



FPMT ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

Serving the Teachings of the Buddha

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MAHAYANA TRADITION

A Letter from Our Spiritual Director

LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE

My most precious, most kind, most dear, wish-fulfilling directors, students, benefactors, and friends,

Here, I am dropping some news from the sky—for some it will be new, for some it will be old teachings.

Firstly, from the bottom of my heart and bones, thank you numberless times for all your service; dedication; practice of holy Dharma with your body, speech, and mind; and for your devotion and good heart.

The ultimate aim is to benefit sentient beings, whose minds are obscured and suffering, and for them to achieve happiness in this life and happiness in future lives, then the ultimate happiness of liberation from samsara and of buddhahood, the total cessation of obscurations and completion of realizations. Therefore, sentient beings receive all the peace and happiness up to enlightenment by serving the teachings of Buddha, so that the teachings exist continually and develop, and also by serving the Sangha, who preserve and spread Dharma in this world.

So here, mostly we have been able to help by building monasteries and nunneries, making offerings to holy objects, helping the Sangha with Dharma education and survival, and offering help to the elderly and to schools.

As Buddha said:

*Any sentient being who, during the period of my teachings,
Makes charity well (even if the material is the size of a hair),
For 80,000 eons there will be great results of great enjoyment:
No pain, no disease, and enjoyment of happiness.
Like that, one will be enriched with the desirable things.
At the end, you can actually achieve the result: the peerless cessation and completion (enlightenment).*

After hearing that there is this great result, who wouldn't want to collect merit? This is just to get some idea of the benefits.

Now, in regard to making offerings to the guru, and not just me Guru Mickey Mouse, but to anyone from whom you have received Dharma contact with the

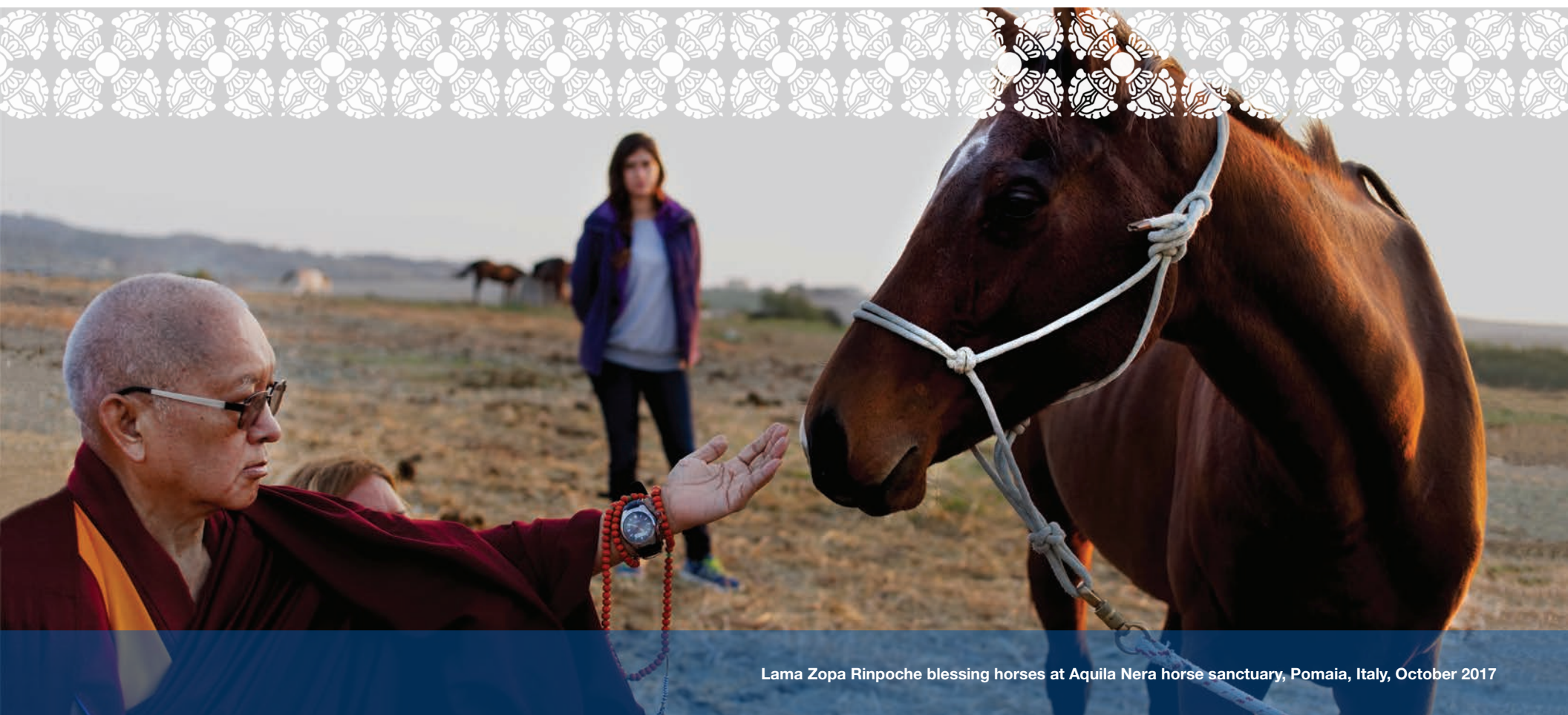
recognition of guru-disciple: Just by offering scented smell to the pores of the guru's holy body you collect so much unbelievable merit, more than from having made extensive offerings to numberless Buddha, Dharma, Sangha and numberless statues, stupas, and scriptures.

