

Tibet

Climbing in China and Tibet was compromised in 2008 by the Beijing Olympics and a major earthquake in Sichuan. Writing in December Elizabeth Hawley noted, "Plans for expeditions in Tibet continue to face uncertainty, despite the end of the Olympic

Games, which caused the Chinese to cancel all expeditions in the spring. Most organizers this autumn decided not to wait for Beijing to give a green light for Cho Oyu and substituted Manaslu or Baruntse. Some organizers are seriously considering not sending climbers to Tibet in the foreseeable future. They know that Everest will likely be closed next March, as the 17th will mark the 50th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's flight from Lhasa, and demonstrations by citizens of the Tibet Autonomous Region and Tibetan-populated adjoining provinces can surely be expected." In 2009, expeditions that planned to enter Tibet and Sichuan before the end of March were refused permits.



Lindsay Griffin, *Mountain INFO*

Tibetan (and Xinjiang) mountains, various ascents. The following climbs, primarily in Tibet, were made during 2007 and 2008. All are first known ascents. Kangzhagri, Kukushili, Pulha Ri, Purog Kangri, Sirensou, and Toze Kangri Northeast have a prominence of more than 1,000m. Coordinates, approach, ascent routes, and type of terrain are only briefly detailed, the main purpose of this report being to inform future parties that these generally remote peaks have been climbed. Unsuccessful attempts on Qierlizuoke Feng, Sirengou, and Guozha Kangri are not detailed.

Beginning in the west with two peaks in Xinjiang: Sirensou (N 35°49'33", E 79°13'42") by the north ridge (three days approach on foot, followed by glacier, snow, and scree to 30°, American-Swedish party, September 2, 2007); Jiao Feng (Qierlizuoke South, N 35°58'09", E 79°26'33") by the northwest ridge (two days approach on foot, followed by snow to 55–60°, American-Swedish party, September 9, 2007). These lie close to the Mazar-Ali Shiquane road; no heights are given on the official Chinese map. A little farther east in the Tibet Autonomous Region: Toze Kangri Southwest (official height 6,356m, GPS 6,366m, N 34°44'20", E 82°19'51") by the north-northwest ridge (one week approach on foot and bike, followed by glacier and snow to 35°, German-Swedish party, October 4, 2007); Toze Kangri Northeast (official height 6,356m, GPS 6,369m, N 34°46'32", E 82°21'52") by the west face (one week approach on foot and bike, followed by glacier and snow to 35°, Swedish, solo, October 6, 2007); Toze Pyramid (GPS 6,329m, N 34°41'44", E 82°12'56") by the east face and rock pillar from south (nine days approach on foot and bike, followed by snow and ice to 45° and a vertical rock section, Swedish, solo, October 8, 2007).

On the high Changtang Tibetan Plateau: Kukushili (Songzhi Ling, official height 6,360m, GPS 6,388m, N 35°39'48", E 85°37'03") by the south face (36 days approach on foot and bike, followed by snow to 55–60°, Canadian-Danish-Swedish party, June, 28, 2008); Purog Kangri (Purog/Zangser massif, official height 6,436m, GPS 6,438m, N 34°25'00", E 85°38'03") by the south ridge/face (47 days approach on foot and bike, followed by snow to 35°, Canadian-Danish-Swedish party, July 9, 2008); Kangzhagri (Kung Oscars Fjall, official height 6,305m, GPS

6,323m, N 35°33'25", E 89°34'40") by the west-southwest face (27 days approach on foot and bike, followed by glacier and snow to 45°, Canadian-Swedish party, June 26, 2007). The approach days given for these three peaks represent unsupported days beyond the last point of civilization.

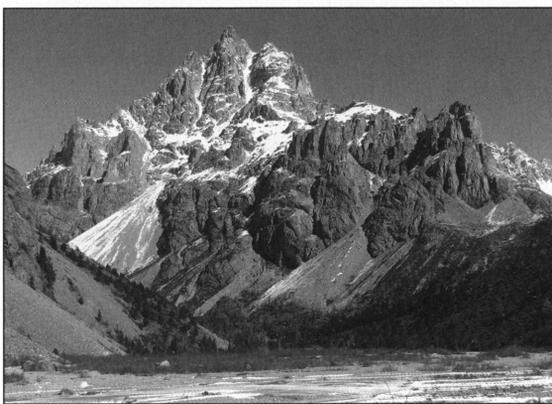
Two peaks were climbed in south-central Tibet, north of the Himalaya, approached via the Friendship Highway. Jietanzhouma (official height 6,008m/6,052m, GPS 6,028m, N 28°51'40", E 90°08'10") is just south of the Gyantse road and the Noijin Kangsang massif. It was climbed by the east couloir (two days approach on foot, followed by snow/ice to 50°, Swedish, solo, March 12, 2008). Pulha Ri (Maphu Kangri, official height 6,404m, GPS 6,424m, N 28°58'06", E 87°16'39") lies between Tingri and Lhaze, and is not far from Lhagoi Kangri, just east of the road. It was climbed by the southeast ridge (the three days approach on foot involved a vertical icefall, then snow/ice to 45°, Swedish, solo, April 6, 2008).

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*

Himalaya, Kula Kangri (7,538m), attempt and tragedy. In the autumn Kazuhiro Takahashi led a seven-member expedition to Kula Kangri. The plan was to make the first ascent of the unclimbed north ridge and also the first traverse of East, Central, and Main peaks. By late September advanced base camp had been established at 5,900m. On October 1 Satoshi Arimura and Yoshinobu Kato started to fix ropes on a spur leading to a forepeak on the north ridge. Susumu Nakamura accompanied them as cameraman. At 11 a.m. contact was suddenly lost; calls from the lower camp remained unanswered. The leader and Takanori Sakurai initiated a search and at 6:50 p.m. found the bodies of the three climbers on the lower slopes, at 6,000m. An avalanche appeared to have swept the 30–40° slopes to where the bodies were discovered. The expedition was abandoned. Thirty-two-year-old Kato was one of Japan's foremost high-altitude climbers, with eight 8,000m peaks to his credit. Sixty-two years old, Nakamura was the first Japanese to reach the North Pole (1978), South Pole (1994), and summit of Everest (1988).

TSUNEMICHI IKEDA, *Editor, Japanese Alpine News*

Hengduan Range, Taniantawen Shan, exploration. In 2007 Tamotsu "Tom" Nakamura trekked along the Yu Qu Valley, photographing, to the west, the unknown Guezong massif and mountains to its south, and to the east, the northern part of the Nu Shan/Taniantawen Shan with its beautiful but little known peaks of Damyon (6,324m) and Dungri Garpo (6,090m). This trek was covered in detail in *AJ 2008*. Nakamura's quest for late autumn 2008 was to travel along the Mekong River and examine the eastern aspects of



The south face of Pt. 5,925m on the Mekong - Yu Qu divide. Tamotsu Nakamura

Damyon and Dungri Garpo before attempting to find access to Dungri Garpo from the south. Beginning from the Yunnan city of Zhongdian (Shangri La), Nakamura and his group traveled