

# Experts to measure world's highest peak

February 22 2005

---



China will once again measure the height of Mount Qomolangma, the world's highest peak, said the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping (SBSM) on Jan.17. Approved by the State Council, the SBSM will dispatch a special team that consists of 10 professional surveyors and climbers to the mount, said a bureau official on Jan.18.

"The mountaineering association of China's Tibet Autonomous Region will send climbers to join the team," he said.

He disclosed that the preparation work of the surveying is under way by

the bureau.

According to a timetable drafted by the bureau, the team will arrive in Tibet in March and enter the area of Qomolangma a month later, he said. "In May, members of team will brave their way to the peak of Qomolangma as well surveying its height."

China's mountaineering team first surveyed the height of the Qomolangma in 1975 and the State Council later confirmed the altitude of the peak as 8,848.13 metres above sea level.

Since then, the bureau has organized four surveys, with the last in 1998, but the official height of the mountain remained the same, he noted.

"It is very necessary to conduct another official survey of the height of the highest peak," he said.

The unique high altitude, chilly weather and complicated geological situation make Mount Qomolangma, which is regarded as the "Third Pole" of the earth, a subject of interest among scientists in different countries, Sun Honglie, an academician with the China Academy of Sciences, was quoted as saying by the Workers' Daily.

Due to global warming in recent decades, the environmental changes in Qomolangma area have become an urgent subject that need more research, he said.

Meanwhile, after 30 years of geological movement in this region, the current height of mountain may have changed, said the SBSM official, adding that the improvement of surveying technologies would help the upcoming survey to achieve a more precise result.

Besides, many climbing teams from various countries have conducted

surveys in recent years and got different data about the height of Qomolangma, he said.

At the same time, large scale surveying and mapping work will be organized in the surrounding areas of Qomolangma to provide benchmark data when counting the height of peak as well to conduct researches on the global science in this region, he noted.

Source: CAS

Citation: Experts to measure world's highest peak (2005, February 22) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2005-02-experts-world-highest-peak.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.