

REPORT of RESCUE HELICOPTER DISASTER

David Göttler & Hiraide Kazuya
Ama Dablam North Face Exp. 2010

First of all, we have caused you much trouble during our Ama Dablam North Face Exp. We don't know how to apologize for you all. We condole with the late Mr. Sabin Basnet, the pilot, and the late Mr. Purna Awale, the engineer, on their death.

Date of the outbreak of accident: 7th November 2010

Time of outbreak of accident: 9:15

Place of outbreak of accident: 6350m on Ama Dablam North ridge

Date	Weather	Action
3 rd November 2010	Fair	Chukung Village to ABC of North Face(4855m)
4 th November	Fair	ABC(4855m) to C1(5877m)
5 th November	Fair	C1(5877m) to C2(6358m)
6 th November	Fair	C2(6358m) of North Face to 6450m on North Ridge Climb up 6500m on North Ridge, but snow condition was very bad. Climbed down North Ridge till 6350m 14:00 established C3(6350m) on North Ridge ① 16:00 David tried to contact Ms. Nicola, Amical Travel Agency in Germany, Mr. Ralf and Michi. But their phone was out of order. ② 16:20 Calling to Mr. Rai, Thamserku Trekking, and explained our situation. We requested rescue helicopter for us. ③ 18:00 Calling to Mr. Rai again to confirm our request. One pilot and an assistant who should help the pilot to rescue us. We promised to call him again in the next morning 6:30.

7th November (The day outbreak of accident)

6:30 Calling to Mr. Rai.

7:30 He told us that Helicopter will reach us 8:30. Last night we worried that a helicopter can reach us or not because the strong wind on North Ridge blew from the west side at an angle of 90 degrees to North ridge and our tent was flapped.

8:00~8:30 The wind got drops.

Our camp site was on a col and there are pinnacle of serac upside and underside from our camp site. Hiraide, climbed on the top of underside pinnacle of serac, about 3m high, and fixed a rope by a snow bar in case of emergency by rescue. We decided as the following and arranged for the rescue by the helicopter. Then our tent was closed.

① David should be rescued on ahead.

② Our tent, fuel, foods, two 50m long ropes and medical kit will be left for Hiraide.

③ David will carry only his personal equipment with him.

8:30 The wind was calm. The helicopter came flying, but went in the direction of Lukla.

9:00~9:05 The wind got drop and became breeze.

Helicopter was circling over our place. And then the helicopter approached from the east side an angle of 90 degrees to North ridge. David was waiting on the top of the under pinnacle of serac. The two the skids of the helicopter landed at the top of the pinnacle of serac and the helicopter got in a stabile position. The assistant hold out one sling set a carabiner to David. He jointed his runyard, beforehand from his safety belt, up to the carabiner. David got in the helicopter and rescued.

9:10~9:15 The wind was breeze.

Hiraide, also arranged like David and waiting on the top of the underside pinnacle of serac. The helicopter approached from the east side an angle of 90 degrees to North ridge again. When the assistant hold out one sling set a carabiner to Hiraide and he tried almost join his runyard, beforehand from his safety belt, it was 30cm to 50cm distance for the carabiner, He felt the approach of the helikopter very slowly to his side. So, he hesitated about joining his runyard to the carabiner from the assistant. He felt it would be danger instinctively.

On that time, The helicopter passed over his head slowly. The distance between the helicopter and him, squatted on the snow, was about 30cm distance. When he was afraid instantly, the rotor of the helicopter might touch to the upside pinnacle of serac, He saw the helicopter slid on the couloir of the North East Face with a bang and roar. Black smoke came out and the smell of oil was pervaded there. He didn't witness between the time the rotor touched to the upside pinnacle of serac and the helicopter fell down for couloir because he squatted on the snow. He needed time to understand what happened.

The report of contact with Ms.Terasawa in Japan and progress to rescue Hiraide

9:30 Calling to Terasawa and reported about the accident and Hiraide was safe.

Established the tent again and looked forward about himself.

11:00 Agree with Terasawa: request for Army helicopter through Japanese Embassy

14:00 David contacted Terasawa as plan through Japanese Expedition team at Chukhung. David heard Hiraide was safe. He asked for Terasawa if the helicopter cannot fly to pick him up today's afternoon or tomorrow morning, ask for David to climb via normal route to pick me up.

