

## Nepal

### CHANDI HIMAL

*Changwatang (6,130m), second*

*ascent, west ridge. Five Japanese*

*led by Michihiro Honda and four*

*experienced Sherpas made the*

*second ascent of Changwatang, a*

*summit just south of the Tibetan*

*border peaks of the Chandi*

*Himal, due north of Simikot air-*

*port. This summit was added to the*

*permitted list in 2002 but was first*

*climbed in 2000 by*

*Tamotsu Ohnishi's Japanese team,*

*via the west face from the Talsolu*

*Khola. The Chandi Himal*

*lies between historic trade-route*

*passes of Lapche La and Changi*

*La.*

Honda's team had a permit to attempt Takphu Himal (Ishang, 6,395m, on the HMG Finn map), but the Japanese were likely after the 6,422m summit to the south attempted by Ohnishi in 2000. Takphu Himal lies in the border range of the Nalakandar Himal, west of Simikot (of which the highest summit is an unnamed peak of 6,422m), but on reaching the village below the mountain, the Japanese were forbidden to progress farther by locals, who believed climbing would precipitate natural disasters.

Instead the expedition trekked northeast, put a base camp at 4,700m, some distance from Changwatang, and placed two more camps, the highest at 5,700m, at the foot of the west ridge. From here it took only a few hours to climb the south face to the upper west ridge and make the second ascent of the mountain. Two members skied from the summit to the high camp.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, and RICHARD SALISBURY, *The Himalayan Database*

### KANJIROBA HIMA

*Dudh Kundali (6,042m), south ridge and traverse; Point 5,518m. Our expedition didn't reach our*

*proposed base camp in the heart of the massif northwest of Kanjiroba, let alone Patrasi*

*(6,450m), our primary objective. Our gear, which we have shipped by land, hadn't caught up*

*with us, and we were missing 200m of rope that we needed to get through the steep, snowy col*

*that connects to the Jagdula Khola valley.*

Since we couldn't climb Patrasi, we focused our efforts on the southern part of the range.

This region was first explored in 1953 by Herbert Tichy, who made the first ascent of Dudh Kundali (from the west), naming it Dui Tal Chuli (The Heavenly Torch Between the Two Lakes).

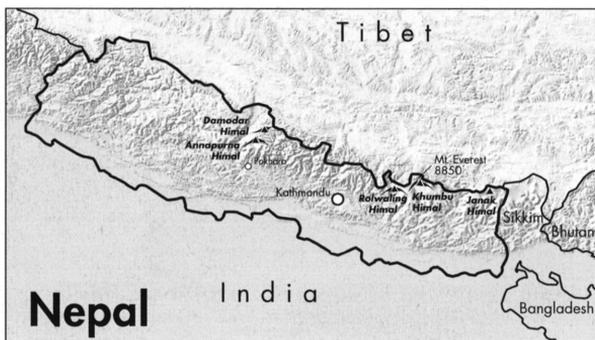
[The peak was climbed again in 1990 by a French expedition from the east.] On November 11

and 12 we climbed the south ridge from the east, naming the route A Torch for Tibet (III/AD+, snow). Hugues De Varax, Yveline Gobil, Victor Lapras, Michelle Quatrini, Chhotemba Sherpa,

Philippe Wagner, and I made the ascent. The route is similar to the famous Rochefort Arête in the Mont Blanc massif. We climbed alpine style, with no fixed ropes.

On the 13th Jean Berthet and I traversed Dudh Kundali. We ascended the south ridge and descended the northwest, or Bosses Arête, to Lake Jagdula. Traversing is a form of alpinism rarely seen in the Himalaya.

