

The hidden six-thousanders in the middle of Nyainqentanglha West Mountains

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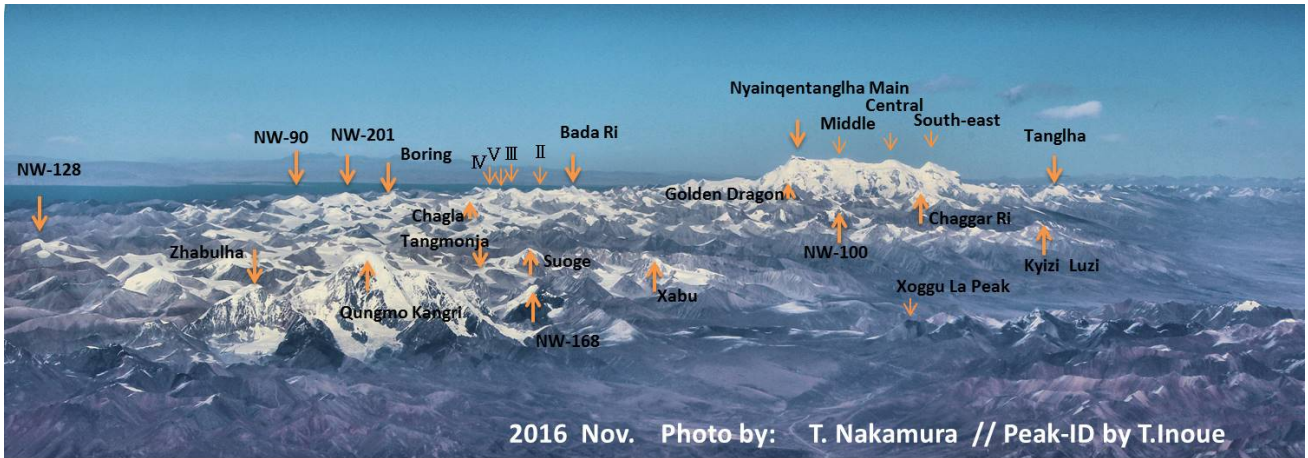
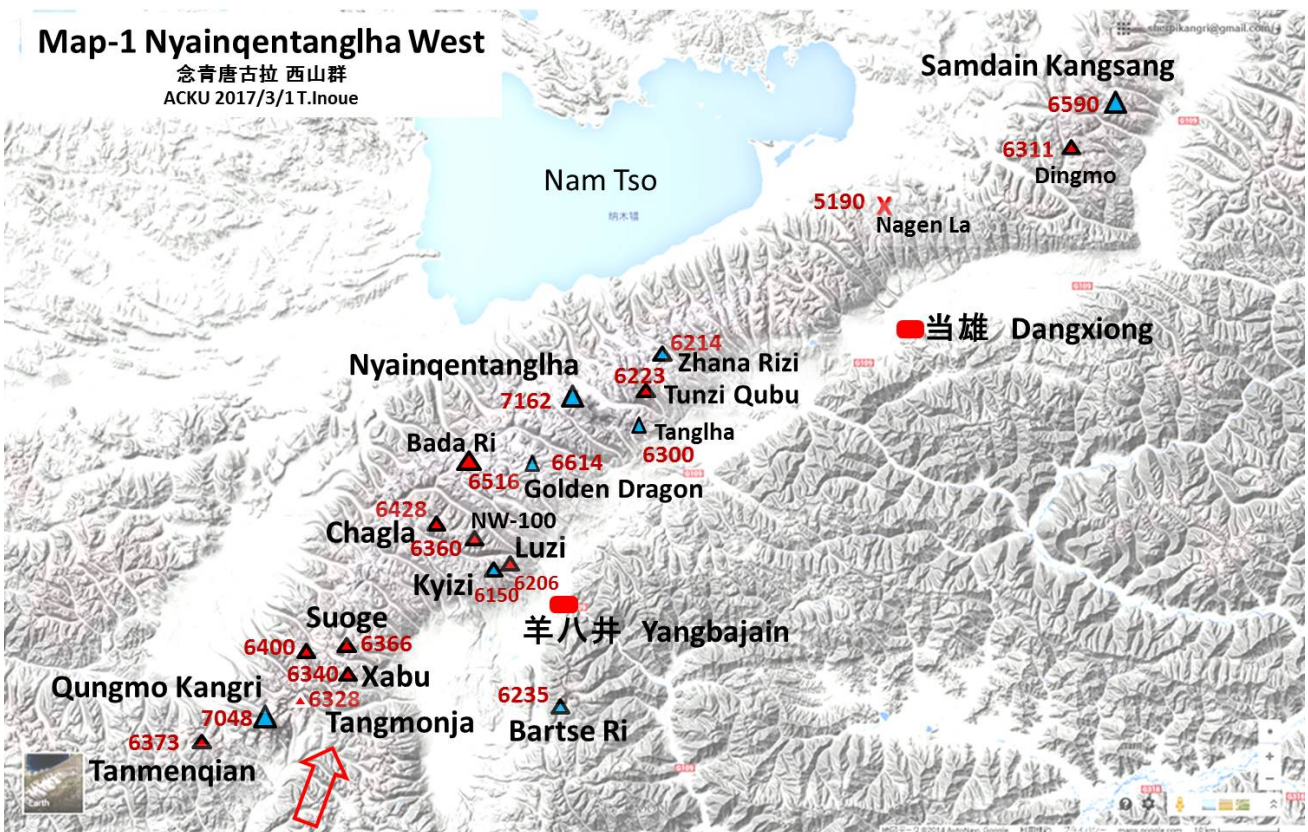