16:00 Hiraide heard helicopters flied couple times for searching the crashed helicopter. (He also went outside with everything in readiness when He heard the sound of helicopter). He concluded today no flight for him and took light meal and tried to sleep. He promised Terasawa for call at 7:00 next morning

8th Nov. Fair and breeze

Staying at C3 with everything in readiness

6:00 He got up and arranged everything and waited for uncertain rescue helicopter.

7:00 When he was arranging for call Terasawa, He heard the sound of the helicopter. So, He put on his mountaineering boots in hurry, and went out of the tent. He found the helicopter was coming fly for his rescue. He was waiting on the top of the under pinnacle of serac as well as yesterday, and informed the pilot and the assistant by gesture that upside pinnacle of serac is danger for the rotor. The helicopter circled over coupletimes to check the condition and informed him they could not pick him up in his place. So, he informed them by gesture to climb 50m down by his 50m long rope for more flat place than his place and he reached there.

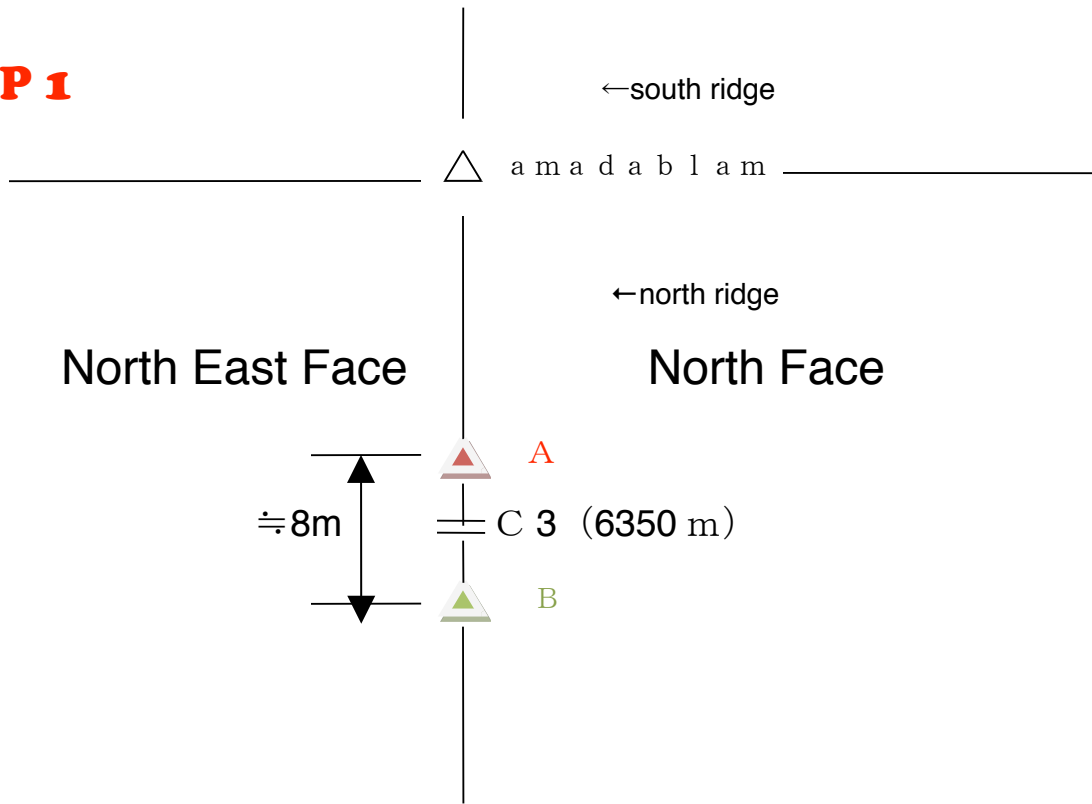
7:15 After circled over twice to check condition, the assistant held out his right hand from the helicopter and he caught his hand. He was picked up in the helicopter.

7:30 He was carried down to Lukla, not Chukhung, because of shortage of fuel.

