

日ネ合同学生のヒマラヤ野外実習プログラム

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Joint Japan-Nepal Student Himalayan Exercise Program

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The world deepest Kaligandaki Valley which flows between the Dhaulagiri and Annapurna ranges in Central Nepal Himalaya provides the world-best geoexcursion course to observe a full transect of the Himalayan Orogen. We have been conducting the joint Japan-Nepal student Himalayan exercise tour since 2012 (Student Himalaya Program HP, http://www.geocities.jp/gondwanainst/geotours/Studentfieldex_index.htm). The objective of the present program is the following two items.

- 1) To let participants to become familiar to the Himalayan geology as well as field geology.
- 2) To let participants to obtain the internationality including familiarity and understanding to other countries and the passion and skill to use English.

An outline of the exercise tour was settled through 2-years' careful examination, referring the published geoguidebook (Upreti and Yoshida, 2005) and after collecting ideas from some tens of Japanese geoscientists who are familiar to Himalayan geosciences. Request to count the exercise tour as the Curriculum point of the university have been sent to all 60 geoscience-related departments of Japanese universities, and by March 2014, 16 departments have agreed upon or started to examine the possibility. Nominal support for the program by 34 Japanese senior geoscientists and 6 Japanese and Nepalese geoscience societies were received, and 30 Japanese geoscientists who are familiar with the Himalaya have registered as the candidates to serve as a geoguide and tour leader.

Advertisement of call-for-participants was sent to 60 geoscience-related departments of Japanese universities. The advertisement appeared not only in the newsletter of the Geological Society of Japan but also Internet of the world through the home page of the Gondwana Institute for Geology and Environment. To lessen the cost of participation, quotations by several Nepalese trekking agencies for managing the tour were collected and the best offer was identified.

The exercise tour course determined through the above examination is the north-south traverse of the Himalaya of about 200 km in length from the Tethys Himalayan Zone to the Gangetic Plain. Practically the course starts from Muktinath in the upper reaches of the Kaligandaki Valley to Lumbini in the lower reaches of the Tinau River. It takes about 10 days starting from and returning to Kathmandu.

Participants of the three tours so far were 53 in total, including 41 students from 6 Japanese and 1 Nepalese universities, 3 Japanese and Nepalese citizens, and 9 Japanese and Nepalese teachers/tour leaders. After returning Kathmandu from the tour, a summary seminar was held where every participants gave an English oral presentation about what they have done during the tour and submitted a report including descriptions what they learned and felt.

All reports were assembled and published as three report books (Yoshida, 2012, 2013, 2014, refer <https://www.data-box.jp/pdir/66fee6c5e7a94f34826cf6a6f5bbaad2>). From these reports of participants, we have understood that almost all participants were happy to have attached to the Himalayan geology. They were also very happy to have intermingled with Nepalese students not only in the field, but also in Kathmandu, through group discussions and city tours. We found the very importance of the exercise tour for students and intend to continue the program every year. Students from other countries will also be welcomed to join the future tours.

ヒマラヤを横断する世界一深いカリガンダキの谷に沿うコースはヒマラヤ造山帯の全構造を観察する世界最高の地学見学コースである。本プログラムの目的は以下の2点である。

- (1) 参加者にヒマラヤの地質と野外地質学への親近感と理解の増進を期待する。

(2) 参加者に国際性と英語への親近感の高揚を期待する。

実習ツアーコースはテチスヒマラヤ帯のカリガンダキ河上流からポカラータンセンを通過してガンジス平原のルンビニに至る 200 km 前後の南北断面を、カリガンダキ河上流部の 70 km 程の区間は徒歩で、その他の区間は車を活用し、10 日間をかけて観察する。

