Trainee teacher successfully scales Mt Everest on second attempt

SINGAPORE. An earthquake has prevented her from reaching the summit two years ago but Ms Nita Yusavia Yokek has been back to Mt Everest this year, pushing hard in a bid to secure Singapore’s first 8000-meter birthday present.

On Monday (May 22) at 4:00am local time (11:30am Singapore), the 30-year-old reached the summit of the world’s highest mountain.

“The success of the expedition is a particularly sweet one for me. It is good thing that I did not give up on my dreams after the Nepal earthquake in 2015,” she told The Straits Times in an interview with the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), after she returned to base camp on Wednesday (May 24).

“The value of perseverance, resilience and resilience to know what I wanted made me go for it. I hope my success inspires others to work on their own dreams, no matter how big they may be and never to give up on them.”

In 2015, Ms Yusavia was one of five climbers in Almora Team Singapore Everest, whose goal was to scale Mt Everest in commemoration of Singapore’s 50th independence. An earthquake caused by an earthquake in Nepal forced the team to abort their attempt after they had gained the 5,600-meter mark.

Ms Yusavia is currently pursuing a postgraduate diploma in physical education at the National Institute of Education (NIE). Early last year, she joined Ms Joey Tang, 17, and Dr Arjun Sawansingh Blaze, 45, to form NTU-MTE Everest Team Singapore.

The Singapore team raised more than $16,000 to fund their expedition with the help of NTU and NIE. This also saw to be the first fully student-led team from Singapore to summit Mt Everest.

But Ms Tang had to abort the climb around 200m from the summit due to hypothermia, while Dr Sawansingh could not attempt the push to the summit as she was suffering from frostbite.

Ms Yusavia was the only member of the team to reach the summit, with the support of her friends — Ms Delilah Lena and Ms Yung Choon. Taking advantage of good weather, she managed to reach the summit a day earlier than expected. She has also achieved her goal of being the first Malay Muslim woman from Singapore to climb the summit.

Ms Yusavia said that when she reached the South Summit (at Mount Everest) at about 7:30am local time and saw the frozen Hillary Step, she could not believe how close she was to the summit of Everest.

“At that point, I said to myself ‘yes, I did it!’ And told myself I will fly over the summit, and I know I can do it!” she added, which she achieved two hours later.

Climbing to the summit was tough as she was tired from the lack of food and fuel, but climbing down was one of the more dangerous experiences she had ever faced, said Ms Yusavia.

“Every step taken on the way down required a lot of focus and caution,” she added.

She said she is proud in climbing the world’s highest mountain in the success of the team.

“We have supported each other through our training in Singapore and our final trek to the peak, and the team also worked remarkably well together during the difficult times throughout the expedition,” she said, adding that the team will not drink any soft drinks before starting their descent back to Kathmandu.

“We are thrilled to meet our families and friends again after almost two months being away,” said Ms Choon Choo, a member of Nanyang Technological University (NTU’s) Board of Trustees, said reaching the top of the world’s highest mountains is a truly remarkable feat by Ms Yusavia.

“Having previously supported Yusavia in her previous failed attempt in 2015, her success today is an event that we can be proud of after seven years of training for it,” said Ms Tan.

“We all congratulate Ms Yusavia on Everest climb. We are all proud of her dedication, perseverance and determination to achieve her ambition. We are all proud of her dedication, perseverance and determination to achieve her ambition. We are all proud of her dedication, perseverance and determination to achieve her ambition.”

Ms Yusavia was born in 1990, in the United States of America, and has been climbing since she was a young child. She started climbing in the United States at the age of 13, and has since been climbing in various locations around the world, including in South America, where she first climbed the Huascarán Peak in Peru.

She has also climbed in the Andes, the Himalayas, and the Alps, and has been climbing on all seven continents. She is currently training for her next expedition, which is set to take place in the summer of 2017.

Ms Yusavia was one of five climbers in Almora Team Singapore Everest, whose goal was to scale Mt Everest in commemoration of Singapore’s 50th independence. An earthquake caused by an earthquake in Nepal forced the team to abort their attempt after they had gained the 5,600-meter mark.

Ms Yusavia is currently pursuing a postgraduate diploma in physical education at the National Institute of Education (NIE). Early last year, she joined Ms Joey Tang, 17, and Dr Arjun Sawansingh Blaze, 45, to form NTU-MTE Everest Team Singapore.

The Singapore team raised more than $16,000 to fund their expedition with the help of NTU and NIE. This also saw to be the first fully student-led team from Singapore to summit Mt Everest.

But Ms Tang had to abort the climb around 200m from the summit due to hypothermia, while Dr Sawansingh could not attempt the push to the summit as she was suffering from frostbite.

Ms Yusavia was the only member of the team to reach the summit, with the support of her friends — Ms Delilah Lena and Ms Yung Choon. Taking advantage of good weather, she managed to reach the summit a day earlier than expected. She has also achieved her goal of being the first Malay Muslim woman from Singapore to climb the summit.

Ms Yusavia said that when she reached the South Summit (at Mount Everest) at about 7:30am local time and saw the frozen Hillary Step, she could not believe how close she was to the summit of Everest.

“At that point, I said to myself ‘yes, I did it!’ And told myself I will fly over the summit, and I know I can do it!” she added, which she achieved two hours later.

Climbing to the summit was tough as she was tired from the lack of food and fuel, but climbing down was one of the more dangerous experiences she had ever faced, said Ms Yusavia.

“Every step taken on the way down required a lot of focus and caution,” she added.

She said she is proud in climbing the world’s highest mountain in the success of the team.

“We have supported each other through our training in Singapore and our final trek to the peak, and the team also worked remarkably well together during the difficult times throughout the expedition,” she said, adding that the team will not drink any soft drinks before starting their descent back to Kathmandu.

“We are thrilled to meet our families and friends again after almost two months being away,” said Ms Choon Choo, a member of Nanyang Technological University (NTU’s) Board of Trustees, said reaching the top of the world’s highest mountains is a truly remarkable feat by Ms Yusavia.

“Having previously supported Yusavia in her previous failed attempt in 2015, her success today is an event that we can be proud of after seven years of training for it,” said Ms Tan.

“We all congratulate Ms Yusavia on Everest climb. We are all proud of her dedication, perseverance and determination to achieve her ambition. We are all proud of her dedication, perseverance and determination to achieve her ambition. We are all proud of her dedication, perseverance and determination to achieve her ambition.”

Ms Yusavia was born in 1990, in the United States of America, and has been climbing since she was a young child. She started climbing in the United States at the age of 13, and has since been climbing in various locations around the world, including in South America, where she first climbed the Huascarán Peak in Peru.

She has also climbed in the Andes, the Himalayas, and the Alps, and has been climbing on all seven continents. She is currently training for her next expedition, which is set to take place in the summer of 2017.