

## **Climbed 77 steps of life: Junko Tabei, first woman to scale Everest, dies**

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**Tokyo:** After climbing 77 steps of her life, Junko Tabei, the first woman to scale Earth's elevated mountain, died of peritoneal cancer at a Saitama hospital on Thursday morning.

### **Junko Tabei, first woman to scale Everest**

Tabei died Thursday of cancer at a hospital outside of Tokyo, according to the reports.

Tabei reached the summit of the world's highest mountain in 1975. In 1992, she also became the first woman to complete the "Seven Summits," reaching the highest peaks of the seven continents.

She gained world fame after Everest, but played it down, telling Sports Illustrated in a 1996 profile: "I was the 36th person to climb Everest."

Tabei scaled peaks in more than 60 countries, Japan's Kyodo News agency said.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK said she continued climbing even after being diagnosed with cancer four years ago.

- (With inputs from AP)