

Lhotse South Face

Winter First Complete Ascent December 2006

The 2 nd Piolet d'Or Asia – Nominee's Presentation

1 & 2 – List of members of the climbing team with profile of each member

1) General Leader (stayed in Japan)

Noboru ONOE born on February 16, 1943

Japanese Alpine Club

Address: 1-24 Kashiwa-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-shi 476-0044, Japan

Expedition career:

1870 spring – Southeast ridge of Makalu 8463 m, Nepal

1980 spring – Gaurisankar 7140 m, Nepal

1985 summer – Tien Shan, a peak of 6672 m, China

1996 summer – Greenland

2) Leader

Osamu TANABE born on January 4, 1961

Japanese Alpine Club, Himalayan Association of Japan, Tokai Alpine Club, Shinshu Univ. Alpine Club

Address: 639 Nanahonmatsu-danchi,

3-32-8 Chiyoda, Naka-ku, Nakoya-shi 460-0012, Japan

Expedition career:

1982 autumn – Ganesh Himal III (now II) 7111 m, Nepal

1987 autumn – Labuche Kang 7367 m, Tibet, 1st ascent

1989 autumn – Qomolangma 8848 m, north face, Tibet

1990 summer – Gasherbrum II 8035 m, Pakistan, stood atop

1991 spring – Kangchenjunga 8585 m, northeast ridge, India

1991 summer – Kozhenvshoi 7105 m, Lenina 7137 m, Kommunizma 7495 m,
Soviet Union, stood atop all three peaks

1991-92 winter – Sagarmatha (Everest) 8848 m, southwest face, Nepal

1993 summer – Broad Peak 8047 m, Pakistan, stood atop

1993 autumn – Cho Oyu 8201 m, Tibet, stood atop

1993 winter – Sagarmatha (Everest) 8848 m, southwest face, Nepal **1st winter ascent**

1994 autumn – Gyaji Kang 7038 m, Nepal, **1st ascent**

1995 spring – Makalu 8463 m, east ridge-northwest ridge, Nepal, **1st ascent of new route**

1996 autumn – Ratna Chuli 7035 m, Nepal, **1st ascent**

1997 summer – K2 8611 m, west ridge-west face, Pakistan, **1st ascent of new route**

1998 spring – Kangchenjunga 8586 m, north face, Nepal

2000 spring – Ganesh Himal II 7111 m, Nepal

2001 autumn – Cho Oyu 8201 m, Tibet, stood atop

2001 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal

2002 summer – Gasherbrum I 8068 m, Pakistan, stood atop

2003 autumn – Xishabangma Central 8008 m, Tibet, stood atop

2003 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal

2005 summer – Nanga Parbat 8126 m, Pakistan, stood atop

2006 autumn – Xishabangma 8027 m, Tibet, stood atop

2006 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal, **winter 1st complete ascent**

3) Deputy leader

Atsushi SENDA born on January 30, 1974

Japanese Alpine Club, Himalayan Association of Japan, Tokai Alpine Club, Doshisha Univ. Alpine Club

Address: 3-1504 Suishoen, Moriyama-ku, Nagoya-shi 463-0010, Japan

Expedition career:

2002 autumn – Kaqur Kangri 6859 m, Tibet, **1st ascent**

2003 autumn – Xishabangma Central 8008 m, Tibet, stood atop

2003 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal

2004 autumn – Pakyung Hangmu 6529 m, Tibet, **1st ascent**

2004 autumn – Galzon Gencok 6123 m, southeast face, Tibet, **1st ascent**

2006 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal

4) Members

Katsuto Fujikawa born on December 9, 1965

Japanese Alpine Club, Himalayan Association of Japan

Address: 3150-2 Aihara-cho, Machida-shi, Tokyo 194-021, Japan

Expedition career:

- 1996 summer – Kozhenvshoi 7105 m, Pik Kommunizma 7495 m, Soviet Union,
stood atop both peaks
- 1998 summer – Manaslu 8163 m, Nepal
- 2005 summer – Gasharbrum I 8068 m, west ridge, Pakistan, stood atop
- 2005 winter – Eiger north face
- 2006 autumn – Xishabangma 8027, Tibet, stood atop
- 2006 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal

