

P2, first ascent. As noted above, one of the aims of the Ukrainian expedition to Manaslu was to make the first ascent of P2 (6251m a.k.a. Simnag Himal East), a minor summit along the east ridge of Ngadi Chuli (7871m a.k.a. Peak 29) immediately south of Manaslu. Getting permission to climb P2 was very difficult, as the peak was only brought on to the permitted list part way through the season. It was necessary for the President of the Ukraine to send a letter to the King of Nepal and for the expedition leader to meet with both the King and Prime Minister of Nepal. We only got the permit at the beginning of May.

Subsequently Mstyslav Gorbenko, Vadim Leontiev, Sergei Pugachov, and Mykhaylo Zagirnyak climbed the northern flanks of P2 above the Pungen Glacier to reach the east ridge at ca 5200m. The main difficulties on this section were deep snow, a big rimaye at 5000m, and an ice slope above. Once on the ridge we cached equipment in a snow cave dug into the south flank in preparation for the final push. The corniced east ridge itself was generally of moderate difficulty but presented two crux sections; a tricky gendarme at around 5800m and, higher, an 80-meter snow-covered rock wall. The climb was awarded an overall grade of 5A on the Russian scale. Three days were spent on the final ascent, with the summit reached at 4 p.m. on May 14.

MSTYSLAV GORBENKO, *Ukraine*

JUGAL HIMAL

Ganchenpo, north face, attempt. Bruno Burr, Oskar Wachter, and I left Kathmandu on May 6 and after a five-day trek through the Langtang Valley established base camp at 4400m in the Nyangtsa Chui Valley. We hoped to climb the north face of Ganchempo (6367m). The monsoon set in early this year, so we changed our strategy and tried to climb the route at night. On May 15 we went up to 5500m, where we placed Camp 1. After seven hours we reached the end of the moraine and were able to have our first view of the hidden glacier below the north face of Ganchenpo. It looked completely different than shown on the map, was full of deep crevasses, and much steeper than we expected. In the time we had available there was no way we would have been able to cross this glacier basin, and as we only carried equipment for one high camp, we retreated. We left base camp on May 20 and started our journey back to Kathmandu. Future parties with designs on the north face should expect to make at least two high camps and allow enough time to cross the glacier basin. (*Editor's note: in the past the north face has received at least three ascents via different lines from unauthorized parties.*)

JÜRGEN SCHÜTZ, *Germany*

KHUMBU HIMAL

Hungchi, attempt. Recently brought on to the permitted list, this 7036m mountain on the Nepal-Tibet watershed south of the Nup La had never received an official attempt before last autumn. Takatsugu Shiro's six-member Japanese party from Osaka attempted the southwest ridge but gave up on October 11 at 6700m.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japanese Alpine News*