

# Long Life Puja Fund



Top: Lama Zopa Rinpoche accepting his long life puja at Kopan Monastery, December 2009.

Bottom: 1,400 students attended Lama Zopa Rinpoche's 2009 long life puja held at Kopan Monastery.

Photos courtesy of Kopan Monastery.

Prior to the long life puja of Choden Rinpoche in 2002, Lama Zopa Rinpoche commented that, “The teachings lasting a long time in this world for us pitiful sentient beings who are suffering depends on holy beings having long lives. For such stainless pure teachings that are like refined gold, that reveal the complete path to liberation and enlightenment and that definitely, one hundred per cent, liberate sentient beings to flourish in this world depends solely on the existence of valid true holy beings, such as the Buddha of Compassion, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, to have long and stable lives.” To support the long and healthy lives of our teachers, *Mandala* recognizes the Long Life Puja Fund as this issue’s **Featured Project**.

One of the most moving ceremonies in Tibetan Buddhism is the long life puja for a teacher, an elaborate display of devotion towards a spiritual guide comprising heartfelt prayers and praises, and a procession of symbolic offerings. The purpose of the long life puja is for students to purify the mistakes that occur in relationship to their teacher, and to create the causes and conditions to continue to receive benefit from that teacher for a very long time.

FPMT is committed to sponsoring long life pujas every year for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Lama Zopa Rinpoche, recognizing that as inspirations for the entire organization, these teachers are invaluable in the spiritual development of all FPMT students. The funds collected for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s long life pujas are used to sponsor extensive offerings, and any remaining funds are offered directly to these teachers to help support their work.

The long life puja for Lama Zopa Rinpoche is held annually after the legendary November course at Kopan Monastery in Nepal. The most recent long life puja was the biggest yet with 1,400 attendees made up of November course participants, monks, nuns and local Sherpas. The ritual itself is the extensive Lama Chöpa with an added request to the dakinis, a moving plea by the students for the five dakinis (played by young Kopan monks) who have come to take away the teacher to a pure land to allow the students’ teacher to remain with them on earth.

At any time during the year, members of the FPMT community can make contributions to the Long Life Puja Fund, confident that they are participating in a massive, collective effort to support the lives and wishes of our teachers. ☸

To participate, visit [www.fpmt.org/projects/long\\_life\\_puja/](http://www.fpmt.org/projects/long_life_puja/)