

## ITALY CLEANS UP PAKISTAN GLACIER

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(ANSA) - Rome, July 28 - Italy is helping to keep Pakistan's Baltoro glacier and surrounding mountains gle and has so far cleared eight tonnes of plastic, tins, glass and toxic material from the ice, organisers said Tuesday. Run by the Italian National Research Council's Karakoram Trust, the Keep Baltoro Clean project involves collecting waste from camps on mountains overlooking the ice mass including K2, the world's second highest peak, and putting into a special ecological waste burner.

The EARTH burner has been installed on an 'ecological island' 3,200 metres above sea level and is designed to v in extreme conditions.

' 'We've already transported six tonnes to the Askole ecological island and have burned two tonnes of waste in EARTH,' ' said Maurizio Gallo, technical head of the Karakoram Trust.

' 'Visitors have left enthusiastic comments about the work carried out by the Italians to safeguard the local culture and history' '.

A team of experts will remain in Pakistan to oversee the project from a base at Concordia, where the Baltoro, Abruzzi and Godwin-Austen glaciers converge at 4,700 metres.

They plan to plant trees around the EARTH burner, where there are also three storehouses to stock refuse waiting to be burned.

Photo: K2