

FPMT ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

Working to Benefit Sentient Beings as Infinite as the Sky



A Letter from
Our Spiritual Director

Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Lama Zopa Rinpoche
offering prayers for all the
sentient beings in Omak
Lake, Washington State,
and those who will inhabit
this lake in the future.



My most dear, most kind, most precious wish-fulfilling ones, those who want to make their life meaningful and beneficial for every sentient being—the numberless hell beings, hungry ghosts, animals, human beings, suras, asuras, and intermediate state beings,

Here is just a short message. The FPMT centers, projects, and services have been growing due to your kindness and help. Now there are more than 161 such activities around the world and more are happening all the time. This benefits all the six-realm sentient beings, from whom you receive all your past, present, and future happiness—even the comfort you experience in a dream—and who have been your mother numberless times from beginningless rebirths. As your mother, all these sentient beings have been so kind, giving you your body, protecting your life from danger countless times, bearing many hardships for you and giving you an education. Even Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha come from all sentient beings, and by taking refuge in and relying on Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, you become free from the lower realms, free from samsara, free from lower nirvana and achieve enlightenment—and you do this for the sake of numberless sentient beings. Since Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha come from the kindness of every single sentient being, sentient beings are most precious, as I just mentioned.



Working to Benefit Sentient Beings as Infinite as the Sky

The FPMT exists to help others and the FPMT exists to help you, providing education to all through books and teachers, showing you and others how to benefit sentient beings and attain enlightenment.

From the depths of my heart, I want to thank you numberless times for all the help you have given the organization with your body, speech, and mind. This is what has allowed the organization to continue and become stronger and stronger in order to help and benefit sentient beings as infinite as the sky, more and more and deeper and deeper.

Also, I have really seen that many people in the FPMT have become increasingly compassionate, which also benefits other sentient beings more and more. So that is one benefit. The second thing is that we're providing more and more Dharma education so that students can understand and learn the base—the two truths and the path of method and wisdom—and the result, dharmakaya and rupakaya, Buddha's holy mind and holy body. By receiving more and more education in topics such as the four noble truths and so forth, this is what you achieve. Without such education there is no way to be free from samsara.

So these are the deep benefits that students receive and although Dharma education is the general essence of the FPMT, we also provide many social services.

Thank you very much again,

With much love and prayers,

Lama Zopa Rinpoche

PS. I would like everyone to practice *The Method to Transform a Suffering Life Into Happiness (Including Enlightenment)* and to read this advice I gave recently on *How to Make Your Life Most Beneficial for Sentient Beings, Even with Your Speech*.

This is what has allowed the organization to continue and become stronger and stronger in order to help and benefit sentient beings as infinite as the sky, more and more and deeper and deeper.

A Letter from Our
Chief Executive Officer

Ven. Roger
Kunsang

Dear Friends,

While reading or listening to the news these days, we hear and see so much suffering—it can be truly overwhelming and unbelievably sad! FPMT’s sole purpose is to remove everyone’s suffering and bring all to the highest happiness through offering opportunities to listen to, contemplate, and meditate on the teachings of the Buddha. What Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche have given us is something special beyond our imagination: ways to benefit ourselves ultimately and an organization through which—together—we help in many different ways to benefit others. I don’t think anyone can think of a better, more beneficial way of using this life and all our future lives.

In 2016 we had our longest long life puja ever, lasting from morning to evening! Students from all over the world and representatives from all of our centers, projects, and services came together at Amitabha Buddhist Centre in Singapore to offer heartfelt prayers and requests for Lama Zopa Rinpoche to have a long and healthy life. It was amazing to see so many students—new and old—from so many countries. Khadro-la (Rangjung Neljorma Khadro Namsel Drönme) was requested only the day before to make a prayer for Rinpoche’s long life during the puja. However, several hours later, we received a long life prayer that had come from her spontaneously and had been recorded by her attendants. Yangsi Rinpoche and Fabrizio Pallotti translated it around midnight. Khadro-la later requested Ven. Holly to read it during the puja. Later, Rinpoche said that this prayer—“[Long Life Prayer for Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche](#)”—is very powerful and very important for students to recite.

It was truly a special FPMT long life puja; it had real heart. From my heart, I truly thank everyone who attended and those who did prayers from afar—THANK YOU!

In 2016 Rinpoche connected with Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) often. Rinpoche spent a month in Tso Pema, a special Padmasambhava holy place, doing retreat and taking teachings from an important Kagyü abbot who had teachings and transmissions Rinpoche wanted to receive. Rinpoche did retreat in Maratika, Nepal, where it is said that Guru Rinpoche achieved immortality. Rinpoche also visited Bhutan, making pilgrimage to many holy places of Guru Rinpoche as well

as the great yogi Thangtong Gyalpo. While in Bhutan, Rinpoche also spent time with and gave teachings to a family Rinpoche had known previously in Tibet.

In the United States, Rinpoche continued to teach at the Light of the Path retreat. Some years before, Rinpoche had a dream that inspired him to teach Lama Atisha’s *Lamp of the Path to Enlightenment*. I think this teaching has a very special significance. In 2017 Rinpoche is planning to teach on the text for one month rather than the usual two weeks.

Near the end of the year, Rinpoche did retreat in Washington State USA at Buddha Amitabha Pure Land and continued the tradition of offering a special puja to an Amitabha statue, sculpted in Vietnam. This puja is based on one created by Lama Tsongkhapa, who is said to have had a special connection with Amitabha. The end of the year is always spent at Kopan Monastery in Nepal, where Rinpoche teaches during the one-month Kopan course—this is where FPMT began many years ago!

FPMT International Office—Rinpoche’s office—continues to serve the organization in many ways. The staff there are a great support to Rinpoche and myself, making it possible for us to be on the road all the time!

There are always so many people around the world to thank for doing so much. A special big thanks to our volunteers and benefactors who make everything possible. Thank you, everyone, thank you from the heart for all you do.

Working together, everything is possible. As Lama Yeshe said, “Our problem is that inside us there’s a mind going, ‘Impossible, impossible, impossible. I can’t, I can’t, I can’t.’ We have to banish that mind from this solar system. Anything is possible; everything is possible. Sometimes you feel that your dreams are impossible, but they’re not. Human beings have great potential; they can do anything. The power of the mind is incredible, limitless.”

Love,

roger



Ven. Roger Kunsang with Lama Zopa Rinpoche.

Working to Benefit Sentient Beings as Infinite as the Sky



A Message From Our Board of Directors

Thank you for taking the time to read this year's Annual Review for FPMT International Office.

We on the board have been exploring the concept of an Advisory Council, which we believe could be an important change in our organizational structure that could help sustain and support the FPMT organization long into the future. We are presently working on the details, identifying suitable members, and drafting a constitution of the Advisory Council, which would provide general leadership in an advisory capacity, and look forward to sharing more information and soliciting public comment soon.

An Amitayus statue was offered to Lama Zopa Rinpoche by Ven. Roger Kunsang on behalf of the FPMT International Office at a long life puja for Rinpoche in Singapore, March 13, 2016. Geshe Chonyi, Ven. Roger, Ven. Holly Ansett, Tenzin Ösel Hita, Karuna Cayton, and Paula de Wijs-Koolkin represented the FPMT Board of Directors at the puja.

In March 2016, we welcomed to the board Rasmus Hougaard, a former director of FPMT center Tong-nyi Nying-je Ling in Denmark and present director of The Potential Project, an FDCW-recognized program that delivers mindfulness-based organizational effectiveness programs around the world.

This year, Karuna Cayton and Paula de Wijs-Koolkin, who have offered service to the board since 1988, retired from the board. Peter Stickels

also retired. We're grateful and indebted to them for their tireless support and devotion to the broader organization.

In November 2016, we welcomed Sean González, director of Kuru-kulla Center in Massachusetts, USA, as our new non-member board secretary.

As board members are always invited to attend regional and national meetings, I attended (and enjoyed very much) the European Regional Meeting hosted by Centre Kalachakra in Paris in October 2016. I'm inspired that the FPMT organization's regionalization strategy continues to encourage cooperation between centers, projects, and services with the indispensable help of coordinators at the regional and national level. The European meeting once again impressed on me the value of sharing information, resources, and camaraderie regionally.

