



Ang Tshering

Dear Friends,

Namaste and warm greetings from Nepal.

As promised in my previous newsletter, in this email I am giving you some figures and statistics in an attempt to answers interesting and important questions that many people have asked about mountaineering in the Himalayas.

I attempt to answer questions such as how many people have climbed Mt. Everest? How many climbers were on other major peaks? Who are the record holders this spring season? Where in the world most climbers come from? What is the importance of Mountaineering to the Nepalese economy? Etc.

I have collected and verified this information through 4 main sources:

1. Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Government of Nepal),
2. China Tibet Mountaineering Association
3. Nepal Mountaineering Association and
4. The excellent archives of Miss Elizabeth Hawley.

I would also like to give my thanks to the various individuals and organisations in verifying the information: Members of Expedition Operators Association of Nepal (EOA), Expedition Leaders, managers, climbers, sirdar, Sherpas and expedition liaison officers.

Using the figures and statistics obtained from them I have used my best estimates and calculations to give you the answers below.



## How many People have climbed Mt. Everest until today?

Between 1953 and 2010, the total number of ascents was 5078 by 3167 individuals (some having summited more than once).

This year's spring total has seen 277 more ascents from Nepal of which 183 were new summiteers. Similarly, there were 131 summits from Tibet of which 86 are new summiteers and the rest were repeat summiteers.

In summary, the total number of ascent of Mt. Everest until today is 5486, whereas the actual number of persons having summited Mt. Everest is 3436 till date.

## How many climbing teams and how many climbers came to Nepal during this spring climbing season?

Before I can answer the question above, it is important to explain that there are two categories of peaks in Nepal.

1. Expedition Peaks whose permits are issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Government of Nepal).
2. Climbing Peaks (NMA Peaks), whose permits are issued by Nepal Mountaineering Association.

As a simple rule of thumb, the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation manages 8000m and 7000m peaks while NMA manages the 33 popular peaks ranging from 5700m to 6654m.

## Mountaineering Expedition Peaks:

The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation issued a total of 92 permits to Mountaineering teams to various peaks in the spring season of 2011. Of these, 23 were permits for foreign Mt. Everest expedition teams; with 234 climber, 259 High Altitude Climbing Sherpas (HAS) and 164 kitchen staffs (at Base Camp and Camp 2).

Also, there were 3 Nepalese Everest Expedition teams with 17 climbers and 21 HAS going above Base Camp and one Nepalese women team of 4 women climbers on Annapurna IV. Nepalese teams do not have to pay peak permit fees, if the Cabinet of Ministers sanctions their expedition.

Economic contribution of Mt. Everest Expeditions (Nepal side in the spring 2011 climbing season: The following are the estimated economic contributions from south side of Mt. Everest in this climbing season of Spring 2011:

	Item	US\$	Nepalese Rupees
1	Total Mt. Everest Climbing Permit Fee from 23 Foreign Exp.Teams	23,81,000/	17,14,32,000/
2	Total porter wages from Lukla to EBC - 9,660 porter loads of 30kgs each load	11,06,875/	7,96,95,000/
3	Total porter wages from B.C. to Lukla- 5,313 porter loads of 30kgs each load	6,08,781/	4,38,32,250/
4	HAS- Equipment allowances, wages, climbing bonus, summit bonus, insurance, etc	10,79,166/	8,14,72,752/
5	BC and C2 kitchen staffs- Equipment allowances, wages, insurance etc.	4,55,556/	3,28,00,000/
6	Flights: Ktm/Lukla Or Shyangboche/Ktm for passengers and luggage, helicopter flight, hotels in Ktm & on the way, transfers, meals etc	7,32,330/	5,27,27,760/
7	Insurance for porters, food purchase, kitchen utensils, drinks, EBC fuels, solar panels & generators for lighting, charges, fresh supplies	4,50,670/	3,24,48,240/
8	Sleeping tents, dining tents, kitchen & storage tents, toilet tents, mattresses, chairs, tables, heaters etc	4,37,000/	3,14,64,000/
9	H.A. foods, HA fuel, oxygen bottles, masks, regulators, climbing equipments, common climbing equipments, ice fall route fixing charges, route fixing charges above C1 to summit, EBC HRA Aid post fee, SPCC garbage management & disposal fee etc.	17,64,600/	12,70,51,200/
10	Total economic contribution from Mt. Everest Expedition teams in one climbing season of Spring 2011	90,15,978/	64,91,15,042/