Fig-1 Aerial view of middle area of the Nyainqentanglha West Mountains



Remark: The red arrow shows the direction of the aerial picture Fig-1

Introduction

Mr. Tom Nakamura had an exciting opportunity to take an aerial picture on the flight from Lhasa to Chengdu (refer to Fig-1 and a red arrow in the Map-1) in November 2016. This picture rejuvenated my curiosity again and I reviewed my correction of peak pictures in the Nyainqentanglha West Mountains.

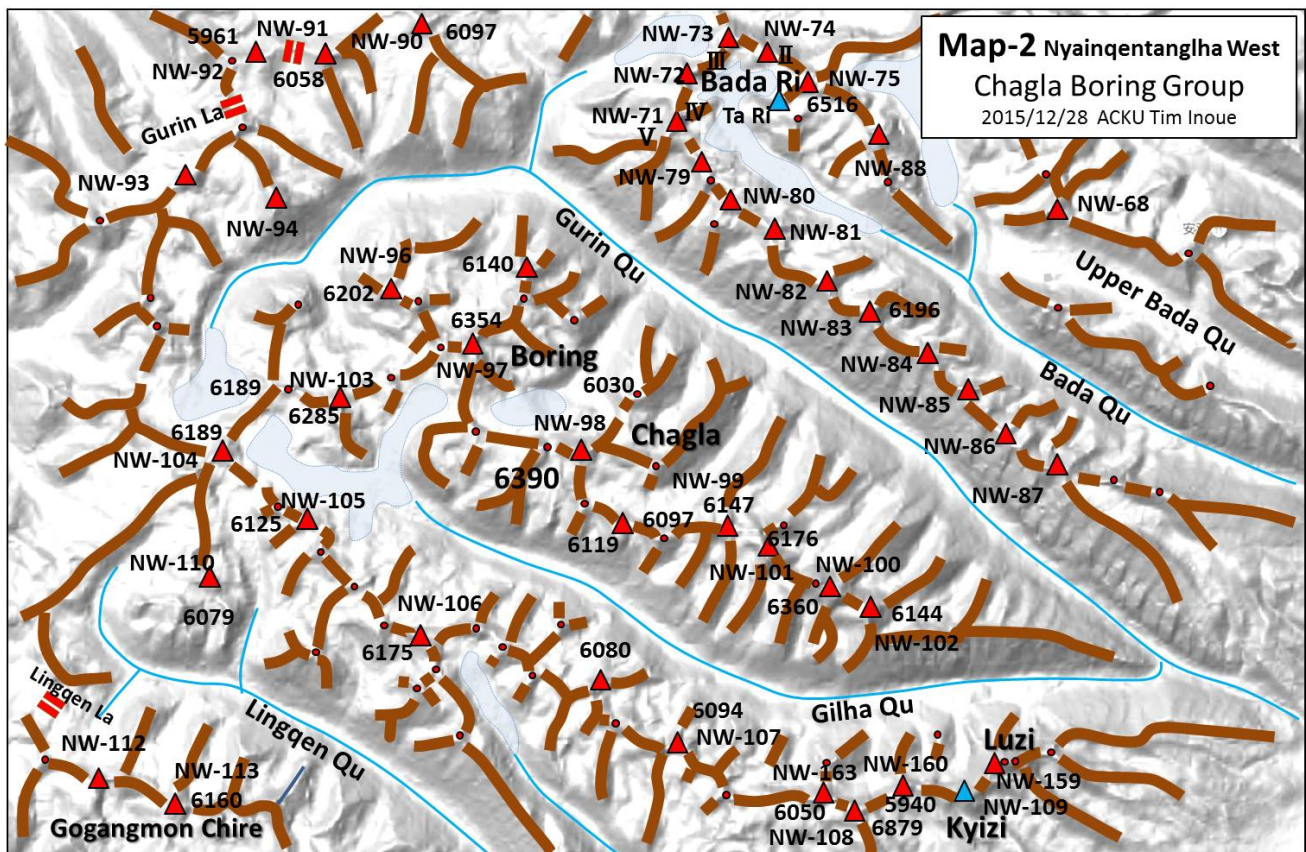
The Nyainqentanglha West Mountains lies in the open area to foreign tourists. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway and the National Road G109 run together along the south-east