Noriyuki KENMOCHI born on June 17, 1969

Japanese Alpine Club, Himalayan Association of Japan

Address: 3227 Sakai Iyoku, Isezaki-shi, Gunma-ken 370-0105, Japan

Expedition career:

- 1997 summer – Mont Blanc
- 1998 autumn – Daulagiri I 8167 m, Nepal
- 1999 autumn – Xishabangma 8027 m, Tibet, stood atop
- 2000 winter – Manaslu 8163 m, Nepal
- 2005 summer – Nanga Parbat 8126 m, Pakistan, stood atop
- 2006 autumn – Xishabangma 8027, Tibet, stood atop
- 2006 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal

Takahiro YAMAGUCHI born on April 27, 1973

Japanese Alpine Club

Address: c/o Hattori, 2-8 Fukuhara-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya-shi 466-0803, Japan

Expedition career:

- 1998 summer – Isubon
- 2000 spring – Tent Peak 5667 m, Nepal
- 2003 spring – Pokarde Peak 5806 m, Nepal
- 2004 summer – Dolomite
- 2006 autumn – Xishabangma 8027, Tibet, stood atop
- 2006 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, complete the climb
and stood atop the west peak, Nepal

Toshio YAMAMOTO born on January 16, 1974

Japanese Alpine Club

Address: 95-5 Minamiyashiki, Hashiramachi, Okazaki-shi, Aichi-ken 444-0834,

Japan

Expedition career:

2004 autumn – Annapurna I 8091 m, Nepal

2005 summer – Aconcagua 6962 m, Argentine, stood atop

2006 autumn – Xishabangma 8027, Tibet, stood atop

2006 winter – Lhotse 8516 m, south face, Nepal

3 – Information of the mountain peak climbed

- 1) Name of peak and altitude: Lhotse 8516 m
- 2) Map of location: as per attached.
- 3) Environmental factors:

Climate – Normally the weather is stable in the pre-winter from late November to Christmas and snowfall is fewer. Some times strong wind (100 m per sec. at 8000m) blows, but the wind of less than 50 m per sec. is mostly prevailing at 8000 m. Temperature goes down to about 35 minus degree C. However, the climate in 2006 was extraordinary. Even in pre-winter from November to December, medium and strong winds continued to blow fiercely till December 26 after Christmas.

Environments – When strong wind of more than 100 m per sec. is raging at 8000 m, climbers are blown off and unable to move above 6800 m on the south face. It is not impossible to climb in medium force wind of more or less 50 m per sec., climbers are exposed to danger of countless small and large falling stones. In fact nine members out of total 24 members of Japanese and Sherpa were attacked by falling stones and injured. One member suffered from frostbite. Fortunately no fatal accidents and casualties took place.

4 – A map for the climbing route up to the summit

As per attached.

5 – Period of climbing (2006—2007) / 6 – Diary record during the climbing

September 3: Left Japan

September 8 to October 15: Acclimatization on Xishabangma 8027 m. All members

stood atop on October 9.

November 9: Left Kathmandu

November 13: Set up BC at 5200 m for assaulting Lhotse South Face

November 18: Started climbing. Route work up to C1

November 21: C1 set up at 5900 m

November 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28: Route paving up to C2

December 1: C2 set up at 7100m

December 2,3: Route paving up to provisional C3

December 6: Provisional C3 set up at 7350 m. This camp was used only for route paving work.

December 7: Route paving up to C3

December 8 to 12: No movement because of strong winds

December 16, 17, 18: Continued route work up to C3

December 21: C3 set up at 8000 m

December 22, 23, 24: Senda, Kenmochi, Ang Choyong (from Korea) and Pema Tsering worked for route paving to the summit.

December 26: Tanabe, Yamaguchi and Pemba Chorte route paving to the summit

December 27: Tanabe, Yamaguchi and Pemba Chorte completed the ascent of South Face and reached the west peak 8475 m of Lhotse.

