

Report of the 14th Student Himalayan Field Exercise Tour in March 2026

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The 14th Student Himalayan Field Exercise Tour (SHET-14) was successfully conducted from 5th to 19th March 2026 following the initially scheduled program (Table 1). Participants included 14th BC to DC students from 5 universities in Japan, 2 in Korea and 1 in Nepal, and three citizens from Japan and Germany. They were guided by a Japanese and a Nepalese teachers (Fig. 2, Tables 1,2).

Table 1. Itinerary of the SHET-14 and contents of exercise

<i>Days</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Details</i>
	5th	Arrive KTM	Participants arrive by midnight
Day 1	6th	KTM Stay	Pre-tour seminar at TU in the morning, and town excursion in the afternoon, escorted by TU students. Social Dinner party. Stay in Kathmandu.
Day 2	7th	KTM-PKR by a chartered bus (Stay)	Viewing Himalaya, landslides, colluvium, talus, terrace, Lesser Himalayan geology, Krishnavir landslide. Stay in Pokhara.
Day 3	8th	PKR-KLP by a chartered bus (Stay)	Some stops viewing Annapurna Range, briefly observing Fagfog quartzite, Kuncha phyllite, GLOF sediments and terraces. Stay in Kalopani.
Day 4	9th	KLP-bus-Muktinath-walk - KGB (Stay)	Several stops to learn geomorphology and geology of Quaternary and of Tethys Sediments. Stay in Kagbeni.
Day 5	10th	KGB-KLP, bus and walk- (Stay)	Tethys Sediments, STDS, Higher Himalayan Gneisse, Moraine hills. Observation and sketches.
Day 6	11th	KLP-bus, walk-TTP (Stay)	Higher Himalayan Gneisses, MCT, Lesser Himalayan Metasediments, Landslides. Stay in Tatopani.
Day 7	12th	TTP - bus - PKR (Stay)	Lesser Himalayan Metasediments, GLOF sediments, Terraces.
Day 8	13th	PKR (Stay)	GLOF sediment, Seti Khola gravel examination, Landslides, Mountain Museum, World Peace Pagoda-Annapurna Range view.
Day 9	14th	PKR-bus-TAN (Stay)	Mahabharat Range topography, Lesser Himalayan Metasediments, Palpa Klippe. Stayed in Tansen.
Day 10	15th	TAN -bus-LMB (Stay)	Lesser Himalayan Metasediments, Gondwana Sediments, MBT, Siwaliks, MFT, Gangetic Plain, Maya Devi Temple. Stay in Lumbini.
Day 11	16th	LMB- bus - KTM.(Stay)	MFT, MBT, Lesser Himalayan Metasediments.
Day 12	17th	KTM (Stay)	Morning to late afternoon: Free time, to prepare presentation at the summary seminar. Early evening: Summary seminar at TU with TU teachers. Farewell dinner with TU teachers in the evening..
Day 13	18th	KTM (Stay)	Tour in and around Kathmandu, mostly visiting World heritage escorted by TU students. Some members departed Kathmandu for Japan in midnight..
	19th~23rd	Depart KTM	Remaining members left Kathmandu for Japan or elsewhere.

Japanese Participants arrive Kathmandu by themselves. TU: Tribhuvan University, KTM: Kathmandu, PKR: Pokhara, KLP: Kalopani, KAG: Kagbeni, TTP: Tatopani, TAN: Tansen, LMB: Lumbini

Participants of the team assembled in Hotel Mountain Gateway in Thamel, Kathmandu during 4th and 5th March. Fifth March was the day of general election, which was resulted from the collapse of Nepali Government in last September. There was a fear that there might be some security problem in Kathmandu, and actually the city was closed for almost all traffic means throughout the day. However, the city was calm enough by the guidance of soldiers and traffic for travelers from the airport to hotels was maintained safely as an exceptional case. Thus, there was no problem for us to assemble at the hotel by the 5th night.

However, there were some problems on the traffic of some SHET-14 participants in relation to the problematic international situation. Due to the flight cancellation of the Kuwate Airline in relation to the middle east war, a German citizen was obliged to arrive one day delay to Kathmandu and also due to the worsening of the Japan-China relationship, one student cancelled to join the tour and two others cancelled the Chinese flights and instead, obliged to purchase expensive air tickets to come Kathmandu.

There was a pre-field seminar In the morning of 6th March, and in the afternoon of the same day, a group tour to Swayanbunath temple in the western part of Kathmandu was conducted with some TU students who guided the group, although the number of TU students were further less than before due to the security problem of the city just after the general election. In the afternoon there was a social dinner party in Thamel, however, no TU staff was possible to join due to the same problem as above.