Many thanks to all of the many devoted students, generous benefactors, dedicated volunteers, warm-hearted registered teachers, and industrious staff that comprise FPMT as an organization. We are always inspired by the enormous contributions so many of you make and are humbled as we attempt to repay your kindness.

With my best wishes,
Andrew Haynes, Chair of the FPMT Board of Directors, FPMT, Inc.

Large statue of Buddha Amitabha at
Amitabha Pure Land, Washington, USA.



Who We Are and What We Do

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MAHAYANA TRADITION (FPMT) is devoted to preserving and spreading Mahayana Buddhism worldwide by creating opportunities to listen, reflect, meditate, practice, and actualize the unmistakable teachings of the Buddha, and based on that experience, spread the Dharma to sentient beings.

Every organization has its own distinctive culture, and in FPMT centers, projects, and services, reflected in policies, charitable giving, and educational programs, FPMT “Wisdom Culture” remains at the heart of all our activity. FPMT programs offer a comprehensive, experiential approach to study, practice, and service in the great educational tradition of Lama Tsongkhapa of Tibet as taught by Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche.

FPMT, Inc. is a non-profit Buddhist organization incorporated in the State of California, USA. There are more than 160 centers, projects, and services around the world that have entered into or are in the process of entering into affiliation agreements with FPMT, Inc.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s Office, or “FPMT International Office,” is based in Portland, Oregon, USA, and provides the necessary framework for all FPMT activity; develops and delivers high quality education programs and materials; maintains several primary channels for communication; manages charitable projects key to FPMT’s mission; coordinates communication between Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the larger organization; and provides support to FPMT centers, projects, and services.

Holy objects at Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s California residence. Photo by Chris Majors.



Working to Benefit Sentient Beings as Infinite as the Sky



Lama Zopa Rinpoche's 2016

Lama Zopa Rinpoche started off 2016 by giving a teaching to hundreds of Sangha and lay students at Kopan House at Sera Monastery in India on the first day of the year. The Jangchup Lamrim teachings with His Holiness the Dalai Lama had just concluded, completing a four-year teaching series on 18 Stages of the Path Commentaries and Rinpoche had been staying at Osel Labrang at Sera Je Monastery during the teachings.

Rinpoche then spent time at Tso Pema (Lotus Lake, also known as Rewalsar) in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Rinpoche went to Tso Pema to receive rare oral transmissions from the abbot of Zigar Monastery, a Kagyü monastery. Rinpoche also spent time doing personal retreat, circum-ambulating the lake, and blessing the sentient beings abiding there.

In late February, Lama Zopa Rinpoche went to Maratika, Nepal, site of the famed Maratika Caves associated with Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) to engage in long life practices with Kopan Sangha in the cave. Rinpoche also liberated some goats that were otherwise going to be killed.

Ven. Roger, on behalf of FPMT, starts every year by consulting a high lama and asking if there are any obstacles for Rinpoche's health in the coming year. This year, Khadro-la recommended that all the FPMT centers, projects, services, and students come together and offer Lama Zopa Rinpoche a long life puja and request teachings on *lojong*. Amitabha Buddhist Centre in Singapore hosted this special puja on March 13, 2016. More than 100 representatives from FPMT centers, projects, services, and national and regional offices worldwide participated in the long life puja. In addition, forty-three FPMT centers offered a local Lama Chöpa puja with the prayer to the 16 Arhats for



Large Guru Rinpoche statue in Tso Pema, India. In 2016 Rinpoche connected with Guru Rinpoche often.

Long life puja with the five dakinis offered to Lama Zopa Rinpoche on the last day of the Kopan November course, December 5, 2016. Photo by Ven. Losang Sherab.

Working to Benefit Sentient Beings as Infinite as the Sky



Rinpoche with Tiger's Nest Monastery in the background, Bhutan.

Rinpoche over the same weekend and twenty-four additional centers gathered together to watch the live webcast of the puja. The event was also livestreamed, bringing the puja into many students' homes around the world.

A collection of heartfelt praise was compiled by Ven. Robina Courtin on the basis of many submissions from the FPMT family and offered to Rinpoche by Paula de Wys-Koolkin.

In the period before and after the puja Rinpoche conferred refuge, preceded over a Thousand Offerings to Maitreya Buddha puja, gave teachings and oral transmissions, and granted initiations.

Rinpoche visited Penang, Malaysia, in March and gave teachings and initiations at Chokyi Gyaltsen Center and a public talk at Kasih Hospice Centre. In April, Rinpoche granted initiations at Losang Dragpa Centre in Kuala Lumpur. Rinpoche then granted a Medicine Buddha initiation and led a Medicine Buddha retreat at Rinchen Jangsem Ling, Triang.

Rinpoche then traveled to Hong Kong and gave teachings and initiations organized by Mahayana Buddhist Association (Cham Tse Ling).

In May, Rinpoche traveled to Taiwan for personal retreat. While there, with the assistance of Sangha members, he performed a naga torma puja near the river next to Shakyamuni Center to benefit the beings in the immediate area and the entire country. During his short stay, Rinpoche converted the rooftop veranda into a beautiful practice space for circumambulation.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche teaching at Amitabha Buddhist Centre, Singapore, March 2016.
Photo by Ven. Losang Sherab.



Working to Benefit Sentient Beings as Infinite as the Sky



In June, Rinpoche went on a pilgrimage to Bhutan where he visited many sacred places connected with Guru Rinpoche including Drakarpo in Paro, a sacred temple connected to the holy body of Guru Rinpoche; Jangsarbu Lhakhang, a small temple behind the Rinpung Dzong in Paro that is connected to Guru Rinpoche's holy speech; and Dzongdrakha, a place connected to Guru Rinpoche's holy mind.

In August Rinpoche traveled to New York City, USA, where he gave a public talk and the oral transmission of the Medicine Buddha mantra to the members of the Himalayan Elders Project.

From New York Rinpoche traveled to North Carolina, USA, where more than 300 people gathered to attend the Light of the Path retreat, the fourth in a series of teaching retreats led by Rinpoche based on Lama Atisha's text *Lamp for the Path to Enlightenment*.

Following the retreat Rinpoche traveled to Washington State, USA, to do personal retreat. While there, he also blessed several lakes (and all the sentient being residing therein), including Omak Lake, which is a holy site for Native Americans, and engaged in extensive practices to benefit the animals in the area. Rinpoche also officiated the second Amitabha Festival, which included many prayers and offerings, lunch for all the participants and neighbors, traditional Sherpa dances offered by Sherpas living in region, a Tara dance offered by Pamtingpa Center students, and music.

Rinpoche briefly traveled to Santa Cruz, USA, for medical check-ups.

From the USA, Rinpoche went to Nepal for the 49th annual Kopan November course. This year's course ended in early December with a birthday celebration and a long life puja offered to Rinpoche. After the puja, which was attended by 1,000 people, a picnic lunch was offered for everyone, and lama dances and Sherpa dances were offered for Rinpoche. Rinpoche donated all the money offered to him during the puja to the Sagarmatha Secondary School in Jalsa, Nepal, a project of Kopan Monastery.

As is his tradition every year, Lama Zopa Rinpoche offered new robes to all ordained resident and key touring teachers in 2016.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche with Khadro Dhamcho, Khadro-la, Khenpo Phuntsok Tashi, and Geshe Tenzin Khenrab at the base of the trail to Tiger's Nest Monastery, Taktsang, Bhutan. Photo by Ven. Sherab.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama teaching in Strasbourg, France, September 2016. Photo by Olivier Adam.

Service to His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has called offering service to His Holiness the Dalai Lama "the quickest and most vast way of benefiting sentient beings."

On New Year's Day, FPMT contributed to the sponsorship of the long life puja for His Holiness offered at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery following the Jangchup Lamrim teachings.

With organizational help from numerous FPMT volunteers, the city of Strasbourg, France, hosted His Holiness on September 17 and 18, 2016. His Holiness taught from Nagarjuna's *Commentary on Bodhichitta*, conferred an Avalokiteshvara initiation, and gave a public talk entitled "Ethics Beyond Religion."

On December 11, 2016, His Holiness taught at the 21st annual Dharma Celebration in New Delhi, India, at the invitation of Tushita Mahayana Meditation Centre.

His Holiness also graciously accepted Amitabha Hospice Service's request to become their patron in New Zealand.



Lama Zopa Rinpoche offering Ven. Kunsang a khata that Rinpoche requested be blessed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Ven. Kunsang, January 2016.

