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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ROGER SHEPHERD of HIKE KOREA GOING TO NORTH KOREA FOR BAEKDU DAEGAN EXPEDITION**

**SEOUL, - May 26, 2011:** On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, Roger Shepherd of Hike Korea returned to Seoul from having spent one week in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Roger was invited by the New Zealand - Korea Friendship Society to discuss the logistics of conducting a photographic expedition of sections of the Baekdu-daegan Mountain System in North Korea. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE TO THE NORTH KOREANS FOR AN EXPEDITION OF THE BAEKDU DAEGAN. The North Koreans received this idea with great enthusiasm and have agreed to assist to their fullest ability to make this new venture happen.

During his one week in Pyongyang, Roger spent time talking with members of the friendship society about the feasibilities and logistics of organising permits, transportations, accommodations, and costs. He also spent time travelling to various places of historical significance as part of his cultural induction. Throughout his time there the project was treated with great respect and admiration by all Koreans he met there. There is definitely still a strong traditional connection with mountain in North Korea and a desire for unification. It was agreed that Roger return to North Korea in October to spend a yet to be confirmed amount of time in the Gangwon-do province to collect his first batch of photos. It is likely that Roger will make at least six visits to North Korea over the next year to obtain photographs of the Baekdu-daegan in North Korea. After Gangwon-do, he plans to visit the Baekdu-gowon and Mansu-gowon regions of Ryanggang province this winter.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE EXPEDITIONS is to obtain photography from sections of the Baekdu-daegan in North Korea. Over the course of 2011-12 Roger will be making numerous visits to North Korea to complete the northern section of a photographic essay book on the entire Baekdu-daegan Mountain System of the Korean peninsula. Roger sees this book as being a moment where KOREA is represented as ONE through the mountain scenery and culture of the Baekdu-daegan - the spine and energy source of Korea.

This press release is a moment for Roger to inform the good people of South Korea and begin a process of cooperation and support with them. He is hoping to obtain product and financial support from organisations or individuals in South Korea whom want to assist this world-first expedition.

With the publication of this pictorial book, Roger is looking forward to showing the people of Korea in both the North and South, including the international community, the mountains of the sacred Baekdu-daegan of Korea.

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If you would like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with Roger please contact him at [roger@hikekorea.com](mailto:roger@hikekorea.com) or tel: 010 2966 7612.