impressed by the scenery toward north, and described "the undulating stretch of the northeast steppes of Tibet, interspersed here and there with shining streams of water, which appeared to flow of and then disappear into the clouds." On the southeast side, it can be seen that Mait Khola flows down to the upper half the route down to the confluence with Panzang Khola at 4 km east of Simen. Distance from this junction to the pass is 14km for one and half days walk. At the above center of the photo, Kang Tega (Changmar Kang, 6060m) is seen beyond the col on the foreground ridge (compass direction 172 degrees), and the ridge extend to peaks, 5600m to 5700m at right. Dhaulagiri are not visible from this pass, notwithstanding that Ekai Kawaguchi had described as follows, "As I stood on that high point, which commanded on the south the snow capped heads of the Dhaulagiri (Dhavalagiri) family", or "Toward the south, far, far away, beyond the sky-reaching Dhaulagiri (Dhavalagiri), I imagined that I saw Buddhagaya, sacred our beloved Lord Buddha". (Three years in Tibet, p74 & 76).



Nepal side of Yenang La

Rainbow bridge over Panzang Gorge. Panzang Khola between two confluences of Khung Khola and Moe (Musi) Khola, there is a great gorge making impossible to pass through. On the New Map of Nepal (2001), a foot trail is erroneously drawn in this section. This mistake is followed the Indian Survey Map (1964). It is proceed for freezing season of the winter to Simen from Nisal.