front hill of the mountains. Many visible peaks from the road and railway are already identified. Many mountaineering expedition parties took good pictures. Including my research pictures, the outline of the mountains can be identified. But, there are still so many unexplored areas where more hard works will be required to unveil mountains between two 7000m-peaks, Nyainqentanglha Main (7162m) and Qungmo Kangri (7048m).

During my research of the peaks in this blank area, I was interested in Bada Ri group, Chagla-Boring group and North-east area of Qungmo Kangri. The outline of Bada Ri group was already described on my article in the first edition of AAE. So, I want to focus on the remaining two areas in this article.

Chagla-Boring Group (Peaks on the divide ridge of Gilha Qu and Gurin Qu)

As I described on my article in the first edition of AAE, the panorama picture taken from the top of Ta Ri on 27th October 2015 has unveiled hidden south-western peaks of the Nyainqentanglha West Mountains (refer to Map-2 , Fig-2 to 6). Chagla and Boring Group stands on the divide ridge between Gurin Qu and Gilha Qu. Only the conical head of NW-100 can be seen from the road G109. Other peaks were hidden and unknown.



We found a few records of journey that gives us possibility to access the valley of Gurin Qu and Gilha Qu. Local people took trip through these valleys for their yak grazing. One interesting record said a tourist made his access by a mountain bicycle in the valley of Gurin Qu. The old trail ran through Gurin Qu and Gurin La to the north.



Fig-2 NW-100 and Peaks on the Chagla ridge



Fig-3 Chagla(6428m, left) and Qungmo Kangri (7048m, far end)
South-western view from the top of Ta Ri

Mr. Deqing Ouzhu joined the mountaineering festival held by CTMA in early October 2015 and he took nice pictures of Chagla and Boring Group from a pass on the ridge between NW-108 and NW-160 of Kyizi group (refer to Map-4 and Fig-4).

