

Update – July 2016

Since its inception the [International Mahayana Institute \(IMI\)](#) continues to strive to secure conducive conditions for its members (around 300 monks and nuns) to protect their ordination and become qualified to serve others, in particular through FPMT Centers, Projects and Services. According to Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the role of the IMI is to find out what the Sangha need and to try to provide it to them.

One of the primary ways IMI does this is by disseminating important information to its members. When Lama Zopa Rinpoche wishes to send advice to Sangha, this is communicated through the IMI office. When Sangha members are sick or dying, this information and requests for prayers are sent to members through the IMI office. When sponsors wish to make offerings to the Sangha such as new robes, online access to educational programs etc. this is communicated through the IMI office. When FPMT Centers are looking for Sangha to serve at their centers IMI informs its members.

The IMI office acts as a centralized resource for member questions and requests for help as well as a resource for the larger FPMT community. Because of its online presence IMI frequently receives and responds to requests for information from non-members.

Other ways that IMI works at cultivating a sense of community for its members is by providing regular newsletters with information about what is happening within the larger monastic community and interesting articles about the ordained life. The IMI maintains an online database of member profiles, which is accessible to all members, giving them contact information for each other. Photos and IMI Sangha news are also regularly posted on Facebook. If you have missed our e-news, you can read it here: <http://imiSangha.org/digitalmedia/imi-e-news>

Work in progress includes online programs for the newly ordained and developing monastic communities that will provide better conditions for monastic life. Caring for our aging Sangha is also a priority.

IMI addresses the financial needs of its members through the [Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund \(LYSF\)](#). Money is raised through fundraising campaigns and annual donations from FPMT centers, projects and services; the proceeds of which support IMI Sangha activities. The LYSF is currently providing monthly support to monks and nuns in need who are engaged in full time FPMT study programs and solitary retreat. In addition, the LYSF sponsors the annual pre-ordination training course at Tushita Meditation Centre, India, as well as group retreats with Lama Zopa Rinpoche.