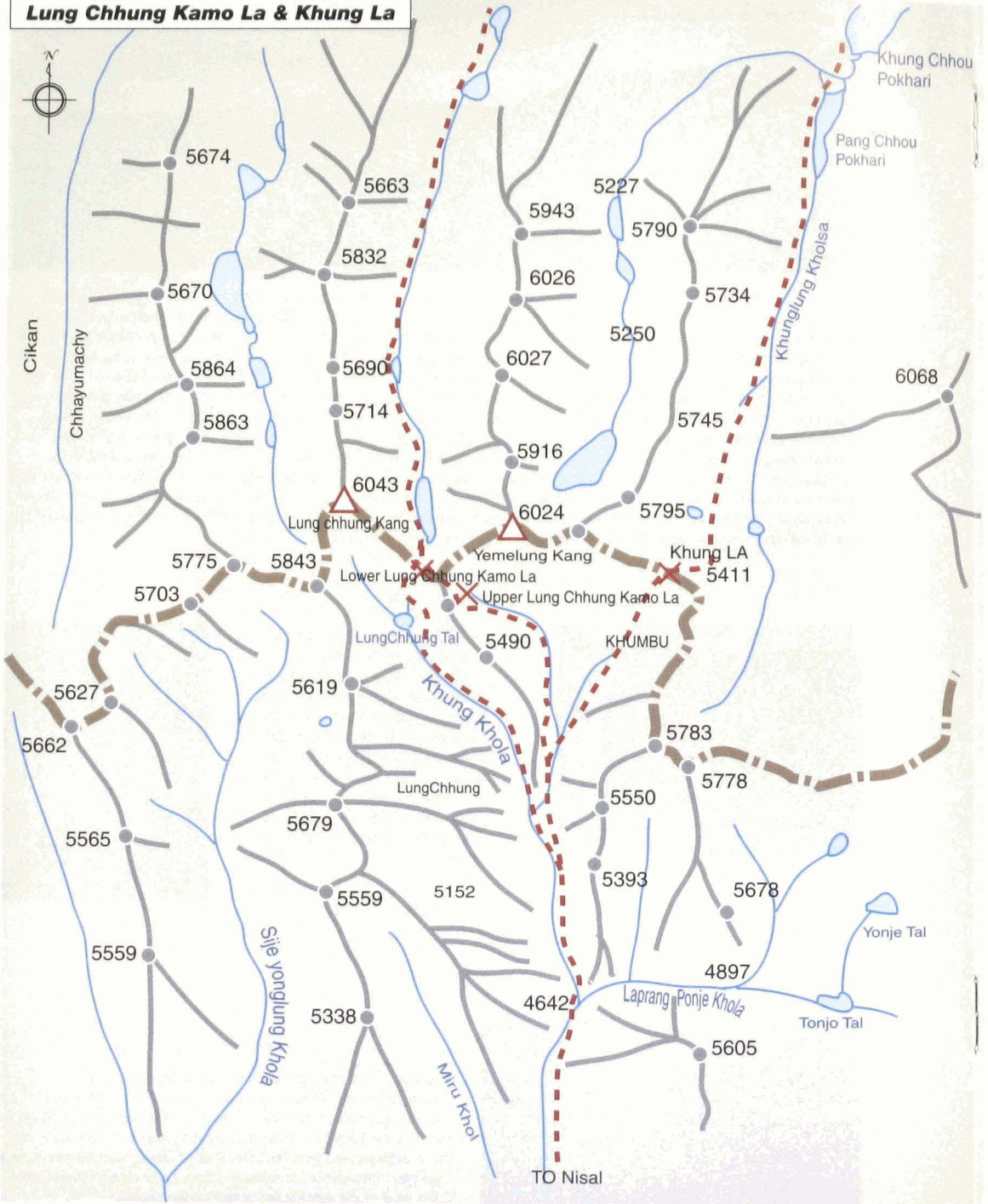


Chala La



Villagers of Simen together with their animals go to Tibet commonly by the Yenang La route. However, when they go to Tibet for pilgrimage to Goshar gumpa in Naqchushan in Tibet, they use the Laru La., because of its short access. Chala La is the most unfrequented pass because of its difficulty and steepness, and especially unsuitable for animals. Chala La is seen from the point 2 km west of the pass (at the center on the photo).

Lung Chhung Kamo La & Khung La



Khung La



View toward north east from Khung La. Khung Khola flow down strait to Zhangbo to north northeast direction. From the pass we can see whole scenery of the Zhangbo and a view of swelling far beyond of Trans-Himalaya. Khung La is one of the passes which considered Ekai Kawaguchi had crossed in 1900. From the pass, Dhaulagiri group of distant south is impossible to get the view concealed higher peaks (5650m, 5732m, 5550m) of foreground. To the southwest, some of the snow covered Kanjiroba Himal and Norbu Kang group can be seen from southern Lapise on the pass.



Southwestern View from Khung La.



About 100m down to Tibetan side from Upper Lung Chung Kamo La (5493m), there can be seen a Pokhari (pond)

View toward the south from top of Yemelung Kang, pond, a shape of lengthwise gourd can be seen just bellow the pass of Tibetan side. At present, the boundary pillar No.14 is placed on the Khung La of the Khung La road we call now. However, the actual source of Khung Khola is not Khung La at present but exist more western Lung Chung Kamo La and its surrounding areas. Foot track to this Lung Chung Kamo La is led from the junction where Khung La route apart the main stream and go up to the hight of left bank. This photo, taken from the summit of Yemelung Kang (6024m), just east of Lung Chung Kamo La. Norbu Kang group in the center and eastern Kanjiroba Himal group (from Kanjerawa to Tso Karpo Kang) can be seen at the right, but peaks of Dhaulagiri main group are not visible.



On the path settled high above the right bank cliff of Phoksumdo Lake, by chance we met a few villagers of Saldang and donkeys carrying some cargo from the south on their back. Among them we found an elderly person with whom we remembered we had ever met somewhere. Then his characteristic voice and his looks reminded us that he was the hero in the French movie "Himalaya (Caravan)", produced by Eric Valli. His first name "Tinle" was the same as in movie and now he is living at Saldang. The background of his figure is Phoksumdo Lake mysteriously glittering in emerald green in early afternoon sun shine. A week later, at Saldang, we had a pleasant meeting again with him in our tent and talked about Dolpo at present and the past. When I asked him about late Nyma Tserin who was a most important figure of Dolpo, he was much surprised and returned his question to us why his name was known among us. He revealed out the fact that Nyma Tserin's wife was the elder sister of his wife. I was taught from him so much, especially about the historical events since Chinese invasion into Tibet. In 2003, our DVD cinema show were held at Chharka, Ringmo and Saldang with great number of villagers.



Yungdrung, a dirty boy of 12 age, and his afterwards. In 1956, Prof.D.Snellgrove visited Samling gumpa, as the first foreign visitor to survey this old Pon-po monastery. In his book "Himalayan pilgrimage", he wrote a little about the boy and a sheet of picture attached. When we visited Samling in 2003, we found him continuing his service only for the gumpa as layer Lama since after for 47 years. Our request to him to write his name by himself was refused shamefully because he could not write.

SEARCH FOR THE BORDER PASSES IN UPPER DOLPO AND TRAVERSE TO MUGU.

After having acclimatized ourselves to high altitude for a week around Tilitso, we started from Jomsom on the 11th of June and arrived at Chharka on the 18th. Heavy rain and snow stopped us for two days on the way to Dolpo. Geba La 5136m and Tuje La 5124 m which are the first passes to enter Dolpo, we met unexpected deep fresh snow. After that, however, we were blessed with lovely summer weather of Dolpo with occasional cold rain and hail. All the members of our party gathered at Tinkyu on the 20th June, via Chharka and Moh La, where we separated to two groups, one as the main trekking party to cross high hills and valleys of upper Dolpo toward Phoksumdo, and the other to walk around all the passes on the border. Both groups were expected to meet at Shey Gumpa about four weeks later.

The Latter group of two Japanese with two Sherpas and six porters made a Spartan tour without logistic support of food to investigate all the passes on the border one by one: from Maryum La (or Mayun) La to the westernmost pass among the two border ranges. We ascended seven passes to confirm their topographical position on the border, and collected their local names. In old days, villagers' life in Dolpo had partly depended on the trade between Tibet and Dolpo: cattle grazing in Tibetan high plateau during winter and bartering grains or daily necessities from the south for Tibetan rock salt, wool, or Chinese tea blocks. These economic systems of the Dolpo people suddenly changed in the beginning of 1960s. As a result these northern passes of Dolpo became less important. Although we often met a few villagers from the south and also Tibetans from the north on the way to and from the passes, we hardly encountered traditional caravans with yaks or cattle in a large scale.

We climbed Yemelung Kang (6024m, N29 39 37, E83 08 31), located to the east of Lung Chhung Kamo La (5393m, N29 37 15, E83 07 47) in the eastern part of Palchung Hamga Himal in order to get a full panoramic view from the summit. We left our footprints on the seven passes among the two mountain ranges, but we gave up reaching the northwesternmost pass on the border, which is scarcely known even among the locals, because of the difficulty to access from the south. The most appropriate approach to this isolated pass would be from the east to Daphe Sail, the south face of which soars dominantly like the Matterhorn. It would be the highest peak of Palchung Hamga Himal.

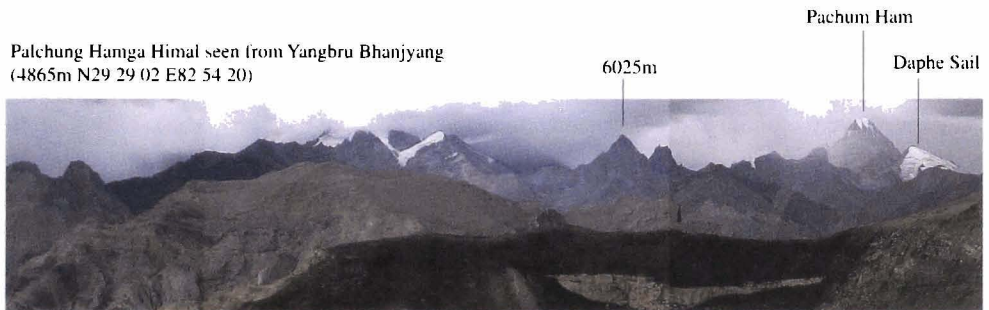
Here we have to comment on an accurate topography of Daphe Sail (6103m). This peak and the other higher peaks in the range are surely on the border which forms the great watershed westward. Most of the inhabitants in the western Dolpo believe that it lies on the border. Also from the north, on the motor road from Lhasa to Purang along the north side of the Tsangpo River, this peak can be seen as an outstanding peak on the border, and though its height is shown as 6103m on the map, it has been considered higher. We confirmed that this Daphe Sail (6103m) is on the border and the highest point (exceeding 6500m) in the range is located at 1.2km north of Daphe Sail. It was also confirmed that it was called Pachun Ham in Tibetan side. A view of these two peaks from the south is overlapping as if a single peak on the border. We identified them clearly from the following directions: east (from Lung Chhung Kamo La), south (from the track between Shey and Phijor) and southwest (from the road above Poe village). Details of the each pass are shown on the maps attached hereinafter.

