



For Immediate Release  
May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Tokyo, Japan

## **Team Miura departs Everest Base Camp for Summit Bid**

Yuichiro Miura (Age 75) and his second son Gota Miura (Age 38) departed Everest Base Camp (5360m) for the summit bid to Mount Everest (8848m) today May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 am Nepal Time (8:15 am Japan Time).

Team Miura had originally planned the ascent from the Chinese side, but due to the civil unrest in Tibet erupting in mid March that restricted the entrance to the area, the team had changed its climbing route to Nepal in April. After series of acclimatization trekking in Nepal, Team Miura set up its base camp at Everest Base Camp on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Since then, Yuichiro Miura had climbed the Icefall twice, stayed a night at Camp 1 (C1), stayed 2 nights at Camp 2 (C2) for acclimatization, and had descended to Dingboche (4300m) to rest just days before the summit bid.

Schedule for the summit bid is as follows:

May 20 <sup>th</sup>	BC (5360m) → C1 (6050m)
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	C1 (6050m) → C2 (6450m)
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	C2 (6450m)
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	C2 (6450m) → C3 (7300m)
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	C3 (7300m) → C4 (8000m)
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	C4 (8000m) → C5 (8300m)
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	C5 (8300m) → SUMMIT (8848m) → C4 (8000m)
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	C4 (8000m) → C2 (6450m)
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	C2 (6450m) → BC (5360m)

Team Miura will be summiting on May 26<sup>th</sup> if the weather and other conditions such as physical condition permit.

This year, Everest South side (Nepalese Side) experienced strict restrictions due to the Chinese Olympic Torch Relay Expedition on Mount Qomolangma on the North side (Chinese side). The restrictions prohibited climbing beyond Camp 2 (6450m) until May 10<sup>th</sup>, which disabled enough acclimatization process (adapting bodies to severe high altitude conditions) necessary for high altitude climbing. Furthermore, like Team Miura, many expeditions that had originally planned their ascent from the North side had poured into the South side, which resulted in the greatest congestion of people ever at the Everest Base Camp. Thus, the team will be attempting for the summit in a very difficult condition anticipating time limit and huge traffic on the route.



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This certainly bears further burden on Yuichiro Miura who is at age 75 and suffers arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat), but Team Miura, the four summiting members (Yuichiro Miura, Gota Miura, Noriyuki Muraguchi, Kazuya Igarashi) and the supporting Sherpas had prepared for this challenge at its best, and start their summit bid today.

**Excerpts from Yuichiro Miura's expedition diary:**

*May 19<sup>th</sup>*

*We are finally departing base camp tomorrow at 5am.*

*It's been almost two months since I departed Japan in March. During this time, I had given up the ascent from the Chinese side due to the Tibetan civil unrest, but will be challenging the Everest from the Nepalese side again as it was in 2003. Furthermore, the climbing restrictions from the Olympic torch relay had limited our time for enough acclimatization before the summit bid. Yet, we have done our best to prepare ourselves as much as possible.*

*The biggest challenge this time is how my physical condition, especially my arrhythmia would be at high altitude beyond Camp 2, C3 (7300m), C4 (8000m), C5 (8400m) will greatly affect the climbing plan. Fortunately, although I experienced extreme fatigue, no alarming arrhythmia was observed in previous acclimatization of hard climbing to 6600m point. This fact is definitely a grain of hope.*

*However, beyond C2, C3, and further up high, unimaginable severe conditions will await me. It's a place where many top climbers have lost their lives. Not only mine, but all team members' lives are at stake. Thus, I will expend utmost effort in concentrating on each other's safety among all team members, one step at a time, and come back down safely.*

**Project Web Site:**

<http://www.qomolangma2008-kddi.com>

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