

20 MAY 2004  
Everest-UiTM  
UiTM MOUNTAINEERS SET SIGHT ON OTHER PEAKS

SHAH ALAM, May 20 (Bernama) -- Their success in conquering Mount Everest has done nothing but whet the appetite of Malaysians Muhammad Muqharabbin Mokhtaruddin and Ahmad Reduan Rozali, both 22, to other acts of grandeur.

Muhammad Muqharabbin, a second-year student of Sports Science, said he intended to assault seven other peaks in as many continents while Ahmad Reduan said he wanted to scale Everest via Tibet, a less-favoured route to the world's highest peak which is popular among mountaineers through Nepal.

"If I get a chance, I will scale Everest again. Although there is fear, I am still spirited," Ahmad Riduan, a final-year Applied Science student, said.

The duo were quoted in conversation with UiTM Vice-Chancellor Datuk Seri Professor Ibrahim Abu Shah in a telephone call made from Labuche, 4,920m above sea level, on their descent today.

Muhammad Muqharabbin and Ahmad Reduan reached the 8,850m peak of Everest at 10.50am Malaysian time on Sunday and spent some 45 minutes at the peak waving the flags of Malaysia, UiTM and their sponsors.

The duo said among those whom they remembered most atop the mountain were parents and family members aside from former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was a patron of the endeavour, and Prof Ibrahim.

They said they could hardly wait to return home and meet their families aside from enjoying home-cooked dishes.

Meanwhile, Prof Ibrahim said UiTM would sponsor the duo until the end of their studies at the university and even if they were interested in studying overseas.

He said a special celebration for the students was being planned with the presence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Dr

Mahathir.

The cost of the feat was RM1.5 million.

-- BERNAMA

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