

The first ascent of Ta Ri 6330m

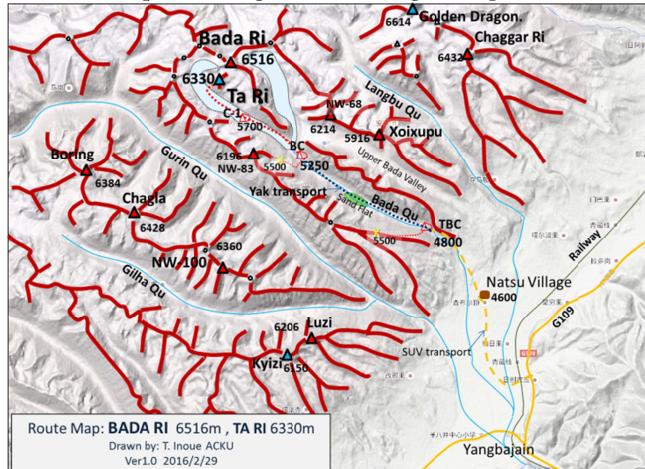
The joint expedition to the Nyainqntanglha West

Kobe University and Chinese University of Geosciences, Wuhan: October 2015

Tim (Tatsuo) Inoue

1) Attempt to Bada Ri (Pata Kangri 6516m) and the first ascent of Ta Ri (6330m)

The joint expedition was organized to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the Alpine Club of Kobe University established in 1915. This is the third joint expedition held by the two universities. Que'er Shan 6168m (Sichuan) in 1988 and Lopchin Feng 6805m (Kangri Garpo) in 2009 were successfully done as the first ascents.



Bada Qu and the route to Ta Ri and Bada Ri

indicated 6330m.

From the shoulder peak, the sharp snow covered ridge goes down 10 to 20 meters to a col and again rises to the summit. 3 of attack members tried to climb the ridge, but they could not make the summit because of piled loose rocks on the summit ridge caused by resent dry climate of the mountains. Packed thin snow evaporated by the sun shine was breakable and made stacked rocks unstable. The icy steep slopes of the both side of the ridge were avalanche washed. They understood that climbing to the summit means suicide.

The weather was perfect during our expedition, blue sky every day, a few times small snow fall, but no pile up snow.



Ta Ri 6330m and Bada Ri 6516m

To the summit of Ta Ri, Chagla and Gungmo Kangri in the far back

On the summit of Ta Ri 6330m

On October 29, we returned Lhasa. The Chinese Tibet Mountaineering Association (CTMA) invited us to a cerebration dinner party. The first ascent of Ta Ri was officially certified by CTMA.

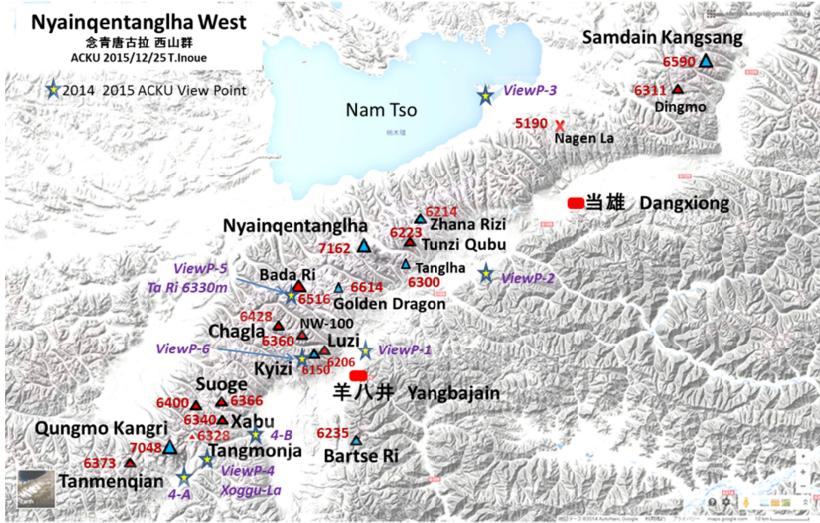
After the earthquake of Nepal in April, All Himalaya Expedition was cancelled and there was only our expedition to Tibet in the autumn of 2015. CTMA said, it will be open in the next spring.

2) Field research of peaks in the Nyainqntanglha West Mountains

The Nyainqntanglha West Mountains runs from the north-east to the south-west with about 280km length. The Nam Tso (4729m), the highest elevation salty lake in the world, lies on the northern sides of the mountains. The mountain range is relatively popular in Tibet. Two of 7000m-peaks, Nyainqntanglha Shan (7162m) and Qungmo Kangri (7048m), were already climbed.

However, over 200 peaks captured by Google earth and ASTER GDEM which are over 6000m-peaks are located in the range and most of peaks are unclimbed. Golden Dragon (6614m) and Samdain Kang Sang (6590m) are well known and already climbed. There is only one unclimbed peak over 6500m, Bada Ri (6516m). According to our research, around 30 peaks were already climbed and many unclimbed peaks are sleeping in the range.

The author's parties has been studying peaks and have identified peaks from the "View Point-1 to 6" (Map-1) through our research tour in 2014 and 2015.



Map-1 Nyainqntanglha West & View Points

◆ View Point-1: Yangbajain & North-east outside city

Looking forward to the north at Yangbajain over the open field of the dale, a white dome Kyizi (6150m) on the left and a rocky 3-spears type pinnacles Luzi (6206m) on the right are standing in front of the Nyainqntanglha Mountains. Turning eyes to the left, Qungmo Kangri (7048m) stands on the far west hill in the blue sky.

Going to the outside of the town to the north-east on G109, Golden Dragon, Chaggar Ri (6432m) and mysterious pyramidal peak NW-100 (6360m) are spectacular. However, many sleeping peaks in the deep valleys cannot be seen.



