

attempt. I tried to assemble a rescue team of Sherpas and climbers, but people told me they were not interested. With two Sherpas I made an attempt to reach the camp but was driven back by a snow storm. On the third day I made another attempt, alone, and reached his tent at 10:30 p.m. He was unable to walk without assistance, and it took until 5 a.m. the following morning to get him down to Camp 1. From there I had help from Tibetan porters to bring him to base camp. [*Tosas was hospitalized with frostbite.*]

Climbing on 8,000m peaks is difficult to understand. Not the mountains but the people now attempting them. For me mountains have important human values, which it seems people have forgotten.

JORDI TOSAS, *Spain*

#### NYANCHEN TANGLHA WEST

*Qungmo Kangri (7,069m), southwest face; Point 6,097m, north ridge; Dhungri II (6,194m), southwest ridge; Point ca 5,980m.* In the autumn a party of climbers made four ascents in the Qungmo Kangri group at the southwestern end of Nyanchen Tanglha. They first tried the lower of two peaks referred to as Dhungri by nomads. This peak is generally known as Tangmonja and was attempted in 1999, via the southwest ridge, by a British party comprising Derek Buckle, Gary Hill, Alyson Starling, John Town, and John Whiteley. They retreated because of poor rock and bad weather but later climbed a smaller summit to the northeast named Machag. The 2011 team completed this ridge (350m, UIAA V R M3 A13), to reach the summit of what they call Dhungri II (29°56'46" N, 90°04'55" E). Although they believed they were making a first ascent, they discovered a new rappel anchor on the top, and suspect that another party had climbed the north ridge in September.

They then turned to the southeast face of the higher peak, Dhungri I (6,328m, 29°55'58" N, 90°05'10" W), an elegant summit also referred to as Xabu. However, they failed to reach the base, as it necessitated crossing a ridge that proved to be bigger and sharper than suggested on Google Earth. Instead they soloed a predominantly rocky ridge to a point of ca 5,980m between Dhungri I and II. It was 700m of mostly walking/scrambling but with a few sections of around M4.

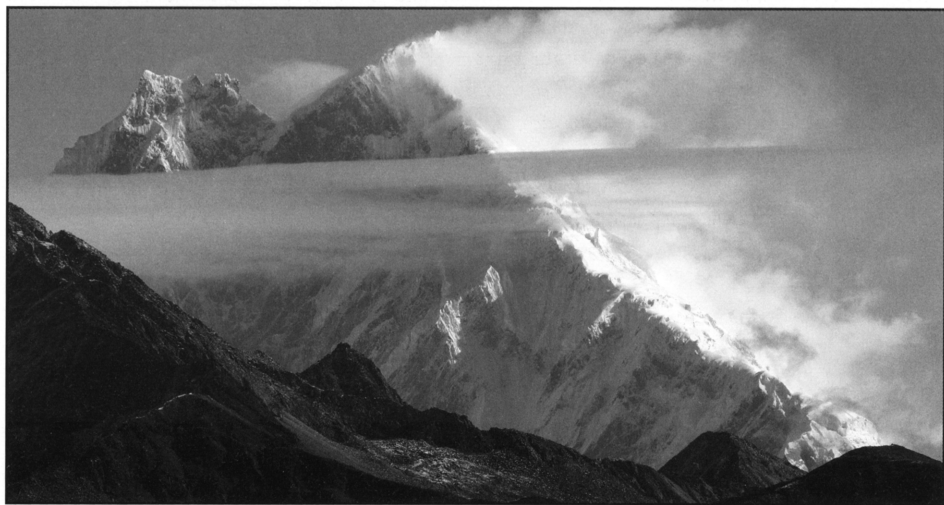
The team made the first ascent of the southwest face of Qungmo Kangri (29°54'12" N, 90°01'29" E), starting from the base of the glacier in the Jumu Valley, an ascent of 1,300m, with difficulties of M4/M5 and A14. They made their first bivouac shortly before joining the south ridge. After reaching the upper ridge, they found traces of fixed rope. They descended the south ridge to the col, where they made their second bivouac. On day three they climbed the short north ridge of Point 6,097m, returned to the col, and descended first west, then south, to their camp below the glacier.

This was the fifth known ascent of Qungmo Kangri, the previous four following the south ridge. The first three (Chinese-Korean, then two Japanese) approached the ridge from the east. The fourth was a solo ascent from the west by Christian Haas (*AAJ 2006*). Point 6,097m was possibly climbed by one of the first three teams, and it was definitely climbed by Haas, from the west, who traversed it on his way to Qungmo Kangri.