With Heartfelt Thanks for the Tireless Service of Ven. Thubten Kunsang

French monk Ven. Thubten Kunsang (Henri Lopez) passed away in July due to cancer. Ven. Kunsang traveled with Lama Zopa Rinpoche for many years, recording Rinpoche's teachings and spontaneous talks for the Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive and taking thousands of photos that have been shared on FPMT.org and in *Mandala* magazine. He was a familiar and friendly face within the international FPMT community, known for his incredible warmth, generosity, and kindness. FPMT International Office is indebted to Ven. Kunsang for his tireless service to Lama Zopa Rinpoche for many years.



Rinpoche visiting Padmasambhava's cave in Maratika, Nepal, with Osel Dorje Rinpoche and others.

Right: Rinpoche being offered a Sherpa dance at Buddha Amitabha Pure Land during Amitabha Festival, October 1, 2016, WA, USA.





FPMT Charitable Projects

As Lama Zopa Rinpoche mentioned in this year's letter, the organization has grown increasingly compassionate and offering social service to others is one of our core objectives. In 2016 FPMT Charitable Projects provided grants totaling US\$3,512,326 (details on page 40) toward various beneficial activities, including offering food to ordained Sangha and children; providing Buddhist philosophy scholarships; sponsoring ongoing pujas and practices; offering stipends to the main teachers of the Lama Tsongkhapa tradition and sponsoring annual debates; offering grants to social services such as elder care homes, schools, hospitals, and monastic institutions; providing comprehensive Dharma programs; translating Dharma texts; sponsoring the creation of holy objects, such as statues, stupas, prayer wheels, and large thangkas; and saving animals from death and exposing them to Dharma.

2016 Highlights

Of particular note this year was the US\$356,727 disbursed from the Social Services Fund. Supporting those in need—such as children, the elderly, the poor, and sick—is the main priority of this fund. Lama Zopa Rinpoche has also indicated that in addition to offering these vulnerable people material resources, we must help them spiritually by offering Dharma education and exposure to holy objects, which helps change their karma for the better and bring real lasting benefit.

Students of the Sagarmatha Secondary School in Jalsa, Nepal, which the Social Services Fund sponsored this year.

Elder Care for Tibetan Refugees

US\$135,997 was offered to facilities providing food, shelter, and medical care for elderly Tibetans living in India, many of whom fled Tibet starting in 1959 and are without family support. Four homes for the elderly Tibetan refugees totaling 325 residents (30 of whom are Sangha members) were supported this year. Among the support offered was: grants toward operating budgets; offering pocket money to the elders as well as extra financial support for special dietary needs; hiring extra caretakers; helping to repair the facilities and build extra rooms; and buying a jeep and trailer to help with the recycling and waste management for an entire refugee camp.

Disaster Relief

US\$46,885 in grants were issued in response to the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal. These funds help rebuild damaged property and provide aid to devastated areas in Tibet and Nepal.

Support to Refugees and Underprivileged Children

We have been offering food every day to the school children and staff of Ngari Institute in Ladakh, India, for four years. This year, forty-six school children, sixteen teachers and eight young monks benefited from this offering. The children are either orphans; come from large, single-parent families; or come from small, very poor families with no reliable income. The main aim of this school is to empower and enrich remote-area students by offering a curriculum that includes both modern scientific knowledge and ancient Buddhist wisdom.

Several other grants were offered that specifically helped children such as: providing lunch to the 217 refugee children of the Central School for Tibetans in Bylakuppe, India, for an entire year; offering support to the Maitreya School and the Tara Children's Project in Bodhgaya, India, and sponsoring this year's expenses of the Sagarmatha Secondary School in Jalsa, Nepal, which educates 120 children.



Above: Grants were offered to shelters in Bhutan and Malaysia caring for stray dogs with food, shelter, medical assistance, and exposure to Dharma.

Right: The main mission of the Supporting Ordained Sangha Fund is to offer food to monks and nuns, help build or rebuild accommodations, support education and health care needs, and to provide necessary resources for Sangha who wish to engage in retreats. Photo by Olivier Adam.

Left: An elderly Tibetan resident of Lugsam Samduling Home for the Aged and Disabled in Bylakuppe, India, a facility supported by the Social Services Fund this year.





Holy Objects

The Holy Object Fund contributes to the creation of holy objects for world peace, which is a high priority among Lama Zopa Rinpoche's Vast Visions for the FPMT organization. This year, US\$879,972 was offered toward these projects, including the Maitreya Projects in Kushinagar and Bodhgaya; seven large prayer wheels including five water-turned prayer wheels in Nepal, one in a Tibetan settlement in India, and one in New Zealand; thirteen Guru Rinpoche statues for Lawudo Retreat Center in Nepal; and seven statues which will be placed inside a larger statue in India.

Practice and Retreat Support

The Practice and Retreat Fund provides grants and sponsorships for students engaged in retreats such as 108 nyung nä retreats, 100 million mani retreats, retreats involving sutra recitations, and long-term retreat. Grants are also given to develop retreat centers.

The FPMT Puja Fund was established twenty-one years ago and continues to sponsor ongoing pujas offered by as many as 15,650 ordained Sangha. Extensive pujas—such as the recitation of the Kangyur; the recitation of the *Prajnaparamita*; 100,000 praises to the Twenty-one Taras; and 1,000 offerings to Namgyalma—were offered on the four main Buddha days. Monthly offerings were made to the main holy objects in Nepal, India, and Tibet.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has been writing out the *Prajnaparamita Sutra in Eight Thousand Verses* in pure gold for fourteen years. Under Rinpoche's guidance several dedicated students have also been helping to write the *Prajnaparamita* in Tibetan on archival quality rainbow paper. This year the Prajnaparamita Fund offered US\$24,486 for the costs of gold ink used in the calligraphy. The sutra will eventually go into the heart of the Maitreya statue in Kushinagar, India.

FPMT continues to support Tenzin Ösel Hita (pictured here with Lama Zopa Rinpoche) in his Dharma educational endeavors through the Big Love Fund. This year Ösel attended Lama Zopa Rinpoche's long life puja in Singapore; he gave talks in Singapore, Malaysia, and Spain; and he attended His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings in Milan, Italy.

Supporting Ordained Sangha

The Supporting Ordained Sangha Fund provides support to ordained Sangha as well as monasteries and nunneries, and their monastic houses (*khangtsens*). Funds are used to sponsor food, accommodation, education, health care, and retreat needs. In 2016 the fund was also able to offer costs associated with Ling Rinpoche's geshe degree and building the new gumpa of Ngari Khangtsen.

Since 1991, the Sera Je Food Fund, a sub-fund of the Supporting Ordained Sangha Fund, has offered millions of meals to the monks of Sera Je Monastery in South India. Receiving three vegetarian meals daily allows the monks to focus on their studies without the burden of sourcing and preparing their own meals.

Supporting Future Teachers

The Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund preserves the unbroken Tsongkhapa lineage and cultivates the foremost scholars of tomorrow. The fund provides a monthly stipend for the abbots and senior teachers of Sera, Drepung, Ganden, Rato, and Tashi Lhunpo monasteries, and Gyume and Gyuto tantric colleges. The fund also enables hundreds of monks to attend the annual Gelug exam and allows both monks and nuns to attend the annual winter debate in India and Nepal. For the first time, the fund sponsored a prayer festival (*monlam*) in Bhutan for all Tibetan Buddhist traditions. This year, US\$269,305 in support was granted from this fund.

For more information on this year's charitable giving, see the 2016 disbursements from FPMT Charitable Projects on page 40.

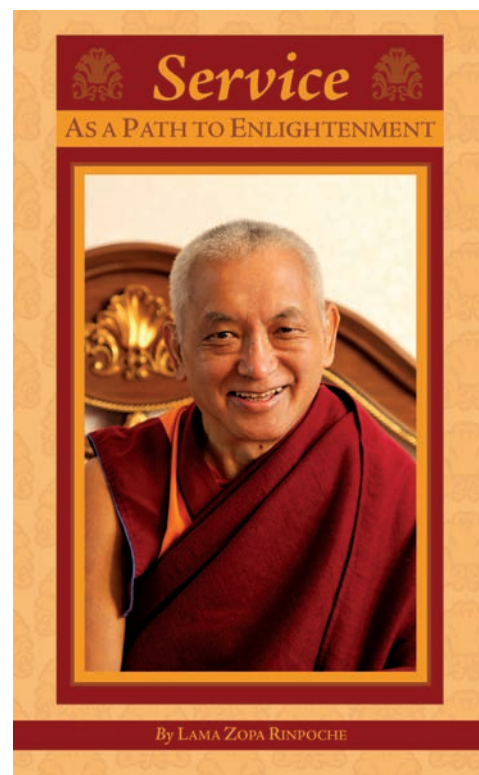
[Weekly news blogs](#) keep donors and FPMT students up-to-date on what grants have been issued and the progress recipients made in realizing their initiatives.