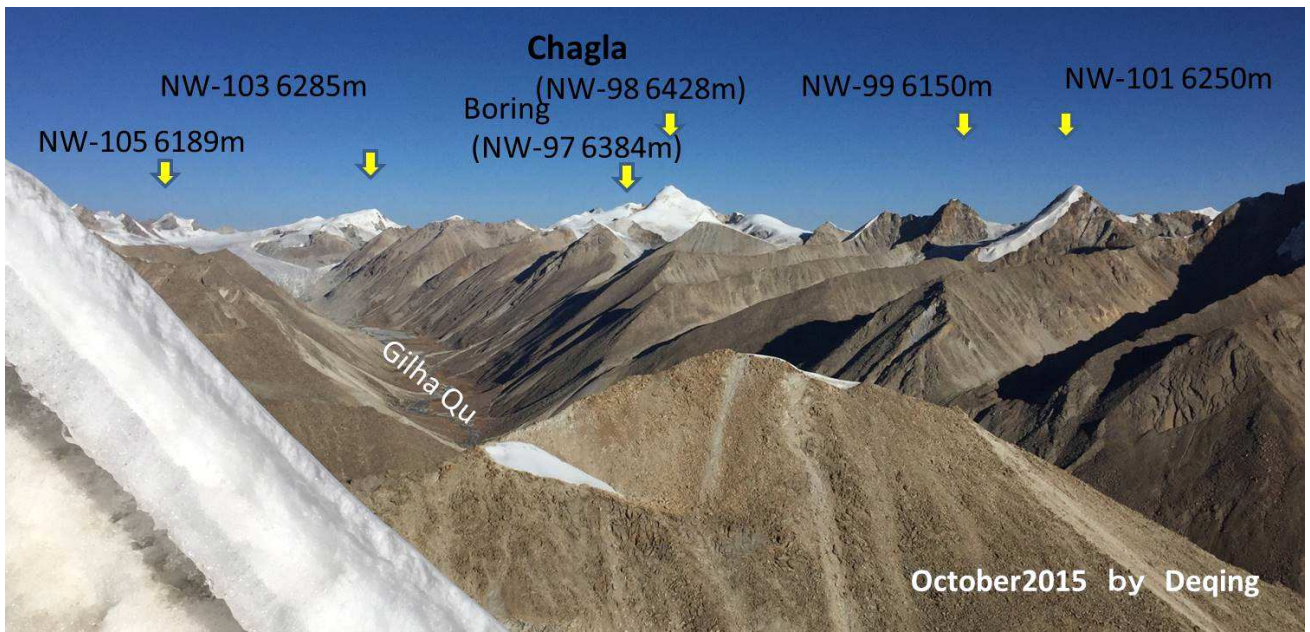


Fig-4 Peaks on the Gilha-Gurin divide ridge

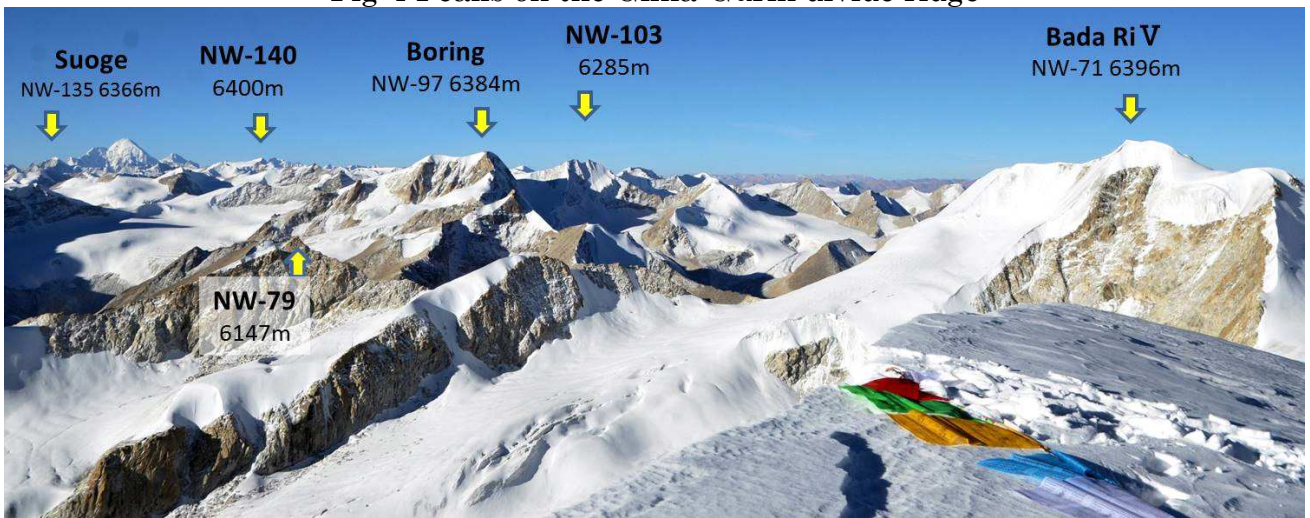


Fig-5 Boring and Bada Ri IV



Fig-6 NW-100 from the south hill of the Road G109

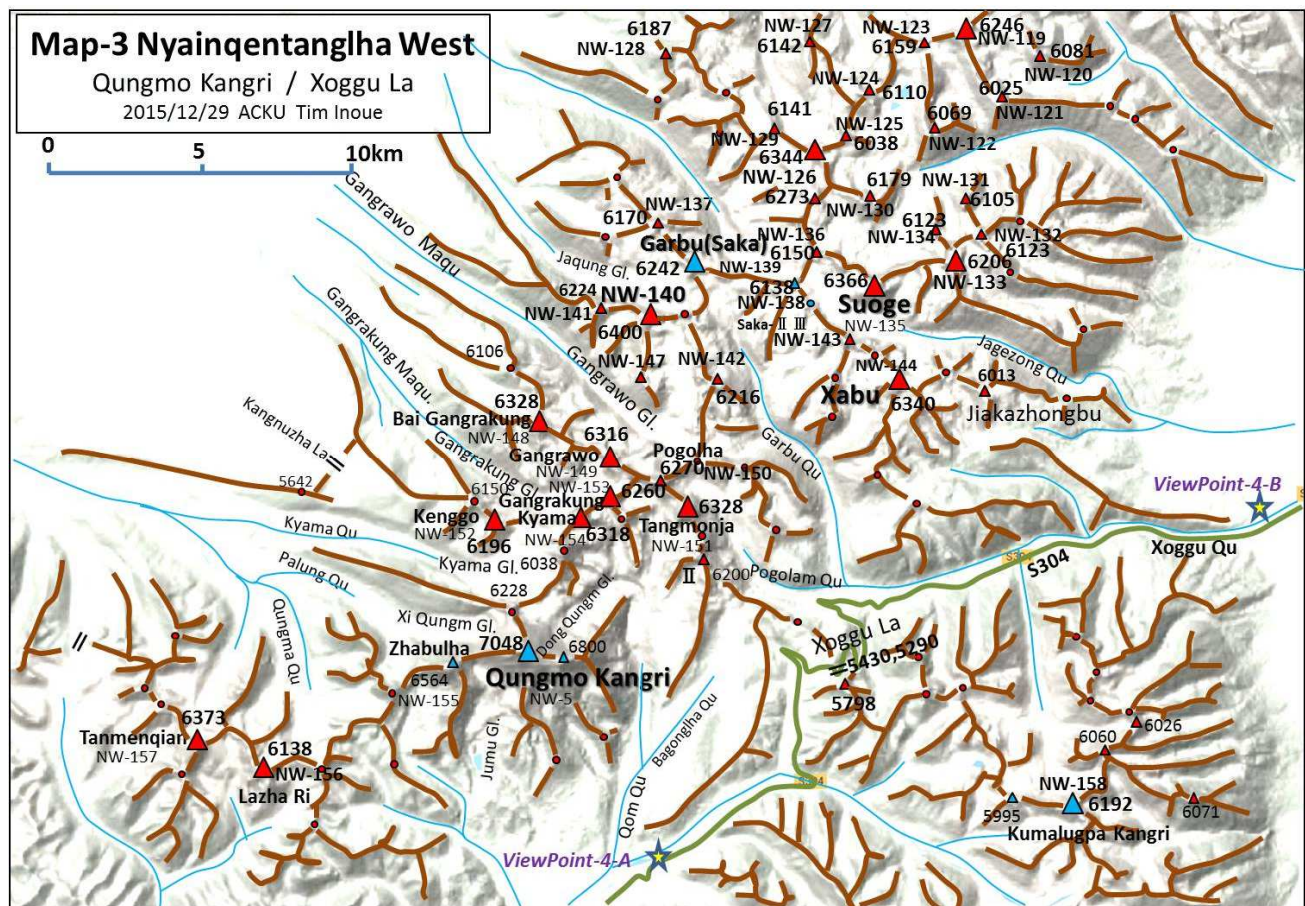
The picture shows a typically pyramidal peak NW-100. I could recognize this peak in the far right back of Golden Dragon in a picture taken by Christian Haas from a high elevation point on the west ridge of Nyainqentanglha IV (South-east peak). Farther more, I found NW-100 with NW-101 and 102 in the picture (Fig-2) taken by Bruce Normand from a point on the north-east ridge of Langbu Qu. These pictures suggest me that NW-100 is higher than 6254m, the elevation was found in Google earth. I referred to ASTER GDEM data that has 6360m. I assume the elevation of NW-100 might be near 6400m.

ASTER: Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer
GDEM: Global Digital Elevation Model

North-east area of Qungmo Kangri

Pictures from Xoggu La (5290m) and Xoggula Peak (5798m) taken by the research party of Kobe University in October 2015 provide me many images of un-identified peaks around Qungmo Kangri.

NW-140 (6400m), Suoge (Soge 6366m), Xabu 6340m) and other 6000m-peaks were identified. Garpu (or Saka, 6242m, NW-139) and its satellite two peaks were climbed in August 1998 by Japanese party. NW-140 (6400m) is the most eye-catching and the highest peak in this area that has gentle skyline and snow covered massive body (Fig-8). Xabu (6340m) has a large high altitude glacier near the south-east face of the summit pinnacle (Fig-9). The peak is visible from east on the road S304.



The north hill (a5430m) of Xoggu La (5290m) is also the best lookout point to Qungmo Kangri (7048m), Tangmonja (6328m), Kyama (6318m), Gangrakung(6260m) and other

peaks.

Qungmo Kangri is an independently massive peak. Tourists can clearly recognize her from Yangbajain area. In 1996, Chinese and Korean joint team made the first ascent of Qungmo Kangri from the south ridge. Japanese two parties succeeded the second (1997) and third (1999) ascent of her. The climbing route was through the south ridge same as the first ascent. Austrian climber, Christian Haas made the fourth ascent as solo one-day climb in 2005.

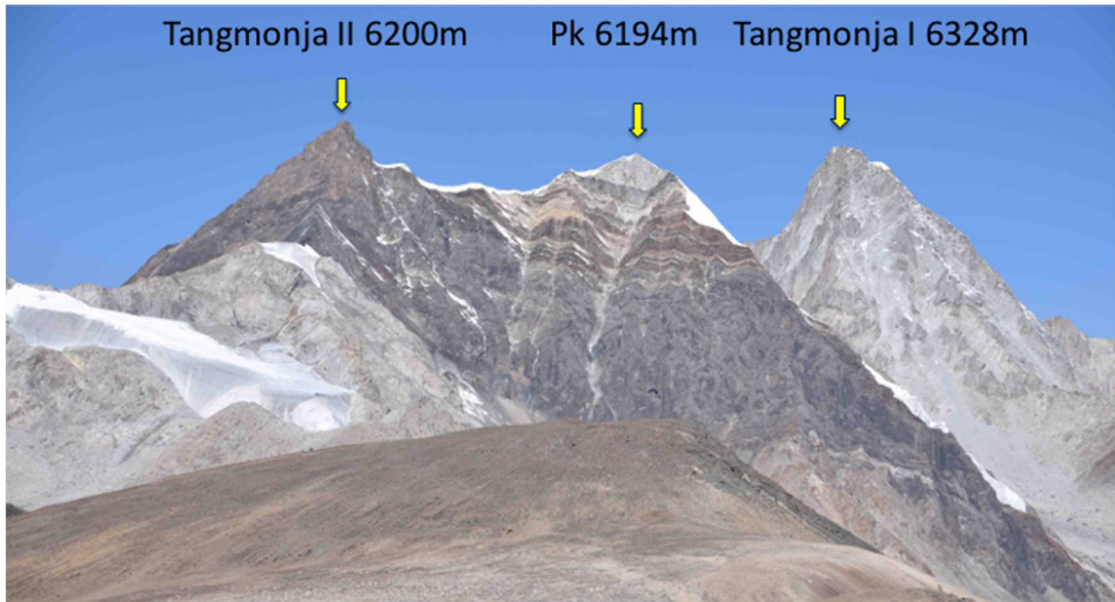


Fig-7 East face of Tangmonja 6328m(NW-151)
(from North hill of Xoggu La)



Fig-8 NW-140 6400m from Xoggu La Peak



Fig-9 Xabu 6340m from north hill of Xoggu La



Fig-10 South face of Suoge 6366m from north hill of Xoggu La

The east face of Suoge can be seen in the deep valley of Jagezong Qu. In September 2013, Japan Unclimbed Peak Club went in to Jagezong Qu and tried to climb Suoge up to 6,100m. The North-west ridge (the left sky line of the picture Fig-10) was their summit push line where good snow-covered ridge continues to the top.



Fig-11 East face of Suoge 6,366m

Kyama Ri (NW-154 6318m) and its' northern peak, Gangrakung (NW-153 6260m) are both rock peaks and look very steep (Fig-12, 13). From Qungmo Kangri, the rocky ridge and some six-thousanders like Kyama Ri continue to the north.

Tangmonja I (NW-151 6328m) with two satellite peaks (Fig-7) stand in the deep end of Pogolam Qu. The rocky needle peak of

Tangmonja I is distinguish herself in the sky.



Fig-12 Kyama Ri (NW-154) 6318m from Xoggu La Peak



Fig-13 Gangrakung (NW-153) 6260m from Xoggu La Peak



Fig-14 Garbu (or Saka NW-139 6248m: climbed) from Xoggu La Peak looks pyramidal covered with ice cap.

