



Press Release

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		Integrated Management of the CKNP natural resources Project

WASTE: EVK2CNR CLEANS UP K2

BERGAMO -- The clean up expedition over the Baltoro glacier, successfully started by the EvK2CNR Committee in 2009, will push up to 7,350 meters on mount K2 next summer. For the first time in history, a dedicated expedition will climb so high to clean up K2's high camps from waste, beyond cleaning up the Baltoro Glacier and the base camps of the surrounding mountains at an average altitude of 5000 meters. The operation will be realized through two expeditions: "Keep K2 Clean" and "Keep Baltoro Clean", both led by Maurizio Gallo, between May 10 and August 30, 2010.

Northern Pakistan. The wonderful and uncontaminated Baltoro region is always a paradise for climbers and trekkers from all over the world, with 4 peaks higher than 8000 meters (K2, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum I and Gasherbrum II), even 40 higher than 7.000 meters and a 62 Km long glacier.

Today the fragile ecosystem of the area is threatened by the waste pollution, dreadfully increased during the last years. For this reason the EvK2CNR Committee decided to support the Alpine Club of Pakistan and the Karakorum International University in the framework of an ambitious cooperation project, Karakorum Trust, started in 2004, and then carried on in two further projects: SEED (Social Economic and Environmental Development) and Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Culture of the Central Karakoram National Park, which involve important Italian and Pakistani partners, all joining the objective of protecting the environmental heritage of the Karakorum region and improving the quality of life of the population of the area.

The idea of a clean up expedition on mount K2 was pioneered in 1990 by another famous Italian organization: the environmentalist Mountain Wilderness. They organized the "Free K2" international expedition whose members were Fausto De Stefani, Giampiero Federico, Tobias Heymann, Parvez Khan, Valkir Krause, Jean-Claude Legros, Marcello Maria Marini, Olivier Paulin, Carlo Alberto Pinelli. They cleaned up the mountain, collecting 2,5 tons of waste and 10 km of abandoned fixed ropes going up to 7000 meters. This expedition had a great international success and rose awareness on environmental matters in Karakorum, faced today by the means of international cooperation projects like the EvK2Cnr's ones.

In 2009, thanks to the Keep Baltoro Clean expedition, EvK2Cnr and its partners brought down to the plains more than 8 tons waste: paper, plastic, tins, glass and toxic material. Most of these 8 tons have been already burnt and disposed through Earth, the waste disposal system

installed by the EvK2CNR Committee in the village of Askole, which is able to work 4 hours a day at full capacity.

In 2010, EvK2Cnr will go further on, cleaning up not only the glacier but also mount K2 at high camps, frequented every year by hundreds of mountaineers and high altitude porters. Two cleaning expeditions will be carried out: the first on the Baltoro glacier, the second on Mt. K2, near the end of the



mountaineering season. Both the expeditions are organized in the framework of the SEED and the Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Culture of the Central Karakoram National Park Projects, in collaboration with EvK2Cnr – Cesvi – Alpine Club Pakistan – KIU.

Both expeditions will be led by Maurizio Gallo, engineer, alpine guide and technical director of the Karakorum Trust Project. He took part in many Himalayan expeditions: Everest in 1992, Lhotse in 1996, K2 in 2004. In 2005 he flew with the Pakistani army on the villages hit by the big earthquake that affected the Pakistani mountains. He has directed the Italian alpine guide training courses for over 10 years and has been for years a collaborator of the EvK2CNR Committee.

The two 2010 cleaning expeditions are organized in the framework of a wider program of environmental education and training aimed at an eco-sustainable tourism of the Karakorum mountains. The first aim is to teach all the Pakistani people, from porters to tour operators and guides, the meaning and the importance to keep the glacier clean. The environmental requalification of the area, carried out jointly with the Central Karakorum National Park governance authorities, includes many initiatives like:

- The creation of a school of ecology teaching differentiated waste disposal, eco-sustainable tourism, environmental safeguard;
- The creation of an ecologic platform for waste collection at Concordia Circus, 4,700 meters, point of union of the Baltoro, Abruzzi and Godwin-Austen glaciers;
- The analysis and evaluation of tourism flows in the Park, and the training of trekking guides, high altitude porters and qualified tour operators
- The installation of an ecologic island near the village of Askole and of a series of ecologic islands along the most crowded trekking routes.