In 1900, a Japanese Buddhist monk, Ekai Kawaguchi, entered Tibet via a pass in Dolpo. On his

book "Three Years in Tibet", he narrated that he had marched north being piloted by a clearly viewed mountain, which was once considered as "Kawaguchi's mountain as a guide to Tibet". However, the pass in Dolpo which he crossed to Tibet is still unknown and remains in question. He entered Tibet on the 4th July in 1900, about a hundred years ago.

The second program was carried on by the same team. All the members of our expeditions gathered at Shey Gompa on 12th July. The main group commenced trekking to Jumla via Lake Phoksumdo, Kagmara La, Hurikot and Maure La. Poe, the remotest small village of Dolpo in three days' walk from Shey Gompa, was our starting point of the second program. In the western part of Pachung Hamga Himal, most of peaks on the border exceed 6000m and some of them are over 6400m. They range westward to Kanti Himal 6859m peak which we had explored twice in 1997 and 1998. One of the objectives of our research in this year was to connect the northern area of Dolpo to Kanti Himal and further northwestern part of the border ranges having visited in the past two years.

A poor track led us from Poe to Mugu district through the southern foot of Kanti Himal. We climbed up along Swaksa Khola toward north to the snout of a glacier flowing down from one of the peaks on the border range, and crossed Yala La (5425m, N29 39 10, E83 49 40) on 19th July. A panorama from the top of the pass provided newly opened several peaks on the border which were attractive. One of the peaks (6455m, N29 41 22, E82 52 27) was climbed by a German-Austrian Joint Expedition in 1993. The party was forced to change their target to the northern peak on the border since they were unable to ford the torrent of Langu Khola before reaching the northern foot of Kanjiroba Main Peak. (AAJ vol.36. 1994)



Pachum Ham (6529m, N2940 55 E83 00 25) : Among the border ranges of Palchung Hamga Himal. Pachum Ham (6529m) is the most excellent and prominent peak. Once we considered this peak was surely Ekai Kawaguchi's "a mountain as a guide". However, as our research advanced in these few years, we concluded that it might be another characteristic peak which can be seen on his way to the border. The reason is that it is visible from only a limited places on Kawaguchi's supposed route, especially from any place on the track in Namgung, it revealed out its impossibility. In Tibet, Kaqur Kangri which was climbed by Doshisha University in 2002 Autumn, is considered as husband god and Pachum Ham as his wife goddess. The white snow peak in the foreground is Daphe Sail (6103m, N29 40 20 E83 00 32). In this Panorama photo, the strange shaped rock tower is about 6000m, a black pyramidal peak in center is 6025m, two peaks of Mariyang 6528m and swaksa Kang in the clouds are opened in Spring 2003.

The highest peak of this group (Mariyang 6528m opened 2003, N29 41 38, E83 53 14) lies 1.7km east of the 6455m peak. There are other several peaks (including those in Tibetan side) of 6200-6500m with abundant snow and glaciers in the both side of the border. All the peaks remain untouched except one peak. From Yala La, we suddenly entered a world of full green forests and bushes, quite different from the scenery around Dolpo. Our eight Nepalese from Kathmandu raised a shout of joy. Presumably they felt as if they had returned home. In a traverse westward on the southern side of Kanti Himal, we struggled against densely growing bushes. We followed the route of 1998 till reaching Ghora La (5182m). Food of our expedition party was a matter of serious concern. We depended chiefly upon local Tibetan meal of tsampa and tea in the later half of the caravan, and at Mugu even such local supplies finished. Fortunately, however, an abundant rice stock having been deposited there by us in the previous year narrowly saved starvation crisis among the porters. We enjoyed a wonderful landscape in the return trek to Gamgadhi along Mugu Karnali River, but it was a silent march as we much suffered from fierce heat of the summer.



Ku (or Kuba, Kuwa, an isolated village along Panzang Khola). Located at 12km north northeast from Phijor.

Shey Gompa is the most famous sacred place for Buddhists all over Dolpo and nomads in Tibetan high plateau. Yearly festival in July and the great festival held every 12 years is well known and people all over Dolpo gather there for pilgrimage.



