

Tenzing Chogyal Sherpa

My grandfather is the last survivor of the first ascent of Mount Everest in 1953. He's 90 now, and I'm 31 and both of us have watched the snow and ice melting rapidly in our lifetimes.

My name is Tenzing Chogyal Sherpa. I am a cryosphere scientist from Nepal. I was born in Namche Bazar, which lies at the foothills of Qomolangma, or Everest- as many know it, I grew up surrounded by the world's highest mountains, playing in their snow. Now, I've dedicated my career to studying them. I'm 31. And just in my lifetime, I've seen glaciers melting away in an very unprecedented rate. In fact, the glaciers here are not just melting, the warming up from the inside. One quarter of humanity will be hit by the loss of the Hindu Kush Himalaya's cryosphere. It was in 2015 in Paris that world leaders agreed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. But 1.5 degrees is too hot for the Hindu Kush Himalayas and the one quarter of humanity that rely on its cryosphere. We need the world to go into emergency mode again. And act now to save our snow.