Please enjoy a short video about the Sera Je Food Fund.
Click on the photo to watch the video.

Education Services

FPMT Education Services develops, reviews, and constantly improves a range of introductory to advanced Buddhist education programs available in FPMT centers and online; publishes practice materials in digital and hard copy formats; works with translators and editors to translate crucial texts; and oversees the registration process for and provides support to non-Tibetan teachers.



2016 Highlights

Education Programs

FPMT education programs help students learn, study, and meditate on the Dharma.

Two centers are currently hosting the *Masters Program*, thirty are offering the *Basic Program*, and a majority of centers are hosting the introductory courses *Buddhism in a Nutshell* and *Meditation 101* as well as the foundational-level program *Discovering Buddhism*.

Online Programs

FPMT Online Learning Center (OLC) provides an opportunity for students from all parts of the world to study Buddhism according to their interests and needs.

Two new *Basic Program Online* subjects—Engaging in the Bodhisattva Deeds Part 2: Chapter VI-X and Ornament for Clear Realization, Chapter 4—were added in 2016.

Living in the Path was restructured and one new module was created. Short introductory videos featuring a Western teacher were added to each module.

The Online Learning Center website received 49,101 visits from 19,562 visitors in 144 countries.

Practice Materials

FPMT Education Services produces prayer books, practices, and study materials that can be acquired in hard copy or digital formats.

Five new publications were completed this year: *Verses for the Eight Auspicious Noble Ones*; the short *Barche Lamsel* prayer to Padmasambhava; a *Hevajra Sadhana*; Ngulchu Dharmabhadra's *The Flowing Water of the Ganga: A Thorough Praise of the Thirty-Five Sugatas*; and *Cultivating Mindfulness of Bodhichitta in Daily Activities*.

More than forty prayers, practices, and other materials were revised, including parts of the *FPMT Retreat Prayer Book*; *Balanced Body, Balanced Mind*; and the *Lama Tsongkhapa Guru Yoga*. Some of these materials were also reformatted for availability as ebooks.

Translations

FPMT Translation Services is responsible for overseeing the standardization of English translation terminology within the FPMT, revising existing translations, and managing the production of new translations. We work with translators around the world to translate Tibetan texts into various languages.

In 2016, a thorough revision of the FPMT editorial style sheet was completed. A downloadable readers' guide to Sanskrit transliteration was created to enable the correct pronunciation of Sanskrit words and mantras, and a new phonetics key for the transcription of Tibetan was completed.

The first version of a glossary containing the FPMT standard translations of more than a thousand Buddhist terms, the outcome of an ongoing discussion with FPMT translators and editors, was completed. Work on other translation and editorial resources, such as databases of common stanzas and names of deities, continues.

A Spanish-language *Masters Program* translation of Gyaltsab Je's commentary to the *Ornament for Clear Realization* was completed by Ven. Nerea Basurto.

The French-language translations of the two Guhya-samaja commentaries used in the *Masters Program* were completed by Christian Charrier.

The *Heruka Abbreviated Tsog* was completed and is awaiting final approval. Translations of several Vajrayogini texts, including an abbreviated tsog offering text by Phabongka Dechen Nyingpo, as well as a self-initiation ritual, were completed.



Video excerpt from *Living in the Path*, “Advice for Realizing the Lamrim”
Click on the photo to watch the video.

Teachers

The Teacher Registration Committee is responsible for overseeing the registration process for teachers qualified to teach in FPMT centers, projects, and services.

This year the committee restructured its archive, updated the Education and Teachers sections of the new Affiliates Area, created helpful teacher registration policies and guidelines for registered teachers, and streamlined the registration application process.

Thirty new teachers were registered in 2016.

fpmt.org/education

Center Services



With the help of regional and national coordinators, Center Services assists FPMT centers, projects, services, and study groups—which are probationary centers, projects, and services—establish and sustain good governance structure to support the preservation of the Mahayana tradition now and into the future. We facilitate communication between Lama Zopa Rinpoche and FPMT centers, projects, and services; coordinate Rinpoche’s teaching schedule; and facilitate the placement of resident geshe and teachers at centers.

At the end of 2016, there were 161 FPMT centers, projects, services, and study groups in thirty-eight countries.

2016 Highlights

To better support those offering service within the FPMT organization we created the FPMT Affiliates Area, an extensive collection of easy-to-access, password-protected online resources, including FPMT policies, guidelines, and education program materials. The Affiliates Area replaced the *FPMT Handbook* and the Members Area.

FPMT’s Ethical Policy was updated to make it clearer and better able to protect all those connecting with the FPMT organization.

Participants and facilitators of the Foundation Service Seminar hosted by Institut Vajra Yogini, France, August 2016.

Six new geshe and three new registered teachers began serving at FPMT centers this year. This brings the total number of qualified resident teachers to forty-nine: thirty-six geshe and thirteen registered teachers, plus many geshe teaching the monks and nuns at Kopan Monastery and Nunnery.

Thirteen regional and national coordinators helped fulfill the organization’s regionalization strategy by continuing to assist each center, project, and service around the world.

Three Foundation Service Seminars, which prepare current and aspiring volunteers and staff for service in the FPMT organization, were offered. A new Teacher Development Service Seminar designed to cultivate the pedagogical skills of current and aspiring FPMT registered teachers was piloted in four centers.

FPMT’s fourteenth International Sangha Day was celebrated around the world on the holy day of Chokhor Duchen, the anniversary of Shakyamuni Buddha’s first Dharma teaching.

Maitreya Loving Kindness Tour successfully hosted its last event and closed after it was determined that Maitreya Buddha Project Kushinagar had made great progress and would be capable of permanently hosting FPMT’s collection of relics.

This year, five new study groups were established in France, Australia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and USA. One study group successfully made the transition to a full center.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche offered lunch to IMI Sangha members while in Bangalore, India, December 2016. Photo by Ven. Losang Sherab.

The purpose of the center’s existence is for the teachings of Buddha. And the teachings of Buddha are for the happiness of sentient beings—to free them from oceans of samsaric suffering, from the six realms, to bring them to peerless happiness, the complete cessation of obscurations and complete realization. You should recognize your service is like limitless skies of benefit.

– Lama Zopa Rinpoche, 2016



Development and Donor Services

The Development team is focused on stewarding donor support for the myriad activities of International Office. We are committed to providing daily assistance to the thousands of generous donors who contribute to the FPMT mission each year. We work to recognize these meritorious acts of giving with messages of appreciation and rejoicing.

Without generosity, carrying out the FPMT vision would be impossible. Donations we receive from so many people around the globe are vital to the continuation of our work.

2016 Highlights

Friends of FPMT

Friends remains a key program for the financial health of International Office. At year-end we had 1,065 active supporting Friends and total contributions reached US\$240,078. In thanks, the Friends program provided supporters access to hundreds of FPMT Education Services materials, online learning programs, and *Mandala's* publications.

Give Where Most Needed Fund

More than 600 donors offered US\$82,425 to provide support to any FPMT activity that may come to need immediate funding.

