

Dawa Steven Sherpa, Nepal, 24 years old

Effective promotion of the conservation ethics on the top of the world.



By reaching the summit of the Mt Everest on May 26th 2008, Dawa Steven Sherpa (age 24) of Nepal exemplifies the creative, undaunted spirit of young conservationists.

His outstanding achievements this year include his innovative and conservation-focused efforts to “Leave No Trace” in the Everest region through his 2008 Eco Everest Expedition, and his support of the “50 Years of Climate Change” exhibit that has allowed its important conservation message to reach a much greater audience.

Actually, the main objective of this expedition was to draw international attention to the high risk to lives and property of residents in the Khumbu region due to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods. Focus was on creating awareness amongst local Sherpas.

945 kilos of garbage as well as all human waste generated by the Expedition Team were collected, brought down to the base camp and disposed of properly.

Dawa’s Eco-Everest Expedition also studied effects of global warming on the Imja glacier, upstream of the Everest Trail. He highlighted risks to people and land from glacial lake floods in mountain regions and the impacts on billions who depend on them for fresh water. At Everest base camp, he constructed an environmental “learning experience”, a popular “Bakery Tent” open to the public combined with a photo exhibition. The “50 Years of Climate Change” exhibit featured photos of glaciers in the Khumbu clearly showing the alarming rate of glacial melting and rising glacial lake levels. The Bakery setting very quickly attracted all visitors and world press.

To promote development of effective environmental protection ethics and policies, Dawa Steven is compiling data from their rubbish and human waste removal successes to formulate recommendations to the Nepali government, climbing/trekking groups and land managers, advocating adoption of these mountain protection ethics. He is also producing a video sharing the expedition’s conservation “Best Practices”.

For more information on the Eco Everest Expedition: www.ecoeverest.net.np and “Best Practices”: http://www.theuiaa.org/news_detail.php?ID=39 ; <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/26/2286439.htm>