All set to ride high

SMU’s students plan to cycle the mountains of Tibet, Nepal

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SINGAPORE Management University students are taking extreme sports to even greater heights.

On July 24, a team of cyclists from the university will embark on the 2005 Himalayan Bicycle Diaries, the first of the Zero Limits Expedition series. In the series, SMU students organise a yearly trip to promote extreme sports.

The team will cover more than 1,000km of the mountain ranges of Tibet and Nepal over 21 days.

Along the way, they will take on the world’s longest and steepest descent — 4.6km of non-stop downhill terrain — which begins on the Tibetan Plateau and winds down to the rice fields of Nepal. The team will also get to visit the Mt Everest base camp.

This will be quite a feat, considering that more than half the team is made up of people who have never tried competitive or long-distance cycling before.

In fact, some do not even own proper mountain bikes and all will have to foot the $5,000 for the trip out of their own pockets.

“When my friends first heard I was going for this trip, they asked me if I was crazy,” mused participant Johnnie Chng.

However, despite all the obstacles, the students will stop at nothing to complete the trip.

Explained 20-year-old team leader Lee Lijen: “We wanted to do something outrageous, something challenging.”

Her teammate, 24-year-old Chung Deming, added: “The world values people who are willing to spearhead new ideas and think differently.

“We want to take this golden opportunity to experience something magical with friends.”

“In this expedition, we will get to challenge the traditional mindset and do something exciting at the same time.”

The team has been training thrice a week since the school holidays started and have ridden up to Kota Tinggi and Desaru in Malaysia.

They also plan to ride to Kuantan and back and tackle Cameron Highlands before the expedition.

To find out more about the 2005 Himalayan Bicycle Diaries, call Lee Lijen at 9855 8092 or email himalayan.bicycle.diaries@gmail.com.