

ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

Issue No.19, February 2018



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Mountains and Mountaineering in Art and Literature

Tony Astill F.R.G.S. Les Alpes Livres

Tony Astill has been selling old and rare mountaineering books for more than 40 years and also fine mountain paintings for 25 years.

A very large selection can be seen on his websites www.mountaineeringbooks.org and www.mountainpaintings.org

His book ‘Mount Everest : The Reconnaissance 1935’ won the James Monroe Thorington Award for best book Mountaineering History at the Banff Mountain Festival 2006. Tony will be very pleased to hear from all those who would like to contact him astill.tony@gmail.com



T. Howard Somervell, [1890-1975]

Lhotse, Everest and Makalu from Singalila, Sandakphu.

1943 watercolour and gouache over pencil, on his usual Kraft brown paper.

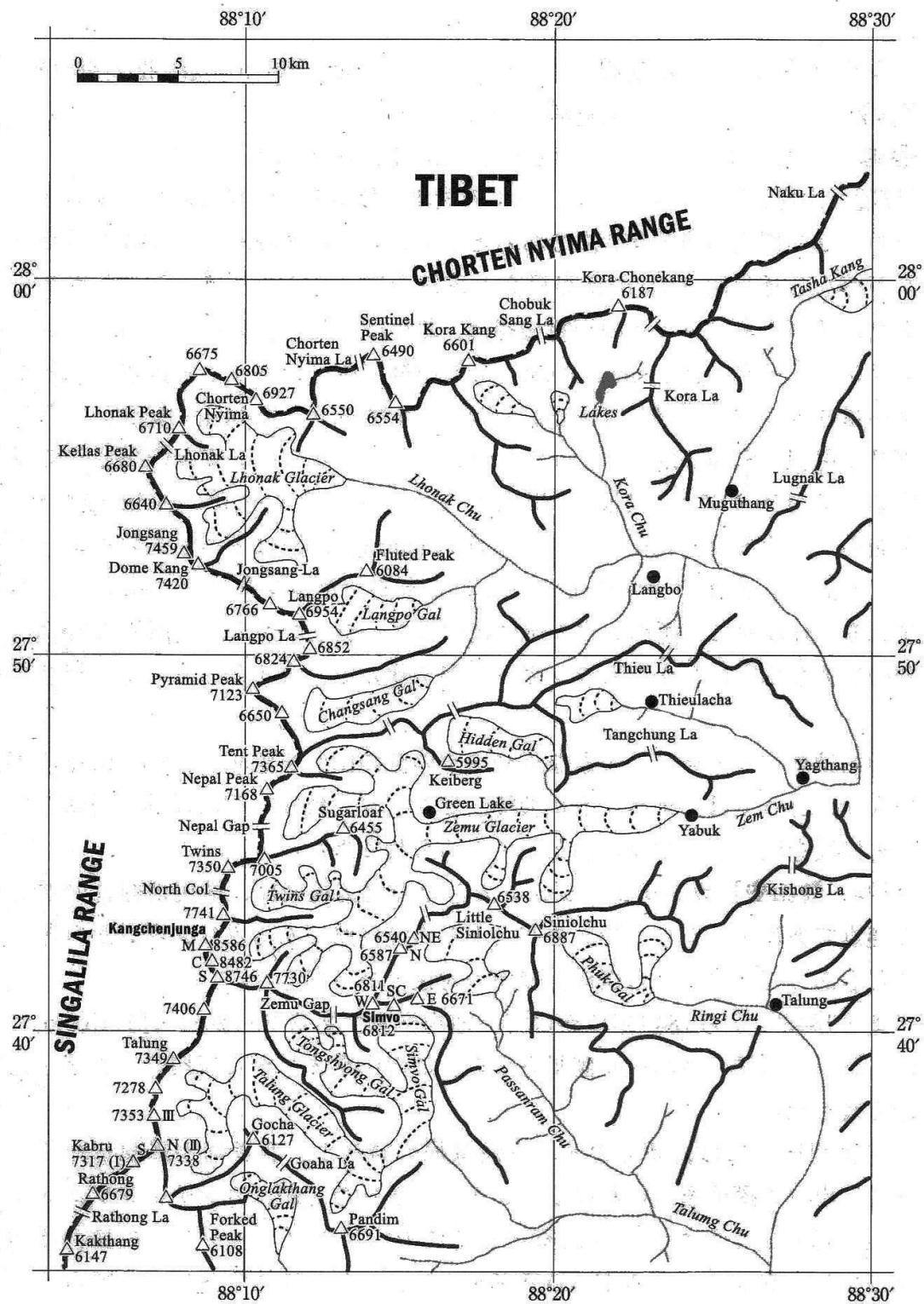
signed with date twice, lower left. 29 x 36 cms.

Yoshio Ogata's Photo Collection "Mountains of Sikkim"
from new book published by the Himalayan Association of Japan
Photo copyrights: Yoshio Ogata
(Supplements with Tom Nakamura's Aerial Views over the Himalaya)



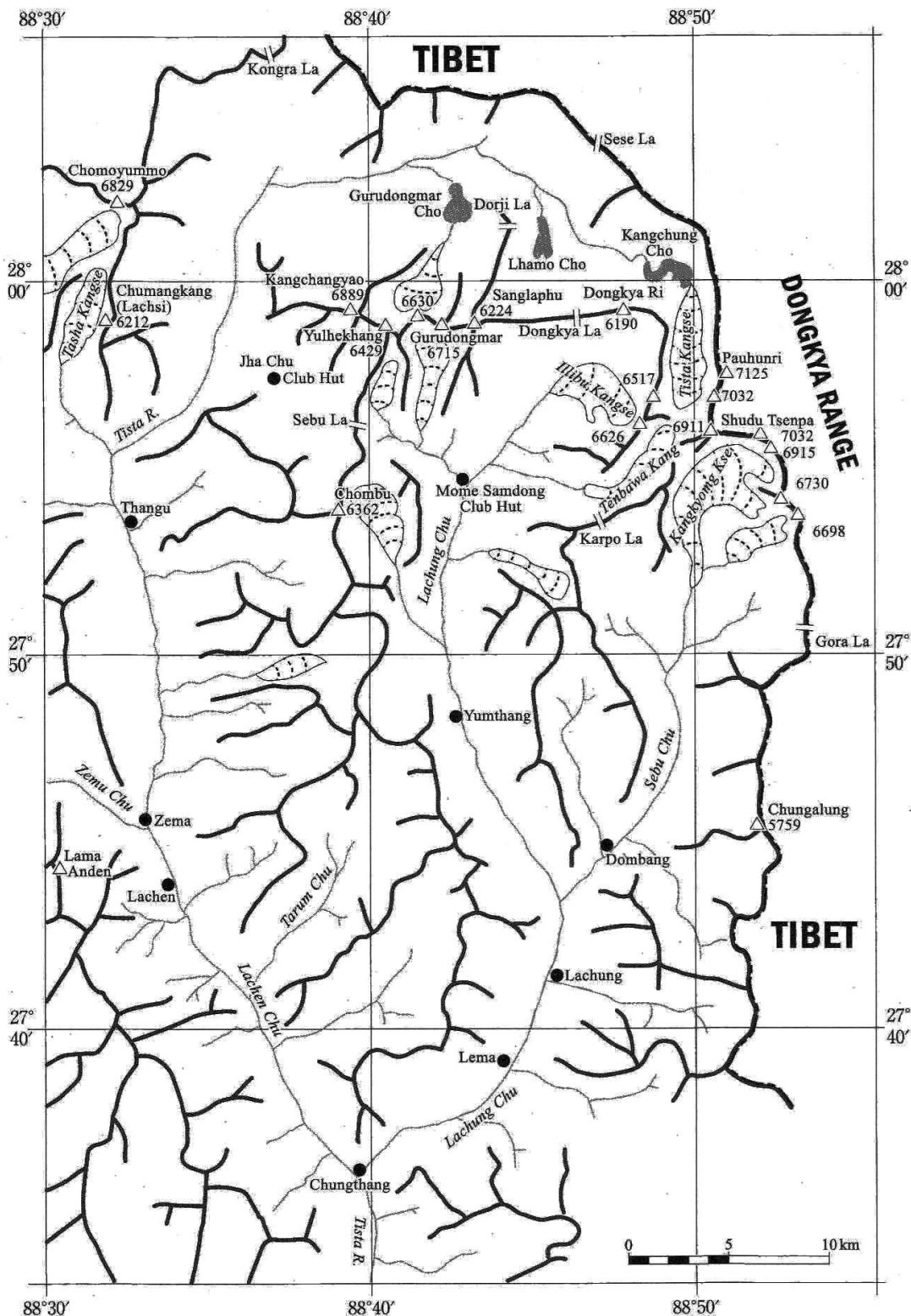
Kangchenjunga northeast ridge, lower part

