

**THE SCIENTIFIC MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION OF JAPAN  
INTENDS TO ASCEND THE HIGHEST SUMMIT OF HINDUKUSH MOUNTAIN.**

(Press interview of Ahmad Jamad Rotib, the Islah  
Correspondent, with a Member of the Japanese  
Scientific Expedition)

**{ PHOTOS of the members of the Expedition }**

The Japanese mountaineers who have arrived in Kabul under the leadership of Mr. Sakato, the celebrated biologist of that country intend to ascend the loftiest summit of Mt. Hindukush called "Noshak".

Dr. Sawata who is well versed in geological science had come to Afghanistan nearly three years ago and was employed at the Royal Ministry of Mines and Industries in the capacity of geologist. He said in the press interview;

"among the Eastern countries Afghanistan is the only country which has more lofty mountains, and in view of the difference of climate, each of these mountains has got different shape and form so much so that some of them, from the point of their location, are so beautiful and pleasing to the eye that one becomes really surprised.

"Particular among them are the foothills of Koh-e-Safid, Koh-e-Tir'band in Turkistan, Mt. Hindukush of the Pamir Range (in Wakhan and Ishkanish districts), and the passes and summits of the high Koh Baba range, especially the regions containing many roaring streams and water-falls.

He said "The final aim of the Japanese expedition by its journey to Afghanistan is not only to climb the famous summit of Hindukush called "Noshak" but also to make scientific study of some other matters, such as wild animals, insects and various kind of vegetation and trees found on the mountains on the lines of journey of this Expedition."

Dr. Sawata added "The Noshak summit which is situated in the north-east of Afghanistan is the highest branch of Hindukush where no one has set foot until now. The height of this summit from sea level is 7490m. -the highest mountain on the line of top in Afghanistan.

"As all the members of this Expedition are scientific persons holding the degree of doctorate in various branches of science, therefore their study of some products may open a suitable way, in future, for those who want to benefit scientifically from this subject."

He further said "I have seen the mountains around Kabul, such as Koh-e-Asamai, Koh-e-Sher Darwaza etc., the beauty of which, though devoid of trees and other vegetation, is particularly enhanced by the green valleys and mountains slopes which surround them".

Dr. Sawata has visited Nuristan and Badakhshan also, and climbed a mountain top at a height of 4650m. in Nuristan, and Badakhshan. He said "My object in climbing the mountain top was only for geological study in the ministry interest of the Ministry of Mines and Industries, because in that mountains precious and other stones are found in abundance. The same object will be kept in mind in regard the famous "Noshak" summit and we shall bring back different and variously coloured stones with us to make geological study thereon."

He added "After that we leave Kabul on our journey towards Mt. Hindukush,

we shall try to climb the highest top of the "Noshak" mountain from its bottom in a 10-days period. But our both-way journey will take about a month, as after reaching the "Noshak" top we will see some other passes as well and ~~vegetation~~ obtain sufficient information about the existence of animal life and vegetation in those regions."

This Expedition has climbed many mountains in their own country--Japan--and from this point of view they have sufficient experience and knowledge in the art of mountain climbing.

They have also travelled to some other Eastern countries for the same purpose, discovering mountain heights and obtaining comprehensive knowledge about animals and vegetation there.

Dr. Sawata said "There is no special school available in Japan for training youngmen for mountaineering, but this art is included as a sporting subject in all schools in Japan and every student is obliged to learn, as far as possible, the mysteries of mountain climbing."

He concluded "If possible, we will take an Afghan mission of mountain climbers along with us on this journey as that mission may be able, at the same time, to explain to us the various dialects and terminology of the people inhabiting the mountain slopes of Mt. Hindukush, and also to guide the Japanese Mountaineering Expedition."

This Expedition has brought its own foods from Japan to consume on this journey because special foods must be eaten during mountain climbing. But, at the same time, they will also use the foodstuffs found in the different valleys and passes of Hindukush.

Dr. Sawata introduced the members of the Expedition as the follows--

1. Sawata Prof. Sakato, Biologist, Leader of the Expedition.
2. Dr. Yosii, Assistant Professor.
3. Dr. Sawaya, Geologist, who had visited Afghanistan before.
4. Mr. Hirose, who is experienced in bio-chemistry.
5. Mr. Sakai, who has a long experience in geological matters, and
6. Mr. Iwatsubo, a student of Agriculture.

(End)

Translated by  
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