

## Exploration Committee Funding

A Paper by the Deputy President (Finance & Service)

The Exploration Committee of Imperial College has existed since 1955 to consider proposals for expeditions presented by students of the College and to administer funds to assist with the costs of these expeditions. The Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer are appointed by the Rector with the current chair being Dr. Lorraine Craig, the Academic Tutor for the Earth Science and Engineering Department. The Union is represented on the Committee by the Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) and the Exploration Society Chair along with a representative from each Faculty Union.

The Committee is currently funded by grants from the College, the Union and the Constituent College Associations. Since 2005, the Union has donated a grant of £1,000 annually (only to be spent on full-members of Imperial College Union).

Approval of a proposal by the Exploration Committee allows the expedition team access to the equipment held by the Exploration Committee, saving great cost to the expedition and students. Additionally, the expedition will be titled an Imperial College Expedition. Particularly in mountaineering, funding bodies respect any application for funding made by an Imperial College approved expedition. This is a testament to the tenacity and experience of the Committee and the inquisition the students will endure during the approval process. An additional bonus is the Board accepts responsibility for adequately insuring the personnel and equipment for these expeditions. Aside from the character development opportunities, expedition members will gain experience in organisation, logistics and advanced skills as well as living and working with other people.

In recent years, expeditions have including high-altitude mountaineering in Pakistan, India, Bolivia and Nepal; big-wall climbing in Bolivia, bridge-building in Malawi, kayaking in the Indian Himalayas; caving in Slovenia, as well as filming and photography projects in Indonesia and India. The number of students involved each year varies, but it is typically 15-30 students that will take part in 4-5 expeditions each year.

The Exploration Committee is an excellent resource for both our students and our clubs. By allowing students to take part in expeditions, they gain stronger leadership and skills which they are able to bring back into the club during more regular club activities. By having stories that will inspire our members into taking part in adventurous activities, the Union will benefit from increased membership uptake which furthers the aims and objectives of the Union.

### **Decision Required:**

To continue funding the Exploration Board by donating an annual grant of £1,000 indefinitely.