Fig. 1. The SHET-14 team on the east terrace of Kagbeni, with a beautiful Nilgiri peak on the back site

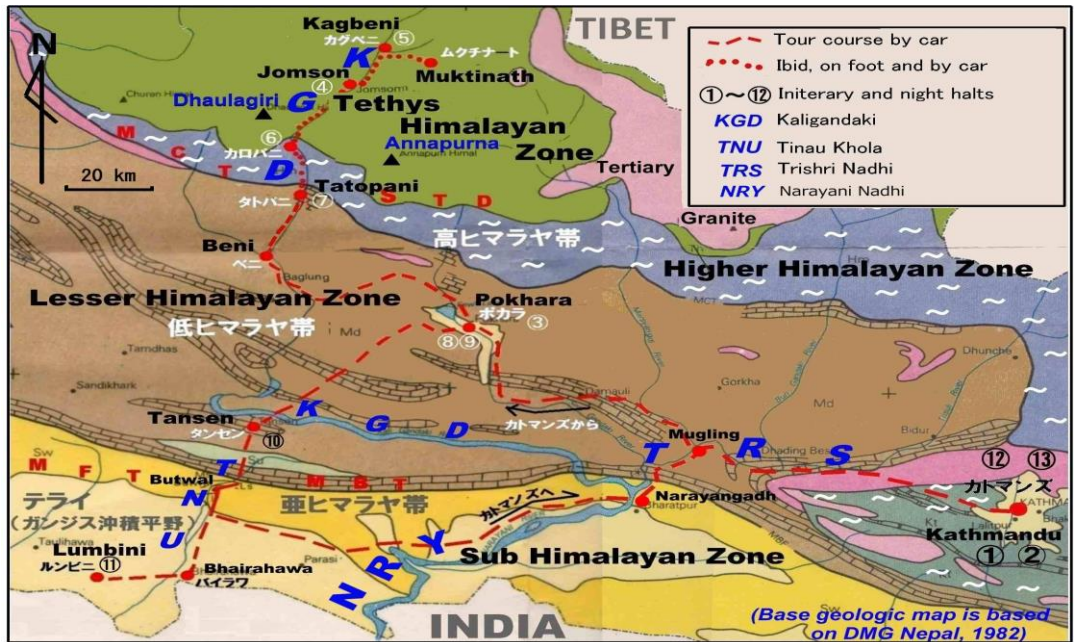


Fig. 2 Geologic outline of the study area with the SHET-14 tour course and night halts

Table 2. Constitution of the SHET-14 team

No.	Name	Pron	Affiliation & Grade
0	吉田勝	yoshida	Gondwana Inst. Geol. Environment, President and Professor
0	Sameer Poudel	sameer	Dept. Geol., Tri-Chandra Campus, Lecturer
1	Anurag Tripathi	anurag	Dept. Geol., Tri-Chandra Campus BC2
2	Chijan Dahal	chijan	Dept. Geol., Tri-Chandra Campus BC2
3	羽柴俊輔 shunsuke	hashiba	信州大学理学部地球学コース1年
4	福本朝陽 asahi	hukumoto	信州大学理学部地球学コース1年
5	上島 大地 daichi	kamijima	京都大学 理学部 地惑 4回生
6	Changyub Kim	kim	Yonsei Univ., Korea, DC2nd
7	Tonneatt Lisa	lisa	German Citizen
8	森口 怜緒菜 reona	Moriguchi	信大理, 地球学コース1年
9	村松孝亮 kousuke	muramatsu	信大理, 地球学コース1年
10	村田文子 fumiko	murata	一般
11	永田秀尚hidehisa	nagata	一般、風水土社
12	西村 希 nozomi	nishimura	北大学理学部地球惑星科学科2年生
13	大島歩 ayumi	oshima	北海道大学 総合教育部 1年
14	Seongjae Park	park	Chonnan Univ., Korea, DC2nd
15	澤田悠雅 yuga	sawada	北大薬学 1年、AACH
16	末富百代 momoyo	suetomi	東大地惑 修士2年
17	山田ひかる hikaru	yamada	東北大経済学部経営学科4年

March 6th, a pre-field seminar was held in the morning at Hotel Kailash Kutee in Thamel when a lecture “Constitution and Evolution of the Himalaya” by Prof. B.N. Upreti, and some other lectures by Japanese and Nepalese teachers were given.

From 7th to 16th, the team conducted the field tour as usual without a problem, however, beautiful white Himalayan peaks did not appear almost all days due to foggy conditions. A TU staff declared that the foggy condition should have been created by the bombing by US and resulted burning of oil complex in Iran. In the following, some important topics characteristic of SHET-14 are described.

① On the 7th March, in observing an outcrop of the augen gneiss of the lower horizon of the Kathmandu Nappe, a wide occurrence of dark gray biotite schist was found on the right bank of Mahesh Khola. The schist occurs below the augen gneiss, with the clear attaching relation whip with the gneiss (Fig. 3).

② On the 9th, the team visited the outcrop of the Spity formation below Muktinath, however, we did only a brief observation there dur to strict request of DMG and local people not to collect fossils there.

③ On the 10th, at a large outcrop of a high and wide cliff just west of Kagbeni, a sketch exercise was conducted, imagining continuation of strata and folding and faulting structures of them, over half of which were concealed by the colluvium cover.