January 1: Left BC

January 6: Arrived at Kathmandu

January 14: Returned to Japan

7 – Detailed description for the climbing route

BC (5200 m) – C1 (5900 m)

They traversed the Lhotse Glacier from BC and reached yellow exposes rocks like island where they started climbing. The route followed upward to the left on ice and snow wall, then to very fragile rock wall which led them to the No. 1 rock cave. Climbing of the rock cave was Grade IV. After the cave they climbed the last pitch of snow wall to C1 beneath the No. 2 rock cave. C1 location was the only place to be protected from falling stones by the No. 2 cave. The last snow wall is much exposed to falling stones and they must be very much careful.

C1 (5900 m) – C2 (5900 m)

They ascended No. 2 rock cave from C1. This part was about 150 m high vertical wall,

and partly the Grade was VI. They followed snow ridge from there and ascended "Throat" after traversing to the right at about 6800 m. Though they always faced risks and dangers of falling stones, "Throat" was particularly dangerous. They further climbed ice couloir and the next push of rock and ice mixed wall led them to location of C2. C2 was set up cutting ridge of Himalayan fluted ice.

C2 (7100 m) – Provisional C3 (7350 m)

They traversed Himalayan fluted ice and then climbed 30m high vertical wall. Wire ladder left by Yugoslavian party in 1981 was found here and seemed to be liable to use. After climbing snow wall they reached a place for provisional C3.

Provisional C3 (7350 m) – C3 (8000 m)

They broke through 20 m high vertical wall taking advantages of the Yugoslavian wire ladder. After climbing the first step they traversed to the left. On the way they negotiated a difficult pitch of Grade V overhanging traverse. Rock avalanches often happened in the following couloir. Further climb to detour snow wall to the right took them to a point where Yugoslavian left the 3rd wire ladder on the vertical wall. This zone was the final part of the rock wall. They continued to climb snow wall of much danger of falling stones and reach a ridge for C3 leading to a rock wall that was said to be climbed by Cesin.

C3 (8000 m) – finishing point of the South Face

From C3 they descended 200 m largely detouring Cesin's rock wall and entered a couloir which reached a left shoulder of the summit. Inside the couloir snow wall, rock wall and ice wall continued. There were three V Grade rock walls. At 8200 m they found remains of fixed ropes which were placed from the ridge (Soviet Union route) on the right hand to enter the couloir. Traces of the ropes were seen towards the deepest part of the couloir. The last part of the couloir was 20 m high vertical rock wall with no cracks, which could not be climbed. No evidence of previous climbing was found on the wall at all. The summit side (the right hand side of the couloir) seemed also impossible as it was very loose and fragile vertical wall. A narrow possibility was to traverse loose wall on the left side. The last push was to ascend almost vertical snow wall unstable like glass powder reaching to the summit ridge at 8475 m. There were bothered by

frequent falling stones in the couloir.

8 & 9 – Pictures taken on the mountain (Motion pictures are not available)

As per the attached file.

10 – List of climbing equipment

Fix rope:	D	6mm dia.	3500 m
	K	6mm dia.	2300 m
		Static rope 8mm dia.	600 m
		Total	6400 m
Rock piton:		158	
Ice piton:		27	
Snow bar		226	

11 – List of clothes worn in climbing

Clothes: underwear (chemical textile) double + fleece up/bottom + down
Shoes: shoes for high altitude + overshoes
Others: wool miton, overmiton, helmet, etc.