At the end of our trip we completed our reconnaissance of the massif by establishing an alpine hiking route west from Lake Jagdula to Jumla via the Lubdu (Lungbu) Valley and the





Chhotemba on the first ascent of the south ridge of Dudh Kundali (6,042m). Running away from the camera to the southeast is the sharp ridge of the Jagdula Lekh. The first three pyramids are Pt. 5,692m, Ghuthumba (5,806m), and Mathathumba (5,767m). In the far distance are high peaks of the Dhaulagiri massif. *Paulo Grobel*



Dudh Kundali (6,042m) from the east, showing the route followed on the south ridge. On the right is the east-north-east ridge. *Paulo Grobel*

village of Chotra (Churta). We crossed the watershed via Col Tichy, a huge, glaciated saddle at 5,488m. While passing through this, we deviated to climb a small, snowy 5,518m summit. Also, access to Kanjiroba base camp is now much simpler, as it is no longer necessary to climb back up through “impassable” gorges. We established a new route we called The Honeymoon Trail, because of the epic journey to the mountain in 1999 by a group of young British alpinists, including honeymooners Alison and Tom Wedgwood. It is no longer necessary to say, as in a *HIGH*

*Magazine* headline at the time, “The hardest part of Kanjiroba is the approach.” Further information can be found at [www.paulo-grobel.com](http://www.paulo-grobel.com).

This expedition confirmed the exceptional appeal of the Kanjiroba massif. Even during the height of the tourist season we didn’t encounter other expeditions. Above all, the people of Hurikot were warm and hospitable. In these impoverished western regions, rarely visited by tourists, the economic impact of an expedition is real and important. It is a way of giving more weight and credibility to alpinism. Our presence in this far off place allowed us to share the economic benefits that tourism has brought to the interior of the country. With peace returning to Nepal, it is time to check out this rarely visited range and get to know the mountains of western Nepal.

PAULO GROBEL, *France (translated by Todd Miller)*

*Peak ca 5,900m.* Goetz Wiegand led a six-member German team to attempt Norbu Kang (6,005m), a peak added to the permitted list in 2002 and first climbed a year later by Tamotsu Ohnishi’s Japanese expedition, by the north face from a col west of the summit. The Germans approached from the Juphal airport, via the Tarap Khola Valley to Dho, northeast of the mountain. They tried to approach Norbu Kang from a valley to its east but were told by local people that passage was blocked by landslides. They retreated to Dho, trekked northwest to Tokyu, and moved south up a valley to camp at 5,200m. Next day, July 6, Sabine Langer, Bernd Voigtlaender, and Wiegand walked a short distance to what they believed to be Norbu Kang and climbed the northeast face to 5,600m, where they moved left to gain the east ridge, following the crest to the summit. However, from the summit they saw, 4-5km to the south, a mountain that was 100-150m higher. They believe that this was Norbu Kang and that their summit was ca 5,900m in height. They descended the east ridge to their camp but had no time to attempt the other mountain.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, ELIZABETH HAWLEY, *AAC Honorary Member, Nepal*, and RICHARD SALISBURY, *The Himalayan Database*

*Norbu Kang (6,005m), second ascent.* On September 7 Isolde Frei, Anna Wirbel, Edmund Wirbel, Dorje Lama Tamang, and Tendi Sherpa made the second ascent of Norbu Kang. This Austrian-Luxemburger team followed the 2002 Japanese route on the north face.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY, *AAC Honorary Member, Nepal*

## DHAULAGIRI HIMAL

*Putha Hiunchuli (7,246m), first alpine-style ascent from the north; Turka Himal (ca 5,800m).* In early April Blue Eisele, Curtis Gray, and I visited the Dhaulagiri Range, hoping to climb a new route on the north side of Churen Himal (7,371m). To get there we needed to cross the Himalaya on foot from south to north, one of the longest approaches in Nepal: 240km of trekking and over 10,500m of ascent before reaching the Kaya Khola Valley. (Of course one can bypass this with a chartered aircraft.)

We left the roadhead near Beni with a staff of three Nepalis and seven donkeys. On day five we traded our weary donkeys for tougher ones. In all we crossed six passes. Three were above 4,250m and had plenty of pre-monsoon snow, into which the donkeys collapsed when they punched through, requiring us to shuttle their loads. On day 10 we descended into the arid, Tibet-like region of Lower Dolpo, leaving the lush jungles behind us. We were surprised