

it runs south of the large lake of Pelku Cho and were thought to be previously unclimbed (there does not appear to be a record of their ascents). The three climbers approached by walking seven to eight hours south across the plateau and up the valley leading to the peaks. They then climbed the more easterly and higher peak, Pt. 6,473m (N 28° 41' 50.6", E 85° 25' 20.3"), on September 12, via the northeast slope, and named it Free Tibet. They climbed the more westerly peak, 6,063m (N 28° 43' 07.9", E 85° 25' 10.5"), on the 14th, also from the north, and named it Bochánek. Panoramic views from both peaks are superb.

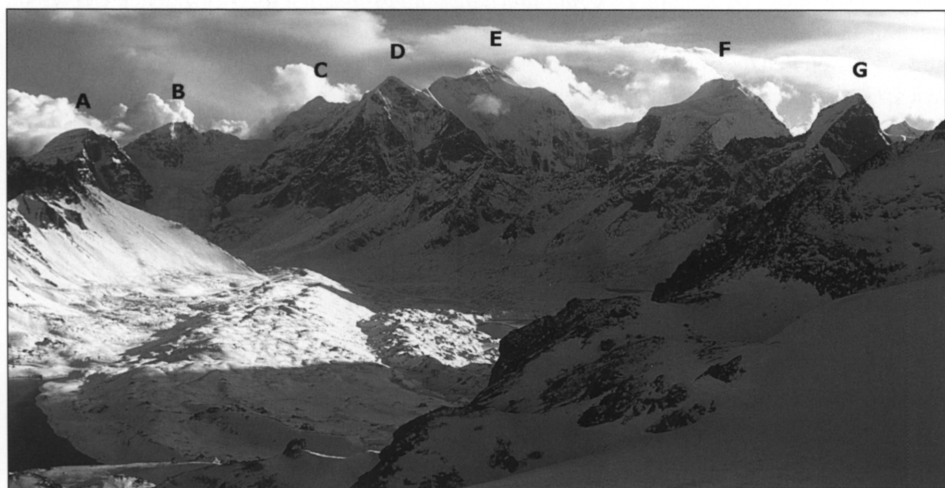
THOMAS RUCKSTUHL, *Switzerland*

*Risum, ascent of east ridge.* On September 20 Isomi Okanda (61) of Japan and a porter made an ascent of the east ridge of 7,050m Risum (Fuqu in Chinese). Okanda followed the route of the first ascent, which was made on May 10, 1997, by Kazuyoshi Kondo and two friends. The expedition approached via the large glacial plateau northwest of Xixabangma.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA *and the JAPANESE ALPINE NEWS*

*Tsha Tung, first ascent.* During my 2003 winter attempt on Xixabangma I noticed a small peak on the south side of the Phu Chu Valley just east of Eiger Peak (6,912m), as it was called by Doug Scott's 1982 Xixabangma expedition. Later study showed it to be a northerly outlier of Gyaltzen (6,151m). My Tibetan yak herder and camp assistant, Kesang Tsering, told me it was called Tsha Tung and was, as far as anyone locally knew, unclimbed. It looked like a perfect objective for a short, semi-commercial trip (I believe the correct phrase is "not-for-profit").

Later that winter I was guiding in Chamonix, when my client said he would be interested in a trying something new but not too difficult in the Himalaya. The seed of the



Looking more or less south from the slopes of Xixabangma down the snow-covered Phola Valley to peaks on or close to the Tibet-Nepal border: (A) Tsha Tung (5,995m), (B) Gyalzen Peak (6,151m), (C) Bhairab Takura (a.k.a. Madiya Peak, 6,799m), (D) Eiger Peak (quoted as 6,912m but according to contours on the Chinese Mi Desheng map likely to be less than 6,800m), (E) Lengpo Gang (a.k.a. Big White Peak, 6,979m), (F) Gur Karpo Ri (6,889m), (G) Ice Tooth (6,200m). *Lindsay Griffin*