

## Guidebook Series on the Himalayan Geology and Natural Hazards

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The Himalaya is the highest and one of the largest and still growing mountain ranges on our planet. It exhibits a distinct zonal arrangement of geology, geomorphology, climate, fauna and flora; and hence is an excellent laboratory to study nature and natural science of mountain ranges. However, there are almost no appropriate guidebooks for common people in the world market to introduce geology and natural hazards in the Himalaya. The present endeavor is to publish a series of such guidebooks along different transects of the Himalaya to bring out the much-admired geology and fantastic geomorphology, and the omnipresent natural hazards which are characteristic of the Himalaya.

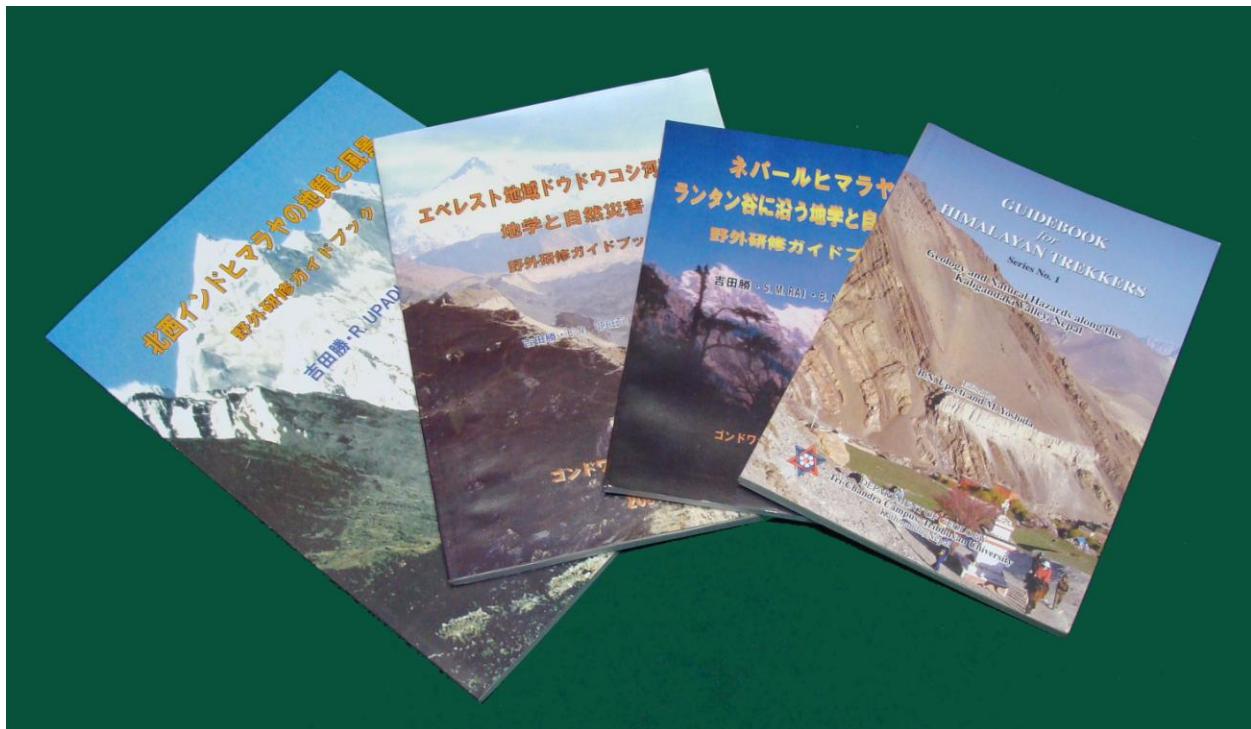


Fig. 1. Guidebooks (3 Japanese and 1 English) published since 2005.

The first guidebook in this series – Guidebook for Himalayan Trekkers, Series No. 1: Geology and Natural Hazards along the Kaligandaki Valley, Nepal – was published in 2005 (Upreti and Yoshida, 2005, <http://www.geocities.jp/gondwanainst/Yoshida/guidebookadv.pdf>), and has been widely used by individuals and groups who are also interested to know these facets of the Himalaya. The guidebook Series No. 2, on the Everest area in the Khumbu region, No. 3 along the Langtang Valley of Nepal and No. 4 on the NW Indian Himalaya are in progress. Also, the provisional Japanese versions of these guidebooks were published in 2007, 2008 and 2009 as Miscellaneous Publications No. 19, 20 and 21 of the Gondwana Research Group/Gondwana Institute for Geology and Environment (Yoshida and others, 2007, 2008a; Yoshida and Upadhyay, 2009).

Many Japanese groups composed of engineers, scientists, teachers, students and common citizens, as well as many others, (Yoshida and others, 2008b; Yoshida and Upadhyay, 2010), have utilized these guidebooks to study geology and natural hazards during their field visits. The marketing of the guidebooks, as well as writing, editing and publication of new guidebooks for other parts of the Himalaya are in progress. It is expected that the incredible nature of Himalayan geology and environment described in these guidebooks will encourage a wide spectrum of people worldwide to visit and study the Himalaya which will also bring economic benefit to the local people. It will also help the people living in this beautiful mountain range to feel proud of their natural heritage. The guidebook series may work as a tool to popularize and highlight the importance of field-based geological studies of mountains, and also help in the advancement of geological sciences at large.

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