

# Nepal October 2010

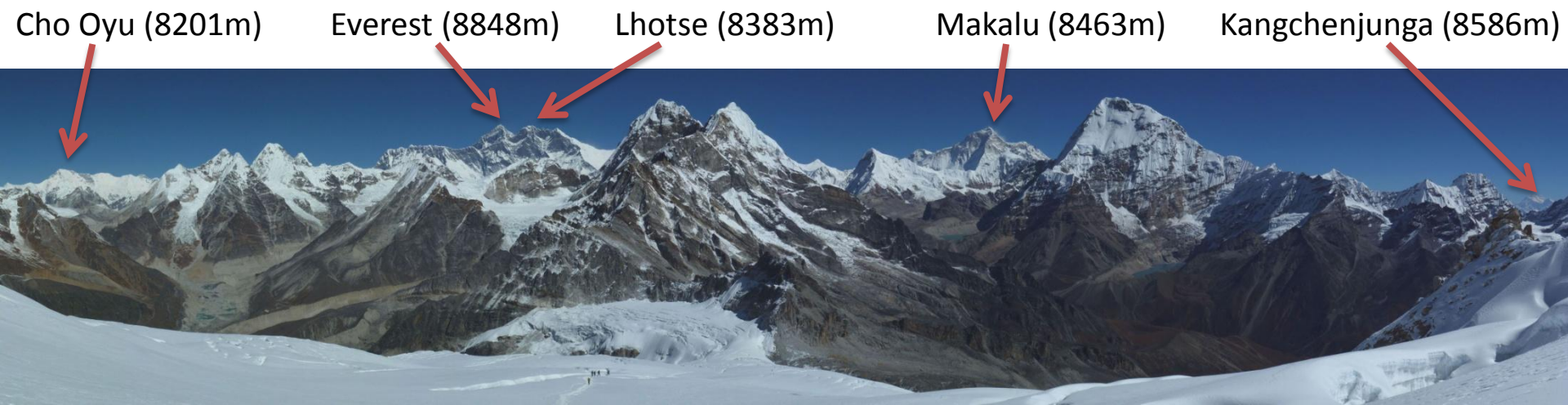
Mera Peak 6476m  
Lukla to the Hongu Valley

Dr Andrew French





## Five of the world's highest mountains! View from the Mera glacier



All photographs (apart from those credited to Dave Kenyon) taken using a Panasonic TZ8. Panoramic images assembled using Microsoft Research Image Composite Editor <http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/redmond/groups/ivm/ICE/>



The Mera Himal. (Summit 'Mera Peak' at 6476m).  
South West face viewed from the Hinku valley, near Khare.



Ascending the Mera glacier from the Hinku valley.  
Crampon use and basic winter mountaineering skills required.



Lapcha & Pasang (Sirdar)



Kama  
(Climbing  
Sherpa)



Lapcha with  
Sherpa FM



Dave Kenyon  
(Guide)



Mera Peak, Amphu Labsta & Island Peak KE Adventure begins! (Take two...)



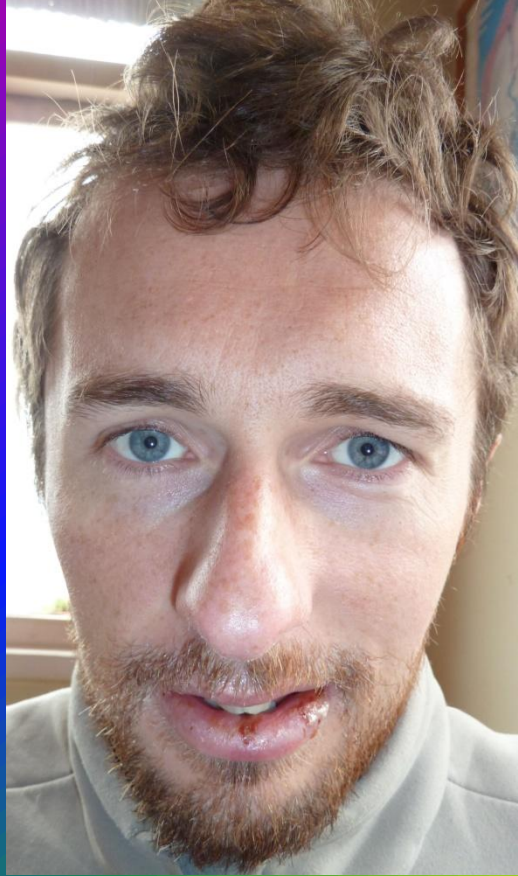
Andy French and Ian Miller, clean shaven for now...