Work a Day for Rinpoche

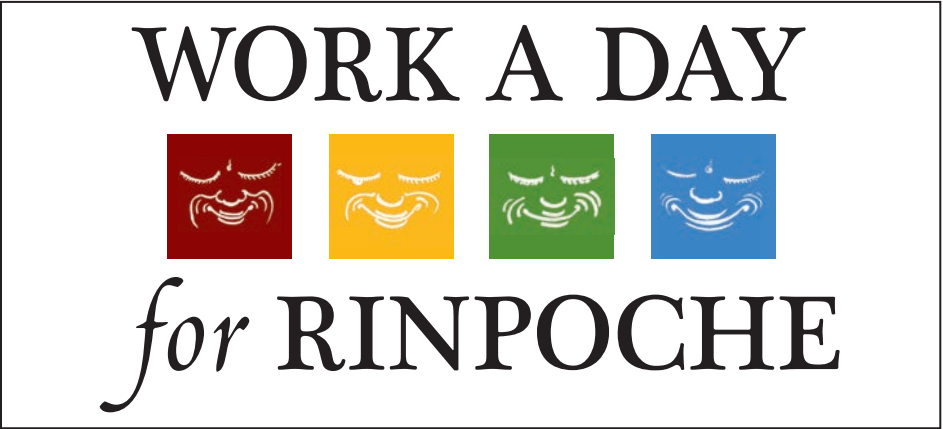
This annual campaign, held during the holy month of Saka Dawa, inspired 607 donors in 55 countries to give US\$70,130 of their wages as an offering of a “day’s work” to fulfill Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s vision for the world.

The International Merit Box Project

Merit Box offerings were collected from centers and individuals and US\$33,500 was disbursed through twenty-one grants. The grants [aided a variety of activities](#) at FPMT centers, projects, services, and study groups around the world.

Give a Gift That Helps Others

This program allows donors to support FPMT charitable projects as an alternative to traditional gift giving. It received 82 orders, with US\$3,254 being disbursed between the Animal Liberation Fund, Sera Je Food Fund, Social Services Fund, and Holy Objects Fund.



We are not aware of the limitless skies of benefit we achieve from the practice of offering, what we can achieve and enjoy from life to life. Even while we are in samsara, we will enjoy good rebirths, wealth, and every happiness. Even just the samsaric perfections are amazing, without adding all those incredible realizations that allow us to offer deep benefit to sentient beings, liberating them from oceans of samsaric suffering and its cause: delusion and karma.

– Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Communications, Media, Technology

FPMT International Office serves as a communications channel for the entire FPMT organization. We maintain many methods for connecting students with Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the worldwide community; sharing news and opportunities; and providing access to teachings, educational programs, and practice materials.

2016 Highlights

Websites

The FPMT website (fpmt.org) provides Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s news, schedule, and advice; shares information for those offering service in the organization; and serves as a gateway to all the educational opportunities and activities of the entire FPMT organization, plus much more.

This year, improvements were made to the office’s responsive web design and our website was updated for better display on mobile devices.

The popular Lama Zopa Rinpoche Advice page was redesigned. The new layout is tabbed: one tab features current advice, the second navigates to advice by topic.

The Online Learning Center was redesigned to take advantage of full-screen width. It features a full responsive design for the first time, providing a better user experience.

We utilized Google Speed reports this year to improve page load times and implemented a new site firewall system that automatically blocks users from attempted attacks.

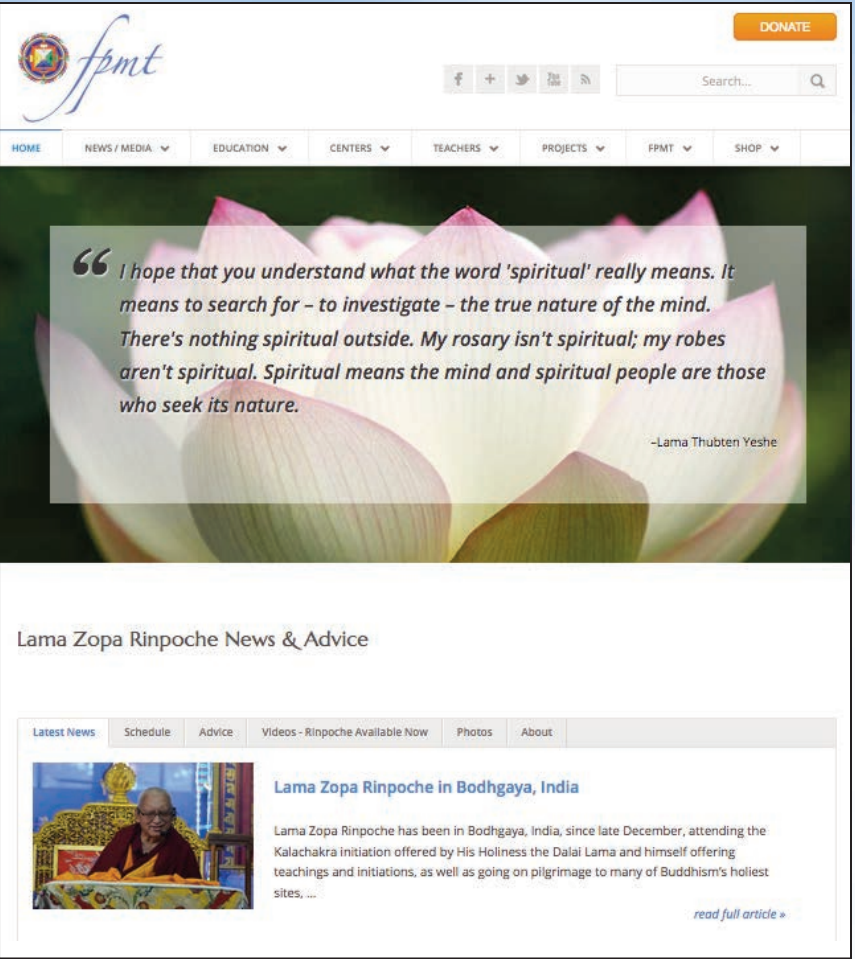
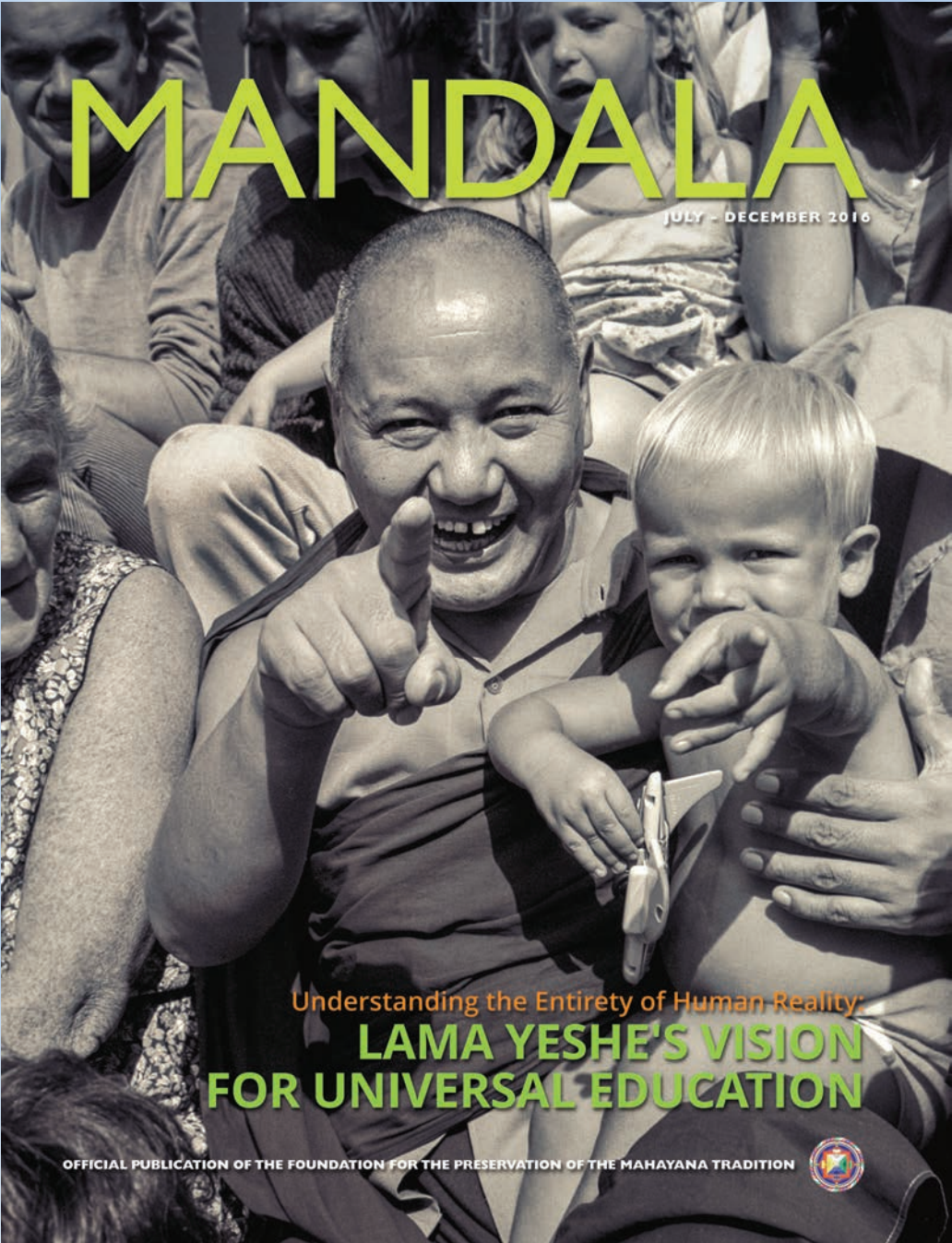
Mandala Magazine

Mandala magazine shares lineage teachings, explores topics relevant to Dharma students, provides practice advice and inspiration, and reports on activities within the organization.