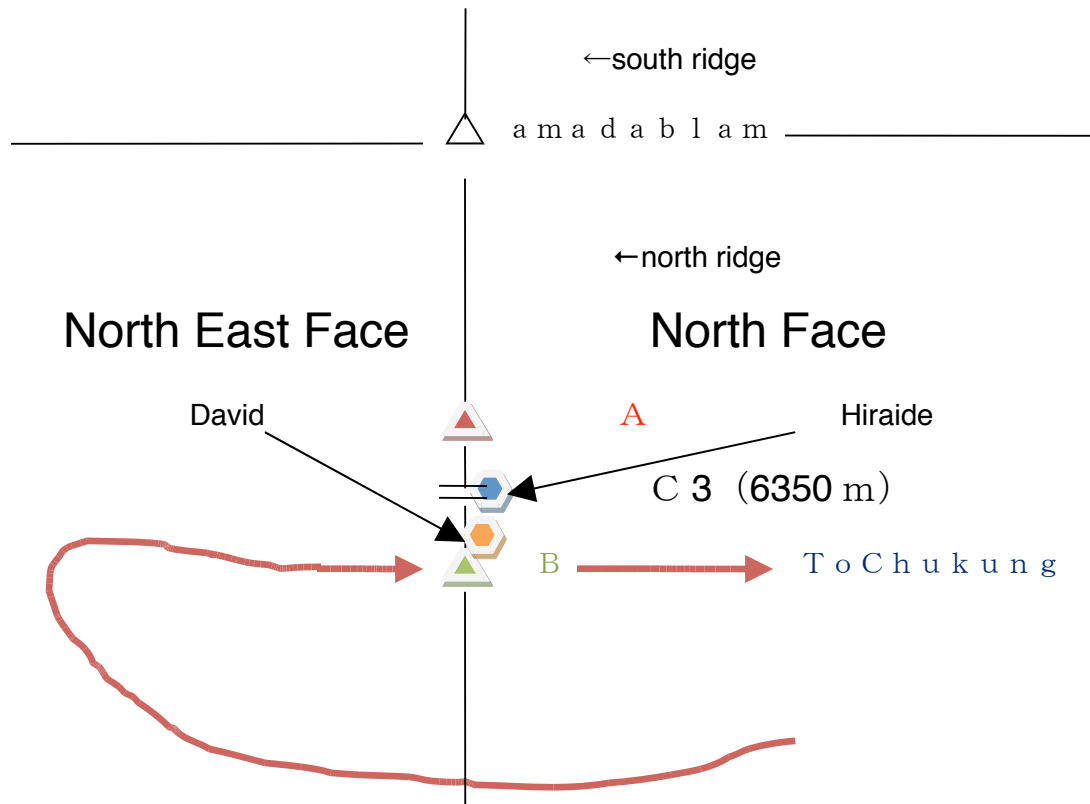
David and Hiraide will cooperate with all to analyze the cause of this accident.

November 8th 2010

MAP 1



MAP 2 (Action of helicopter: rescue case of David)



MAP 3 (7th Nov. Action of helicopter: rescue case of Hiraide) **crashed**



←south ridge

△ a m a d a b l a m

←north ridge

North East Face

North Face

A


C 3 (6350 m)


