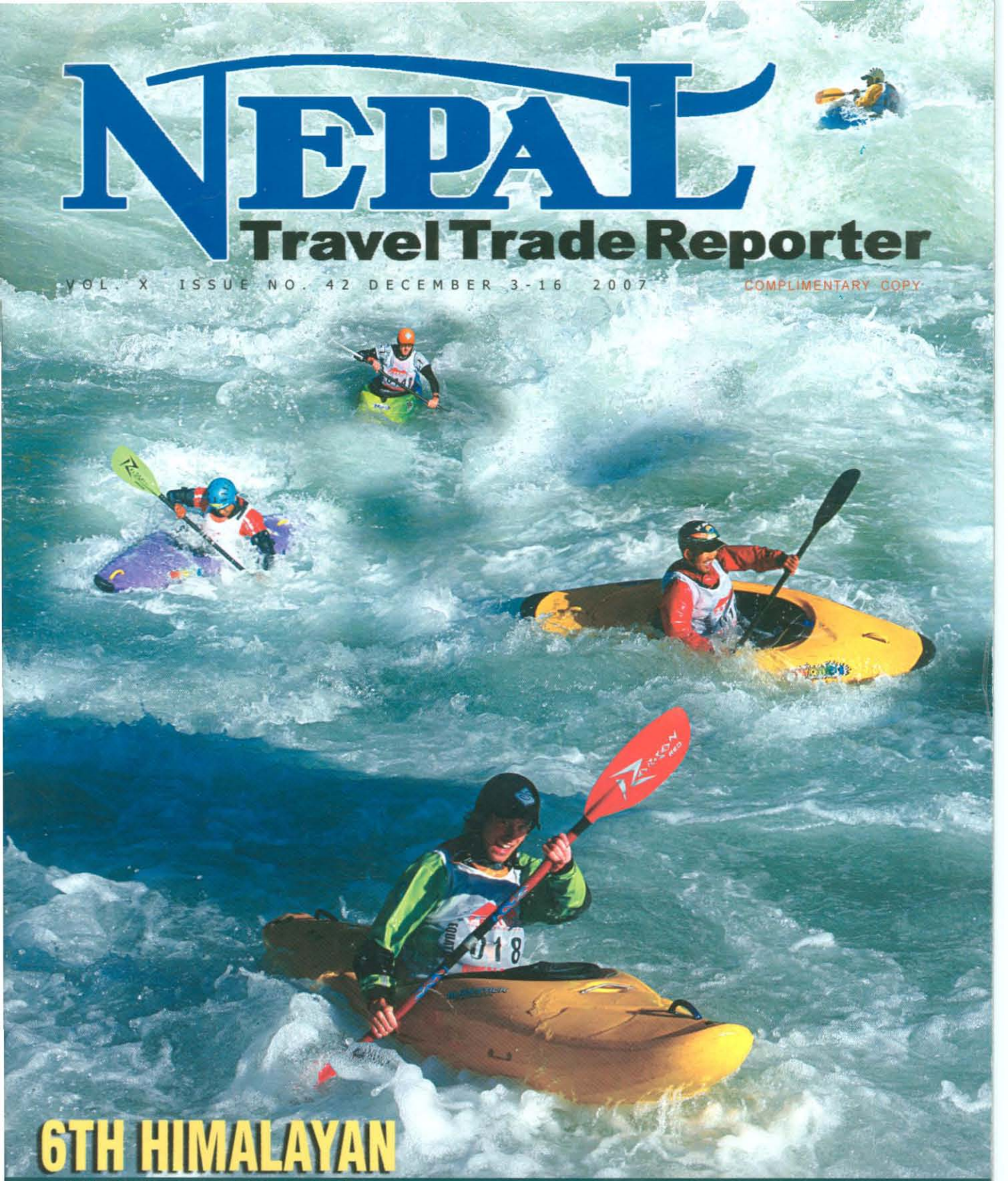
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The rubbish lying in the different areas has to be taken care of well



Line Tvete, has been in Kathmandu for almost 5 months. During her stay here she has summited Mera peak and has also been to the Everest and Annapurna region. She has also been featured at the Elle magazine October 2007 issue.

Tvete by profession is a hotel manager and runs a holiday resort Venabu which is a family run hotel in Norway. She is in Nepal as part of her adventurous trip which she says she has taken to get away from all work in a different way by cycling wherever possible. Tvete has been traveling from Norway on her bicycle since September last year.

By Sunjuli Singh

From Norway to Nepal which places have you been?

I started off from Norway to Sweden then to Poland followed by Slovakia and Hungary to Romania and then to Bulgaria. From there I went to Turkey and to Iran and entered Pakistan. India was the next destination from where I came to Nepal. From Nepal I have traveled to Tibet and I am back here again. I have traveled around 10,000km on bicycle till now.

What made you choose Nepal as part of your trip?

Actually I had heard of Nepal quite a lot about its majestic Himalayas and the Mt. Everest. I had infact come to India but I found it too hot so I thought it would be good to come to Nepal. I am happy that I chose to come here as it is a beautiful country.

Why did you choose bicycle as the means for your trip?

I was tired of working for all these years, so I thought I needed a long break. I reached a point where I wanted to do something else differently. I love to be an active traveler that is why I chose bicycling.

Since you are into hotel business how do you see the performance of hotels here?

The hotels here as per the standard from star to non star are good. But Nepal does not have standards on maintaining the quality of food. I have heard many tourists have fallen sick due to poor food consumption in Nepal. One can be sick if you eat at the wrong place. Hence there should be some standards on monitoring the food safety here. The kitchens should be more hygienic.

The hotel owners here, I think are not clever enough to maintain rooms. If something breaks or water leakages are informed they do not even care to mend it. These kind of things are well looked into in our country.

What other things should be taken care of in your opinion.

The rubbish lying in the different areas has to be taken care of well. I am sure if rubbish bins are placed in different places tourists will use it. We are used to keeping our places clean so it won't be a big deal to do so here also.

Similarly the street dogs should also be taken care of as they are very disturbing at nights. Some animal regulation has to be brought. I am sure it is disturbing for many including the locals here.

Do you think that the royalty fee on the controlled areas here is expensive?

As long as the money collected is going for the area I am sure no tourists would mind, as the money is worth paying for such exclusive places. But if it is being misused by whoever collects it, then it surely should be considered expensive.

You have been to different trekking areas; in your experience does the construction of roads in trekking areas affect trekkers?

For people the roads are very important, but it surely spoils the whole experience for trekkers. When trekkers walk I don't think they would love to hear vehicle noise or horns. They would want to wander about in peaceful environment.

Isn't it tough cycling around?

I try not to see bad things of the whole trip but certainly it's frightening at times. When I began my journey I used to get scared many times as I would be all alone. In some places I used to be surrounded by people with whom I could not even communicate because of difference in language. But now I am quite used to all this.



What would you say would be the most memorable part of your trip?

Climbing Mera Peak is the most memorable moment. It was something I had not planned of and I am happy that I could do it. Apart from that my trip to Thorang-la pass is also unforgettable.

Have you been troubled by the hawkers on the streets here?

I feel sorry for them. I feel there should be place for them where they can go and sleep or eat. Many of them are smart and talented. So they should be engaged in creative activities.

Since you have been to so many countries what do you think makes Nepal different?

The people here are very different. They show respect, are open and friendly and very welcoming. Apart from that the natural beauty of the country is very very special.