With the help of numerous volunteer writers and photographers, *Mandala* publishes twice-yearly as an 84-page publication sent to thousands of students around the world. The print magazine continued to be supplemented with exclusive online content, including feature stories on debate, study, and life at Sera Je Monastery; His Holiness’s visit to Strasbourg, France; and the Human Spirit Psychoanalytic-Buddhist Training Program in Israel, run in part by Italian FPMT center Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa.

We published two ebook volumes of *The Stories and Words of Great Buddhist Masters*, offered as benefits of the Friends of FPMT program and also through our center packages program, where FPMT centers, projects, and services can integrate *Mandala* into their local fundraising efforts. And for the first time, *Mandala*’s archived ebooks were made available through the Foundation Store.

Through Friends of FPMT, *Mandala* sponsors 68 percent of the copies sent to prisoners who receive subscriptions.



Media Resource Management

This year we successfully established a digital asset management system for the joint use of International Office and the Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive. It will allow us to access both current photos, video, audio, and transcripts as well as legacy and archival media.

Rinpoche Available Now

Rinpoche Available Now (RAN) is FPMT's initiative to make Lama Zopa Rinpoche's teachings available to all students. Other than one retreat that had no internet connection, all formal teaching events with Rinpoche were livestreamed in 2016. RAN includes livestreaming events and archival materials of Rinpoche. Nearly all teachings were uploaded to FPMT's YouTube channel shortly after recording.

This year's Light of the Path retreat was livestreamed in a record number of languages for a record number of hours. Five languages were livestreamed simultaneously in high quality video to YouTube and eight Facebook livestreams were sent to various FPMT Facebook accounts. Up to 14,000 people actively viewed the individual livestreams. About 160 videos were livestreamed for 37 sessions of the Light of the Path retreat. Our current setup is now very effective as a result of the efforts of many people over seven years.

Another achievement this year was the inclusion of Ven. Joan Nicell's live transcript as a video overlay right into the livestream on YouTube. For the first time ever our online audience was able to follow the teachings live with a transcript. Several hearing-challenged people expressed their deep appreciation to the FPMT for this new service.

Information Technology

In 2016, IT continued ensuring our online security. Special attention was devoted to developing disaster recovery plans and procedures to help ensure the safety of our digital assets in case of unforeseen catastrophe.

Daily and Monthly Communications

FPMT's daily blogs and monthly newsletters deliver timely updates and valuable information about all of our activities. The monthly FPMT International Office electronic newsletter went out to 31,587 subscribers this year, helping students keep up to date with Rinpoche's latest advice, activities, and teaching schedule; news on the various charitable projects we support; new materials and program updates from FPMT Education Services; service guidelines and policies from International Office; and important news from all over our diverse community. Our blogs were shared with 2,500 email subscribers, over 19,000 Facebook followers of FPMT, and over 434,000 Facebook followers of Lama Zopa Rinpoche.

The FPMT and CPMT e-groups gave the community an easy way to communicate and release news. Our social media accounts continued to provide snippets of news, advice, teachings, photos, and video clips of Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the greater organization.

www.fpmt.org

Lama Zopa Rinpoche teaching at the Light of the Path retreat in Black Mountain, North Carolina, US, August 2016. This year Rinpoche's teachings were livestreamed in a record number of languages for a record number of hours. Photo by Ven. Losang Sherab.



The Foundation Store

The Foundation Store is the online store of FPMT International Office. The store helps students access prayers and practice materials; meditation supplies such as malas, incense, ritual items, thangkas, and statues; and FPMT homestudy and online education programs. There are more than 700 downloadable products available through the Foundation Store, including PDFs, ebooks, MP3s, and online courses.

Proceeds from sales are carefully categorized and calculated to ensure that income from Dharma items is used only to make more Dharma available and to further the charitable mission and projects of FPMT International Office.

2016 Highlights

We had 5,018 unique customers in 2016, who ordered a total of 35,897 items. We offered 10,922 of these at no cost as part of our generosity-based system for downloadable prayers and practices.

This year, we fulfilled orders for 6,754 holy objects and meditation accessories. We also helped customers download 14,653 PDFs and ebooks; distributed 6,908 cards, posters, and calendars; mailed 2,991 books and practice booklets; provided 2,176 audio and video materials; and issued access to 1,260 education program-related materials.

Due to the kindness of Le Service de traduction francophone de la FPMT and Ediciones Dharma, we added more than seventy softcopy titles in French and Spanish to our offerings.

To help alleviate shipping costs for students, we added a USPS first class postage option and made more of our products available in Europe and Australia via Maitreya Instituut in the Netherlands and Chenrezig Institute in Australia.

As part of our contribution to the practice of generosity, we collected from our kind customers US\$9,727 in donations for FPMT Charitable Projects.

shop.fpmt.org



I'm very very impressed with the pretty amber OM MANI PADME HUM piece my mother-in-law got me for my birthday. She was pleased with how easy everything was to order. She's getting older so I thank you. Of course thanks to Samten for excellent shipping methods and packaging. You're all around wonderful.

