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## **FIRST ASCENT OF REDDOMAIN – MINYA KONKA MASSIF**

**Daxue Mountains in Sichuan, China**

First of all, a brief chronicle of the climbing in Minya Konka massif of Daxue Shan Range in West Sichuan, China is laid down below. All the ascents of Minya Konka (Gongga Shan 7556m), since the first one by Americans in 1932 till the sixth ascent by Japanese in 1997, were made via Northwest Ridge. In 1998, however, powerful Korean party succeeded in the seventh ascent via unclimbed difficult Northeast Ridge that had taken the lives of 12 Japanese climbers in three expeditions. Although several 6000m satellite peaks had been also climbed till 1998, many of outstanding virgin peaks exceeding 6000m remained untouched. One of them was Reddomain (6112m) which was first ascended by the Gakushuin University Alpine Club in 1999 and the following six peaks remain unclimbed till today.



Pic.1 Reddomain (6112 m).

A view from Riuchihania Pass. Glacier is much retreated being compared with 1930. from "Gakujin" February 2000

- A. Northern part-----Grosvenor (6376m), Mt. Edger (E-Gongga 6618m)
- B. Central Part-----Daddomain (6380m), Longemain (6294m)
- C. Southern Part-----Longshan (6684m), Nyambo Konka (6114m)

The photograph of Reddomain that was taken in 1930 is seen in a beautiful book of Eduard Imhof "Die GroBen Kalten Berge von Szetschuan".

Mr. Yasushi Tanahashi led the expedition of Gakushuin University in which eight

students participated. Sichuan Adventure Travel Co. of Zhang brothers made necessary arrangements and extended full supports for the mountaineering. They left Chengdu for Kangding on September 15, 1999.

September 16: Kangding to Laoyuling (by a bus)

- “ 18: Caravan started. They spent five days for acclimatization crossing Riuchihania Pass(4900m) down to Mousigou valley.
- “ 21: Base Camp was established at 4500m of Mousigou valley.
- “ 23: Climbing started. A couloir piled up with pieces of rocks ascending toward West Ridge was taken as the climbing route.
- “ 25: C1 was set up at 5050m on the West Ridge. The route followed rock and snow ridge.

October 2: C2 was set up at 5050m on the ridge. Dangerous huge cornices and 70 ° snow wall just below the summit were problems to overcome.

- “ 5: Three members stood on the top of Reddomain after 6.5 hours climb.

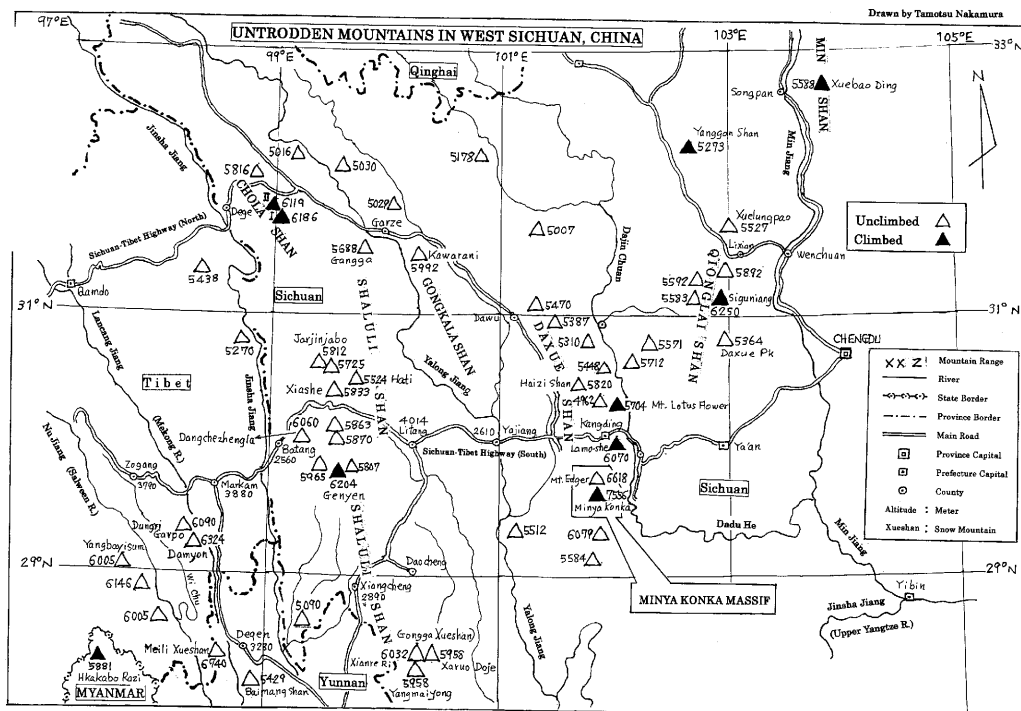


Fig.1 Untrodden Mountains in West Sichuan, China (by Tamotsu Nakamura).

