

Posted By [Serene Lim](#) from Today

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**JETSETTING WITH ...**

### Adventurer Horacio Galanti

**SINGAPORE**— Guess what — you can connect to the Internet on the top of the world!

That was what Horacio Galanti proved last month, when he and teammate Horacio Ginietti made a banking transaction using the Standard Chartered Breeze mobile banking app on the summit of Mount Everest, setting a world record.

“We used a Thuraya IP satellite modem, which we shared with other climbers in the expedition so we could also tweet our climb along the way,” the Canada-based Argentine with 23 years of climbing experience explained.

“I remembered we had to go to the Tibet side to get a signal; the weather was minus 35 degrees Celsius and the stylus pen wasn’t working properly. I had to take my gloves off to use the app.”

Despite the feat, the civil engineer by day is already restless for a new quest. Next stop? Mount Vinson in Antarctica. “I’d probably combine the climb with a trip to the South Pole.”

Uh-huh, nothing scratches an itch like another adventure.

**SERENE LIM**

**Internet banking on Mount Everest. How did you get involved in that?**  
**Horacio Galanti:** We started preparing for our climb two and a half years ago. About seven months before we actually started, we were contacted by the Standard Chartered team in Singapore. They wanted to do something with Breeze (app) since this year is the 60th anniversary of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay’s ascent of Mount Everest. We’re very happy to be in this partnership as it’s quite unbelievable to do something like that when Internet banking was a new thing just a few years ago. We also helped clean a bit of Mount Everest; there’s a lot of garbage up there and we brought down about 250 kg of rubbish with the help of the Sherpa team.

**So many people are trying to scale Mount Everest. What do you make of this craze?**  
 It’s very dangerous when you lack experience and training. Unfortunately some companies will bring climbers up who lack experience and it not only puts their lives in danger but also those of others. Nine people have already died this year. Hopefully we’ll see more control in this respect.

**What sort of training do you recommend prospective climbers undergo?**  
 Go for hikes first. And keep up with the physical activity to see a huge change in your health. You need to persevere and not just train before a climb. Spend 30 minutes a day exercising. Stamina is also very important so all sorts of aerobic activity like jogging and biking will help. I always think city dwellers should go outdoors more often to just enjoy being in a rural environment. Then, perhaps, if you’re more serious you can sign up for mountaineering courses.

**Do you ever go for relaxing holidays like a beach vacation?**  
 I think I would just spend 10 minutes on the deck chair and then I’ll need to run on the beach or something!



Horacio's feeling on top of the world.

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