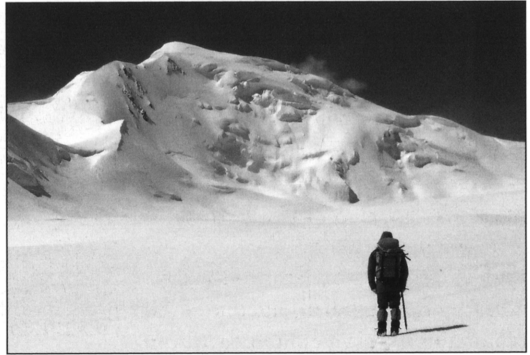


The Geladaindong massif, which sits roughly in the middle of the Tangula Shan, is 50km long (north-south) and 20km wide (west-east). The highest point, Geladaindong, is surrounded by more than 20 peaks higher than 6,000m, most still unclimbed. French explorer Gabriel Bonvalot came to these mountains at the source of the Yangtze River (Chang Jiang) in 1890 and referred to them as the Duplex Range. Japanese first tried to negotiate a permit in 1982, but not until 1985 were they able to access the range and make the first ascent of Geladaindong, by the northwest ridge, approaching from the northeast. In 1997 an American team climbed a new route up the northeast face (55–60°).



The east face of Peak 6,543m in the Geladaindong Massif. The peak was climbed in 2007 by a Japanese expedition via the broad col on the right and the north-northwest ridge above. Courtesy of Tamotsu Nakamura and the Japanese Alpine News

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Editor, Japanese Alpine News*

## SICHUAN PROVINCE

*Siguniang, southwest ridge integral.* Over eight days in late September, Dylan Johnson and Chad Kellogg made the first complete ascent of the southwest ridge of Siguniang (6,250m) in the Qonglai Shan. In July 1992 eight Japanese climbers led by Chiharu Yoshimura sieged a pronounced buttress toward the left side of the south face, leading to the southwest ridge at ca 5,900m and continuing up the ridge to make the second ascent of the summit. Below the Japanese entry point, the southwest ridge continues for a considerable distance until it falls toward lush forest over a 600m-high triangular rock wall. In 2006 Cosmin Andron and Steve Wai Wah Yip climbed 450m up a prominent rib on the lower wall, naming their route Suffering First Class (p. 420, AAJ 2007). Johnson and Kellogg followed a new 17-pitch line up this lower buttress and continued up the virgin ridge for an additional 47 pitches until they followed the Japanese route to the summit. Their bold, committing ascent (1,900m, 5.11 A2 AI3+ M5) is featured in this *Journal*.

*Changping, Shuangqiao, and Bipeng valleys, mapmaking.* After my attempt on the Dragon's Tooth in 2007, I trekked around the Changping, Shuangqiao, and Bipeng valleys for about nine days, hiking up hillsides, over passes, and up subsidiary valleys trying to get a concept for the area. There have been many intrepid climbers in these valleys, but it is still hard to figure out which peak is what. Each peak may have a Chinese name, a Tibetan name, a name given by the first Western team to climb it, or no name at all. Some peaks can be seen from two different valleys; the locals in each valley have different names for the same peak.

My mission was to use my local knowledge and language skills to unravel the mystery of this new climbing destination. I interviewed local horsemen, Chinese mountaineers, the Sichuan Mountaineering Association, and foreign climbers such as Jon Otto, Tamotsu Nakamura, and Ben Clark. The result is a hand-drawn map with 50 of the most prominent peaks that comprise the Bipeng, Changping, and Shuangqiao valleys. As of now this is the most