KEEP BALTORO CLEAN – SUMMARY

The mission will take place between May 10 and August 25, 2010 and will clean up the Baltoro Glacier from Askole to K2, GI, GII, and Broad Peak base camps, approximately at 5,500 meters altitude. It is carried out in the framework of the Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Culture of the Central Karakoram National Park Project in collaboration with EvK2Cnr, CESVI and Alpine Club Pakistan.

BALTORO GLACIER: Approximately 60 Km long, it extends for approximately 700 km² and leads to the Braldo Valley, not far from the village of Askole, the last inhabited place on the way to the glacier. It is among the biggest valley glaciers of the world and is surrounded by some of the main peaks of the Earth, like K2, Broad Peak, Masherbrum and the Gasherbrum mountains. Karakoram has the higher concentration of glaciers over the Asian continent, an area of approximately 18,000 km². The glaciers form big deposits of fresh water in an otherwise dry environment. These deposits are fundamental for the flows of the Indo and Yarkand rivers. The greater part of the Baltoro Glacier covers the main ridges of the Greater Karakoram.

EXPEDITIONS AVERAGE NUMBER/Trekkers per year present in the Baltoro glacier: 60

NUMBER OF MOUNTAINEERS/TREKKERS PER YEAR at Baltoro: 700

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PORTERS/STAFF accompanying expeditions. 6000 moving presences

AVERAGE DAYS OF PERMANENCE ON MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITIONS ON THE GLACIER: 50-60

AVERAGE DAYS OF PERMANENCE of GROUPS OF TREKKERS on the glacier: 20

DURATION May 10, 2010 – August 25, 2010

EXPEDITION LEADER: Maurizio Gallo

MEMBERS OF THE KEEP BALTORO CLEAN EXPEDITION: 6 Pakistani guides + 6 assistants + PORTERS

TIPOLOGY OF COLLECTED WASTE: paper, plastic, tins, glass and toxic material, oxygen cylinders, rests of technical material, etc...

FORESEEN KG OF WASTE: 8.000 kg

TRANSPORTED KG FOR EACH PORTER: 25 kg

ITINERARY:

Askole (3,200 m s.l.m.)

Broad Peak Base Camp (4,900 m a.s.l.)

GI Base Camp

GII Base Camp (5,150 m a.s.l.)



K2 Base Camp (4,800 m a.s.l.)

Concordia Circus (4,750 m a.s.l.)

MAX ALTITUDE REACHED: 5,500 m a.s.l.

STORAGE and WASTE DISPOSAL: in Askole, at the ecologic island, and in Skardu

KEEP K2 CLEAN – SUMMARY

The mission will be carried out between July 15 and August 15, 2010 with the objective – for the first time in history – to clean up the K2 higher camps up to 7.350 metres, where Camp III is traditionally installed.

The mission is organized in the framework of the SEED (Social Economic and Environmental Development) Project in collaboration with EvK2Cnr, Karakorum International University and Alpine Club Pakistan.

K2 Altitude 8611 m a.s.l. - 28250 feet

second highest mountain of the Earth

Position

76° 31' latitude: East

35° 53' longitude North

Geographic region: Karakorum

Country: Pakistan – China

EXPEDITIONS AVERAGE NUMBER /Trekking per year: 8

AVERAGE DAYS OF PERMANENCE OF EXPEDITIONS ON THE GLACIER: 70 days

AVERAGE DAYS OF PERMANENCE AT THE BC: 50 days

DURATION : July 15 – August 15

MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION:

12 high altitude porters divided in two teams of 6. All porters were trained during the courses held in Passu in November 2009. The participation in the cleaning mission is part of their training and environmental education.

EXPEDITION LEADER: Maurizio Gallo

TIPOLOGY OF COLLECTED WASTE: paper, plastic, tins, glass and toxic material, oxygen cylinders, rests of technical material, etc...

FORESEEN WASTE KG: 600 kg

TRANSPORTED KG FOR EACH PORTER: 10 kg

ITINERARY:

K2 Base Camp

Advanced Base Camp (5,400 m. a.s.l.)

Camp I (6,100 m. a.s.l.)

Camp II (6,600 m. a.s.l.)

Camp III (7,350 m. a.s.l.)

MAX ALTITUDE REACHED: 7,350 m. a.s.l.

STORAGE and WASTE DISPOSAL: in Askole, at the ecologic island, and in Skardu

PHOTOS

<http://www.montagna.org/it/content/keep-k2-and-baltoro-clean-2010-expeditions>