Some other unclimbed peaks were recognized in the north from the top of Xoggu La Peak (5798m) in addition to the peaks recognized from the north hill of Xoggu La (5430m). The west face of Garbu or Saka (NW-139 6248m)

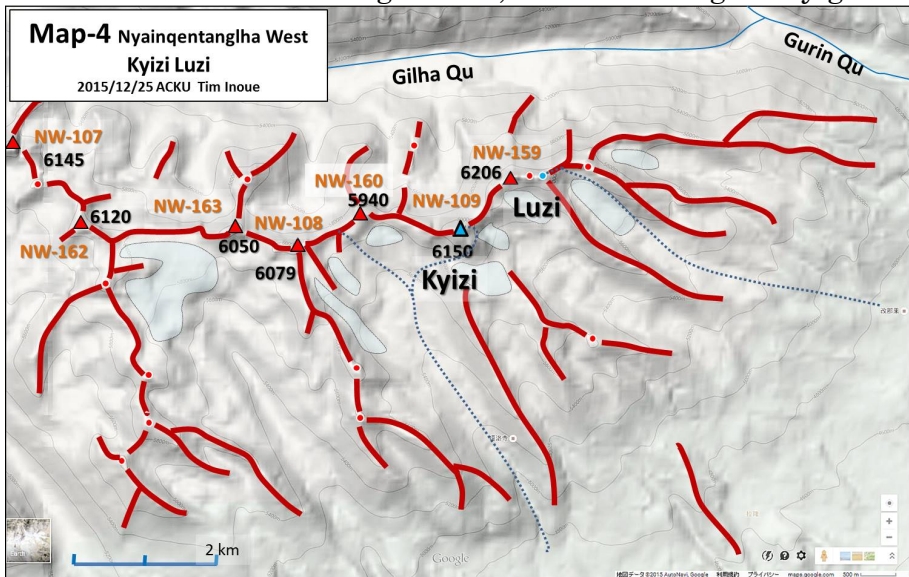
The first ascent of Kyizi and Luzi

I have brought up a few questions about this mountain group. The first question is names and locations. Mr. Janusz Majer and Mr. Jerzy Wala issued a study report “Nyainqentanglha-West Mountains 2010”. They put the name of Luzi on the peak NW-107 (6145m in the Map-4) in their report. Mr. Ohta (Japan Unclimbed Peak Club) described in his internet report that he made the first ascent of Luzu (Luzi 6206m) in September 2011. I had analyzed his sentences and pictures of climbing and then I concluded that he had reached the the east end peak out of 3 pinnacles. He believes Luzi location is NW-159 position in the Map-4.

CTMA and members of “Tibet Mountaineering School and Team” has often climbed the dome shape peak NW-109 as Kyizi (6150m). They said NW-159 should be Luzi (6206m). Mr. Ciren Danta who is an officer of Tibet Sports Department and a professional climber said that NW-109 is Kyizi (6150m) and NW-159 is Luzi (6206m). I took the identification by Danta in this report. Mr. Majer and Mr. Wala put the name of Kyizi (6206m) on NW-109.,

The names of Kyizi and Luzi come from “Ky = dog” and “Lu = sheep” with “Zi = person who controls animal”. Kyizi means “dog trainer” and Luzi means “shepherd”. Tibetan in this district often put animal name on mountain.

The second question is the first ascent of peaks. I have no question that Kyizi was climbed many times. But, I could not get any evidence of the first ascent of Kyizi. According to the Internet article, Japanese party climbed Kyizi in 1995. I asked CTMA and Tibet Mountaineering School, but I did not get any good answer.



I have one record that Nagano Prefecture Mountaineering Association had a Joint expedition with CTMA on August 16th, 1997. They had reported they climbed Kizu (Kyizi 6079m). A picture in that report targeted the climbing route from the top down to the East Ridge appears 3-pinnacles of Luzu = Luzi (6206m). We got a

very similar picture that Danta took it in May 2010. It is obvious that Nagano team climbed Kyizi comparing with those two pictures.



Referring to the internet, Mr. Masahide Ohta described that he made the first ascent of Luzu I (6206m) on September 13th, 2011. According to his climbing explanation, I could follow his climbing line as shown in the picture (Fig-15 and 17). From the south foot of this mountain, the East-end peak-III looks the highest peak. I have other good

Fig-15 Kyizi 6150m (left) & Luzi 6206m
The line shows climbing route to the top of Luzi-III
The main Peak of Luzi is still unclimbed.

pictures captured 3-pinnacles clearly. As my conclusion, the west end peak is the highest. Mr. Ohta climbed Luzi III (a 6150m).

The main peak of Luzi is still unclimbed.

In the Chagla-Boring Group, there are no climbed Six-thousanders.

China Government had reinforced the regulation in Tibet recently. Foreign mountain climbers including trekkers cannot enter the restricted area in Tibet such as Nyainqentanglha East Mountains, Kangri Garpo Mountains and the border mountains of Bhutan except Himalaya range and Nyainqentanglha West Mountains.

