

Santiago Quintero will climb K2 to invite the world to visit Ecuador

(Quito, Pichincha) 07-11-2016.- Santiago Quintero began his adventure to conquer K2 summit, the most emblematic mountain in Pakistan and the planet's second highest from which he will invite the world to visit Ecuador. The prominent Ecuadorian mountaineer is at the campsite (5000m) to acclimatize, a reporter from the Ministry of Tourism informed.

"We reached the campsite on June 28 at 09:00; the mountain is clear, beautiful, and luminous. We're happy to be here away from civilization, in the middle of a glacier surrounded by huge mountains. We'll experience unforgettable moments in pursuing our dream," the mountaineer mentioned.

He explained he will spend some days in the campsite to acclimatize and carry out many activities which included meeting different groups. "Many of them are already acclimatized and ready to try to climb K2 with no oxygen. I expect to start the ascent on July 4 with a plan that, if my body and the climate allows me, will be to stay 4 nights at 7300 meters in campsite 3 to return to the campsite on July 8 to rest and then get ready," Quintero said. K2 is now more visited than in the last 12 years when 75 or 80 mountaineers tried to reach its summit, there are more than 100 now.

Santiago Quintero has devoted himself to mountain climbing. He is also a professional high-mountain guide certified by Asegum (Ecuadorian association of mountain guides). His goal is to wave the All You Need Is Ecuador flag in K2 summit to tell the world why they should visit Ecuador, a tourism destination located in the middle of the world that has everything so close. Ecuador, where Quintero daily entertains himself, is positioned as a destination for world mountaineering and for all extreme sports.

K2 is located in the Karakoram mountain range on the border of Pakistan, China and India and is considered "the mountain of mountains" for being the hardest peak to reach.

In his first report, he says that his group is composed of four members: two U.S citizens, Ruben and Chas, in their first time in more than 8,000 meter mountains, 76-year-old Japanese, Mr. Matsumoto. There are also Sherpas (native people). During his descent, Claudia, his wife, will remain in the campsite for communication purposes and to send him the meteorological report.

The mountaineer left Quito on June 13 to travel to the United States, Doha and Islamabad to embark on the adventure. His ascent to the campsite (5000m) started on June 23 from Askole-Pakistan. He will spend 30 days acclimatizing (at 7000m) and is expected to conquer K2 summit

by the end of July. This expedition will take him 70 days in total. He will return to Ecuador on August 20.

Quintero also aims at becoming the first mountaineer to climb K2 with no additional oxygen and with his feet amputated, which is worthy of recognition since only 188 climbers have reached the summit. It is 8,611 high, thus such challenge is considered as important as winning a Gold Olympics medal.

Climbing K2 is part of the project called "Ecuador por todo lo alto", Santiago's challenge is to climb the 14 summits of more than 8,000 meters. His first attempt to climb K2 summit was in 2009 and was obliged to return when he had already reached 8,400 meters because of a large amount of snow accumulated in the last stage. He has been training in different places, in and outside the country for three years.

The mountaineer says he is excited about reaching K2 summit to accomplish his mission: invite the world to visit and live the best experience in Ecuador. By conquering the summit, he would have achieved the dream he has had for 27 or 30 years, Santiago says.