

PRESS RELEASE

A team consisting of 5 boys

1. Wangdi Lama, Burtuk,,2. Anand Gurung, Damthang,3. Tashi Pintso Sherpa, Bojoghari,4. Tshering Wangdi, Tathangchen and,,5. Kunzang Gelay Bhutia, Tathangchen called on the Hon'ble Minister Tourism, Shri Bhim Dhungel on 15th June, 2010 on their return to Sikkim after completing one month Basic Mountaineering Course at Atal Behari Vajpayee Mountaineering Institute and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS), Manali, Himachal Pradesh.

They were sent for this training with the scholarship of Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi after completing a fifteen days adventure training at Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-tourism (IHCAE), Chemchey, South Sikkim.

Out of 48 trainees from all over the country 2 Best Trainees selected are from Sikkim viz. Wangdi Lama and Anand Gurung. Best Rope award was also presented to the team from Sikkim. During this period team had to undergo pre-qualification training which included potential, stamina, determination, discipline and environment education. Their base camp was at Bakkartartch (12,200ft) from where they had to climb Shaddikhar Peak (19,450 ft). Only 17 trainees qualified with Grade A which included all 5 trainees from Sikkim. They are now qualified for undergoing the Advance Course.

It is a great achievement for Sikkim and IHCAE which started only on 7th December 2009. Within this short period of time it has produced such determined and dedicated batch of trainees.

They have done Sikkim proud and have set an example for all the coming generations. The future of adventure tourism in Sikkim is now secure in the hands of our young and energetic people.