

Nepal

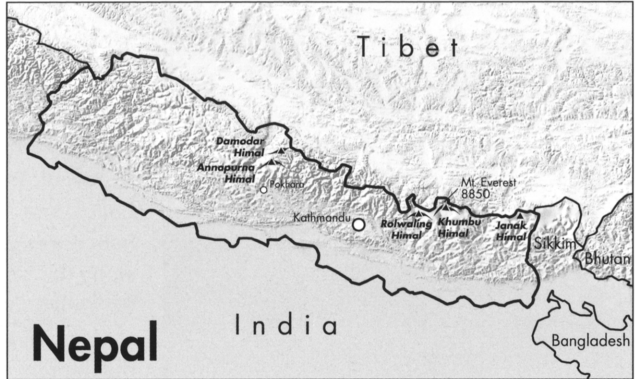
NALAKANKAR

Kanti Himal, Kaptang (5,965m), north face; Kojichuwa Chuli (6,439m), attempt. The prolific mountain explorer Tamotsu Ohnishi and four companions visited the Kanti Himal in June. Their aim was the

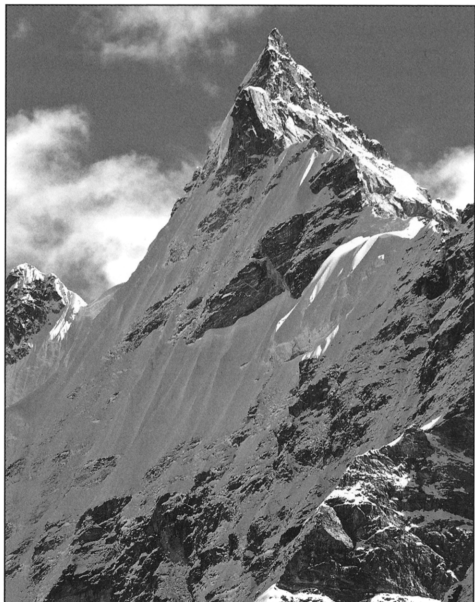
first ascent of three peaks: Kaptang, Kojichuwa Chuli, and Danphe Sail (6,103m)—peaks first opened in 2002 or 2003 and, apart from Kojichuwa Chuli, previously unattempted. They flew to Nepalgunj and then to Jumla, arriving on May 20. From here they trekked north to Rara Lake and then to the hamlet of Mugu, continuing up the Mugu Valley to establish base camp on June 2 at 4,300m. On the 8th they made an advanced camp at 5,492m, south of Kaptang, which lies on the frontier ridge southeast of the Namla La. On the 9th Gomba Sherpa, Toshitsugi Irizawa, and Ohnishi climbed to the summit. They left advanced camp at 6 a.m., reached the top at 2 p.m., and were back at their tents by 4 p.m. The three crossed to the Tibetan side and climbed the north face, fixing 400m of rope and overcoming a 70° section. Koji Mizutani, Hisashi Suzuki, and Kazuo Tauji repeated the climb the following day.

The expedition now retraced its steps down-valley to the south and moved east-northeast up the Kojichuwa Khola above Mugu. On the 16th they established base camp at 4,600m, and on the 21st Gomba, Irizawa, Suzuki, and Tauji climbed toward the ca 5,500m Kojichuwa La, on the frontier ridge northwest of Kojichuwa Chuli, with the goal of ascending its north-west ridge. Four hours above base they reached 5,565m, where they decided they were too tired to continue. They abandoned plans for climbing Danphe Sail, and returned toward Jumla. However, Tauji contracted a stomach illness, they requested a helicopter, and the team flew out on the 21st from Ringmo to Nepalgunj.

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AND Richard Salisbury, *The Himalayan Database*.



Kanti Himal, Kojichuwa Chuli (6,439m), attempt. In October 2008 José Maria Alvarez, Antonio Fernandez, and Josue Roibal, all from the Spanish island of Mallorca, flew via Nepalgunj to Talcha (2,748m, three hours walk from Rara Lake), and trekked via Mugu to the Kojichuwa Valley (possibly also referred to as Gokichuwa). Their goal was to reconnoiter a route on Kojichuwa Chuli for an ascent the following spring. Alvarez, Fernandez, and Da Dorche Sherpa climbed to the Kojichuwa La (5,550m) and moved a short distance up the frontier ridge to 5,625m, from where they could see that to continue to the summit of Kojichuwa Chuli would be hard. After noting that the Tibetan flanks looked relatively gentle, they returned to base camp and climbed a small (ca 5,400m) peak above the valley before returning home. One outstanding peak noticed during this exploration was the unnamed 6,310m summit on the fron-



Unnamed, unclimbed 6,047m peak on southeast side of Kojichuwa Valley. *Josue Roibal*

tier ridge immediately south of Kojichuwa Chuli, which they dubbed Mugu Chuli.

Both Kojichuwa Chuli and Mugu Chuli were “on the list” when Fernandez and Roibal returned in April 2009 with Santiago Amengui, Rodrigo Rodriguez, Luis Miguel Lopez, and Pedro Navarro. The team again helicoptered to Talcha, and then trekked along the Mugu Khola and up the Kojichuwa Valley, to establish base camp at 4,750m west of Mugu Chuli. They first examined the impressive west face of Mugu but found it too threatened by serac fall and avalanches. Lopez Narravo and Dawa Sherpa then moved up to the Kojichuwa La but found it a dangerous affair due to loose and falling rock. As their ascent was to be a siege and they deemed fixing this section impracticable, the team gave up further climbing and investigated the Koji Valley immediately to the southeast.

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Kanti Himal, Kojichuwa Valley, exploration. The second team visiting the Kojichuwa Valley, arriving as the Spanish were leaving, was the four-man British group of Nick Colton, Ed Douglas, Julian Freeman-Attwood, and Rob Greaves. In 2007 Colton and Freeman-Attwood had been part of a team that explored the neighboring Koji Valley and climbed two peaks on the frontier ridge west-southwest of Rongla South (AAJ 2008). In April ‘09 they established base camp lower in the valley than the Mallorcans and explored the area, climbing six small peaks of 4,900m–5,400m. The first two were on the south-



Looking northeast into upper Kojichuwa Valley. (A) Kojichuwa Chuli (6,439m), (B) unnamed ca 6,300m spire, (C) Mugu Chuli (6,310m), (D) Churau (Kanti Himal, 6,419m) and (E) unnamed 6,047m peak. *Nick Colton*