Thirty two-year old dentist is the first Thai woman to climb Mount Everest

By DTI

BANGKOK, Thailand: As the first woman from Thailand to do so, a dentist from Prachuap Khiri Khan has successfully summited Mount Everest.

The 32-year-old’s achievement follows that in May 2008 of her fellow-countryman Vithitnan Rojanapanich, who was the first person from the South East Asian country ever to reach the summit.

Chumnarnsit is one of the latest of almost 7,000 climbers to have ascended Everest since the first successful attempt by New Zealand mountaineer Edmund Hillary and the Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953. In 2016, over 400 people successfully reached the summit, according to figures from the Nepalese Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

This year’s climbing season was overshadowed by the death of six people, most notably Australian climber Maria Strydom, who began suffering severe symptoms of altitude sickness 15 minutes away from the peak and died soon thereafter.

In total, the mountain has claimed 265 lives over the last 70 years. Only two years ago, 16 Nepalese climbers died in an avalanche in the Khumbu Icefall, which resulted in the mountain being closed for most of the 2015 climbing season.

Also notorious was the 1996 disaster, which took eight lives and was documented in a book and feature film.

Part of the Mahālangūr Himāl section of the Himalayas stretching from Nepal to Tibet, Mount Everest is the world’s highest mountain with a height of 8,848 m. It overtops K2, which is approximately 250 m lower, and the nearby Kangchenjunga at the India-Nepal border. Every year, hundreds of climbers from all over the world attempt to scale the giant peak.