– Foundation Store Customer

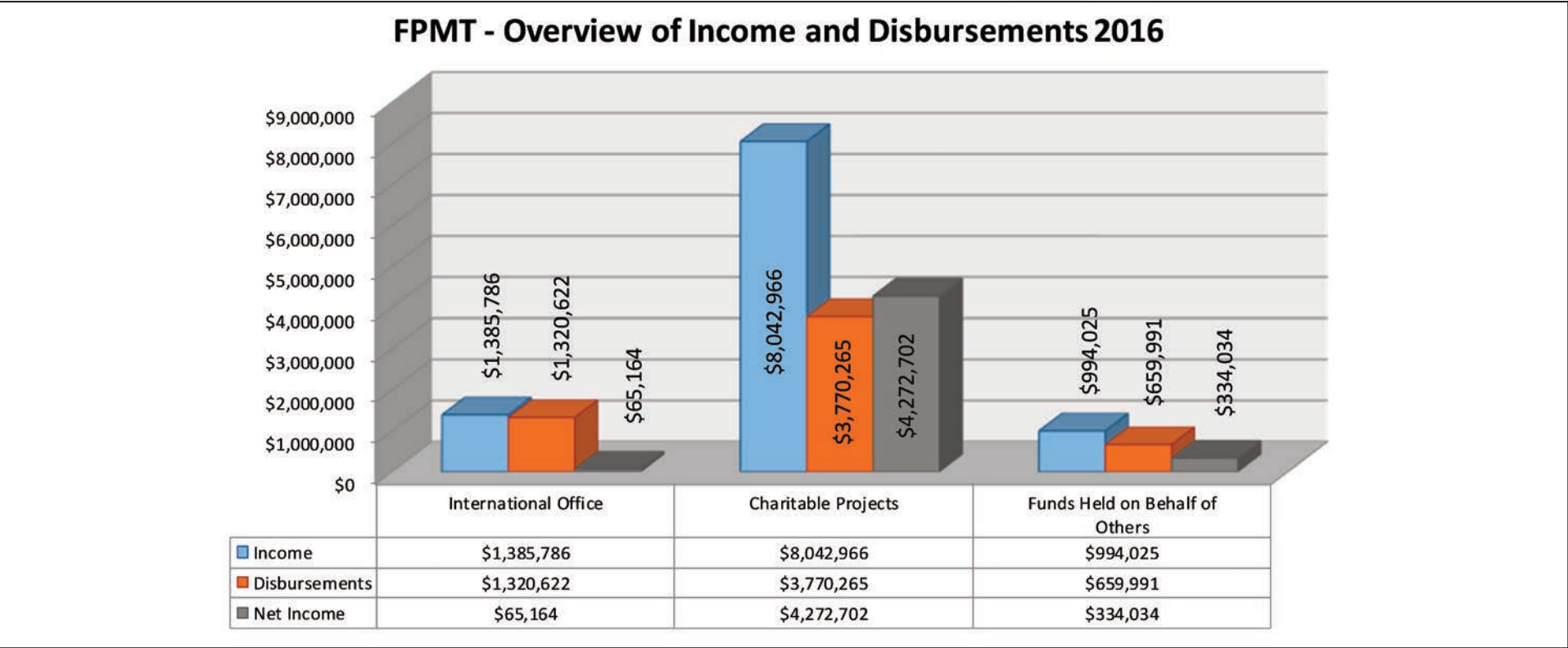
Finances Fiscal Year 2016

FPMT International Office is responsible for managing and supervising the finances of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition, Inc. (FPMT, Inc.) as directed by its Board of Directors.¹ Finances are divided between general funds (unrestricted) and funds designated for specific charitable projects (restricted funds).²

In 2016, total unrestricted income for International Office was US\$1,385,786 and total expenses were US\$1,320,622 resulting in a surplus of US\$65,164.

In 2016, the total restricted income for the Charitable Projects was US\$8,042,966 and the total disbursements and expenses were US\$3,770,265 with the surplus primarily consisting of funds held for some projects with projected disbursement requirements in 2017 and beyond.

FPMT, Inc. also processes and manages funds on behalf of others and from January-December 2016 we had income of US\$994,025 and disbursements of US\$659,991 for these funds.



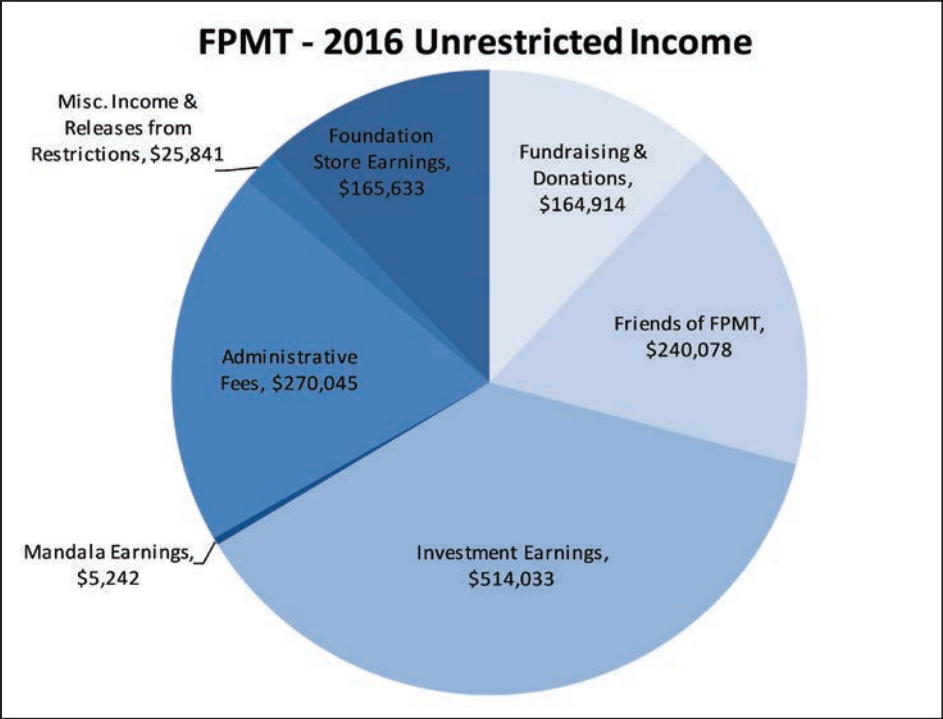
¹ Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition, Inc. (abbreviated as FPMT, Inc.) is the legal entity of FPMT International Office. The terms FPMT, Inc. and International Office are interchangeable. In practical terms, the International Office functions and serves as Lama Zopa Rinpoche's office, therefore the guidance of our Spiritual Director is implicit.

² Restricted funds include all the charitable projects of FPMT, Inc. as outlined on our website in addition to certain other charitable projects as directed by Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the Board of Directors.

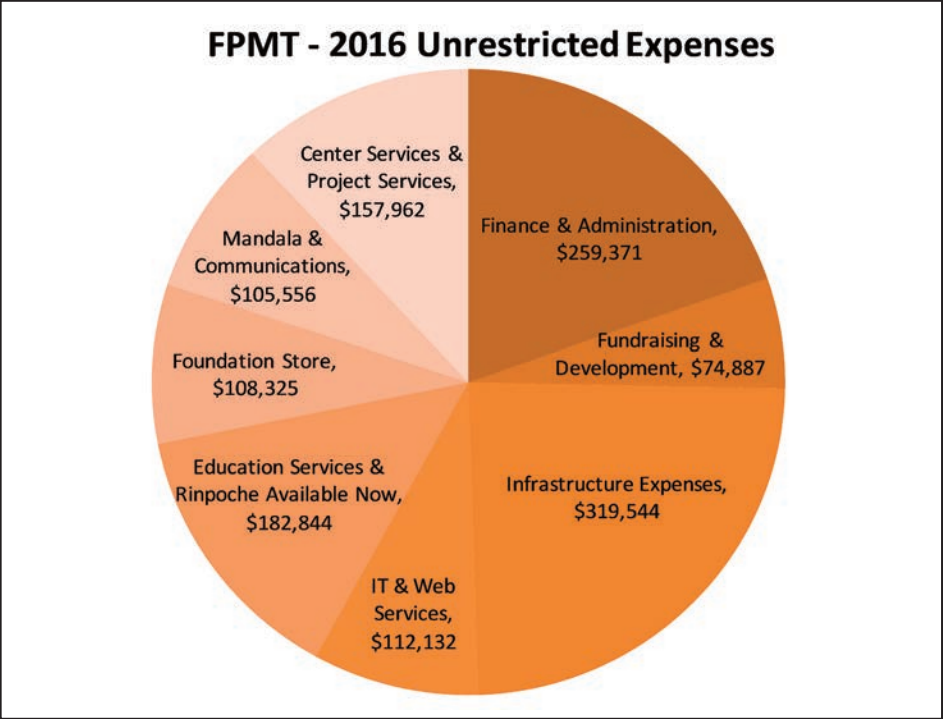
Unrestricted Funds Income and Expenses Fiscal Year 2016

Unrestricted funds do not have any donor-imposed restrictions and therefore can be used to fulfill the varying needs of the organization.

The following charts give a summary of FPMT, Inc.'s unrestricted income and expenses in 2016.