Other Mountaineering Expedition Peaks: Beside Everest Expeditions, there were 65 foreign Expedition teams to various other mountains.

Name of Peak	Altitude	Number of Permitted teams	Number of foreign Climbers
Mt. Kanchanjunga	8586m	3	36
Mt. Lhotse	8516m	7	64
Mt. Makalu	8463m	4	36
Mt. Dhaulagiri	8167m	3	19
Mt. Manaslu	8163m	5	53
Mt. Annapurna I	8091m	2	9
Mt. Amadablam	6812m	5	29
Mt. Bamaongo	6400m	1	1
Mt. Baruntse	7129m	4	28
Mt. Bhemdang Ri	6150m	1	11
Mt. Changla	6553m	1	6
Mt. Danfe Sail	6103	1	2
Mt. Dampush	6012	2	12
Mt. Gaugiri	6110	1	8
Mt. Gaurishanker	7134m	1	3
Mt. Gyajikang	7038m	1	2
Mt. Jannu	7710m	1	5
Mt. Jobo Rinjang	6666m	1	5
Mt. Kang Kura	6355m	1	9
Mt. Khumjung	6699m	1	4
Mt. Pumori	7161m	1	3
Mt. Saribung	6346m	5	21
Mt. Thapa Peak	6012m	1	3
Mt. Nuptse	7855m	4	27
Mt. Thorang Peak	5751m	1	11
Mt. Roma	5407m	1	2
Mt. Kyashar	6770m	1	2
Mt. Thulagi Peak	7059m	1	4
Mt. Tukuhe Peak	6920m	1	5
Mt. Putha Hiunchuli (Free expedition permit fee as this mountain lies in mid western Nepal)	7246m	2	7
Mt. Tilicho Peak	7134	1	8



Similarly there was one Nepalese women teams of 4 women on Annapurna IV (7525m).

To Summarize: This spring the Expeditions Peaks of Nepal saw a total of 465 foreign climbers, plus 229 HAS and 265 kitchen staffs. I estimate that these teams had approximately 8631 porter loads to the respective Base Camps and 5610 porter loads from Base Camp back down to the road head or airport.



## Economic contribution from these expedition teams in climbing season of Spring 2011

The following is my estimate of the economic contributions that expedition teams (other than Mt. Everest) provide in this climbing season of Spring 2011:

	Item	US\$	Nepalese Rupees
1	The total peak permit collection from these peaks	3,83,700:	2,76,26,400:
2	Total porter wages to BC - 8631 porter loads and back from BC- 5610 porter loads	14,89,927:	11,74,88,250:
3	HAS- Equipment allowances, remuneration, climbing bonus, summit bonus, insurance etc	7,95,139:	5,72,50,025:
4	BC and C2 kitchen staffs equipment allowances, remuneration, allowances, insurance etc.	7,36,111:	5,29,99,992:
5	Flights: For passengers and luggage, helicopter flight, transportations, hotels in Ktm & on the way, transfers, meals, insurance for porters, food purchase, kitchen utensils, drinks, EBC fuels, solar panels & generators for lighting, charges, fresh supplies, EBC tents, dining tents, kitchen & store tents, toilet tents, mattresses, chairs, tables, heaters etc	17,35,400:	12,49,48,800:
6	H.A. foods, HA fuel, oxygen bottles, masks, regulators, climbing equipments, common climbing equipments, ice fall route fixing charges, route fixing charges above C1 to summit, EBC HRA Aid post fee, SPCC garbage management & disposal fee etc	14,54,500:	10,47,24,000:
7	Total economic contribution from Mt. Everest Expedition teams in one climbing season of Spring 2011	67,36,631:	48,50,37,467:

NMA Climbing Peaks: Total permits issued by Nepal Mountaineering Association to NMA Peak climbing teams to various NMA peaks are 447 climbing teams with total 2015 foreign climbers in Spring 2011. These teams recruited 2317 persons as climbing guides, assistant guides, cooks and kitchen staffs and I estimate approximately 15,162 porters to Base Camp and 9,855 porter loads back from Base Camp.

### Climbing Teams on NMA Climbing Peaks for Spring 2011

S.N.	Peaks	Numbers of Exp. Teams	Foreign Members
1	Island ( 6183 m)	210	996
2	Mera ( 6654 m)	85	407
3	Pisang ( 6091m)	49	259
4	Chulu West ( 6419 m)	13	38
5	Lobuche ( 6119m )	11	49
6	Pharchamo( 6187 m)	10	35
7	Chulu East ( 6584 m)	9	41
8	Tharpuchuli ( 5663 m)	8	22
9	Kyazori ( 6186 m)	7	27
10	Pokhalde ( 5806 m)	6	20
11	Paldor ( 5896 m)	6	14
12	Kusum Kangu ( 6367 m)	5	23
13	Ganjalachuli	5	19
14	Yala ( 5732 m)	4	17
15	Larkya ( 6010m)	4	12
16	Singuchuli (6501m)	3	10
17	Pharilapta	3	4
18	Kwangde ( 6011 m)	2	3
19	Madri Himal ( 5587 m)	1	2
20	Chola Tse (6440 m)	1	1
21	Khongma Tse ( 5849 m)	1	1
22	Bokta( 6143 m)	1	4
23	Langsisa Ri( 6427 m)	1	1
24	Hiunchuli ( 6441 m)	1	5
25	Ramdung( 5925 m)	1	5
		Total Teams = 447	Total Climbers= 2015

Economic contribution by NMA Peaks in this climbing season of Spring 2011: the following are the estimated economic contributions from the NMA Peak climbing teams in this climbing season of Spring 2011:

	Item	US\$	Nepalese Rupees
1	Total permit fee collection from 447 climbing teams	1,84,975:	1,33,18,200:
2	The total expenses on porter up to Base Camp and back from Base Camp	28,66,531:	20,63,90,250:
3	HAS- Equipment allowances, remuneration, climbing allowances, insurance etc	7,10,500:	5,11,56,000:
4	Camp staffs, cooks, kitchen staffs & helpers' remuneration, allowances, insurance etc.	7,16,100:	5,15,59,200:
5	Flights: For passengers and luggage, helicopter flight, transportations, airport tax, hotels in Ktm & on the way, transfers, meals, insurance for porters, food purchase, kitchen utensils, drinks, fuels, solar panels, charges, fresh supplies, BC tents, dining tents, kitchen, toilet tents, mattresses, chairs, tables etc	18,13,500:	13,05,72,000:
6	H.A. foods, HA fuel, oxygen bottles, masks, regulators, climbing equipments, common climbing equipments, SPCC garbage management & disposal fee etc	9,06,750:	6,52,86,000:
7	Total economy contribution from NMA Peak climbing teams in this climbing season of Spring 2011		51,82,81,650:

Tibet Expeditions on Mt. Everest and other 8000m Peaks- Spring 2011: This climbing season, on the Tibet side of Mt. Everest, there were 17 teams with 139 foreign climber, 156 HAS, 22 Chinese Exp. Members and guides and 7 Tibetan/Chinese rope fixing team members. Among them 46 foreign climbers, 56 HAS and 29 Chinese/ Tibetan climbers reached the top of Mt. Everest from North Side this Spring Season.

