

During October and November in 1981, a pilot operation was carried out on the ablation area of Yala Glacier at an altitude of 5,180 m a.s.l.

By boring into the bare ice a full-depth core of 30 m was taken. The temperature in the hole remained slightly below 0°C so that infiltrating of melt water was practically nonexistent. On the other hand, the operation which was carried out during a cold season, to avoid melt water problems, involved such logistic problems as high-altitude porter employment, climbing on a glacier covered with heavy snow, etc.

Immediately after the 1982 monsoon season was over, the main boring operation on the accumulation area was set up at an altitude of 5,405 m. During the operation, various troubles with the boring arose: a failure condition on the anti-torque fins due to the existence of thick temperate loose firn developed between 1 to 10 meters below the surface, the machine was submerged by an abrupt spouting of infiltrated melt-water at a depth of 27 m, and also many mechanical troubles occurred. On the other hand, under good conditions up to 6–7 m can be bored per day.

At the end of October, the first 60 m full-depth boring in the Nepal Himalaya succeeded; 17 m of firn and 43 m of ice were found. The temperature measurements at depth were made in the air of the open bore hole with a thermistor. The bore-hole temperature measurements on the accumulation area indicate that this area is temperate (the ice temperature below 10 m depth was 0°C).