As I normally mention, compared to other people, your own parents are a more powerful object with which to collect merit. That's why you can experience the result in this life of whatever service you did for your parents in this life. The good karma is so powerful that you can start to experience the result—happiness and success—in this life. The negative karma that is created in relation to your parents, such as by complaining to or harming your parents, even a very little, is very, very heavy, and you start to experience the suffering in this life. You experience the suffering result not only in this life but in future lives as well for 500 lifetimes.

After that, ordained Sangha are a more powerful object than your parents. Then more powerful than ordained Sangha are arhats. Then more powerful than numberless arhats is one bodhisattva, one who has generated bodhi-chitta. It is said by Buddha in the sutras and also quoted in the lamrim commentaries that if you don't have bodhichitta and you glare at a bodhisattva just one time, the negative karma is so heavy that it is like having taken out the eyeballs of all the sentient beings of the three realms (desire realm, form realm, and formless realm). If you look at one bodhisattva with a devoted, calm mind, with respectful eyes, then you collect merit like having made charity of your eyes to all the sentient beings in the three realms. (This is in regard to how one bodhisattva is extremely powerful, more powerful than numberless arhats, whether you harm the bodhisattva or make offerings or offer service.)

After that, even more powerful is one buddha. One buddha is more powerful than numberless bodhisattvas. From even a small act of disrespect towards one buddha, the negative karma is unbelievably heavy; and from just a little service, a little respect toward one buddha, the result is unbelievable happiness. This is because one buddha is more powerful than numberless bodhisattvas.

Now to the guru—not just anyone known in the world as a guru but the guru with whom you have a Dharma connection, a guru-disciple connection—offering just a little service, as I mentioned before, has the greatest benefit,



Lama Zopa Rinpoche blessing horses at Aquila Nera horse sanctuary, Pomaia, Italy, October 2017

more benefit than from making offerings to numberless Buddha, Dharma, Sangha and numberless statues, stupas, and scriptures. This is not just offering the guru service, but also fulfilling the guru's wishes and advice.

It is mentioned in the lamrim teachings that each time one makes an offering to the guru, even a small nut or a glass of water, one becomes closer to enlightenment. So, you have to figure out the value of the rest, such as offering service and the offerings that you make, from this. Then, there is no hesitation to say that you do the greatest purification and collect the greatest merit by fulfilling the guru's wishes and following his advice and teachings. For example, every day, every hour, every minute, every second

that you keep your vows or recite mantras or offer any service, you become closer and closer to enlightenment.

From the root text of *Manjugosha*:

Manjushri said to Buddha: "At the moment, the object sentient beings make offerings to and collect merit with is you. After you pass away, what can they do? Please give advice."

Then Buddha said: "There is not the slightest difference if my four surrounding beings (getsul, getsulma, gelong, gelongma) make offerings to me now or make offerings to my statues (in the future). It is equal in merit and the ripening aspect (result)."

That is due to the blessings of the Buddha.

Guru Shakyamuni Buddha told Bodhisattva Undefeatable, “Brahmin Palden Mo offered one handful of sandalwood powder and sprinkled that on the holy feet of the Tathagata.”

The Buddha then asked Bodhisattva Undefeatable, “Did you see that?”

Then the Buddha said to Bodhisattva Undefeatable, “Because of the merits that Brahmin Palden Mo collected by making this offering, for 840 million eons she will not be reborn in the lower realms.”

You have to understand that this is not only referring to offering sandalwood to the Buddha. Your understanding should expand to include all the rest of the different offerings that you do every day. This is just talking about the benefits of offering sandalwood powder just one time.

Please understand this. Buddha’s quote gives a very good idea of the most unbelievable, unbelievable benefits of making charity, even the size of a hair, toward any sentient being. Please expand your understanding about the benefits of charity. Otherwise, if your mind is not strong enough to understand these most unbelievable benefits, you might fall down and become unconscious. Then you don’t know what might happen—maybe you’ll wake up in the hospital!

Next are the benefits in regard to making offerings to buddhas and other holy objects.

So here, I hope you don’t mind to hear still more. Some people will know this already, but this is just to make it clear, to get a bigger idea of the benefits.

If one offers a tiny flower or a small grain of rice to a picture, statue, text, or stupa of Buddha, no matter how small or how big, first you create good karma. Even if your motivation is nonvirtue, attachment clinging only to this life (clinging to this life is totally nonvirtue, one of the eight worldly dharmas), because of the power of the holy object (the picture, statue, text, or stupa), your actions not only become holy Dharma, but become the cause of enlightenment.