On Mt. Cho-Oyu there were 10 teams with a total of 112 climbers (including HAS) and among them 11 foreign climbers and 12 HAS reached the summit of Mt. Cho-Oyu. On Mt. Shishapangma there were 8 teams with a total of 60 climbers (including HAS) and among them 16 foreign climbers and 7 HAS reached the top of Mt. Shishapangma from both the South Face and the Normal Route (North Side).

## Notable Records and Ascents on Climbing Season 2011:

**Apa Sherpa**, Climbing Leader of Eco Everest Expedition 2011 reached the summit of Mt. Everest for the 21st time - a new world record with the message of "Stop Climate Change" on 11 May 2011.

**Arjun Vajpai** (17 yrs 11mths) the youngest India Everest summiteers, who climbed Mt. Everest with Asian Trekking's Eco Everest Expedition 2010 is now also the youngest Mt. Lhotse summiteer. Earlier Ms.Tamara Lunger of Italy was the youngest Lhotse Summit record holder who summited Spring 2010 at the age of 23 years old.



**Mr. Vikash Kaushik** (24 yrs) and Mrs. Sushma Kaushik (27 yrs) are the first Indian Couple to summit Mt. Everest and they claim to be the youngest couple in the world.

Swiss speed climber **Ueli Steck** reached the Summit of Mt. Shishapangma (8027m) via the South Face Route on 17th April. This was the first Summit of any 8000m Peak in the spring climbing season. Ueli Steck broke the previous record of Inaki Ochoa de Olza via the Austrian Route (14 hours) in 2006, and became the record holder for fastest ascent of Mt. Shishapangma (10:30 hours).

**Charlie Wittmack**, leader of the American team of an autonomous part of the Eco Everest Expedition reached the top of Mt. Everest and became the first person to accomplished his trip to Nepal by swimming the length of the Thames river in England prior to swimming the English channel and finally hopping on his bike and cycling all the way to Tibet from Calais In France.

**Phurba Tashi Sherpa** ( yrs)

**Chhurim Dolma Sherpa** (27yrs) of Nepal became the first Woman to summit Mt. Everest twice in one climbing season (12 May and 19 May).

**Carlos Soria** (72yrs) of Spain is the oldest person to summit Mt. Lhotse. He reached the top of Mt. Lhose on 21 May.

#### **National Records:**

**Premlata Agrawal** (45 yrs), member of Eco Everest Expedition team became the Oldest Women to summit Mt. Everest from India. She reached the top on 20 May.

**Bernardo Guarachi** and **Elio Guarachi** from Bolivia became the first father and son from Bolivia to summit and also the first summiteers of Mt. Cho-Oyu on 5 May in this Spring climbing season.

**Carlos Eduardo Santalena** (24 yrs) who was on the Eco Everest expedition, became the youngest Brazilian to summit Mt. Everest. He reached the top on 7 May.

**Martin Byrne**(58yrs) of Ireland now has the distinction of being the oldest Irish citizen to reach the summit of Mt. Everest from north side on 26 May. The next person was Lynn Hannah from Northern Ireland who was 48 in 2009. She climbed from the Nepal side that year.

**Sanubabu Sunuwar** and **Lhakpa Tshering Sherpa** of Nepal flew by paraglider from the summit of Everest to Shyanboche Airstrip (above Namche Bazaar) covering about 20 kilometer on 21 May.

The first Nepalese Civil Servants team to Mt. Everest succeeded, putting 9 Nepalese Civil Servants and 15 Climbing Sherpas on the top on 18 May.

**Gangaamaa Badamgaray** became the first Mongolian woman to summit Mt. Everest from the north side. She summited on 21 May.

**Alf Robin Trygg** is the youngest Swedish to reach the top of Mt. Everest. He summited on 13 May.

**Karim Merino Mella** and Ivan **EG Carrasco** are the first Dominicans to summit Mt. Everest. They summited on 21 May.

**Mingma Sherpa** became the first Nepalese to climb all 14, 8000m Peaks. He climbed his last 8000m Peak, Kanchenjunga, on 20th May.