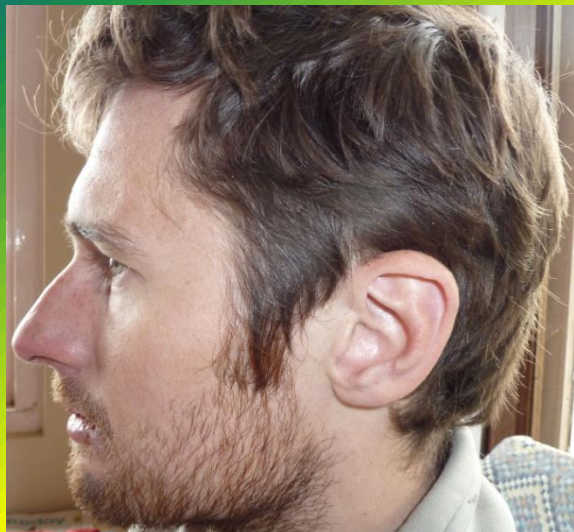
**Beard-o-rama**







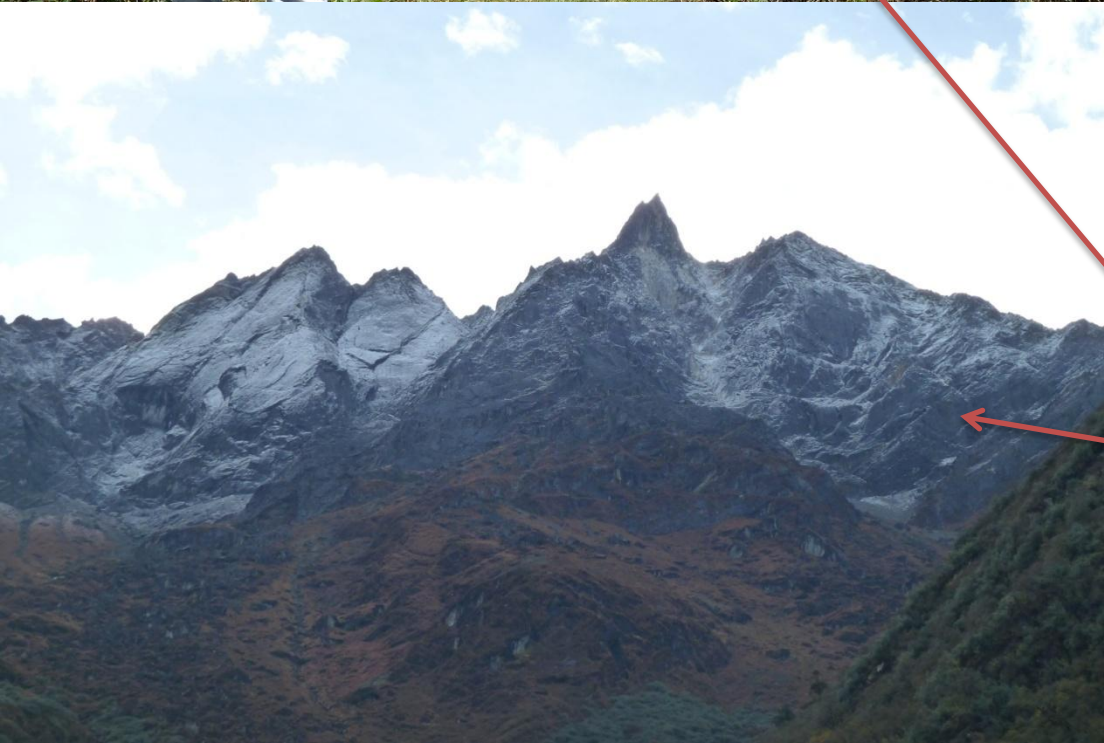
Three weeks  
later....