SIKKIM-W



From "Indian Himalaya" (JAC Tokai section)

SIKKIM-E



From "Indian Himalaya" (JAC Tokai section)



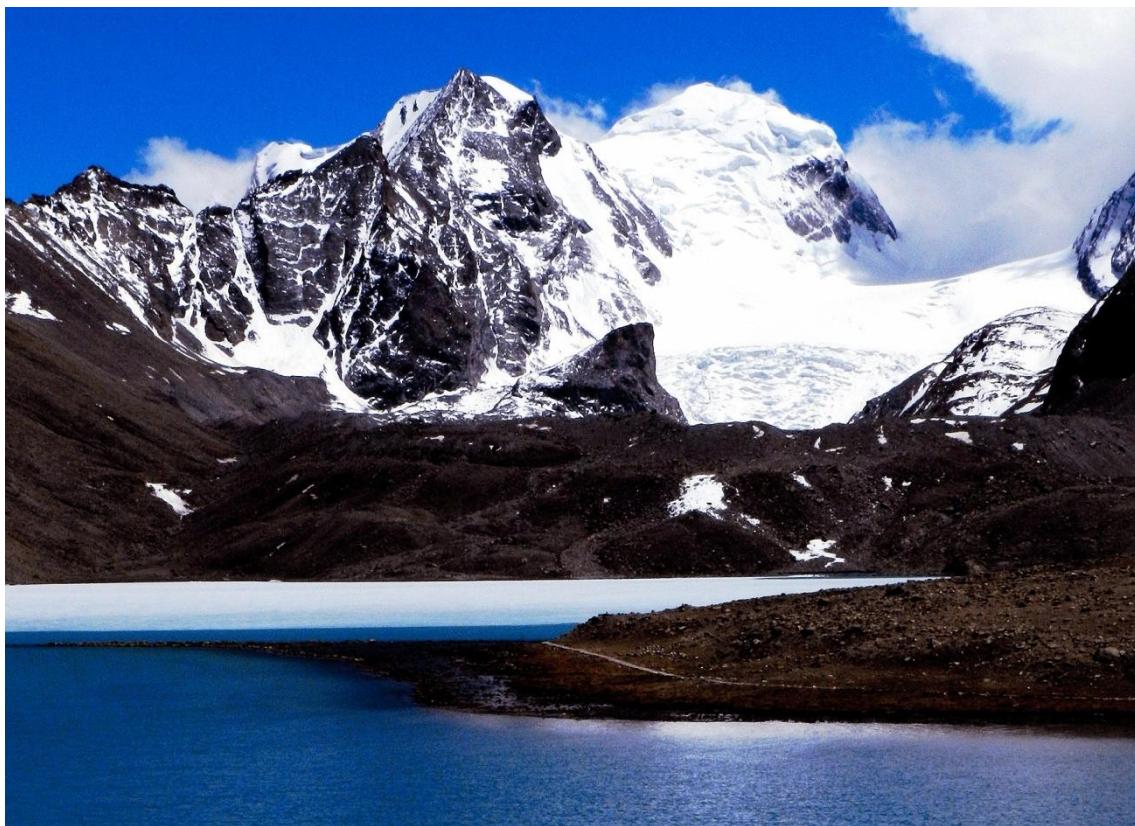
Kangchenjunga east face viewed from Zemu Glacier before sunset



Kangchenjunga west face viewed from Yalung Glacier in morning sunshine



Siniolchu 6889m



Gurudongmar 6715m from Lake Gurudongmar, Copyrights: Harish Kapadia



Pyramid Peak 7123m



North side of Kangchenjunga



Tent Peak 7365m



Jongsang Peak 7483m



(left) Twins 7350m, (center behind) Jongsang Peak 7383m, (right) Pyramid Peak 7123m