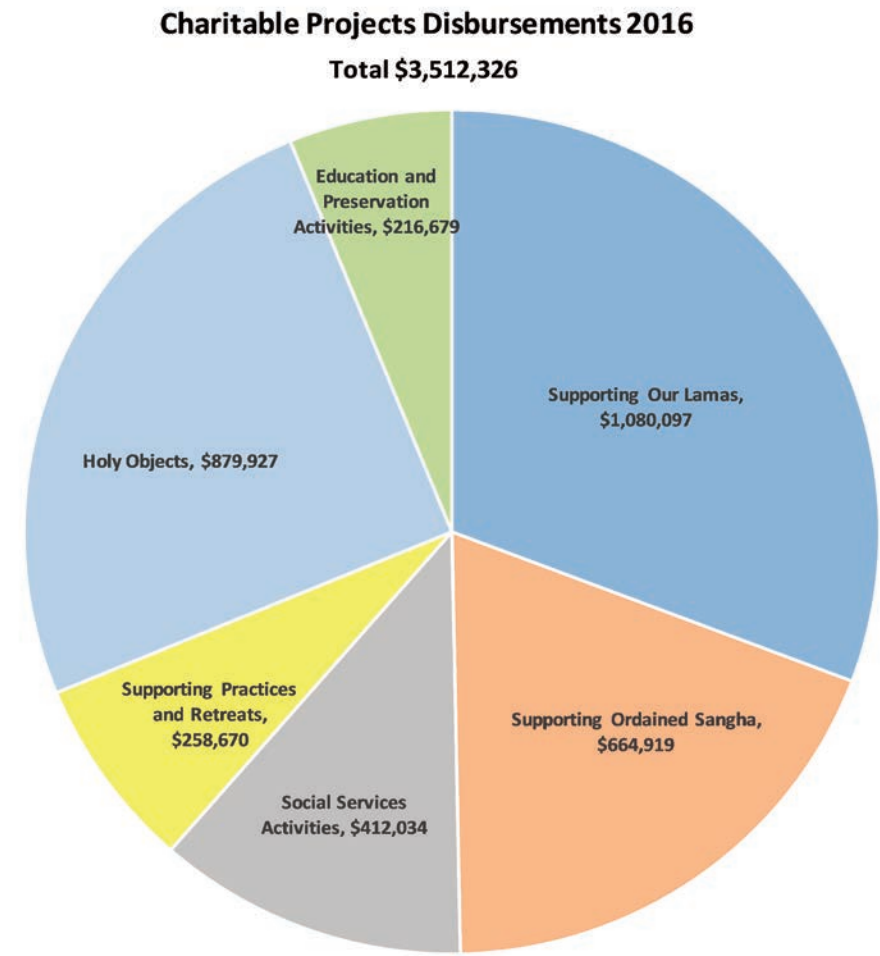
Unrestricted Income 2016	Income US\$
Fundraising & Donations	\$164,914
Friends of FPMT	\$240,078
Investment Earnings	\$514,033
Mandala Earnings	\$5,242
Administrative Fees	\$270,045
Misc. Income & Releases from Restrictions	\$25,841
Foundation Store Earnings	\$165,633
Total Income	\$1,385,786



Unrestricted Expenses 2016	Expenses US\$
Finance & Administration	\$259,371
Fundraising & Development	\$74,887
Infrastructure Expenses	\$319,544
IT & Web Services	\$112,132
Education Services & Rinpoche Available Now	\$182,844
Foundation Store	\$108,325
Mandala & Communications	\$105,556
Center Services & Project Services	\$157,962
Total Expenses	\$1,320,622

Charitable Projects Disbursements 2016

This table and chart outline the direct disbursements during 2016 to FPMT's Charitable Projects. The direct disbursements came to a total of US\$3,512,326.³



Charitable Projects Disbursements 2016	US\$
Supporting Our Lamas	\$1,080,097
Bodhichitta Fund	\$997,677
Big Love Fund	\$16,236
Long Life Puja Funds	\$66,184
Supporting Ordained Sangha	\$664,919
Supporting Ordained Sangha Fund	\$198,893
Sera Food Fund	\$196,721
Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund	\$269,305
Social Services Activities	\$412,034
Social Services Fund	\$356,727
Nepal Earthquake Support Fund	\$46,885
Animal Liberation Fund	\$8,422
Supporting Practices and Retreats	\$258,670
Practice and Retreat Fund	\$110,975
Buddha Amitabha Pure Land	\$7,653
Puja Fund	\$85,496
Prajnaparamita Project	\$24,886
Prayers for Dead Fund	\$24,472
Other Retreat Sub-Funds	\$5,188
Holy Objects	\$879,927
Stupa Funds	\$9,745
Prayer Wheels	\$85,263
Maitreya Project Funds	\$754,919
Other Holy Objects Sub-Funds	\$30,000
Education and Preservation Activities	\$216,679
Education and Preservation Fund	\$72,366
Preserving the Lineage Fund	\$0
Scholarships and Translations	\$16,286
Merit Box Fund	\$34,500
Other Education and Preservation Sub-Funds	\$93,527
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$3,512,326

³ The disbursement figures do not include expenses for administration fees and credit card merchant fees and are inclusive of some interfund disbursements which will be subject to audit adjustments during our annual independent financial review.

* Bodhichitta Fund disbursements includes offerings to various monasteries and projects in India and Nepal for activities such as elevator construction for Sera Lachi, translation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's books into Tibetan for free distribution, sponsorship of Ling Rinpoche's geshe degree and others totaling US\$201,928; offerings and sponsorship of holy objects totaling US\$175,241; grants to FPMT centers, projects, services, and charitable projects totaling US\$356,002; and sponsorship of Tibetan and Western Sangha, sponsoring pujas for the organization, administration costs for bequests, and care of our Spiritual Director totaling US\$264,507.

Holy objects at Lama
Zopa Rinpoche's
California residence.
Photo by Chris Majors.



FPMT International Office Staff

FPMT International Office is Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s office.

Executive

President/CEO, Ven. Roger Kunsang
CFO and COO, Eamon Walsh
CEO’s Executive Assistant,
Ven. Holly Ansett

Finance & Administration

Director of Finance, Aruna Prakash
Administrative Assistant, Eva Sippl
Building Management, Chuck Latimer

FPMT Charitable Projects and Donor Services

Charitable Projects Coordinator,
Ven. Holly Ansett
Donor Services Coordinator,
Justin Jenkins
Charitable Projects Assistant,
Carina Rumrill

Center Services

Director, Claire Isitt

Foundation Store

Manager, Diana Ospina
Order Fulfillment, Samten Gorab

Many thanks to George Williams, who served as operations director for nearly five years, for his service and kindness to FPMT.

Education Services

Director, Tom Truty
Foundational Program Coordinator,
Ven. Joan Nicell
In-Depth Program Coordinator,
Olga Planken
Assistant Content Editor,
Ven. Tenzin Tsomo
Editorial Coordinator, Carina Rumrill
Education Services Assistant,
Michael Jolliffe
InDesign and Editorial Support,
Sarah Shifferd
Translation Coordinator, Joona Repo

Media & Communications

Mandala Publications:
Managing Editor and Publisher,
Laura Miller
Assistant Editor, Advertising and
Sales, Michael Jolliffe
Associate Editor, Donna Brown
Web Development Manager,
Adam Payne
Media Resource Manager,
Harald Weichhart

Information Technology

IT Manager, Alfredo Piniero



A Billion, Zillion Times Thanks!

Without all the FPMT centers, projects, services, teachers, students, volunteers, and benefactors who supported us in 2016, International Office would not have been able to continue our mission of preserving and spreading Mahayana Buddhism worldwide.

We cannot thank enough our generous 2016 volunteers, who gave their time and enthusiasm with sincere devotion: each of our regional and national coordinators: Ven. Paloma Alba, Paloma Fernandez Garcia, Rafael Ferrer, Lara Gatto, Frances Howland, Steven Lin, Doris Low, Drolkar McCallum, Brian Rae, Deepthy Shekhar, Jay Simpson, Peter Stickels, and Gilda Urbina; Ven. Steve Carlier, Ven. Thubten Detchen, Ven. Lobsang Detchèn, Ven. Sangye Khadro, Ven. Kevin Middleton, Ven. Tenzin Namjong, Ven. Rigsel, Ven. Losang Sherab, Ven. Siliana Bosa, Ven. Chonyi Taylor, Olivier Adam, T.Y. Alexander, Alexis Ben El Hadj, Jean Luc Castagner, Amy Cayton, Feiwen Jennifer Cheng, Janny de Boer, Cayetano Gea, Paul Hackett, Antoine Janssen, Cynthia Karena, Gavin Kilty, David Kittelstrom, Dominique Leval, Chris Majors, Cynthia Martinez, Alessandra Otero, Sharon Overbey, Tubten Pende, Viêt Pham, Vianney Remple, Lynn Stevenson, Sze Gee Toh, Merry Colony, Kendall Magnussen, and all of the Sangha and volunteers who help at Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s houses.

How to Get Involved

You can support our work by volunteering and attending teachings at your local FPMT center, making a contribution to our charitable projects, enrolling in our Friends of FPMT program, participating in one of our education programs, or offering your prayers and good wishes. Your support and kindness allow us to continue our work.

Dedications at the pujas sponsored by Lama Zopa Rinpoche at the great monasteries throughout the year are made especially for purifying obstacles and creating merit for Dharma activity to flourish in FPMT as well as for all students, supporters and FPMT friends who are ill or have died, and for all those who have worked tirelessly and sacrificed so much to benefit the organization in different ways.

In 2017, may you have perfect happiness and be free from every suffering!



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