



## MESSAGE FROM DALAI LAMA

“This blue planet is our only home and Tibet is its roof. The Tibetan Plateau needs to be protected, not just for Tibetans but for the environmental health and sustainability of the entire world”.

Brothers and sisters of this small planet. Now we are in the 21st century. In spite of the huge developments in technology and science, we have also created lots of human-made problems. So I often say that these problems which were created by human beings, logically, we human beings ourselves have the responsibility to reduce these problems and finally eliminate these problems. We ourselves have created these problems but we rely on praying to God or to Buddha, for solution. This I think is little bit illogical. These problems are our creation, so we cannot seek solution to these problems from above.

Now, on top of these man-made problems, we have climate change and environment problems. I think, to some extent, the position of the whole galaxy is changing. As a result, the position of our own planet, this blue planet is also changing, and thereby the sun's own situation is also changing. I think this is also in some way related to the environment.

Moreover, according to experts, we human beings are also responsible for the change in weather conditions and global warming. Hence, this is not a question of one nation or two nations. This is a question of humanity affecting the whole world. Our world is our only home. If this blue planet, due to global warming or some other sort of environmental problem, cannot sustain itself, then there is no other planet where we can move or shift.

So this is our only home. Therefore, we have to take serious concern about the protection of environment and also serious concern about global warming.

In this respect, I always say, Tibet is usually called the Roof of the World. According to some experts, because of Tibet's high altitude and dry climate, if its ecology is damaged, it takes a much longer time to recover. Therefore, the environment situation in such an area is very delicate. Many Indian environmental experts also told me the same thing.

Some Chinese environmentalists have described Tibet or the

Tibetan Plateau as the Third Pole, because the impact of the Tibetan plateau on global warming is as much as the South Pole and the North Pole.

These are not political statements but rather the findings of experts and scientists. So therefore, this is not something concerned only with the Tibetan people. This concerns over a billion human life, including mainland China. And also the southern areas of Himalaya, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

Over a billion people depend on these rivers which flow from Tibet through China to south Asia. Therefore, the protection or serious concern towards the protection of Tibet's environment is not only concerned with the people of a particular area but a larger number of people in this part of the world.

And then some experts say the ecological condition of the Tibetan Plateau also affects other parts of the world. Therefore, it's something very important. That's what I want to share. So these are not political matters or religious matters. These are ultimately, related to the survival of humanity or question of a healthy world, a healthy planet.

So this is what I want to tell you. And then as I mentioned earlier, environment is the responsibility of the entire humanity. Then among the human beings, the older generation, usually I describe as the generation of 20th century, we are almost fading, including myself.

So now the generation of the 21st century, the young brothers and sisters, you should take more active role in protecting this planet, including Tibet's environment. That's what I want to share with you.

Thank You

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*Transcript of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Video Message for COP21 UN Climate Summit in Paris, Dharamsala, October 20, 2015*

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