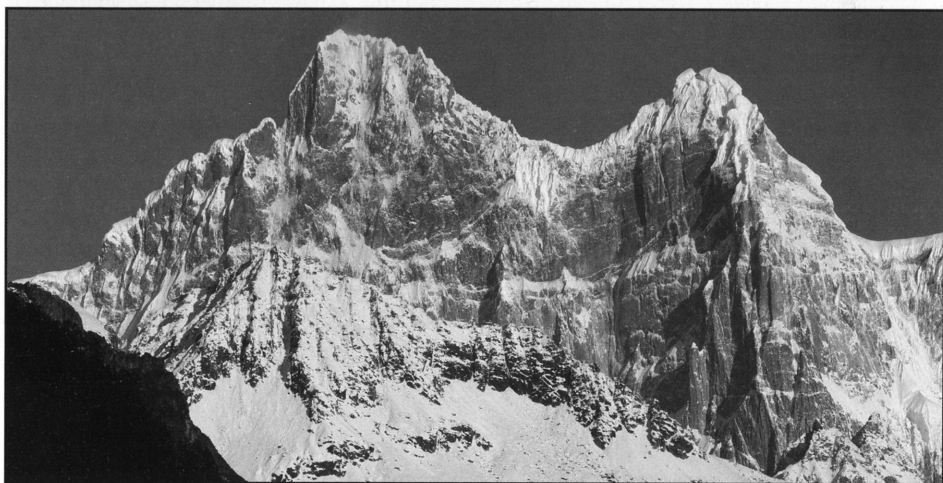
LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*

#### NYANCHEN TANGLHA EAST

*Jiangpu Glacier, exploration.* When flying from Chengdu to Lhasa, you pass over more than 200, 6,000m peaks in the Nyanchen Tanglha East. Nearly all are unclimbed, and many are situated either side of the



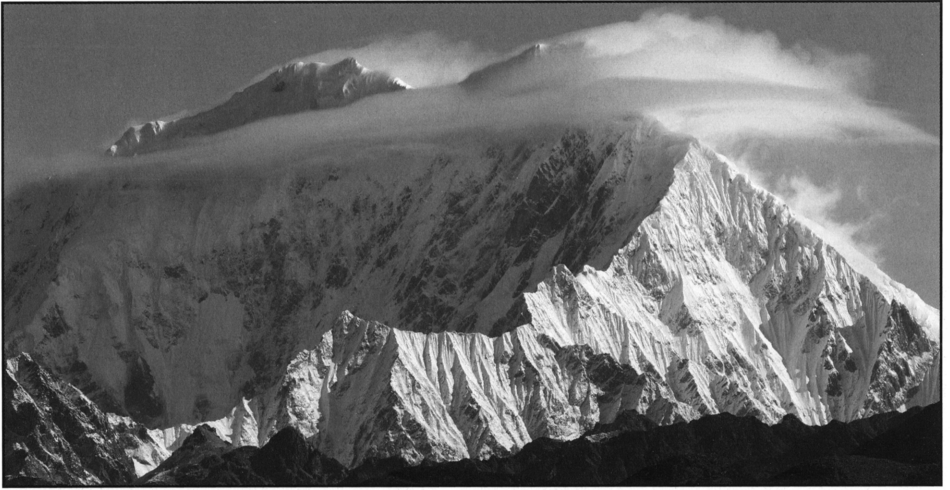
Gyala Peri (7,294m) from southwest, climbed only in 1986 by Japanese expedition via west face and south ridge (between shade and sunlight). *Tamotsu Nakamura*



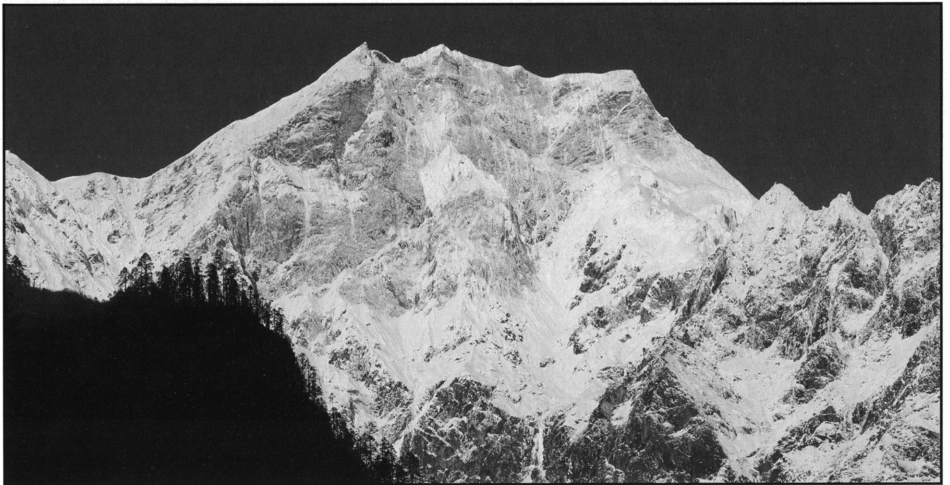
Southeast face of Jongpo Po Rong (6,570m) rises above middle branch of the Jiangpo Glacier. *Tamotsu Nakamura*