Langpo Peak 6954m



Sphinx 6824m



Kangchengyao 6889m



Sugarloaf 6455m



Chombu 6362m



Chomo Yummo 6829m



Talung Peak 7349m



Tent Peak 7365m seen from Tent Peak Glacier



Zemu Gap 5861m



Siniolchu at dawn



Climbing arête to Jongsong Peak

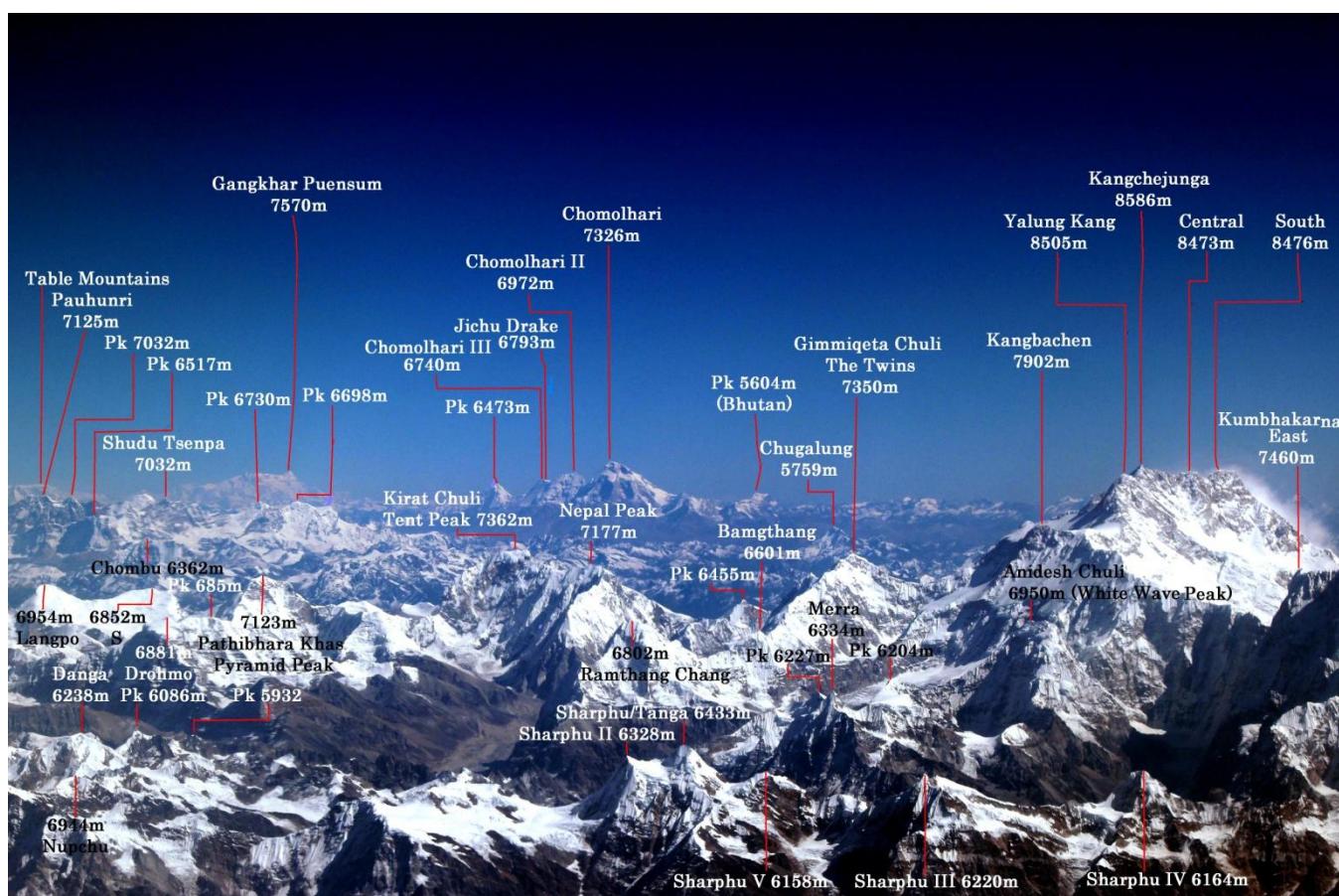


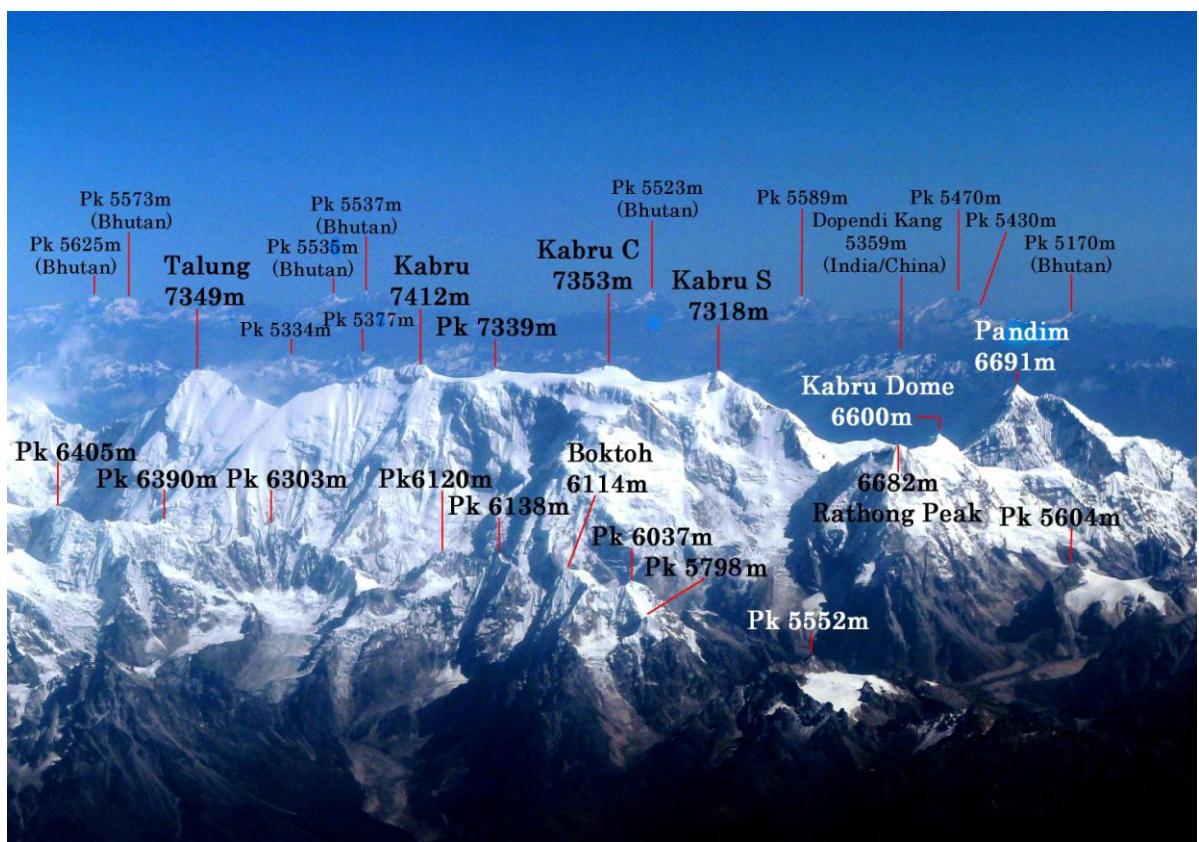
Climbing Kangchenjunga northeast ridge

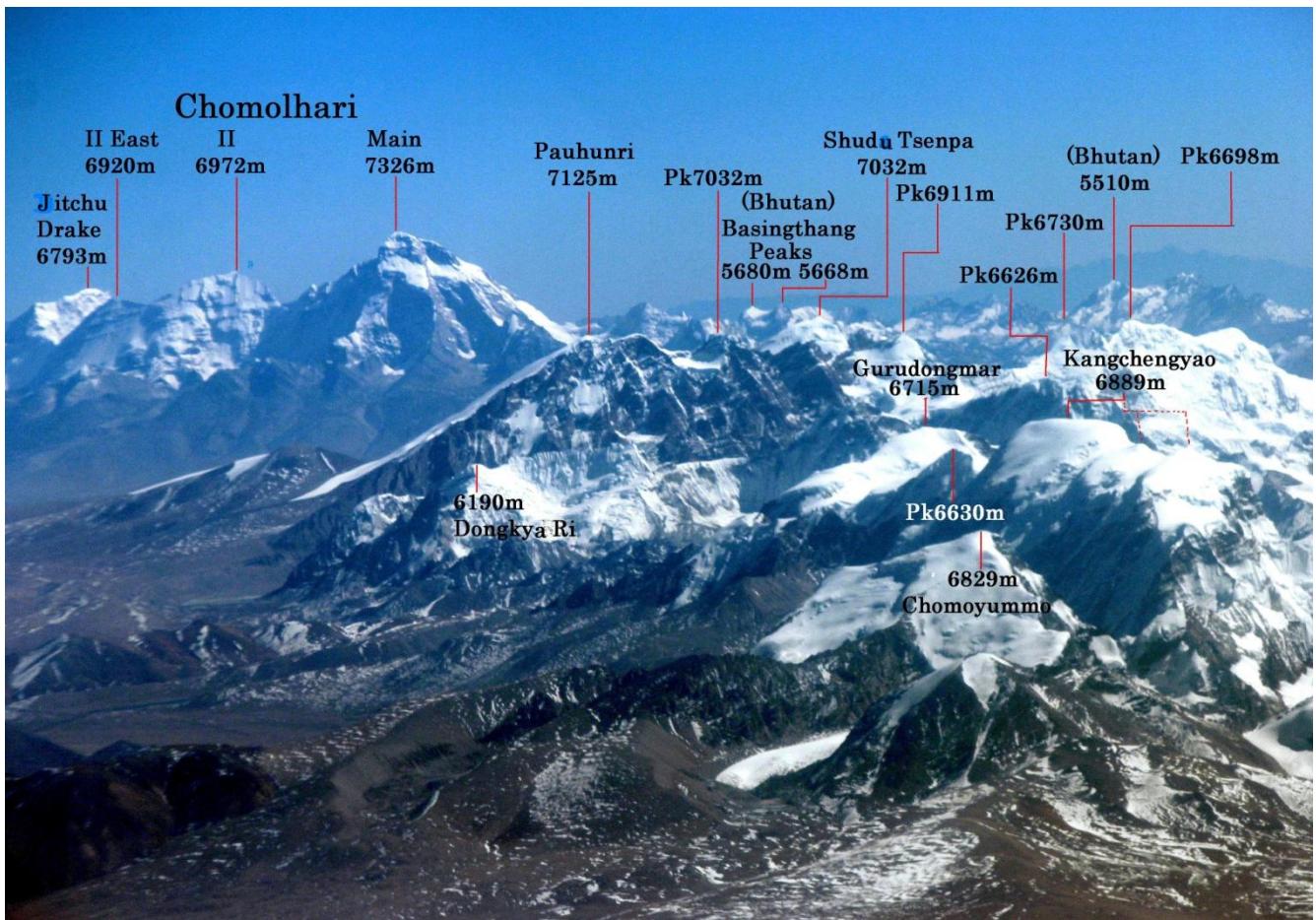


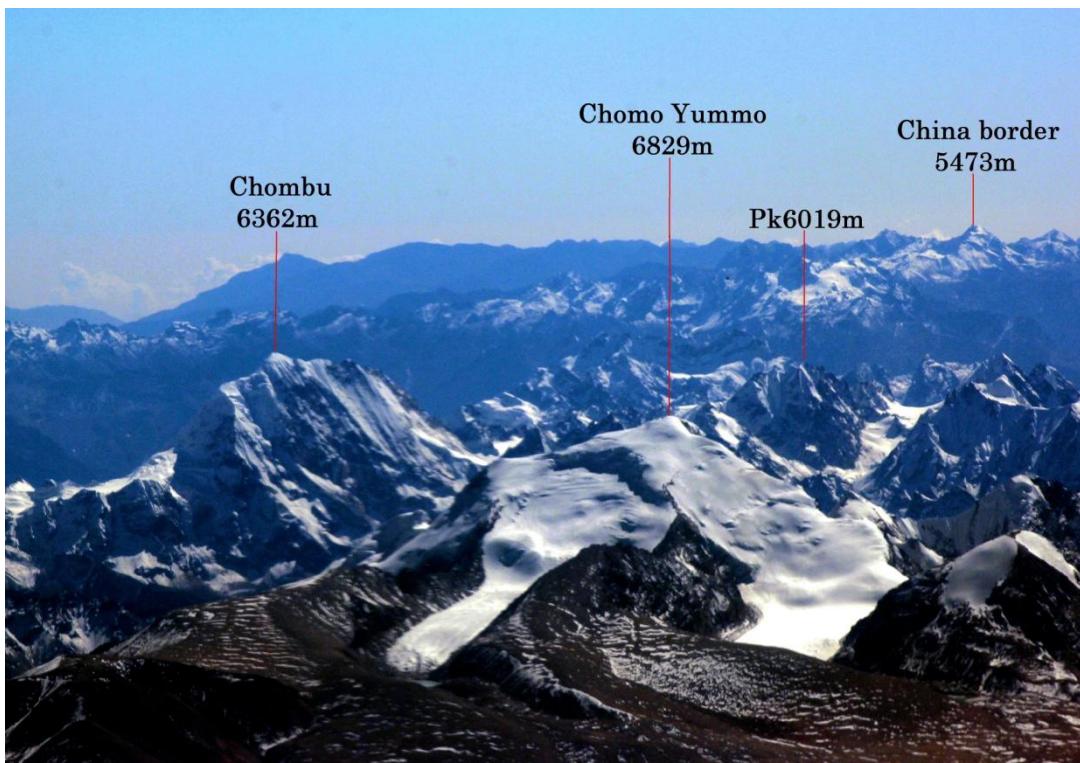
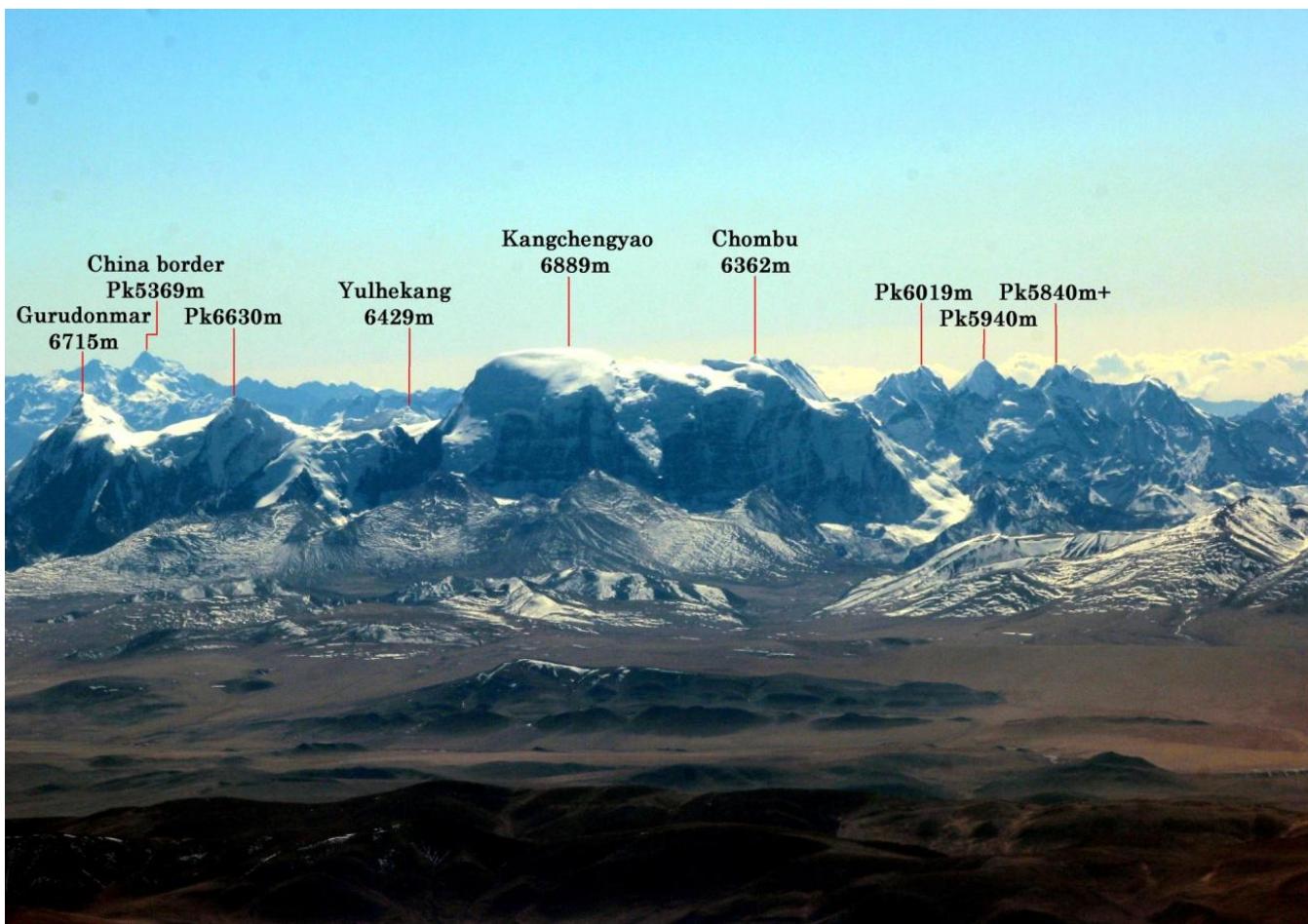
Tent Peak 7365m viewed from Changsang Glacier

