



Press Release  
n. 03/2010 of July 9, 2010

## **KEEP BALTORO CLEAN: 4 TONS OF WASTE COLLECTED AND TOILETS PLACED AT CONCORDIA GLACIER**

**SKARDU, Pakistan – More than 4000 Kg waste collected on the glacier. Eight toilets placed at Concordia Circus and eighty drums of human waste already transported downhill. It is a historic event realized by the EvK2Cnr Committee "Keep Baltoro Clean" expedition on the most famous and visited Pakistani glacier. Who already was at Concordia knows the situation. Overlooked upon by Mt. K2 and the other 8000s of Karakorum, it is one of the most spectacular places in the world. But it is tormented by the stink of the dejections produced by trekkings and expeditions in transit and by the local military base. Waste material spread on the Glacier which, besides ruining the environment, risks to contaminate the water running downhill.**

But as from today on things will change thanks to the "Seed Project", which installed up there 8 toilets for trekkers and mountaineers in transit. An initiative that already received appreciation by all expeditions directed to Mt. K2 and other surrounding mountains, particularly from Ralf Dujmovits, chief executive of Amical Alpine and Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner's husband.

The transportation of the ecological platforms from Islamabad up to there was not easy at all. During the travel by jeep, from Skardu to Askole, a damaged bridge forced to long waits and several trips. It was not easy to find enough strong porters willing to bring heavy burdens of iron on their shoulders in heavy snow. But finally everything came out for the best and on June 11th the first ecologic platform was installed at Concordia Circus.

In the space of a week all eight toilets were operative, placed where the expeditions install the camps for the night. Each expedition arriving up there is contacted and asked to use the platforms for the staff needs. All sirdar are trained for cleaning and differentiated waste collection.

The first balance of "Keep Baltoro clean" operation, started on past May 10th, is up to today of 80 drums of human waste collected, transported downhill and buried in the surroundings of Paju. On the glacier also 4.190 Kg of other waste were collected, transported to Askole for being burnt in Earth incinerator.

The cleaning team, all composed by Pakistani staff appropriately trained by Maurizio Gallo (chief of this expedition as well as of that which will clean Mt. K2 in the coming weeks) will continue working on the Glacier until end August. The collection at the K2, G1, GII and Broad Peak base camps (approximately 5,500 m altitude) must be completed. The snow is still heavy there and covers part of the waste left there during the last season.

Keep Baltoro Clean is an expedition organized by Ev-K2-CNR Committee in the framework of the "Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Culture of the Central Karakoram National Park" project in collaboration with Cesvi and Pakistan Alpine Club. Last year, in its first edition, the expedition collected 8 tons waste of which was arranged the disposal.



The installation of toilets is rather an activity that is part of the Seed Project, sponsored by the EvK2Cnr Committee and KIU in collaboration with the Pakistani government.

## IMAGES

[http://www.montagna.org/montagnaftp/AllegatiComunicatoBaltoro2/Askole\\_smaltitore\\_Earth\\_1.JPG](http://www.montagna.org/montagnaftp/AllegatiComunicatoBaltoro2/Askole_smaltitore_Earth_1.JPG)

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**Francesca Steffanoni** - Communications & External Relations Manager  
Comitato EvK2Cnr - High Altitude Scientific and Technological Research  
Via San Bernardino 145 - 24126 Bergamo  
email: francesca.steffanoni@evk2cnr.org  
Tel. dir . + 39 035 32.30.519 Cell. + 39 335 7320069  
Fax. + 39 035 32.30.551  
Skype francyste73



			
		<p><b>Integrated Management of the CKNP natural resources Project</b></p>	
			