At Poe, the remotest village of Dolpo, there is a small gumpa of Nynmapa order named Choyukoring Gompa. The lama, Tenjing Pinzo Lama, is also Amji (Doctor) of the village. In a slack afternoon during our stay, he played loudly his Milkan (Tibetan clarinet made of human thigh bone) for us. Later, in July 2003, I met a Poe villager at Shey gompa who came there to receive our present medicines for them. He brought us a sad news of the death of Tenjin Pinzo Lama in previous year.

FIRST ASCENT OF NORBU KANG (6085m) OF DOLPO IN 2003.

In the summer of 2003, we sent another expedition to Dolpo for carrying out more extensive survey than 1999. We left Jomsom on the 2nd of June and reached Chharka on the 10th via Dangar, Sangda, Geba La (GPS 5136m N28 54 895, E83 36 363) and Kiraphuk La (GPS 5580m, N28 59 075 E83 35 598). After two days rest at Chharka, the climbing party to Norbu Kang (6085m, N29 07 02 E83 03 34) separated from the main party and headed for the mountain range between Tarap and Phoksumdo. Norbu Kang is the highest peak this range, which had been reconnoitered from the west by the Kitazato University expedition in 1973 on their way back from the successful ascent of Selkhu Dolma in the north-eastern Kanjiroba Himal. Norbu Kang is one of the newly opened peaks by the H.M. Government of Nepal in the fall of the previous year together with neighboring Kang Tega (Kangfu Gia, 5916m, N29 06 13 E82 59 45) in the same area. From Chharka, we proceeded to Tinkyu by Mo La (GPS 5027m). Beyond the pass, the river water flows down northward and the scenery comes to resemble Tibetan high plateau. Then we entered another tributary to the west and crossed Charku La (Jhyakoi Bhanjyang, GPS 5453m) on the 5th of June. On the pass spotted by remaining snow, a distant view of Norbu Kang was in sight beyond the gorges of Tarap Khola to the WSW. We entered Do/Tarap division of Dolpo. From Do, we went northwestward passing through the village of Tokkyu and crossed Numla South (GPS 5333m). Num Ri (5547m), a rock peak just north of the pass is a splendid lookout point toward the mountain groups of Kanjiroba Himal. The pass was covered with abundant snow. Fluttering prayer flags of the Laptse and freezing cold wind let us feel we are in Tibetan high plateau.

Now in June, a band of Maobati's was prevalent in Do/Tarap and menacing the villagers and travelers. They requested us to pay US\$100 per person. Tenacious protest and negotiations made them to unwillingly reduce the amount to R/S2000. and to issue a receipt mentioning an oath to require additional donation in no way. They usually carry a carbine and a survival knife with them. In June, most of villagers all over Dolpo go to grassy hills of Tarap to collect "Caterpillar Fungus", which is also called Vegetable Wasps or Plant Worms (*cordyceps sinensis (berk) sacc*), Yachagumba in Nepalese. The name of this plant or insect is written 冬虫夏草 in Chinese and Japanese. The meaning is "Insect in winter, grass in summer". It commonly grows in all over Dolpo district, but "Tarap Yachagumba" collected in June is of the best quality and is sold at a higher price. Usually it is classified by color (black, brown, gold) and its length (3 to 8cm). The big and golden color is the most expensive. At Num La south (GPS 5333m), we entered the area of Shey Phoksumdo National Park. At the broad river bed of Chuchun Khola, coming down straightly from the north side of Norbu Kang group, we camped near by the stream. Here too, we met many young Nepalese to collect Yachagunba. On the next morning we crossed Baga La (GPS 5199m). Some of the collectors were near the pass. A loud and ear-splitting sound of Nepal's New Music was flowing out of a cassette. Young generation is suffering also in Nepal. "For what do you do so?" An answer returned swiftly "Money! Money! Money is the first." They earn much money from this job. However, a part of their money would be targeted by Maoist's fund making. We encountered here a band of a few hundreds of Yaks. From the junction we entered a tributary Chhoitai khola. Nurbu Kang was not yet visible due to dense haze. This stream is dammed up at the point of 400m above the junction and we had to climb a steep slope

of the right bank to Chhoitai Tal (lake). Another score of young people were working for Yachagumba near a lake.