Tenzing-Hillary Airport  
at Lukla (2860m)



Voted by *The History Channel* as the **World's Most Extreme Airport!**



The imposing cliffs of Gonglha (5813m)

The Kalo Himal Ridge, containing the Zatrwa La, our crossing point into the Hinku valley at 4600m.

And lots of clag...

Descending into the Hinku to  
our 4250m camp at Thule  
Kharka ("Big Pasture")





The Mera trail begins at Gotay (3600m).



Ancient Yak herder settlements at Gondishung.



Gentian flowers



Inside the 200 year old Buddhist Gumpa at Gondishung, constructed beneath a massive boulder.



The Gumpa guardian is pleased with our donations and promises good conditions on Mera following the burning of some juniper...



Lapcha, Will and Ian are not so impressed with the rotting food offering (pooja). I don't think you are supposed to eat it!

Tagnag (4350m)









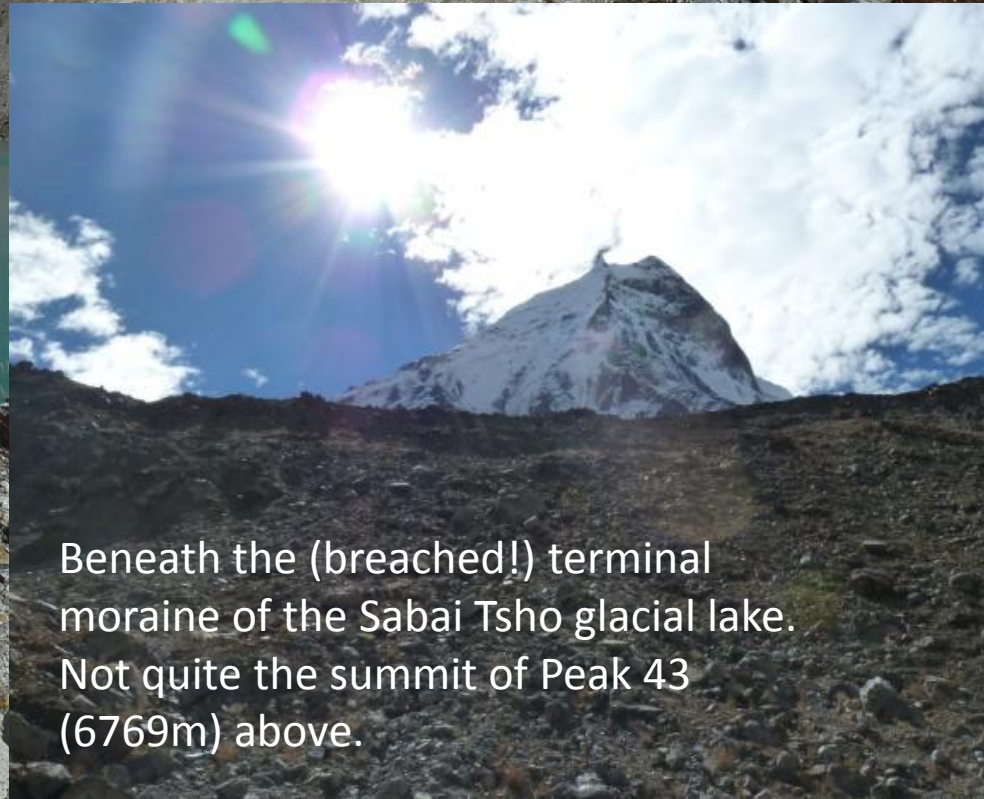
The range of peaks with highest point (left) possibly being 'Peak 41' (6623m)



The high point (5000m) of the acclimatisation day at Tagnag. And I have a really nasty headache.... Time to start the Diamox!