**DAXUE SHAN  
MINYA KONKA & SATELLITE PEAKS**

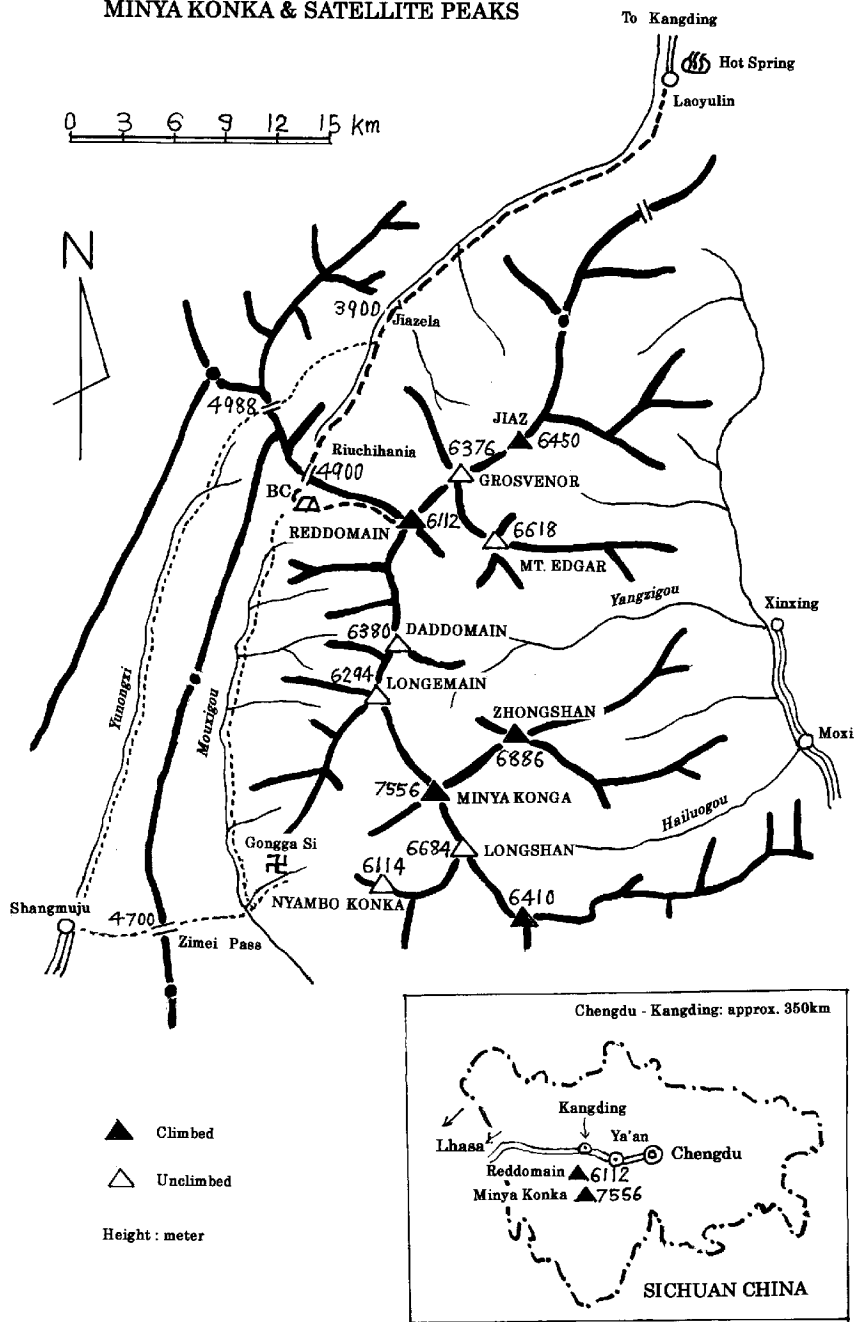


Fig.2 Daxue Shan Minya Konka & Sattelite Peaks  
from "Gakujin" February 2000 (translated and rearranged by T.Nakamura)