On the 20th of June, we set up a base camp (GPS 4805m, N29 07 877 E83 01 666) above the Chhoitai Tal. After reconnaissance for the following two days, we pitched a high camp at the end of a glacier (GPS 5041m N29 07 508 E83 02 958). On the 23rd of June, we proceeded to a col near a small glacier and crossed two crevasses en route. On the following day, a storm with heavy rain prevented us from climbing to the summit. On the 25th, we left the camp at 5.00 am and reached a foot of the north face of Nurbu Kang at 6.00 am. From there we started climb through ice crusted chute of avalanches at an angle of 40 degrees and the climb got steeper on an ice face of 60 degrees. We ascended the summit ridge and stood atop at 10.30 am. Rappelling down the same route and returned to the high camp at 15.30 pm. It was a wonderful climb of 15 pitches in all and the route grade 4, pitch grade 5.8 respectively. The weather was cloudy. In the following morning, we started a trek toward Phoksumdo, where we stayed two nights at the beautiful lake side. The mountains at the northeastern corner of Kanjiroba Himal were well known to us since we had first succeeded in scaling the highest peak, Tso Karpo Kang in 1971. We visited our old base camp just above Lake Tso Karpo, one and half days trek from Ringmo. Unfortunately the weather was so bad that we could make no attempt on a lovely virgin peak of Shey Shikar (6139m). On the 4th of July, as originally scheduled, all the party members assembled at Shey Gompa after one month.



North side of Nurbu Kang seen from campsite of Panklanga Kholat(GPS4479m N29 10 384 E83 03 177)

EKAI KAWAGUCHI'S FOOTSTEPS IN DOLPO

On the 4th of July in 1900, a young Japanese monk named Ekai Kawaguchi crossed the border from Nepal to Tibet. Already the first of his race to enter that isolated, mysterious country, he went on to become the first outsider to reach the forbidden city of Lhasa.

Ekai Kawaguchi was born in 1866 at Sakai, an old commercial town adjacent to Osaka. His first name in childhood was Sadajiro. His father was a craftsman of SAKE-barrel making and deeply religious. His mother was a well-educated woman. At the age of fifteen, he became conscious of Buddhism. He was impressed by a small book on the life of Shakyamuni, and then devoted himself to read Buddhist texts. At the age of twenty five, he entered Buddhist priesthood of Ohbaku Sect and then "Ekai", his Buddhist name, was given by his tutor. In the later half of twenties, he was involved in the power struggle of the sect and renounced the cloth. After that, he made up his mind to go to Tibet and collect original Buddhist texts written in Sanskrit or Tibetan, because he thought it was the most important to compare the original texts with those translated to Chinese, which had been brought to Japan more than a thousand years ago and became the basis for the Buddhism in Japan.

At the age of thirty two, he left Japan for Tibet on the 6th of June, 1897. He was stationed in India for one year to be prepared to enter Tibet. He learnt Sanskrit and Tibetan languages and Tibetan manner and way of living being helped by Sarat Chandra Das, a famous secret agent (Pandit) of the Survey of India, who was a forerunner to Tibet. He visited the sacred places in India and Nepal. In those days to trespass to Lhasa from India was strictly guarded by both of the Tibetan and British-Indian governments. He chose an alternative of Nepal route and searched for unfrequented paths to Tibet, so that he could safely travel in disguise to a Chinese Buddhist priest.

His book "Travels into Tibet" (Japanese version 1904, Tokyo) and "Three years in Tibet" (English version 1909, Madras/London) are an account of his remarkable journey. A brief record in Nepal is as follows. He thought that it was the best way for Lhasa without a passport to cross the Tibetan border at Lo (Mustang) and to make a detour to Lhasa, by way of Kang-Tise (Mt. Kailas) and Lake Manasarowar. He left Kathmandu for Mustang at the beginning of March and reached Chharang in May via Tukche. He came to know at Tsarang, however, that the pass to Tibet from there was strictly watched and it was difficult to clear the check post without a permit. So he stayed at Chharang for more ten months to seek for the other pass. He learnt there the life style, custom and language of the native Tibetans. After all, he determined to take the way to Dolpo and to cross one of the hidden passes connected to Tibet. For Dolpo, he left Marpha with a guide-porter. On the 12th of June in 1900, he left Marpha for Dolpo accompanied with a guide-porter and arrived at Chharka on the 22th via Dangar (Dangar Dzong), Sandar (Sangda) and Tuje La. After two days stay there, he traversed to Dolpo in 11 days trek, and reached the border on the 4th of July and could successfully put his footprints on the Tibetan high plateau just three years after he had departed from Japan.

