

The first ascent of Central Peak KG-2 (6805m) of Ata 3-Sisters 2009 autumn expedition to the Kangri Garpo Mountains, Tibet

By Tim (Tatsuo) Inoue , Leader of the Expedition

The Alpine Club of Kobe University (ACKU) and the Mountaineering Association of China University of Geosciences (Wuhan, CUG) sent a joint expedition to Kangri Garpo Mountains in East Tibet in autumn of 2009 and made the first ascent of KG-2 (6805m measured by the summiter with GPS; 6703m peak shown on the old Soviet Union map). More than 30 6000m-peaks are all remain unconquered except this ascent.

ACKU 7 members led by Tim Inoue and CUG 10 members led by Dong Fan organized one team with 8 Chinese, 2 Tibetans and 7 Japanese. 9 students were included. 3 days with 920km hustle drive from Lhasa to Lhagu village took them to the trail head. On 18th of October, the base camp (BC, 4,320m N29° 13.17' E96° 49.19' on the side moraine valley of Ata Glacier North Tongue) was established after one day hike and transportation by 23 Yaks. 2 days and 7 times shuttle work by 10 porters pushed up the party quickly to the deposit camp (DC) 4440m, sited on the foot of the first ice fall near the branch node of Ata Glacier South Tongue.

It was obvious that little snowfall of this summer and early autumn stripped piled snow on the glacier. Even though daily little snowfall in the morning or afternoon had been lasting during our progress on the glacier, we had recognized no certain pile up of snow on the glacier basin but deep snow on the flank of the divide ridge. Those weather conditions had pros and cons. It was good for camp progress on the glacier and bad for attack operation to the summit. The Advance Base Camp (4660m) was sited on October 22nd above the first ice fall through the crevasse-labyrinth. On October 29th the Camp 1(4890m) was set in the circ of the glacier where the 3 branches merge into the main stream. Tents were set on the bear ice because of thin snow. The circ wall gathers sunshine and heats the surface of the glacier. At ABC, we measured about 130cm depth of snow on the glacier ice because of unique phenomenon of snow fall generated by wind blow from the south tongue of Ata glacier. On November 1st, Camp 2 (5680m) was sited on the center "Insel Berg" of the South Fork of the glacier through the 2nd ice fall with 600m rope fixing work.

On November 5th, Deqing Ouzhu and Ciren Danda and other 3 members started from C2 at 3:30AM under the full moon light. Strong wind, some of deep crevasses and deep snow prevented them from good progress and 3 of them retired. Deqing Ouzhu and Ciren Danda, they are Tibetan students of CUG ,had continued climbing and reached the summit of KG-2 at 1:18PM under foggy weather while 4 Japanese had established Camp 3 (5910m) on the pass between Ruoni Feng(6882m,The highest peak of Kangri Garpo Mountains) and KG-2. On the next day, it was so windy and snowy that Japanese 4 members had stayed at C2 and C3.

On November 7th, clear and gentle weather came. Masanori Yazaki and Koichiro Kondo started from C3 supported by 2 Japanese and made the summit climb at 3:36PM. They returned C3 at 8:00PM in the dark.



Photo-1 Ata 3-Sisters (Ruoni (KG-1,6882m, left), Central Peak (KG-2,6805m), KG-3 (6726m)
Taken from the road to Dema La Pass : Photo by Tim Inoue



Photo-2 Ata 3 Sisters Central Peak , KG-2 (6805m) (left) and KG-3 (6726m)with moon
Taken from C1(4890m) on the Ata Glacier photo by Tim Inoue



Photo-3 Ruoni Feng(6882m) , the highest peak of Kangri Garpo Mountains

Taken from C3 (5910m) on the north-west col of Ruoni Feng photo by Sigeaki Yamamoto



Photo-4 Koichiro Kondo on the summit



Photo-5 Deqing Ouzhu on the summit