12 – List of meal menu in climbing

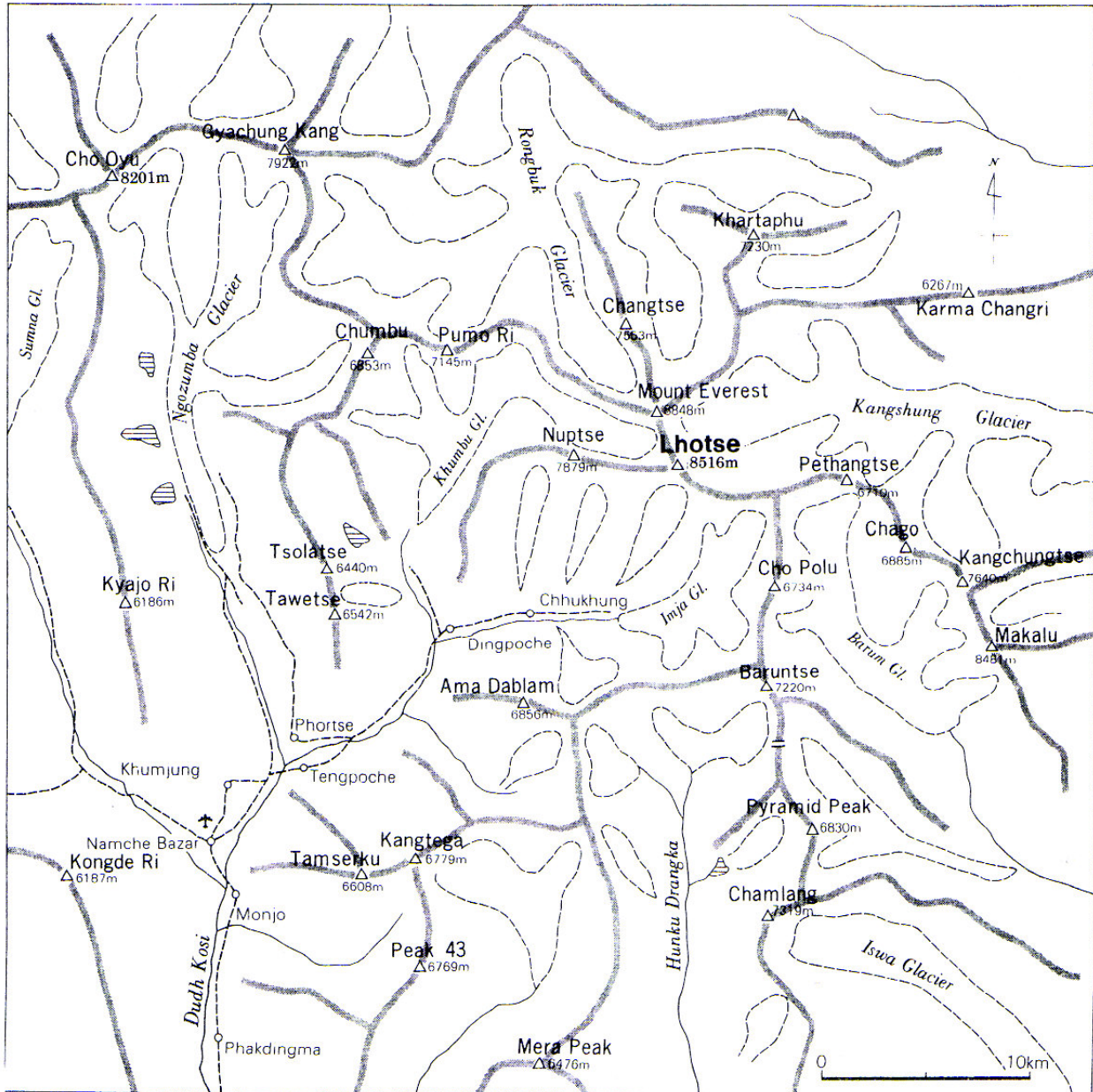
Breakfast: Instant noodle, etc.
Lunch: biscuit, chocolate, candy, etc.
Supper: Alpha rice, frozen dried food and tinned food of several kinds, etc.

13 – Information to help juries for evaluation

Crucial factor in winter climb of the Lhotse South Face is fiercely blowing winds, low temperature, falling stones and falling ice in addition to technical climbing difficulty. They can manage to overcome technical problems but since natural forces such as strong winds, low temperature, falling stones and ice are beyond normal Himalayan standard, they employed polar method tactics to ensure success of the third challenge on the formidable South Face in winter.

