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Hongse, unclimbed peaks near the Mekong headwaters

China, Qinghai Province

In June, Tadeo Shintani and I traveled to Zadoi with the aim of exploring unknown peaks and glaciers around the headwaters of the Mekong River. We were able to reach Hongse (4,700m, 33°24.887' N, 94°36.433' E) to the west of the mountains, but June and July are prime months for caterpillar fungus collection, and there was no one available to organize onward transport by horse caravan.

The area around Zadoi has many fascinating peaks between 5,300m and 5,800m that have yet to be surveyed or explored. Between Zadoi and Yushu to the east lie two clusters of wonderful 5,200–5,400m rock peaks that will attract climbers in the future. One group lies a little east of Zadoi, the other close to the 4,712m Changlashan Pass. North of Yushu are many impressive 5,400–5,700m snow and rock peaks. There is now a new airport at 3,800m, 30 minutes north of Yushu.

Images



Unclimbed 5,300m peak seen from the 4,712m Changlashan Pass on the road east of Zadoi.



Unclimbed 5,400m peak in the region of the Mekong headwaters.

Article Details

Author	Tamotsu Nakamura, AAC Honorary Member
Publication	AAJ
Volume	56
Issue	88
Page	0
Copyright Date	2014
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions