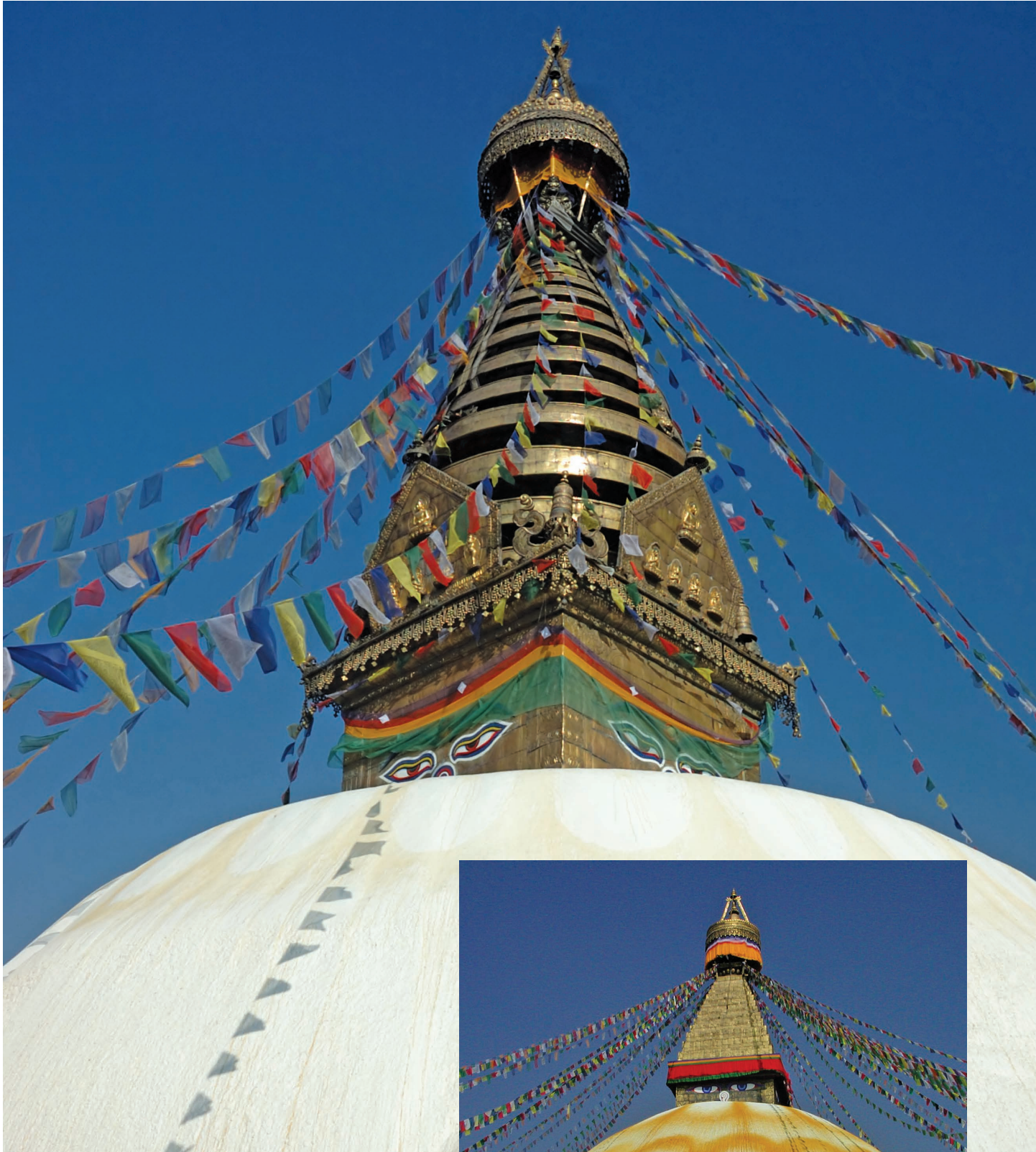


FEATURED PROJECT



*Above: Swayambhunath Stupa, Kathmandu, Nepal
Right: Saffron petals on Boudhanath Stupa, Kathmandu, Nepal*



FPMT Puja Fund:

Creating Merit on a Global Scale

Imagine a world where our teachers live long, healthy lives; where we have the resources needed to accomplish all of our virtuous goals; where we are able to support thousands of Sangha engaging in beneficial activity on auspicious days throughout the year. The FPMT Puja Fund gives practitioners around the world an opportunity to help make this vision a reality. By sponsoring and coordinating monthly and annual pujas, offerings, prayers and practices under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the fund lets students create merit on a global scale. And because these spiritual activities are dedicated to the success of all FPMT centers, projects, services, students, benefactors and those serving the organization in any way, in addition to the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, one can make a huge impact on the spiritual health of fellow Dharma sisters and brothers as well as support one's precious spiritual guides.

"If someone offers a small flower or rice to a Buddha statue, a stupa or scripture, then the benefit extends from then up to enlightenment. Amazing, amazing," Lama Zopa Rinpoche said at Kopan Monastery in December 2012. "It is said in the sutra *Piled Flowers*, that on top of that benefit, you achieve ultimate happiness – liberation from the causes of delusion and karma, and on top of that, full enlightenment – all the realizations and omniscient mind. After this, then you liberate numberless hell beings, pretas, animals, humans, suras and asuras from the ocean of samsaric sufferings and bring them to full enlightenment. When all beings are brought to enlightenment, only then are all the results of offering achieved."

Annual events such as 100,000 Tsog Offerings to Padmasambhava, the recitation of the Kangyur – the words of the Buddha – and 100,000 repetitions of *Praises to the 21 Taras* and monthly extensive Medicine Buddha and Hayagriva pujas are performed by as many as 9,000 Sangha, making them an extremely powerful means to create merit and overcome obstacles for everyone.

The FPMT Puja Fund also coordinates an impressive number of prayers and practices on Buddha Days, the special astrological dates when merit is multiplied 100 million times. For example, for the 2012 celebration of Lha Bab Duchon, a holiday commemorating Buddha's descent from Tushita, the FPMT Puja Fund sponsored a special puja at Ganden Lachi Monastery in India and made offerings to the 3,400 monks there; made offerings to all of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's gurus and to all Sangha living in FPMT's international Sangha communities; offered white wash, four giant saffron petals and new pinnacle umbrellas to Boudhanath and Swayambunath stupas in Kathmandu; provided a new set of robes to the Buddha statue inside the Bodhgaya Mahabodhi Temple as well as to the Jowo Buddha in Lhasa's Jokhang; and offered gold to the Jowo Buddha's holy face.

While making personal offerings at the holy sites in Nepal, Tibet and India may not be possible, offering to the FPMT Puja Fund affords Dharma students the opportunity to participate in continual offerings to holy objects and other auspicious activities organized around the world. ♦



*Offering gold to
Jowo Buddha,
Lhasa, Tibet*

To learn more about the FPMT Puja Fund and all the beneficial global activities it sponsors, please visit: www.fpmt.org/projects/fpmt/puja.