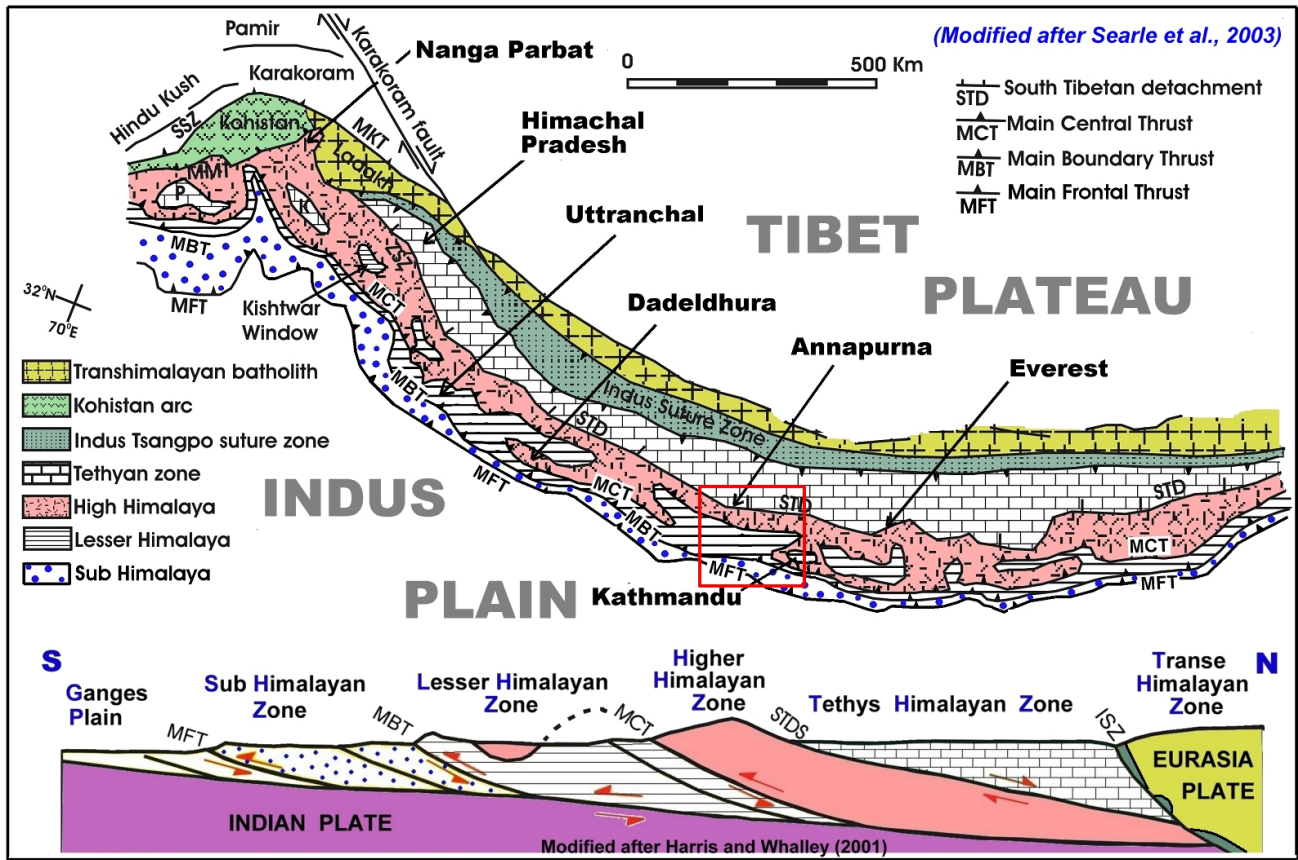


Fig. 1. Geologic outline of the Himalayan Orogen and the student exercise tour area.

過去 3 回の実習ツアー参加者は合計で 53 人、内訳は学生 41 人、一般 3 人、指導教員／引率者 9 人であった。所属国では日本 43 人、ネパール 10 人、男性 36 人、女性 17 人であった。学生 1 人当たりの航空券を含む参加費は第 1 回 158638 円、第 2 回 190000 円、第 3 回 133531 円であった。実習テキストには既刊の英文ガイドブック (Upreti & Yoshida, 2005) を使用し、野外での観察・講義は英語と日本語の両方で行った。実習ツアー出発前には事前学習会、ツアー後には総括報告会をトリブバン大学の教室で同大学の学生・教員らと合同で実施した。またセミナーの後には同大学の学生等と合同でカトマンズ市内や近郊の見学ツアーを小グループに分かれて実施した。参加者は日本語と英語のレポートを帰国後 1 カ月以内に提出することとし、毎回参加者の報告を集めた報告冊子 (電子書籍) を編集・発行した。参加者の数十編の報告からは、本プログラムが多く参加者に対して地質学と野外地質学への理解と嗜好性を大きく増進したことに加えて、国際性と英語への親近感獲得に非常に大きいポジティブな影響を与えたことが窺われる。

References

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