



Lincoln University Alumni International Medal

Dr Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa

Dr Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa grew up in a yak farming family in Khumbu near Mt Everest, Nepal. He received the opportunity to have a modern education when Sir Edmund Hillary built a school in his village in 1963. He was then awarded a scholarship to study a Diploma in Parks and Recreation at Lincoln University.

As part of his practical training during his study at Lincoln, he actively participated in the establishment of Sagarmatha National Park in his home region in 1975 and 1976. Upon graduation in 1980 he returned to Nepal, where he joined the National Park Service and served as Chief Warden of a number of Himalayan parks, including Sagarmatha. He eventually also served as the head of Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation's Ecology and Management Division.

While working for the park service, he went on to win internationally recognised scholarships and completed a Master's and then a PhD in forest resources from the University of Washington, becoming the first person from the marginalised Sherpa community to receive a doctorate.

Dr Sherpa has dedicated his career to environmental and cultural conservation in the

Himalayas. He worked extensively on the planning and creation of new protected areas and the development of buffer zones. This included the successful establishment of a series of protected areas around Mt. Everest, including the Sagarmatha and Makalu-Barun National Parks of Nepal, and the Qomolangma National Nature Preserve of Tibet (China). These protected areas now secure the world's highest ecosystem.

He joined The Mountain Institute, a US-based conservation organisation in 2000 and worked as an international expert to strengthen the management of the Qomolangma National Nature Preserve on the northern slopes of Mt Everest. From 2005 to 2009 he served as Co-Director of The Mountain Institute's Himalaya Program in Nepal.

He is now a senior community leader, and advisor to local government and organisations. He is also a meditation practitioner and teaches and trains young people to promote peace and harmony in individuals and societies.

Dr Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa is a worthy recipient of the Lincoln University Alumni International Medal.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor