

Shimizu, Tadashi Morita, and Katsuo Fukuhara. The Nepalese sirdar was Tul Bahadur Tamang, and the high altitude porters were Ram Kaji Tamang, Hitman Tamang, and Santaman Tamang. All these except Shiro reached the summit.

TAKASHI SHIRO, *Osaka Eiho Alpine Club*

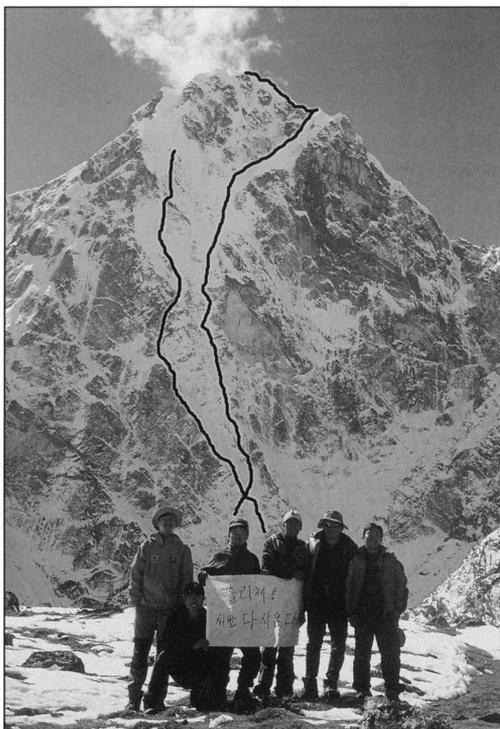
*Hungchi*, which lies south of the Nup La on the eastern rim of the Ngojumba Glacier, which itself forms the Nepal-Tibet frontier, is sometimes referred to as *Cha Khung* or *Gyuba Tshomotse*, and *Fungqi* in Chinese. Some members of the 2003 Japanese expedition had taken part in the first official attempt on this mountain, which was made via the southwest ridge during the autumn of 2001. However, with permitted but unclimbed 7,000ers in Nepal at a premium, it will perhaps come as no surprise to find the Japanese were not the only party on the mountain. Summiting just five days later was a group of Koreans. Few details are known of their ascent but for the most part they followed in the footsteps of the Japanese. Their route only differed in the initial section, where it is believed they approached the crest of the southwest ridge via the southeast rather than the west flank. Kim Jeon-Am, Kim Seung-Koo, Kim Sung-Ho, Jeong Chan-Il, and Yoo Cheoi-Mok report reaching the summit on April 24.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

*Cholatse* (6,440m), north face attempt. Corean Alpine Club expedition leader, Kang Sung-woo, returned to the north face of *Cholatse* in 2003 after bad weather thwarted an attempt the previous year. In 2002 the intended line had been a new route up the right side of the face but after nearly five weeks with considerable rain, snow and associated avalanche danger, the team reached a high point of only 5,200m.

Kang's team in 2003, which included Hwang In-seon, Hwang Young-soon, Lee Young-joon, Kim Chae-ho and Yang Byeong-ok left Incheon on September 24 and reached base camp on October 5. The climbers spent just over a week establishing advanced base at 4,900m and then the following week fixing 13 roped pitches to 5,450m. Here, they established Camp 1 at a place dubbed The Turtle's Head, due to the distinguishing features of a prominent rib directly above.

Over the next four days alternating teams of two and three climbers worked their way up to 5,700m. The Turtle's Head



The Korean 2003 attempt on *Cholatse*'s north face (left) and the French route of 1995. *Kang Sung-woo*

consisted of seven pitches varying from 75° to 110°. Lee Young-joon and Kim Chae-ho aided through the 100m crux section, then traversed, still on aid, 30m left to gain the mixed terrain of an adjoining gully. Looking up, the route to the summit appeared to lie directly up the small gully and all the difficult climbing appeared to be behind them. The previously named pair, together with Hwang Young-soon, then were forced to sit out poor weather at CI for five days, waiting for the next opportunity to climb.

When this opportunity arose, several days were spent cleaning snow-buried lines from base camp to Camp I. On October 28, Hwang Young-soon and Kim Chae-ho bivouacked at 5,600m in preparation for their summit bid. They cleared CI and after a rest climbed up to a second bivouac at 5,800m. On the 30th, a large icicle falling from above knocked Hwang Young-soon off balance at 6,000m; a piton popped and he took a 15m lead fall, damaging his leg. Hwang and Kim were forced to stop and bivouac for night. Hwang endured the pain of his seriously injured leg but began to suffer frostbite in the feet due to poor circulation. The two men were therefore forced to abort their summit bid.

Despite the motivation of the majority of remaining climbers to rest for a few more days and go for a second summit attempt, Kang, concerned about his team, wisely discouraged further attempts. Various members of the expedition had already sustained a broken shoulder, a fractured rib, severe frostbite, and a badly damaged ankle, and two of the team had been forced to leave early for further medical treatment. Although the summit was within reach, it was not the primary goal of Kang's agenda: for his climbers, climbing is breathing, breathing is living, and living is climbing another day.

PETER JENSEN-CHOI, *Corean Alpine Club and AAC*

*Khangri Shar, attempt.* Khangri Shar (6,811m) is one of many unclimbed peaks in the Nepal Himalaya opened for climbing by the Nepalese government in the fall of 2002. It is located west of Pumori in the Khumbu Himal in northeastern Nepal. The Changri Glacier flows into the Khumbu Glacier near Gorakshep, through the "Everest Highway." Khangri Shar soars dominantly between the heads of the East Changri Glacier and its side glacier on the Pumori side. We chose the side glacier as our route, naming it the "JAC Glacier."

The Khangri Glacier is often referred to as Changri Glacier on older maps. Locals call it "Changri"; therefore "Changri Shar" would be the most authentic name of the peak. (The col on the border was the same as that reached by the Americans in 1990 who unsuccessfully tried the northwest ridge of Pumori and referred to Khangri Shar as Chumo.)

Makoto Nebuka and Sherpa Anu made a reconnaissance in the winter of 2002, and identified three potential routes, only one of which was considered possible for our senior members—over 55 years old. This route leads to the summit via a col on the border and the east ridge. In pre-monsoon 2003 we crossed the Kongrama Pass (ca 5,300m) to acclimatize. We only had a expedition permit for a one-month period, so some of the members had to descend, as they had not recovered from altitude sickness.

Base camp was located on a plateau near a small glacial lake at the foot of Pumori. Four Sherpas went ahead and established the climbing route. We crossed the JAC Glacier tongue, then ascended a slope of the side moraine and began to climb a rock wall. Along the ridge we reached C1 on a glacier plateau at about 6,000m. We fixed 600m of rope from the foot of the wall to C1. We fixed 600m of rope from the foot of the wall to C1. Above, a superb rocky spur led directly