

Italian woman scales Everest

by UPI

KATHMANDU, Nepal -- Italy's Nives Meroi scaled the 29,035-foot Everest Thursday, but bad weather kept fellow climber Rosa Mannoni from the summit of the world's tallest peak.

Meroi's feat on the Himalayas was accomplished without the use of oxygen, the first such by an Italian female climber, ANSA news agency reported.

"What a tough climb! My hands are blue and I don't know about my feet -- we'll see when we get down to base camp," Meroi said in her Web site after an arduous climb on a bitterly cold night to reach the top of the world.

The 46-year-old, whose climbs with her husband Romano Benet, is from Tarvisio in Italy's northeastern mountains, the report said.

Meroi had already scaled K2, the world's second highest, and Dhaulagiri, the seventh highest, both also located in the Himalayas. Climbers of these peaks belong to the 8,000-meter club as these peaks are over 8,000 meters or 26,246 feet.

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