Looking down upon Tagnag from an acclimatisation walk up on the eastern flanks of Kusum Kangguau ("The cussing Kangaroo")



Beneath the (breached!) terminal moraine of the Sabai Tsho glacial lake. Not quite the summit of Peak 43 (6769m) above.



Mera from Dig Kharka



Dig Kharka ('really big and cold pasture')



Mera basecamp at Khare (5000m)





Looking back along the Hinku, sans the clag! Mera to the left, Peak 43 and Kusum Kanggau centre





The Mera glacier



Beware of crevasses!

Campsite at the Mera La (5415m)



Ascending the Mera glacier to High Camp.  
Behold Chomolungma,  
Mother Goddess of the Universe!  
(And a hairy trekker).



Cho Oyu (8201m, #6)



Everest (8848m, #1)



Lhotse (8383m, #4)

Kangchenjunga (8586m, #3)



Makalu (8463m, #5)



The American method of descent from Mera.  
I hope he knows how to stop!



Mera High Camp (5800m), the prettiest toilet I have so far visited











The summit of Mera, 6476m



My first ice climb!



Mera summit photos by  
Dave Kenyon





The summit of Mera (6476m).  
About 0600, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010





Pasang the Piemaster

Descending into the Hongu valley  
beneath Chamlang from the Mera La.

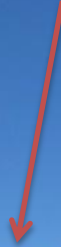




The Hongu valley



The huge 3200m Lhotse south face





After two weeks of miracles and misery, rescue arrives from Panch Pokhari ('Five Lakes') at 5400m)





Spot the monkey at the Swayambhunath!

Durbar square at night, Kathmandu.





On the road from Bhaktapur to Nargakot.





The Langtang Himal at sunset. Viewed from Nargakot.







A further catastrophe (!) at Tribhuvan International Airport



# BEARD-O-RAMA

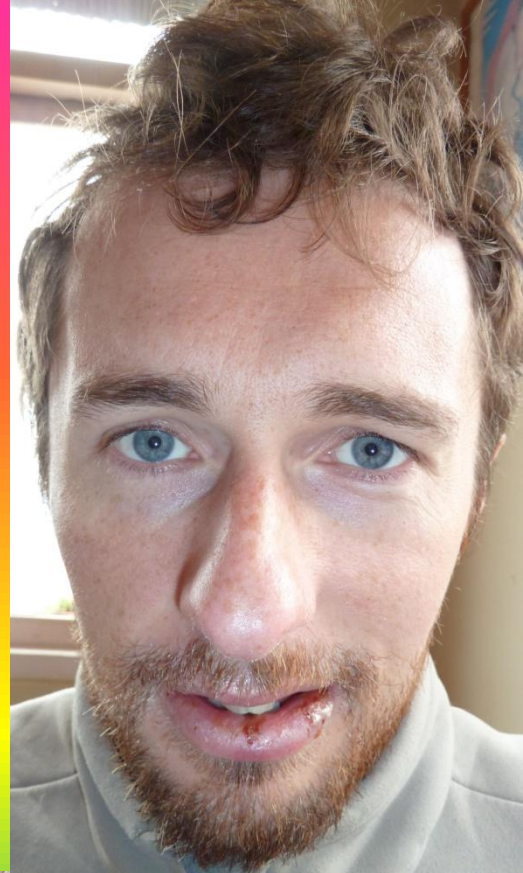








**BEARD-  
O-**



**RAMA**

