

THE GLACIERS OF THE HIMALAYA ARE MELTING.

1921

MOUNT EVEREST



West Rongbuk Glacier, Tibet Autonomous Region, China

2008

MOUNT EVEREST



FEEDER GLACIERS HAVE DISAPPEARED

LOSS OF 340 VERTICAL FEET OF ICE MASS

LOSS OF 410 VERTICAL FEET OF ICE MASS

INCREASED HEAT-ABSORBING SURFACE AREA DUE TO ICE MELT

The water supply of Asia is threatened.

Presidents Obama and Hu, together you can help solve the challenge of climate change.

The Himalayas, known as the "Third Pole," are home to the world's largest sub-polar ice reserves. The meltwaters of these essential high-altitude glaciers supply crucial seasonal flows to the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Salween, Irawaddy, Mekong, Yangtze and Yellow rivers, on which hundreds of millions of people downstream depend for their livelihoods. But the glaciers are disappearing at an alarming rate.

This week, the Beijing Summit between Presidents Barack Obama and Hu Jintao presents an incomparable opportunity to begin a major new collaboration to meet the challenge of climate change. The world urgently needs the leadership of the U.S. and China to establish a global framework for accountability and action.

Mountaineer and photographer David Breashears is using comparative photography to capture undeniable evidence of the rapid melt rate of these glaciers. Learn more about GRIP (Glacier Research Imaging Project), led by Breashears and directed by Asia Society's Orville Schell, at AsiaSociety.org/OnThinnerIce



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