Tom Nakamura's Aerial Views over the Himalaya Golden Flying Route: Kathmandu-Lhasa-Chengdu (East Nepal~North Sikkim~China-Bhutan border)









The First Ascent of the Himalayan Peaks by Yoshio Ogata

Mt.Himalchuli West Peak (7540m)

We climbed a new route on SW Face of Himalchuli from Dordi khola in the pre monsoon 1978.BC (3870m) on the left fork of Dordi Khola was made on Mar.24. C1 (4960m) on the base of the rock band beneath SW Face was set up on Apr.1. C2 (5720m) on 8th and C3 (6170m) on 19th were made. The snow arête and mixed section continued above C3. C4 (6700m) on SW ridge was made on 28th. C5 (7300m) on the shoulder of West Peak (7540m) was made on May 4th. On 6th three members was reached the top of Main Peak (7893m). Next day I and Sugeno made the first ascent of West Peak (7540m) via the col between N and W Peaks.

Mt.Mamostong Kangri (7516m)

We made the first ascent via S Face in 1984. Mt.Mamostong Kangri is situated in the Kumdan Group of the Karakorum Range and is a highest peak of the Group. Mountain is situated about 20km off the Leh-Yarkand Central Asian Trade Route.

We approached by Mamostong Gl. and BC on the glacier at 5600m was made on Aug.18th. Two camps were made on the glacier, and went into Tanman Gl. after crossing a col (5600m) on the SW branch ridge. C2 (6100m) was made on the 26th and C3 (6700m) also was made next day. Ropes were fixed to the shoulder (7200m) on the 30th. After a rest ABC. Two Japanese and three Indian members reached the top on the Sep.13th. The top was reached by five members on the 15th and by two members on the 16th. All members reached the top.

Mt.Gyala Peri (7151m)

We made the first ascent via W Face-S Ridge in 1986. This peak, located near the famous Great Bend of the Yarlumg Tsangpo river and facing to Namcha Barwa over the river, had long been “a secret mountain in the world”. On Sept.16th, after 6 days’ approach march along the river we set up BC (3200m) at the river bed, lower part of the Gyala Peri Glacier. Taking the route by the side branch-right end of the W Face, we placed two more camps then moved on the S Ridge and pushed the Ridge to place C3 (6300m) and C4 (6750m), But we attack from C4 on 29th and 30th failed. On 31st I and two members reached the summit which took 10 hours 40 minutes.

Mt.Rimo I (7385m)

We made the first ascent via S Face in 1988. We approached from the Siachen Glacier

to the Terong Glacier and on June 8th placed ABC (5040m) on the North Terong Gl. Three days later we placed C1 (5960m) right under the Ibex Col and climbed S Face. This was much more efficient direct line than the SW Ridge route that was taken by the Indo-UK team in 1985. We placed C3 (7000m) on the SW Ridge. On July 28th I and three members reached summit.

Mt.Patibhara (Pyramid Peak 7123m)

We made the first ascent from Sikkim side in spring 1993. The NE Peak of this mountain (c.7000m) had been climbed in 1949 by the Swiss team, led by Eduard Wys-Dunant, from the Nepalese side but the ascent of the Main Peak was the first time.

We placed BC on Mar.7 near the Green Lake on the Zemu Glacier. Toward the end of Mar. it heavily snowed and accumulated 45cm deep at Lachen, the road head, which resulted in the delay of transportation of our goods and so the accumulation of all our goods at BC completed as late as Apr.13. To the contrary above situation of continuing good weather in Apr. favored our climbing activities. We placed ABC (5450m) on Apr.7th on the Tent Peak Glacier, then climbed over the Tent Peak Pass with some fixed ropes and descended to the Changsang Glacier where we placed C1 (5600m) on Apr.11th.

We first, from this point, approached the col between the Sphinx and South Langpo Peak, but turned to a tributary spur stretched southeast ward from the Sphinx, on the crest of which we climbed up by Apr. 17th and finally reached the summit ridge of the Sphinx. We placed C2 (6700m) on Apr. 19th, which were 4 pitches short of the highest point (6824m) of the Sphinx. On Apr. 20th we climbed over the Sphinx and reached the E Ridge of Pyramid Peak, and on Apr. 22nd, extended our fixed ropes to the col between the NE Peak and the Main Peak. On Apr. 24th, I and six members made the summit. The 7 pitches route from the NE Peak to the summit was a horrible sheer snow arête which was the crux of the whole climbing route.

Other climbed Himalayan Peaks by Yoshio Ogata.

Mt.Everest(8848m) via SW Face in winter 1993 (Winter first Ascent).

Mt.Yalung Kang (Kangchenjunga West 8505m) in the pre monsoon 1981.

Mt.Cho Oyu (8201m) in the post monsoon 1993.

Mt.Gasharbrum II(8035m) & Mt.Broad Peak(8051m) in summer 1997.

Mt.Satopanth (7075m) via N Ridge in post monsoon 1995.