After circumnavigation of Mt. Kailas and Lake Manasarowar, he reached Lhasa in March, 1901. In Lhasa he studied much about the philosophy and practice of Tibetan Buddhism at the Sera monastery for more than a year and collected Buddhist texts. In May, 1902, however, he suddenly fled from Lhasa to India, because someone got to know of the fact that Kawaguchi was

not a Chinese Buddhist monk but Japanese. A malicious rumor was prevalent that he was an agent sent by the British government. He had a narrow escape at every check posts on the way to Sikkim and fortunately returned to Darjeeling in July of the same year.

In 1958, a Japanese Scientific Expedition to the Northwestern Himalaya led by Prof. J.Kawakita first took the Kawaguchi's route. They were convinced that the Kawaguchi's descriptions were very accurate, notwithstanding that the credibility of the records in his book was questioned and the academic circles in Japan criticized it with prejudice. He returned home in 1903 and published his book in 1904. People welcomed a story of breathtaking adventures full of curiosity and strangeness, whilst some of the scholars did not trust his narratives and called him as a great boaster.

(to be continued to the next issue)



At the north face of Norbu Kang, Our first party is already reached just bellow the cornice of the summit ridge and now breaking it to find the route.



North face of Norbu Kang seen from the point of west col (5492m). Two figures spotted lower part of the snow face are climbers of us.



Looking down the steep snow face route. Two climbers are now climbing to the cornice just bellow the summit ridge.



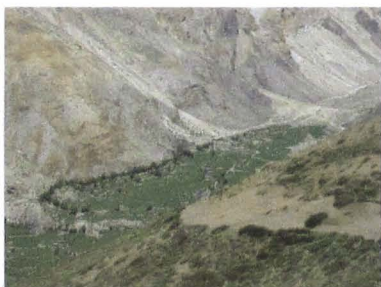
Poe, a small village of innermost Dolpo, had been visited twice by Japanese in 1958 and 1970. At the time in 1958, this village was reported by Prof.J.Kawakita's expedition as a village just before falling disappeared, because of the poverty or lack of water supply probably by a drought of the year. In 1970, Prof.T.Tomimori found out this village that very poor but only a dozen people still survived there. At Poe in 1999, we found that the new village was built there for 29 years since Tomimori's visit in 1970 and Poe village has been revived chiefly by new immigrant from Saldang. From our survey, we came to know that at present, 9 families of 47 people were living there. Among them, we observed 5 girls in the village were suffered from goiter. We planed that after the end of the expedition at Mugu, we took a porter-guide whom we had employed there to Kathmandu with us and ask him to bring back to Poe some medicines for the sick girls. This porter, named Nyngma Lama, was an honest and gentle minded youth at the age of 26 and one of five sick girls was his sister. Later, he fulfilled his job faithfully: from Kathmandu to Dunai by air for a half day and Dunai to Poe for 5 days on foot.



At same place as above right (2003)



At east end of Tinkyu village (1958)



At same place as above right (2003)



Looking down to Simen village from the hill. (1958)



Tak Lhago peak (P10)

This rocktower is called Tak Lheko peak and can be seen from Nisal, on the route from Poe to Yala La, some villages of Namdo, Koma, and on the direct route from Taraka to Saldang. Tak Lheko means Rock of Buddha. This type of rocktowers are scattered a few places in Dolpo.



Panoramic view of Mustang Himal from west. Dounlung Kang is at extreme right.



From eastern side of Pindu La, we can obtain the view of a pyramidal peak Dounlung Kang (6369m), which belonging to Mustang Himal.