**Cleonice Weidlich** became the first Brazilian to summit Mt. Kanchenjunga. She summited on 20 May.

**Israfil Ashurly** became the first Azerbaijani to summit Mt. Kanchenjunga. He summited Mt. Kanchenjunga on 20 May.

**Tunc Findik** became the first Turkish to summit Mt. Kanchenjunga. He summited on 20 May.

**Anselm Murphy** became the first Irish to summit Mt. Kanchenjunga. He summited on 20 May.

**Azim Gheyichisaz** became the first Iranian to summit Mt. Kanchenjunga. He summited on 20 May.

**Dragan Celikovic** became the first Serbian to summit Mt. Kanchenjunga. He summited Mt. Kanchenjunga on 20 May.

**Barbara "Billi" Bierling** became the first German woman to summit Mt. Lhotse. She summited on 26 May.

**Laszlo Gal** and **Zsolt Eross** became the first Hungarians to summit Mt. Lhotse. They summited on 21 May.

**Wang Jing** became the first Chinese woman to summit Mt. Lhotse. She summited on 26 May.

**Parvaneh Kazemi** became the first Iranian woman to summit Mt. Manaslu. She summited on 29 April.

**Britt Volden**, **Stian Slettum Voldmo** and **Oyvind Thon** became the first Norwegians to summit Mt. Dhaulagiri. They summited on 14 May.

**Nima Rai**, **Mina Gurung**, **Shantikala Rai** and **Sarwati B.K.** are the first Nepalese women to summit Mt. Annapurna IV (7525m). They reached the summit on 31 May along with their 4 high altitude climbing Sherpas.

Fatal Events on Mountains: Besides the good news I also have sad news to share. The following are the fatal events that took place on Everest and other mountains during this climbing season.

We express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

Name	Country	Age	Died Date	Mountain/Altitude
Isa Mir-Shekari	Iran	38yrs	29 Apr	Manaslu at C4 (7460 m)
Rick Hitch	America	55yrs	3 May	Everest, just below C 3 (7400m)
Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya	Nepal	82 yrs	9 May	Everest, Icefall (Pop Corn) 5780m)
Takashi Ozaki	Japan	58yrs	12 May	Everest, near balcony (8500m)
John Delaney Gerard	Ireland	41yrs	21 May	Everest-North Side (87998m) 50 m below summit
Donald Naar	Dutch	56yrs	23 May	Cho-Oyu/ C3 (7500 m)
JoÃ«lle Brupbacher	Switzerland	33yrs	22 May	Makalu/Camp 3
Masue Yoshida	Japan	63yrs	4 June	Naya Kanga peak/ 5844m
Kumar Rai	Nepal	36yrs	4 June	Naya Kanga peak/ 5844m

**Alain Pierre Marie Laurens** (54yrs) of France, **Bernard Jean Francois Millan** (53yrs) of France and **Tashi Tshering Sherpa** (38yrs -Khumjung) were missing after returning from the Summit of Mt. Manaslu on 11 May. Later Tashi Tshering's body was found and brought to Kathmandu by helicopter.

Leader of **Thulagi Bielorussia Nickolay Bandalet** and member **Serguey Belous** are missing on Thulagi Peak (7057m) in Manaslu region since May 8.

### Free Climbing Permit Fee

Peaks in the Far West and Mid West Region of Nepal: On the occasion of Nepal Tourism Year 2011, Nepal Government has declared Free Peak Permit Fee to all the Opened Peaks of Mid Western and Far Western region of Nepal for mountaineering expedition until 16 July 2014. If you need any further information please let us know.

*I hope that you find this information interesting and helpful. My calculations are estimates but I have done my best to keep them as accurate as possible. If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to email me. Also, if you would like to know more about mountaineering and trekking in the Himalayas then please do get in touch with.*

Best Regards,

**Ang Tshering Sherpa**

Chairman

Asian Trekking