Yi'ong Tsangpo. In 2010 and 2011 Tibet became more sensitive, and access for foreigners more difficult. The situation went from bad to worse after the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of Tibetan liberation, held in Lhasa in June 2011. Qamdo is now closed, except for Rawu (Largu) Glacier and the Midou Glacier, which are popular tourist spots. In Nyainchi Prefecture foreigners have only been allowed to visit towns along Route 318, the Sichuan-Tibet Highway. This has been strictly controlled by the Public Security Bureau, which has banned foreigners from accessing areas off the highway.

Tsuyoshi Nagai (79), Tadao Shintani (65), and I were issued a permit to visit only towns along the highway. However, to accomplish our objective, a visit to the lower Yi'ong Tsangpo, we couldn't acquiesce to these restrictions. In the last year and a half a vehicle road has been constructed from Yi'ong village to Bake, and on October 17 we drove directly to Bake, which



Southwest face of Tiba Kangri (6,846m) in Gyala Peri Group. *Tamotsu Nakamura*



East face of San Ri Dui (6,050m). *Tamotsu Nakamura*



Unclimbed west face of Namcha Barwa (7,782m) from Seti La (4,500m). This peak has been climbed only in 1992, by a Sino-Japanese expedition via south ridge to east ridge. West face 3,300m high. *Tamotsu Nakamura*

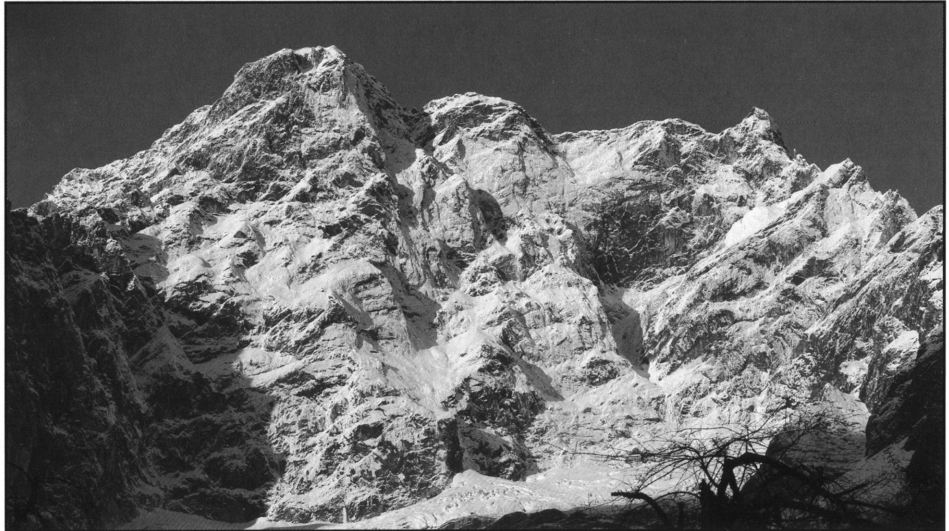
was originally to be the base for our exploration of surrounding mountains. When we arrived, the PSB ordered our return to Bomi County, the police there overseeing the PSB in Bake. If we had done this, we would never have been allowed to enter the Yi'ong Tsangpo. Our capable Tibetan guide, Awang, proved discreet. We drove back down the valley but turned left up a side branch north of Talu, reaching the roadhead at Wopu Village. Above, the valley leads to the Jiangpu Glacier, the second largest in Nyanchen Tanglha East and home to a number of unvisited 6,000m peaks.

Six days on horseback through Tibetan jungle brought us to a marvelous lookout, where we had magnificent views of unclimbed peaks. After 12 days of clandestine exploration, Awang received a phone call from his agent in Lhasa, explaining that the PSB was nervous about three missing Japanese, who should be reporting to Nyainchi police authorities in Bayichen. When we arrived, the talented Awang made up a consistent and plausible story for our 12 days absence, not mentioning that we had been off Route 318. He was allowed to leave, and we flew to Chengdu on the 30th.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japan*



Aerial view of Jongpo Po Rong (6,570m) and Jonlamapo (6,605m) from southeast. *Tamotsu Nakamura*



East face of San Ri Mal (ca 6,000m). *Tamotsu Nakamura*