3 – Information of the mountain peak climbed 2) Map of location

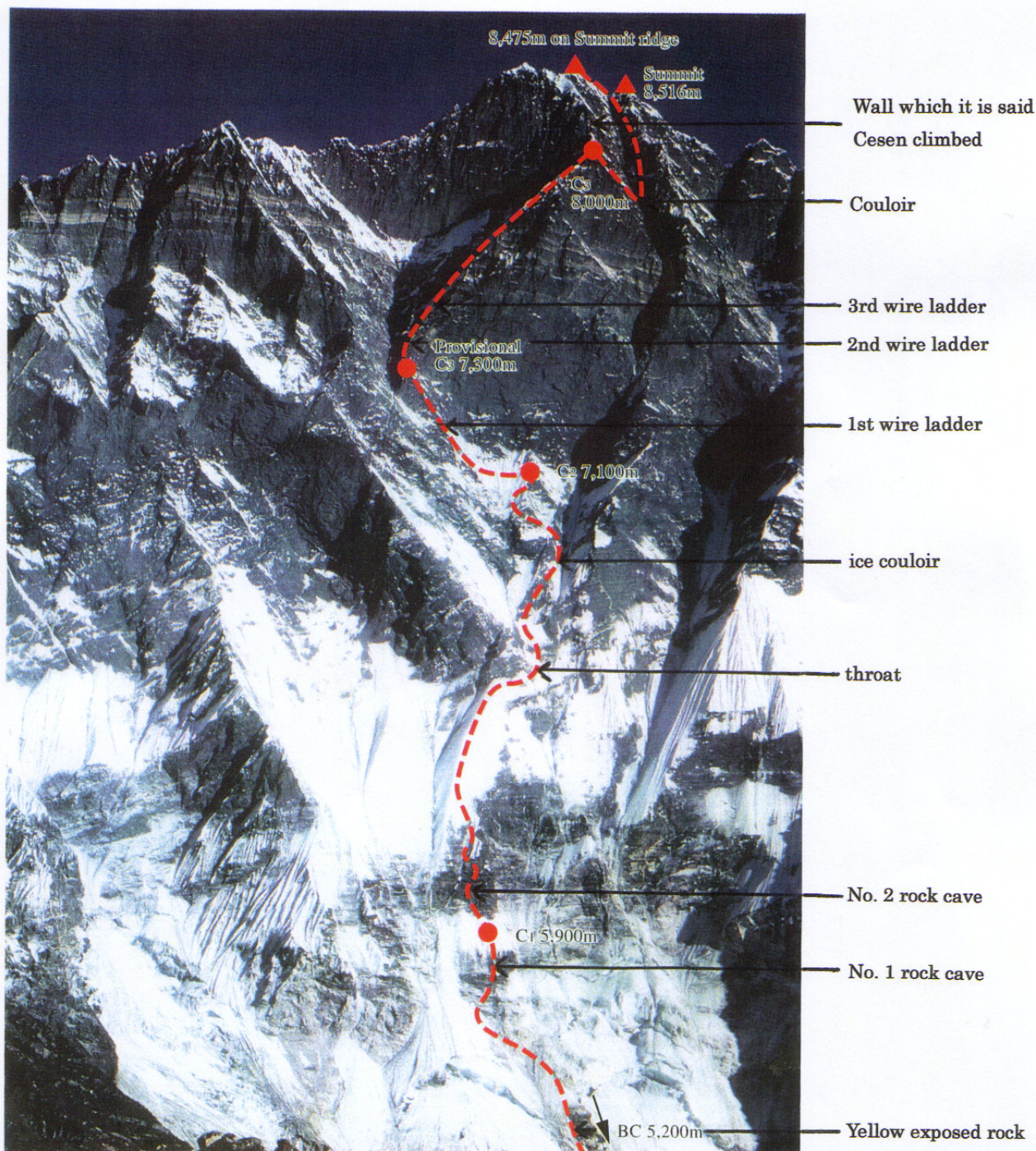
Map of Lhotse 8561 m and Neighboring Peaks



4 – A map for the climbing route up to the summit

OSAMU TANABE

Lhotse South Face Winter Ascent JAC Tokai Section—Dream has come true



Overall view of the Lhotse South Face
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