

REPUBLICA

The epic Himnal Race 2010, organized by Base Camp Trekking and Expeditions, concluded on November 2 at Ghoompani.

A total distance of 150 kilometers was covered by the runners, who had to pass through several peaks ranging from 5,000m to 5,600 meters that led along the route.

Phu Dorje Lama Sherpa of Nepal won the event in the time of 127 hours and 32 minutes, leading the pack by 10 hours. Wouter Hamelink of Belgium and Jorke Khaling Rai of Nepal were second and third respectively.

Out of 27 participants who consisted of seasoned marathon runners, only 11 could make it to the finish line. There were foreign entries from Belgium, Italy, and France.

Billed as the longest and toughest race ever held in Nepal, the 34-day high-altitude race kick-started on Oct 18 from



Phu Dorje Lama Sherpa and Benoit Laval near the Glacier Gangapurna in front of Annapurna III during the race.

Mt. Kailash in Tibet. According to the founder of the event, French racer Bruno Poirier, "It was the toughest race we had ever organized and run." He added, "The race will definitely be back in 2013, and should attract a niche crowd of experienced marathon runners."

Wianer Sherpa, who has had participated in 13 marathons all over, including in France, Switzerland and Greece, said this race has been the most challenging of all. The Solukhumbu native expressed his gratitude to the organizing team and added, "Such events should be promoted, as it can put Nepal on the global map."

First runner-up Hamelink was all praise for the pristine mountain trail and expressed his desire to come back two years later to participate in the 3rd Himnal Race 2013, which is slated to be organized somewhere around October.

Photo Courtesy: Base Camp Trekking