Mt.Tukuche Peak (6920m) via N Ridge in pre monsoon 1974.

Mt.Kedarnath Dome (6831m) via N Ridge in post monsoon 1980.

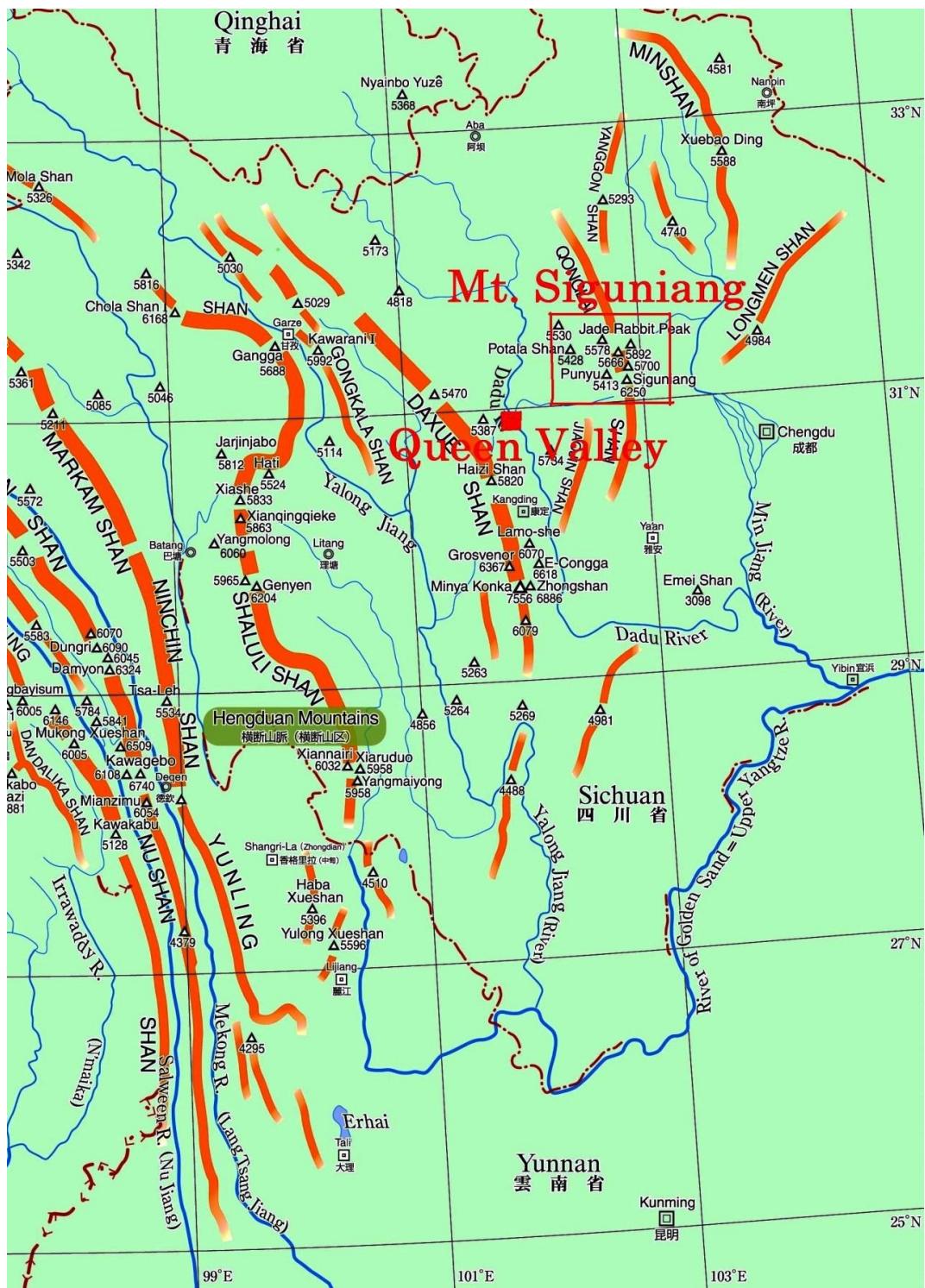
※Mt.Gangkhar Puensum

Gangkhar Puensum is not only the highest mountain in Bhutan but remains the highest unclimbed summit in the world with an elevation of 7570m.

I attempted climbing the Central Ridge of Gangkhar Puensum in 1985. The Central Ridge is a contact line straightly going up to the summit sharing Southwest and South Face. But we had to stop climbing on the way since one member unfortunately suffered from lung dropsy and rescued by a helicopter.



KENZO OKAWA
 News and Photo Album
**Queen Valley of Beauties & Mt. Siguniang, Qionglai Mountains
 Hengduan Mountains in West Sichuan**





The Hengduan Mountains are not exceptional in climate changes taking place in the greater ranges of the world. Mountaineers and geographers report glacial receding also in Mt. Siguniang massif in the eastern rim of the Hengduan Mountains. Mt. Siguniang's English name is 'For Girls Mountains' whereas ethnologic Tibetan name is 'Sukolagidda' that signifies a holy mountain. Receding due to the global warming is observed around the main peak of Mt. Siguniang and its north ridge. It is specially mentioned that shifting of rainy season to dry season has changed in recent years. Rainy season in Mt. Siguniang normally started in June and caused heavy rainfall intermittently with short blue sky. Till 2011 fine weather suddenly continued for one ~ two weeks from late August to early September and then rainy season ceased. After rainy season fine weather and rain/snowfall followed periodically. However, this normal cycle has changed since 2012 as the end of rainy season is delayed for one ~ two months. This has been continuing for six years till 2017.

An approach to Mt. Siguniang is easy. You may reach a touristic centre of Siguniang Mountains Management Bureau in three hours from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. The route is a highway, Wolong, a homeland of Giant Panda and a new tunnel 3800m under Balannshan Pass 4400m, and down to the town. The main peak of Mt. Siguniang was first climbed via southeast ridge by a Japanese party of Doshisha University. A British party of Mick Fowler and Paul Ramsden opened a line on the

northwest face in 2002 which was awarded with the first Piolet's d'Or of France. Mt. Siguniang, UNESCO World Natural Heritage is now a hive of climbers, trekkers and tourists throughout the seasons. The area is abundant in alpine flora such as blue poppy, Meconopsis.

Danba County is situated around 350 kilometers west of Chengdu, in the Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of western Sichuan Province. Zhanu, a pleasant town at the bank of Dadu River, is Danba's county seat. 'Kingdom of Towers' and 'Beauty Valley' are the two titles given to Danba County because of many towers and beautiful Tibetan women, which are called as **Queen Valley** (Chinese name is 'Jiarong', traditional Tibetan name is 'Gyalmo-rong') or **Valley of Beauties**. (Notes: Not only for a lookout and beacon, the Towers have various implications such as an offering to the Gods and the symbol of wealth, a milestone of the afterworld or a temple for fortune telling and praying.)