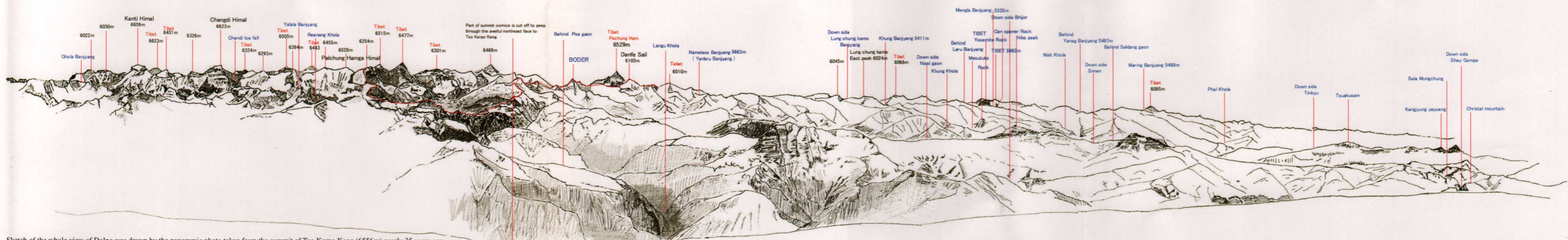
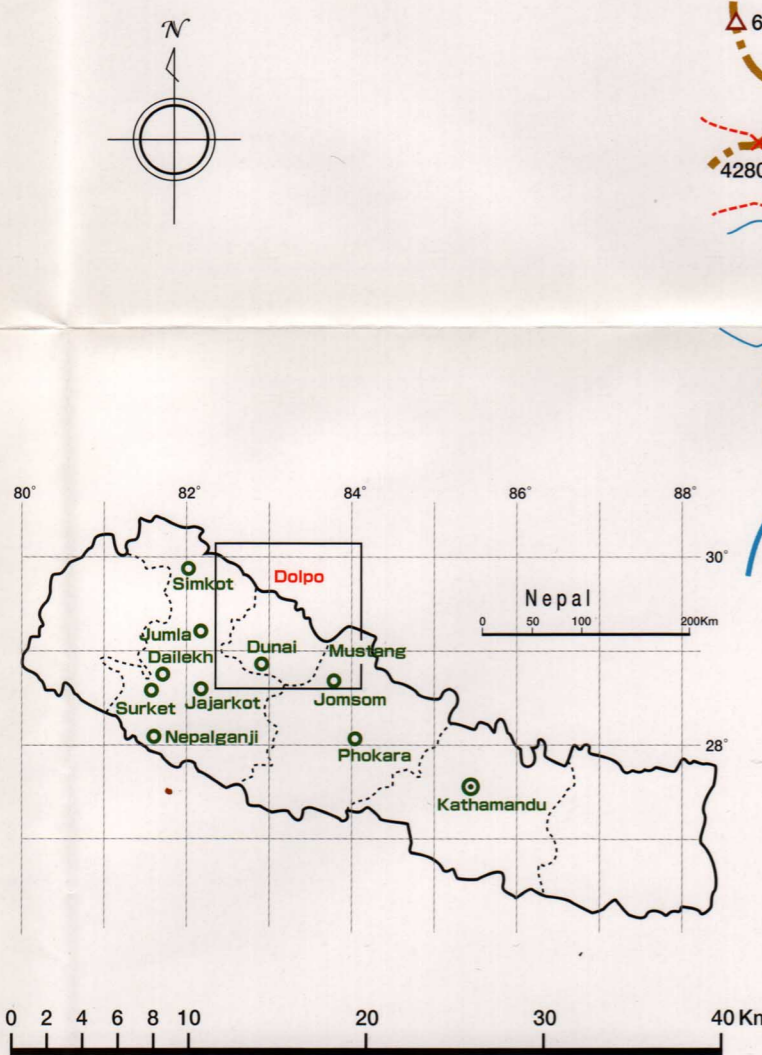


Two pointed peak at left is north face of Gyang Zdong Kang (6080m) from Changtang plateau.

DOLPO

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2004.April

- International boundary
- Mountain range
- Main foot trail
- Minor foot trail
- River
- Khola(river)
- Winter foot Trail (Freezing river)
- Main Road
- Road or repairing road
- Swamp
- Tal(Lake)
- ⊕ Nying-ma-pa
- ⊕ Pon-po
- ⊕ Airport
- ▲ Peak
- ▲ 2002, 2003 Opened peak
- × Bhanjyang(Pass)



Sketch of the whole view of Dolpo was drawn by the panoramic photo taken from the summit of Tso Karpo Kang (6556m) nearly 35 years ago. This panorama has long been kept unidentified. But now, we were able to identify the whole topography of them.

Typhoon Ohnishi :Osaka Alpine Club Expedition 1999 Summer in Dolpo.