④ On the 11th, a new and fresh outcrop related with STDS appeared along the road side on the right bank of Chaktan Khola, due to continued road construction. Here, the intrusive contact relationship between the granitic gneiss and the rocks of the Tethys sediments was clearly observed, and both were intruded by a dike of fine-grained biotite granite. (Fig. 4).

⑤ On the 11th within the Higher



Fig. 3. Augen gneiss (white) and biotite schist (dark) occur together.



Fig. 4. A new fresh outcrop showing a contact relationship between the granitic gneiss (below) and Tethys sediments (above), both are intruded by fine-grained biotite granite. The scale is 2 meters.



Fig. 5. A large stromatolite boulder in Angaha Khola

Himalayan Zone, we could observe a variety of beautiful gneisses as usual along the car road. At some hundred meters south from Ruptse Khola, biotite gneiss with fine-grained sillimanite was observed.

⑥ On the 14th to the south from Ramdhi, we could easily get down to the river floor of Angaha Khola, however, we were obliged to walk several hundred meters toward the upper reaches until the discovery of only one large boulder with beautiful stromatolite fossils (Fig. 5). It is found better to get down to the river floor at a further upstream point.

⑦ On the 15th along the Tinau Khola south of Dumri, the identification of each five formations of the Tansen Group which are considered to appear along the river bank, was found difficult. We have to further examine the outcrop above next year.

⑧ On the 16th at about 30km east from Bairahawa, we could observe clearly the MFT, Siwalik Renge and Mahabharat Range, although the higher Himalaya did not appear due to smog, to our regret.

During the field tour, none of the team members suffered cold and gastrointestinal disorder, and only 2 participants suffered slight altitude disease. However on the 10th at Chaktan Khola after returning from high altitude areas, one student suddenly happened to meet a difficulty in breathing and was transported by an ambulance to a municipal hospital in Lete. It was found to be the Diamox allergy and received treatment, however did not recover well after one night of hospitalization, and therefore was transported to Nepal Manipal Teaching Hospital in Pokhara by a helicopter. The student recovered after two days of treatment, however, due to incomplete condition of both mind and body, the student could not join the tour until the 16th night in Kathmandu.

On the 17th one day after arriving Kathmandu, a summary seminar was held from 4 to 7 PM at the hotel in Thamel. All the tour team members joined, and several TU staff including the head of TU joined. After the seminar, a social dinner party was held at the hotel. On the 18th, a one-day city tour was conducted, escorted by many TU students. After the dinner of the day, the SHET-14 team dispersed, and many participants left Kathmandu in the midnight. Other participants left Kathmandu from the 19th to 23rd.

The account summary of SHET-14 is given in Table 1. The tour expenses for one participant is 118,376 JPY. The total donation amount was 282,810 JPY, which corresponds 19,521 JPY per head for 15 participants who paid the provisional participation fee. The participation fee for a student comes $118,376 - 19,521 = 98,855$ JPY for a student and 148,855 JPY for a citizen participant. The balance of the total income and the total expense was 17,171 JPY, which corresponds to 1,145 JPY per head for the above 15 participants.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Ordinary participants 12 persons	1,200,000	AHTT payment total Rs1166650	1,261,243
IAGR support for 2 Koreans	200,000	Team direct paid: Rs140570+25900	
GIGE support for AACH student	100,000	Team accountant (Meals in KTM,	151,968
2 TU students Rs10000	10,810	Entrance fees, tips, etc)	
Donation by 3 citizen participant	150,000	Yoshida, Rs25900	28,000
Donation by GIGE	100,000	(Meals in KTM, Driver tips, Airport taxi)	
Crowd funding	32,000	Preparation etc	334,428
SUM	1,792,810	SUM	1,775,639
Preparation fee detail		SHET-14 expense per head: 1876639/15= 118,376	
<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>	Participation fee	
TU Preparation Rs 120000	129,730	A Sum income-som expenses	
GIGE preparation	50,000	1792810-1775639=17171/15=1145	1,145
Exercise textbook 2000x17	34,000	Participation fee student:100000-1145	98,855
Travel fee for th leader	114,294	Participation fee, citizen:150000-1145	148,855
Air fare, VISA, Stay in Chengdu)			
Gift candies	6,404		
SUM	334,428	B Total donation : 292810/15	19,521
<i>GIGE supported another 100000JPY for the airfare for the AACH student</i>		Student participation fee:118376-19521	98,856
		Citizen participation fee:98856+50000	148,856

The SHET-14 this year experienced the transportation by a helicopter and hospitalization of a participant that have been the first so far, however, possibly due to such extraordinary happenings, intercalation among participants was friendly and intimate. The group line also was very much utilized in which Japanese and English comments appeared half and half.

During the field tour, observation of geology and topography were conducted as usual, however, it was a pity that we could observe beautiful white Himalayan peaks only scarcely due to extraordinary smoggy conditions. In addition to that, it was a further pity that some members could not join a part of the field tour.