Tibetan women in the villages of Danba County have gained the reputation of being attractive and graceful. Their stunning beauty thus gives the valley its name – Beauty Valley. Their profession is selected dancer, singer and dress model of an ethnic dancing team as officially recognized. According to an old legend they are descendants of beauties of Western Xia (西夏) in the 13th century including those of Western Regions (Xi-yu 西域) and India. They escaped to Danba being turned by Mongolian. Every three years, a beauty contest is held in the County to select the prettiest girl. Danba girls are usually seen to be wearing a headdress, turquoise and coral ornaments into their plaited hair, and an ethnic style dress basically black colored. Photo is Kenzo Okawa's family in Danba.



Kenzo Okawa Photo Album

The Goddess on the Mountains in Southwestern China

Four Girls Mountains, Being beautiful forever

蜀山女神



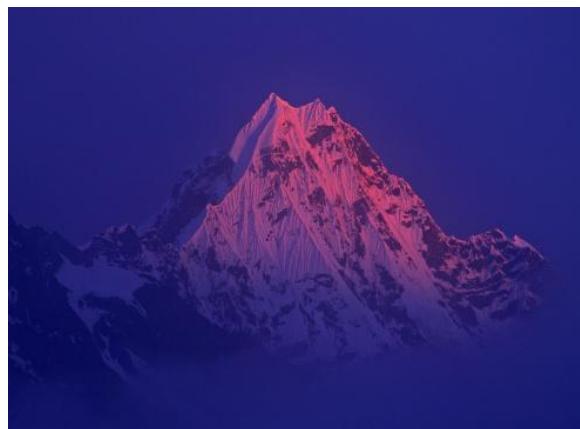
— 四姑娘山 永远美丽 —

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Photography and comments : Kenzo Okawa
Sichuan Publishing Group Sichuan Fine Arts Publishing House

Group I – Mt. Siguniang Massif



Mt. Siguniang massif, right end: Main Peak of Mt. Siguniang



Main Peak east face



South face and southeast face of Main Peak (right)



Main Peak – Northwest face (1)



Main Peak – Northwest face (2)

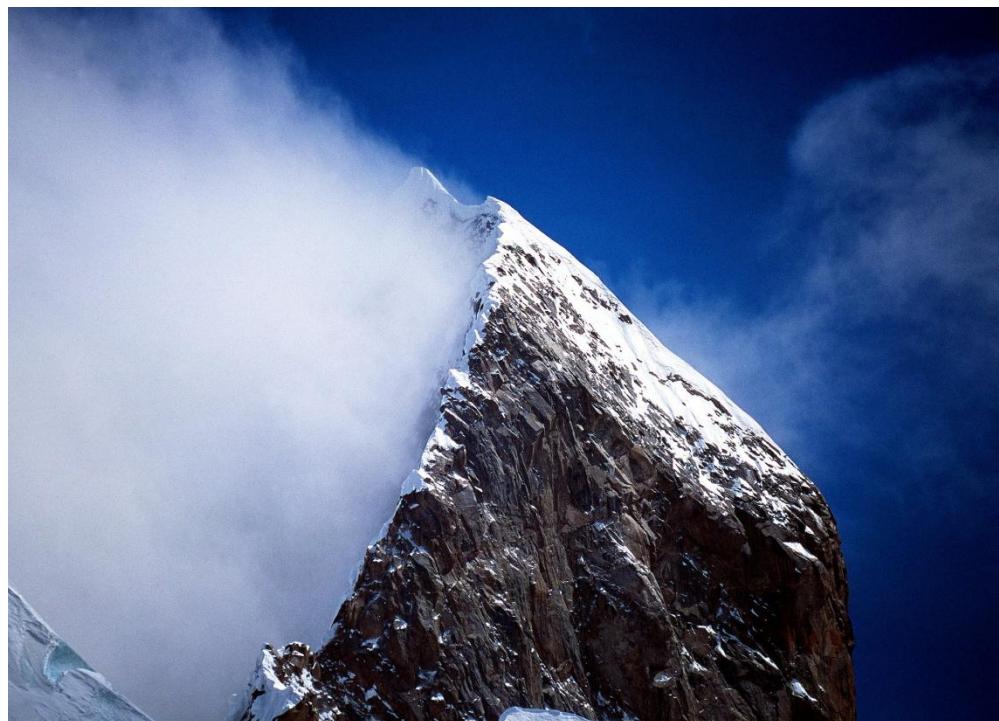


Main Peak – Northwest face (3)

This awful northwest face was first climbed by a British team of Mick Fowler and Paul Ramsden along ice-streaks running in the center of the face in 2002. They were awarded the fist Piolets o'Dr of France.



