

# SCALING GREATER HEIGHTS



*The steep side of K2, the second most treacherous mountain in the world*

“K2 is my 14-year dream come true. It’s the ultimate mountain, surpassing Everest.”



*Khoo Swee Chiow, holding up the Singapore flag at the K2 summit.*



Adventurer Khoo Swee Chiow has climbed almost every mountain, forded every stream, but he says, there are still greater heights to scale.

BY GWENDOLINE SIM

Savage Mountain or commonly known as K2, has been described as the second most treacherous mountain to conquer in the world. With steep craggy peaks, casting a formidable shadow over its famous cousin, Mount Everest, Savage Mountain, claims the lives of one out of four mountaineers who attempt to scale the summit every year.

However for accomplished adventurer Khoo Swee Chiow who recently conquered the K2, it was a longtime dream finally fulfilled. “K2 is my 14-year dream come true. It’s the ultimate mountain, surpassing Everest,” he said fervently.

“We had to sit out two weeks of bad weather. When the weather suddenly turned favorable for a summit attempt, we were not ready but had to rush up anyway. The mountain is extremely steep and technical, demanding skills, experience and luck,” he said.

Khoo is the first from South East Asia and the fourth worldwide to have

achieved the Explorers Grand Slam, having conquered the North Pole, South Pole and the Seven Summits. “I do an expedition once in one to two years. My list is very long – crossing the Sahara, crossing an ocean, kayaking a river etc. I will never finish in this life!” he said. Adding on, he said, “But it’s the journey that counts.”

An author as well as a motivational speaker, he has given 360 talks to audiences totaling 95,000 from all walks of life. Leaning on his experiences, he aims to inspire and encourage people to dare to dream and seek out their own calling in life.

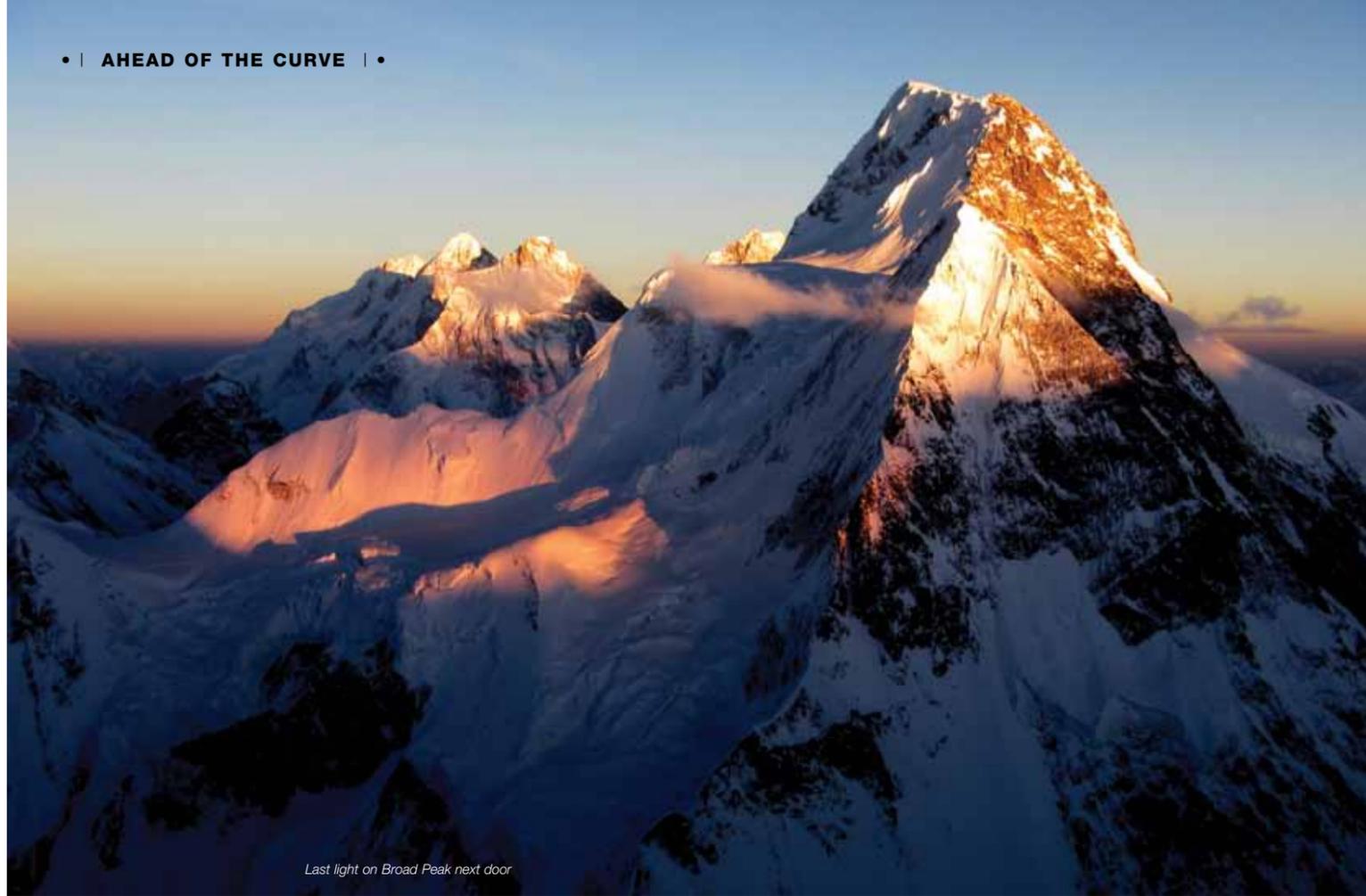
“A good leader is someone who can see clearly the vision, able to communicate that vision to the team and through his action, inspire his team to work towards that vision. Success”, according to Khoo, is to “live life with passion, pushing the boundaries and inspiring others along the way.” ▲



*Team at puja ceremony*



*Going down from C4, the day after summit.*



*Last light on Broad Peak next door*



*The beautiful but terrifying Traverse.*