D

B

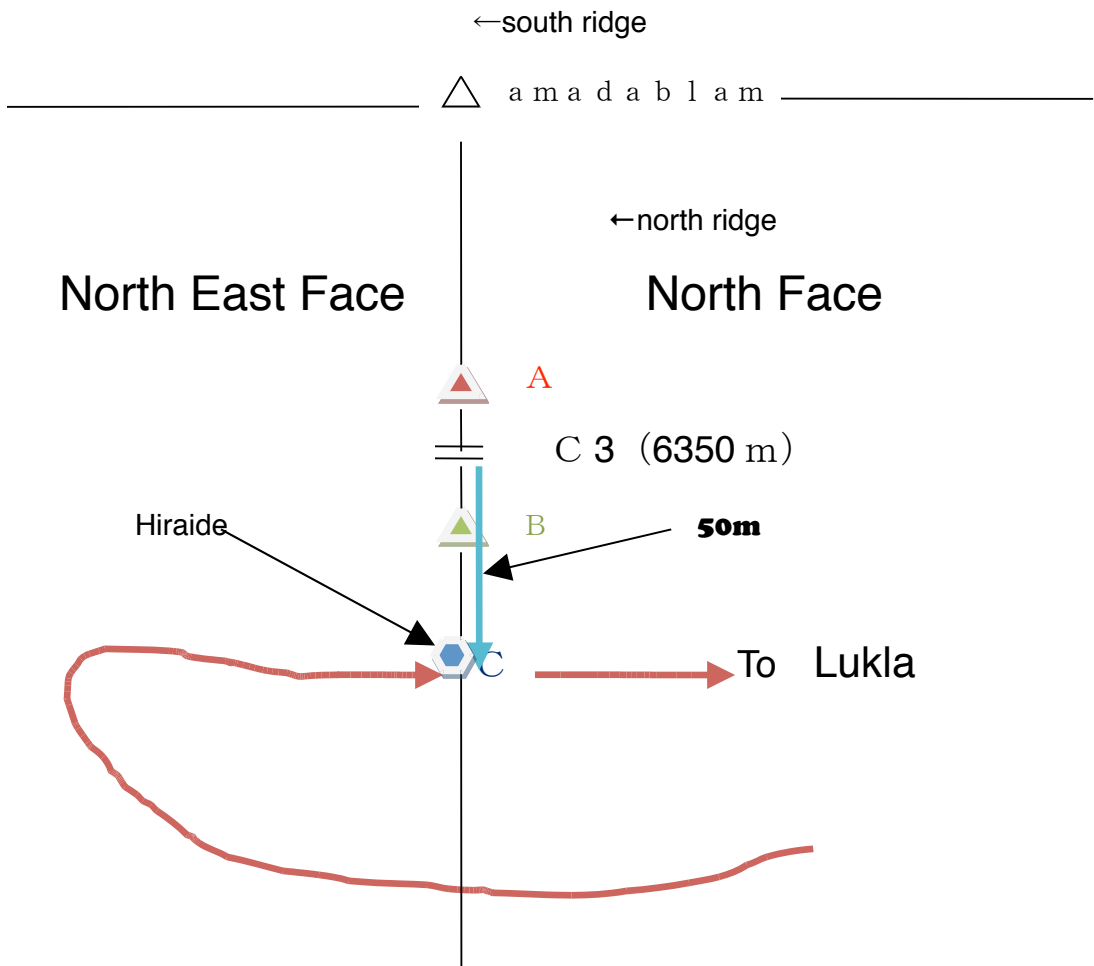
Hiraide

MAP4 8th Nov.: rescue case of Hiraide

Action of helicopter 

Action of Hiraide 





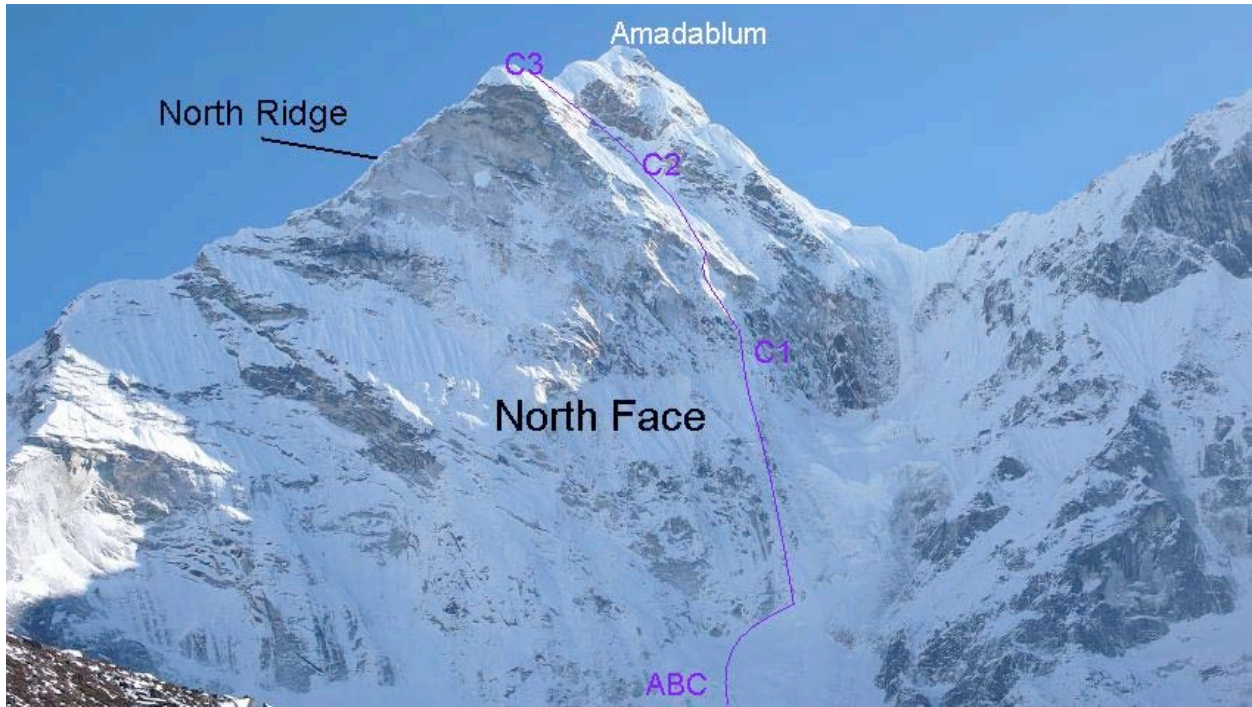


Photo1; climbing route

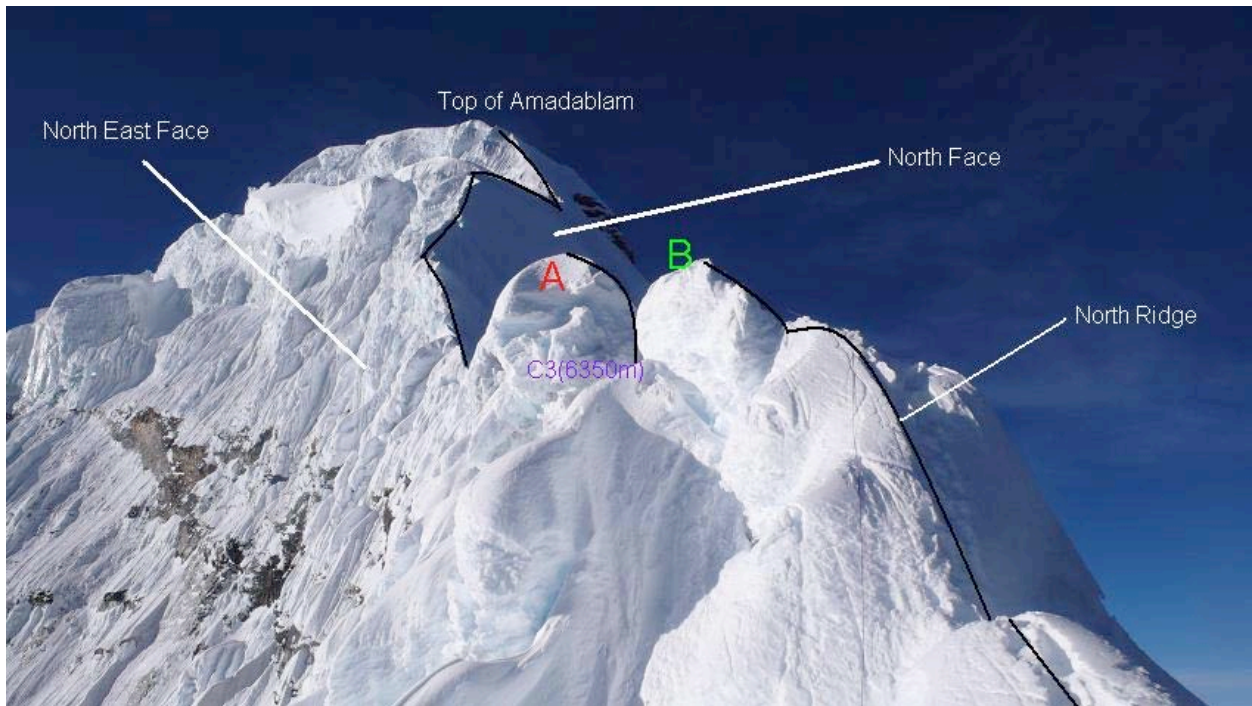


Photo2; vicinity of accident - 1



Photo3; vicinity of accident place - 2 (Vector D showed the direction of crashed the helicopter. C showed the place Hiraide was rescued on 8th Nov.)



Photo4; vicinity of accident place - 3 (Look down at C3 from pinnacle of serac B)



Photo5; vicinity of accident place - 4(Look up the summit from C 3)



Photo6; vicinity of accident place - 5
(Look up pinnacle of serac B from C 3)



Photo7; vicinity of accident place - 6 (David waiting helicopter on B)



Photo8; vicinity of accident place - 7 (Helicopter approached to B from the east side an angle of 90 degrees. rescue case of David)



Photo9; vicinity of accident place - 8(rescue David - 1)



Photo10; vicinity of accident place - 9 (Assistant hold out karabiner set with a sling for David rescue David - 2)



Photo11; vicinity of accident place - 10 (Helicopter carried out David from C3 rescue David - 3)



Photo12; vicinity of accident place - 11 (right: former Photo5)

A after touched by a rotor: Compare A with B. Recognized the touched point by a rotor.



Photo13; vicinity of accident place - 12 (Helicopter slid on
curowarof North East side)

8th November 2010

Reported by HIRAIDE Kazuya at Lukla