Main Peak – South face



Main Peak – North ridge



(above two) Holy Celestial Peak 5413m and adjacent peaks, Changping Gou

Group II – Alpine Flora, Meconopsis



Blue poppy: *Meconopsis barbisetata*



Yellow poppy – *Meconopsis integrifolia*



Red poppy – *Meconopsis punica*

Group III – Legend and Goddess in Queen Valley

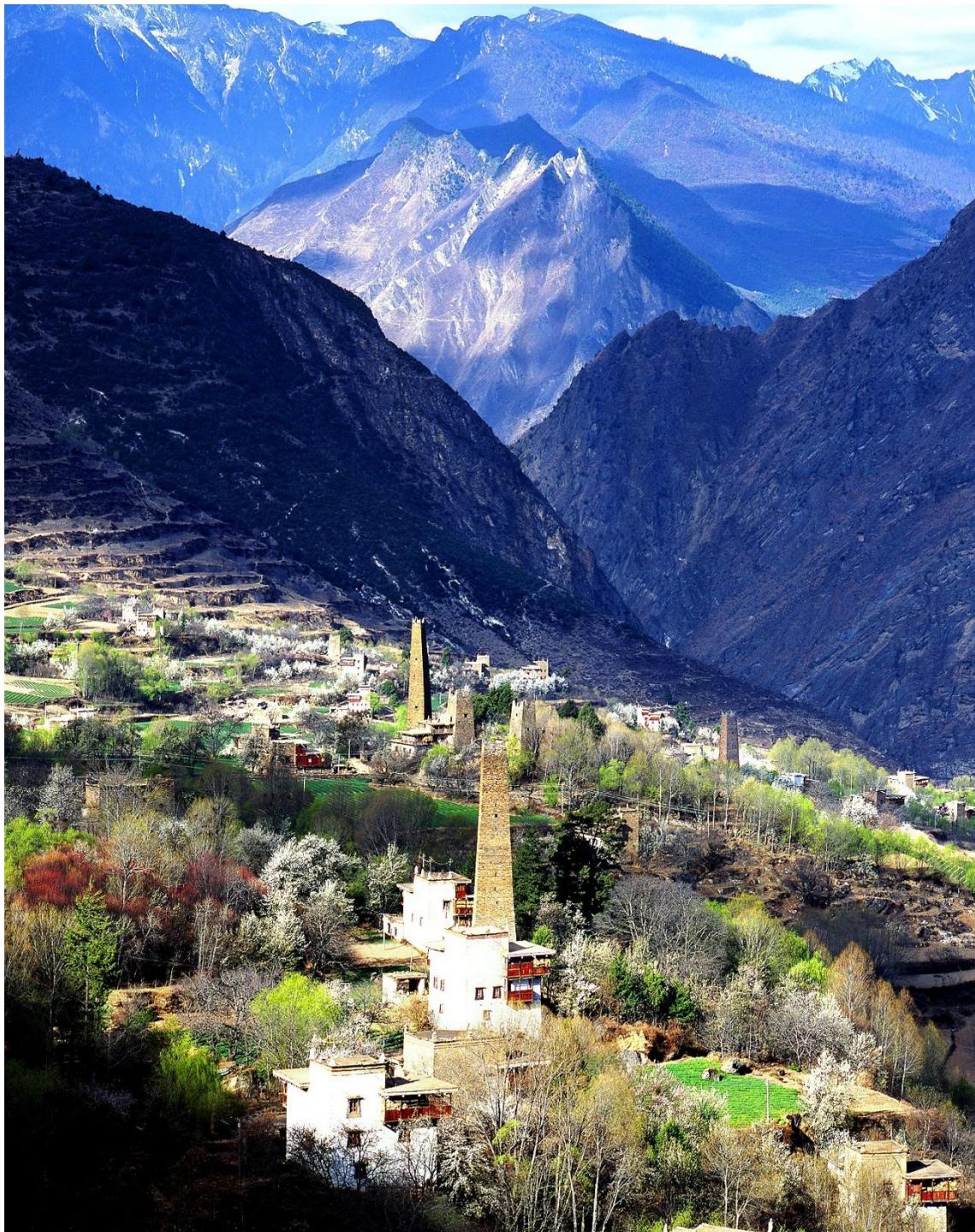


Holy “Moerduo Mountain” 4820m highest in the center of Queen Valley



Ruin of nine stories palace of lord

Group IV – Towers



Towers in Zhonglu, Queen Valley, Danba



Towers and village along river, Queen Valley



Towers in Queen Valley, Danba

Group V – Ancient pot and paintings



Frog designed old wine pot



Life-holding Goddess of old Bon religion



Life-taking Goddess of old Bon religion

Group VI – Spring Festival and Ethnic Dresses



People visiting a temple for cerebrating Chinese New Year



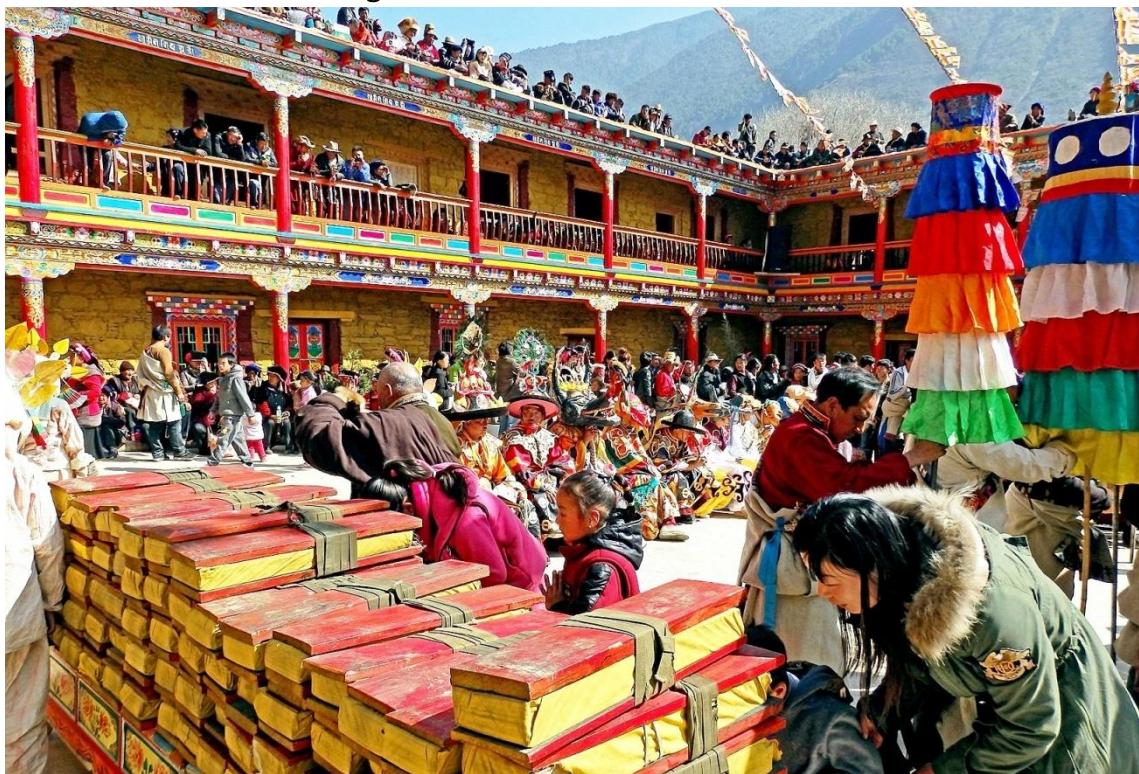
Dancing to celebrate Chinese New Year (1)



People gathering for “Unveil a treasured Buddhist image”
in Chinese New Year



Dancing to celebrate Chinese New Year (2)



People praying “return “having a head touch to a bundle of sutra
to be publicly opened in Chinese New Year



People praying “return “having skins touch to a body of God
to be publicly opened in Chinese New Year



Dipping holy water in Chinese New Year (1)



Dipping holy water in Chinese New Year (2)



Dancing in Chinese New Year

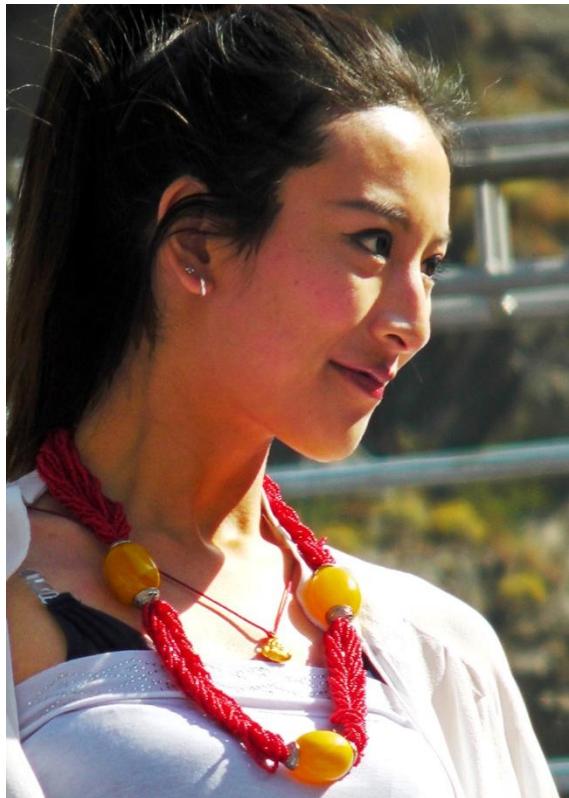
Group V11 – Ethnic Dress, Costume and Beauties



Costumes in Festival in Queen Valley, Danba



Danba girl at Zhonglu village of towers



Danba beauties in Queen Valley