

# ヒマラヤの地質は素晴らしい！－第6回学生のヒマラヤ野外実習ツアーへの誘い－

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## Attractive Himalayan Geology: Invitation to the 6<sup>th</sup> Student Himalayan Exercise Tour in March 2017

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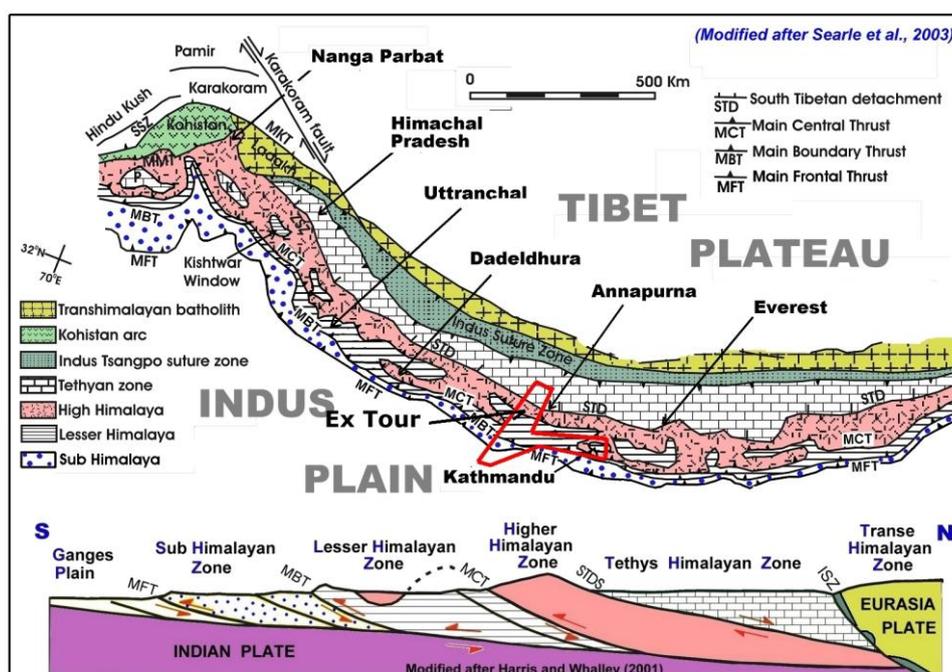
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The Himalayan geology is very attractive. Reflecting the collision tectonics between Indian and Eurasian plates since last 50 million years ago, the geologic structure of the Himalayan Orogen shows clear zoned distribution of geology parallel to the mountain range, viz, the Tethys Himalayan, Higher Himalayan, Lesser Himalayan, Sub Himalayan, and Terai zones from the north to the south.



*Geologic outline and N-S section image of the Himalayan Orogen showing the SHET area*

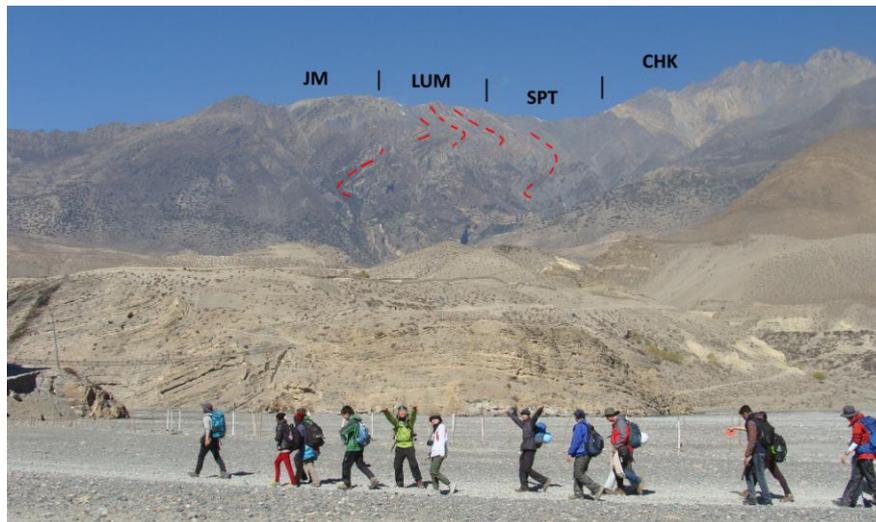
Each geologic zone is bounded mostly by large thrust faults, and thus the geologic structure of the orogen is very clear and easy to understand. Topography, climate, vegetations and even natural hazards are showing characteristic zonal distribution paralleling the mountain range, reflecting the above geologic zonations of the Himalaya. Large uplifting rate of maximum 5 mm per year of the mountains even at present results in deep valleys and steep mountain slopes where land slide, debris flow, and river flood are often met with. Thus the Himalaya is the best field museum to study not only geology but also all the nature of the earth.

By March 2016, we have been conducting 5 times of the Student Himalayan Exercise Tour (SHET) every year since 2012 (SHET-HP, 2016). Led by 2 – 4 Japanese and Nepalese university teachers, 75 students from 15 Japanese and Nepalese universities, along with 3 Japanese and Nepalese citizens joined the tour so far. Brief reports of the tour appeared on the GSI News (e.g., Yoshida and Poudel, 2016) and full report books have been delivered every year (e.g., Yoshida, 2016). The report books include all details of the tour including reports of all participants. It is evident that all participants have been happy to have joined the tour in that they could see and touch beautiful Himalayan geology, spend wonderful times in the Himalaya with Japanese and Nepalese students, as well as gained practical internationality, and familiarity and passion to use English.

The sixth SHET in early March 2017 is planned to be conducted following the same program as every year so far. Details



*The 5<sup>th</sup> SHET team with Dhaulagiri range on the back*



*Students of the 5<sup>th</sup> SHET walks on the Kaligandaki valley floor under the beautiful view of recumbent folds of the Mesozoic Tethys formations*

of the 6<sup>th</sup> SHET are referable on the SHET home page (SHET-HP, 2016). The members of the tour team will be less than 20 Japanese students, and some Nepalese students will also be included. Some Japanese and Nepalese university teachers will lead the team and give lectures in the field.

The tour course starts from Kathmandu and visits Pokhara-Muktinath-Pokhara- Tansen-Lumbini-Mugling- Kathmandu, including a N-S traverse of the Himalayan Orogen along the route connecting the Kaligandaki and Tinau valleys. The tour uses a bus and jeeps all through the tour and takes about 10 days from Kathmandu to Kathmandu. The present tour course is the best geo-excursion course that discloses a full view of the Himalayan Orogen.

In the presentation, several attractive field photos of the SHETs 2012-2016 and details of the plan of the 6<sup>th</sup> SHET in march 2017 will be displayed.

## References

SHET-HP, 2016. Home page of the Student Himalayan Exercise Project,

[http://www.geocities.jp/gondwanainst/geotours/Studentfieldex\\_index.htm](http://www.geocities.jp/gondwanainst/geotours/Studentfieldex_index.htm)

Yoshida, M., 2016, Traversing the Himalayan Orogen 2016 – Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Student Himalayan Exercise Tour in March 2016 (e-book, in Japanese and English). Field Science Publishers, Hashimoto, 165 pages.

Yoshida, M. and Poudel, M.M., 2016, Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Student Himalayan Exercise Tour. (in Japanese). Geological Society of Japan News 19 (4), 8-9.