

Report of the 10th Student Himalayan Field Exercise Tour and Recruit for the 11th tour

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The Student Himalayan Field Exercise Tour (SHET) started in 2012 and in 2022, the 10th SHET was carried out (details are given in Yoshida, 2022). The SHET aimed to show students the full N-S section of the Himalayan Orogen (Fig. 1) to let students feel the dynamic crustal processes in the field. The details of the SHET program are given on the SHET home page (2022).

The 10th SHET was successfully carried out for 17 days (Japan-Neal-Japan) in March 2022, the details are given by Yoshida (2022). The advertisement of the SHET-10 started in May 2021 and 11 students including a Chinese student who was funded by the IAGR registered by January 2022, however, 6 among them cancelled in February due to the COVID-19 pandemic problem. On the 20th February, two weeks before the departure of the tour, the Foreign Ministry of Japan identified Nepal as the grade 3 of the danger of COVID-19 infection indicating [Advise not to visit Nepal with any reasons]. However for Nepal, the number of newly affected per 100000 persons that is regarded to be the basic barometer of the danger of infection was one 56th of Japan. Information collected from several sources in Nepal also showed that there is practically no problem in Nepal. Considering those informations, we decided to conduct the tour.

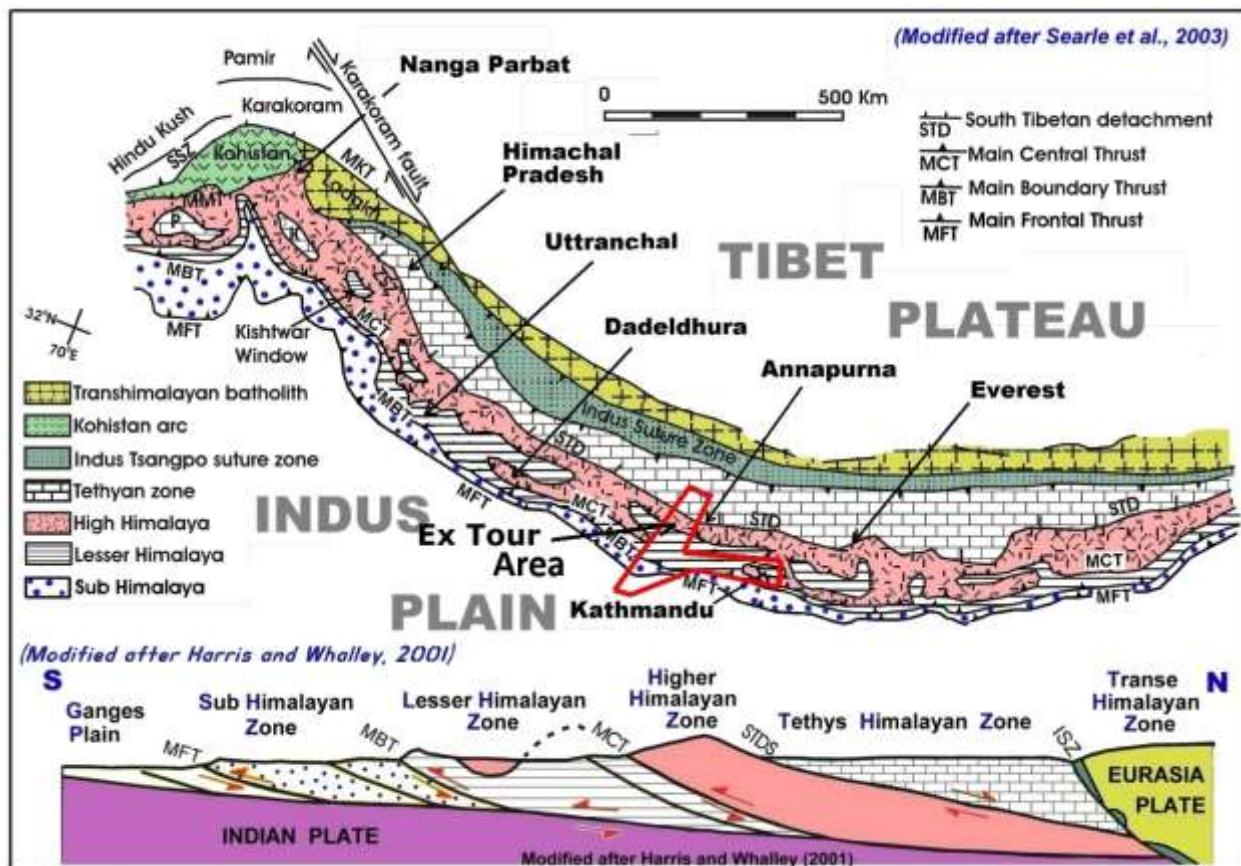


Fig. 1. Geologic outline of the Himalayan Orogen and area of the SHET-10 study

On the 3rd of March, the SHET-10 team departed Japan. On the 6th, the SHET-10 team including 5 Japanese and Nepali students and a Japanese and a Nepali leaders/teachers of the tour departed Kathmandu by a chartered bus for the field excursion. The tour course included a full N-S traverse of the Himalayan Orogen in the west-central Nepal from Mustang north of Annapurna to Terai through Kali Gandaki and Tinau Khola, the course having been same as that during the SHET-1 to SHET-9.

The weather was fine and participants met no health problems throughout the tour and thus could enjoy the full fascination of the Himalayan geology in the field. Before and after the field tour, the team had pre- and post- field tour seminars and city tours

in Kathmandu with many Nepali students. On the 18th March the Japanese team left Kathmandu for Japan. The SHET-10 thus completed successfully. The only problems in conducting the tour were to clear regulations and rules related to the Covid-19 pandemic at immigration of and return to countries, although they were anyway of no fundamental problem. An outline of the SHET-10 including highlight views of the field observation will be displayed at the presentation.

The SHET-11 is scheduled to be conducted in March 2023 as usual and recruiting leaflet will be displayed in the presentation. Although the COVID-19 pandemic may or may not be at that time, we believe that we can clear any problems related with this issue. Only the problem for the SHET-11 is the high price of the airfare and other expenses that have been created by the Covid-19 pandemic problems. We have started a crowd funding project (SHET-CF, 2022) to reduce the participation fee of students for the SHET-11.

References

SHET homepage, 2022, Student Himalayan Field Exercise site, in the GIGE homepage, http://www.gondwanainst.org/geotours/Studentfieldex_index.htm

SHET-CF, 2022, Let's student to study in the Himalaya! Program – Requesting your collaboration to the crowd funding. www.gondwanainst.org/shet-cf

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