Golden Dragon 6614m



Kyizi 6150m & Luzi 6206m, S.E. face



NW-100 6360m

◆ View Point-2: 30°19'40.77 N 90°53'45.60 E, 4664m

The research party in 2014 climbed to the View Point-2 on the south hill of the dale. They could get pictures of Samdain Kangsang Group to the far north-east, ZhanaRizi -Tunzi Qubu Group and Nyainqntanglha Main-peak group on the opposite side of the valley. Furthermore, Kyizi-Luzi Group was visible and they took good pictures of the peaks in the back side of Luzi.



The south face of Samdain Kangsang Group
From the View Point-2



Nyainqntanglha Shan 7216m
From the View Point-2

◆View Point-3: Nam Tso

When we visited Nam Tso in November 2015, the water surface looked 2 meters lower than its normal level. As far as I am concerned, recent dried up climate affected the environment or the seasonal change simply made it.

The sacred Buddhism place at a small peninsula on the south-east shore of the lake was a good view point for our research of the northern part of the mountains. The scenery of peaks from the View Point-3 is the most popular in the Nyainqntanglha Mountains. It was cloudy when we visited there in October 2015 and could not see any peaks in the Samdain Kangsang Group, but in 2014, we had gotten good pictures.

◆View Point-4 , 4A, 4B: Xoggu La (5290m) and Xoggula Peak (5800m)

View Point-4 (Xoggu La (5290m) and Xoggula Peak (5800m)) is the best place to watch Qungmo Kangri and other northern peaks such as NW-140 (6400m), Suoge (6366m) and Xabu (6340m).



Qungmo Kangri 7048m

Suoge 6366m

Xabu 6340m

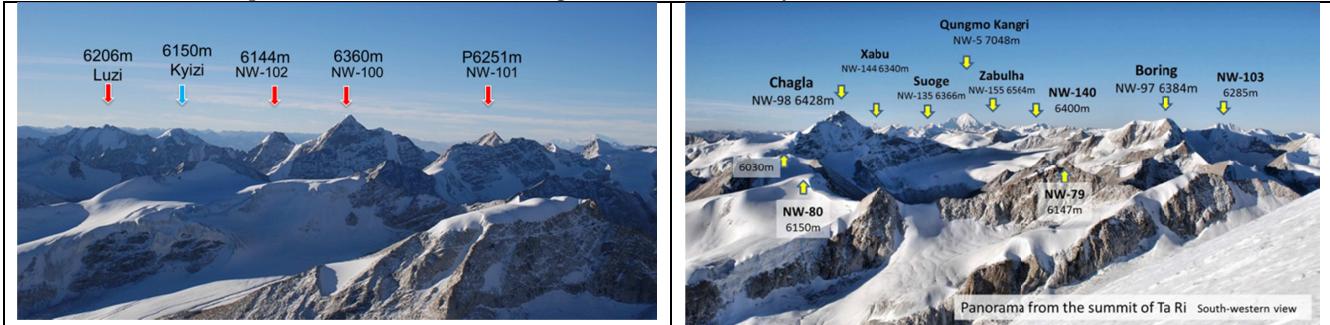
◆View Point-5: The summit of Ta Ri 6330m

The 360 degree panorama picture taken on the top of Ta Ri (6330m) , View Point-5, where ACKU 2015 expedition party climbed provides good profiles of many hidden peak in the middle area of Nyainqntanglha West Mountains. Five peaks of Bada Ri was unveiled. NW-100 (6360m), Boring (6384m) and Chagla (6428m) on the Ridge of Gurin Qu / Gilha Qu divide opened their faces to us.



Five peaks of Bada Ri Group

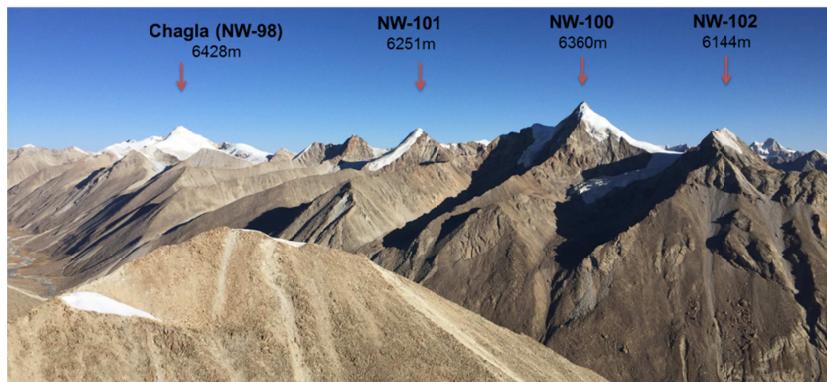
NW-100 has 6428m elevation in Google earth. We thought it was suspicious because a few pictures taken from the View Point-1 and 2 shows that the peak looks much higher than the nearest two peaks, NW-101 and NW-102. The ASTER GDEM data provided us 6360m. The height of 6360m is likely close to the real elevation of it.



◆View Point-6: Kyizi ridge

One better place is the View Point-6 that is on the ridge between NW-108 and NW-160 just west of Kyizi. Tibet Mountaineering School (TMS) has often held their training on Kyizi. Mr. Deqing Ouzhu who is our expedition member, a graduated school boy of TMS and a student of CUGW took pictures from the View Point-6 in October 2015. NW-100, NW-101 (6251m) and NW-102 (6144m) in the deep valley of Gilha Qu are captured. Both pictures from Ta Ri and the

View Point-6 give us clear identification of the peaks.



From the View Point-6

Contact: Tim Inoue e-mail: sherpikangri@gmail.com