There are many un-climbed Six-thousanders in the Nyainqentanglha West Mountains fortunately. It looks climbing paradise today if you want to organize expeditions.

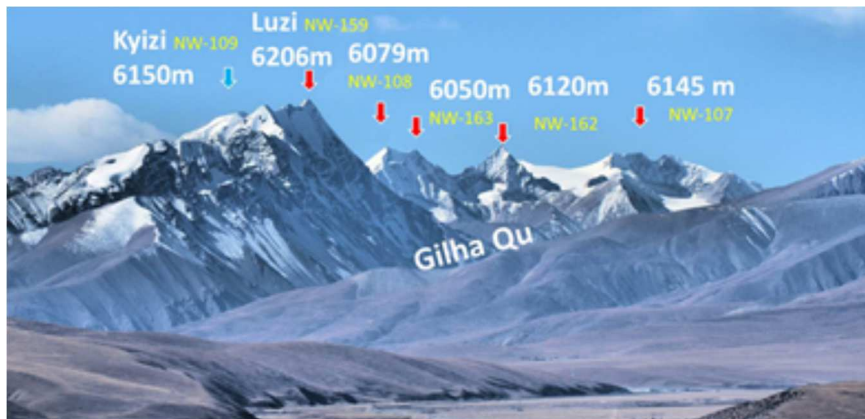


Fig-16 Luzi and Kyizi Group (east face)
(Picture: Kobe Univ. expedition in 2014)

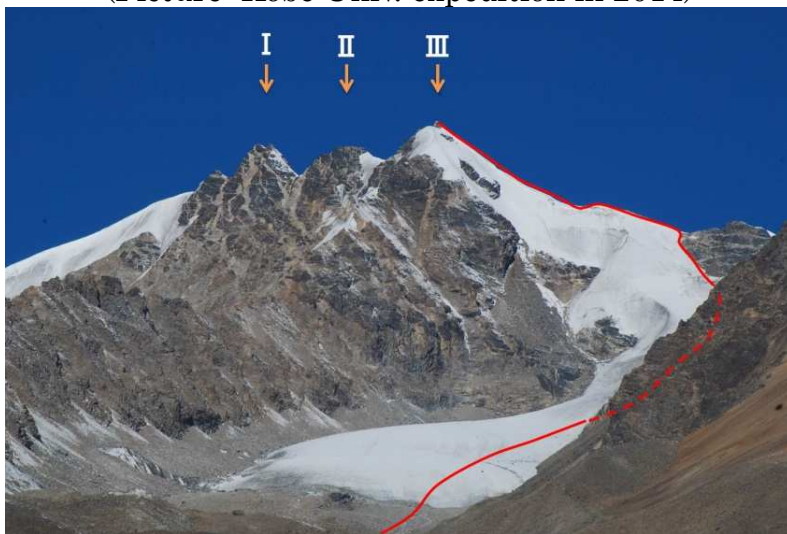


Fig-17 Climbing line of Luzi (south face)
by Mr. Ohta in 2011
(Picture: Kobe Univ. expedition in 2014)

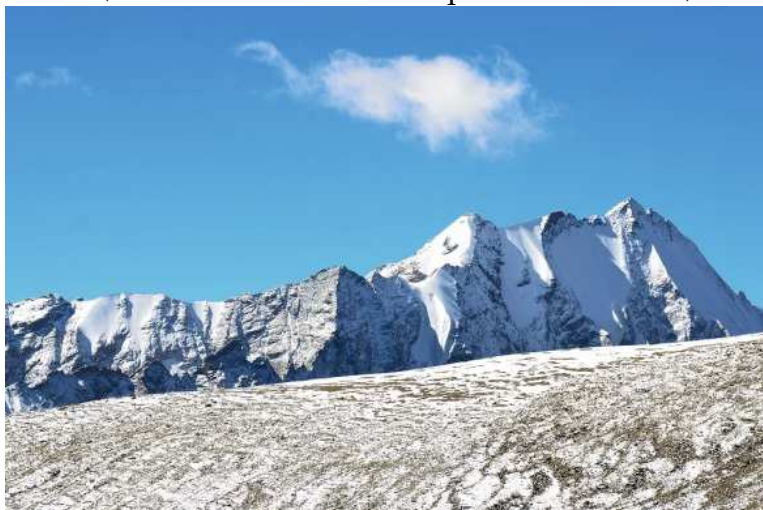


Fig-18 3-peaks of Luzi From Bada Ridge 5,500m
(north-east face ; Picture: Kobe Univ. expedition in 2015)