It’s like the story of Kyimdak Palgye, who began to practice Dharma only after he was 80 years old, but achieved the arya path—nirvana—in that life. The reason was that inconceivable eons before, in his past life as a fly, he

followed the smell of cow dung that was floating in water going around a stupa. The fly did that with total attachment to this life’s pleasure, but from the power of the holy object, the stupa, going around it became a circumambulation. It became not only holy Dharma, but the cause of enlightenment. It purified the negative karma that causes rebirth in the lower realms, and it brought a good rebirth as a deva or human in his next life.

Not only that, but it is mentioned in *Piles of Various Flowers Sutra* that offering a tiny flower or small grain of rice causes all the resultant happiness that you have already experienced from beginningless rebirths to be experienced again in the future. That is most unbelievable, unbelievable, unbelievable. Next, it causes you to be free from the oceans of samsaric suffering and achieve nirvana, the blissful state of peace for the self. Not only that, it causes you to be free from lower nirvana, the blissful state of peace, and to achieve the peerless happiness of buddhahood, total cessation of obscurations and completion of realizations. Not only that, but you are able to free the numberless living beings from the oceans of samsaric suffering. Not only that, but you are able to bring everyone to peerless happiness, to buddhahood. When you have brought everyone there, only then is the result completed of your offering that one tiny flower or one tiny grain of rice to that holy object (a picture, statue, text, or stupa of Buddha). This is just amazing, amazing, amazing, amazing, amazing!

When King Salgyal made a request to Buddha, Buddha said:

*However many atoms there are in the stupas and statues of Buddha,
According to the number of those atoms,
The people who made the stupas and statues
Will definitely achieve the king’s reign in the deva realm and totally
experience the supreme ground (the different levels of realizations),
Perfect concentration of the form and formless realms,
And achieve the state of buddhahood, no suffering of birth, old age,
disease, and so forth.*

Also, it says in the *Sutra of the Mudra Generating the Power of Devotion*:

*Buddha said to Manjushri:
Manjushri, anyone, son of the race or daughter of the race,
Having made offerings every day of a hundred tastes of divine food
and divine dress
To the self-buddhas (hearer or solitary realizer arhats)
Equaling the number of dust particles of all the universes*

*For eons equaling the number of sand grains of the River Ganga;
Manjushri, anyone, son of the race or daughter of the race,
Who sees a drawn Buddha or the materialized form of Buddha
(such as actualized forms in drawings, statues, or pictures),
This one collects numberless greater merits than the previous one (that
number of arhats making offerings for that number of eons).
There is no question if somebody puts their palms together or offers
flowers or perfumes or incense or light,
This one collects numberless greater merits than the one seeing the
painting or statue of Buddha.*

Therefore, now you can see that putting up many pictures of buddhas and having Buddha statues, stupas and so forth, makes great sense—especially, making big holy objects. The bigger the holy objects, the more people in the world come to see it, circumambulate it, make offerings, and meditate. It is most unbelievable, unbelievable, unbelievable purification of defilements and negative karma and causes the collection of unbelievable merit. This makes everyone achieve enlightenment. This makes it so easy to understand how to create the cause to meet Buddhadharma and to understand the base, the two truths; the path, method and wisdom; and the goal, dharmakaya and rupakaya—how to achieve the whole entire Buddhism.

You have to create the cause to meet and to be able to understand and actualize Buddhism, so you can see now from this quotation how to do that.

Yes, of course, the main thing is to actualize the path to enlightenment, but for that we need to understand Dharma, need to meet Dharma. Not every human being can meet Dharma, can understand Dharma, and can practice Dharma. This is why we need to create the causes. Actualizing all these holy objects helps, as I mentioned just before. We need to study Dharma, yes, of course, but also we need success in our Dharma study. Therefore, we need to create the cause for success.

It is also a most unbelievable, unbelievable, unbelievable way to help your kind mother sentient beings to achieve enlightenment ultimately. For example, in Burma, almost every house always has a statue of Buddha or a stupa. So lucky, so unbelievable!

For example, if you go one time around a stupa that contains the dharmakaya relic mantras, it purifies all the negative karma to be born in the eight hot hell realms, and there is no returning. One's life always goes to enlightenment, goes to pure lands, and so forth.

The complete karma of making offerings to holy objects or charity to someone, generally speaking, has four types of results that you experience: high rebirth; the possessed result (while you are in samsara, you are reborn in a happy place); all your wishes succeed, others help you, and you get happiness for 500 lifetimes. This is just from one good karma. Creating the result similar to the cause is that you again make charity to others. Then, of course, if it is done with bodhichitta, the resultant happiness becomes unceasing: you achieve enlightenment and enlighten all sentient beings. It is amazing, amazing, amazing!

Building holy objects benefits not only human beings, but also the insects and animals who go around or who touch the holy object. It even liberates them. Also, it is very important in order for the teachings—this particular knowledge of actualizing the path, from where the sentient beings receive peace and happiness—to last a long time in this world. So, it is very important to help the Sangha, those who preserve Dharma, learn Dharma, and spread Dharma.

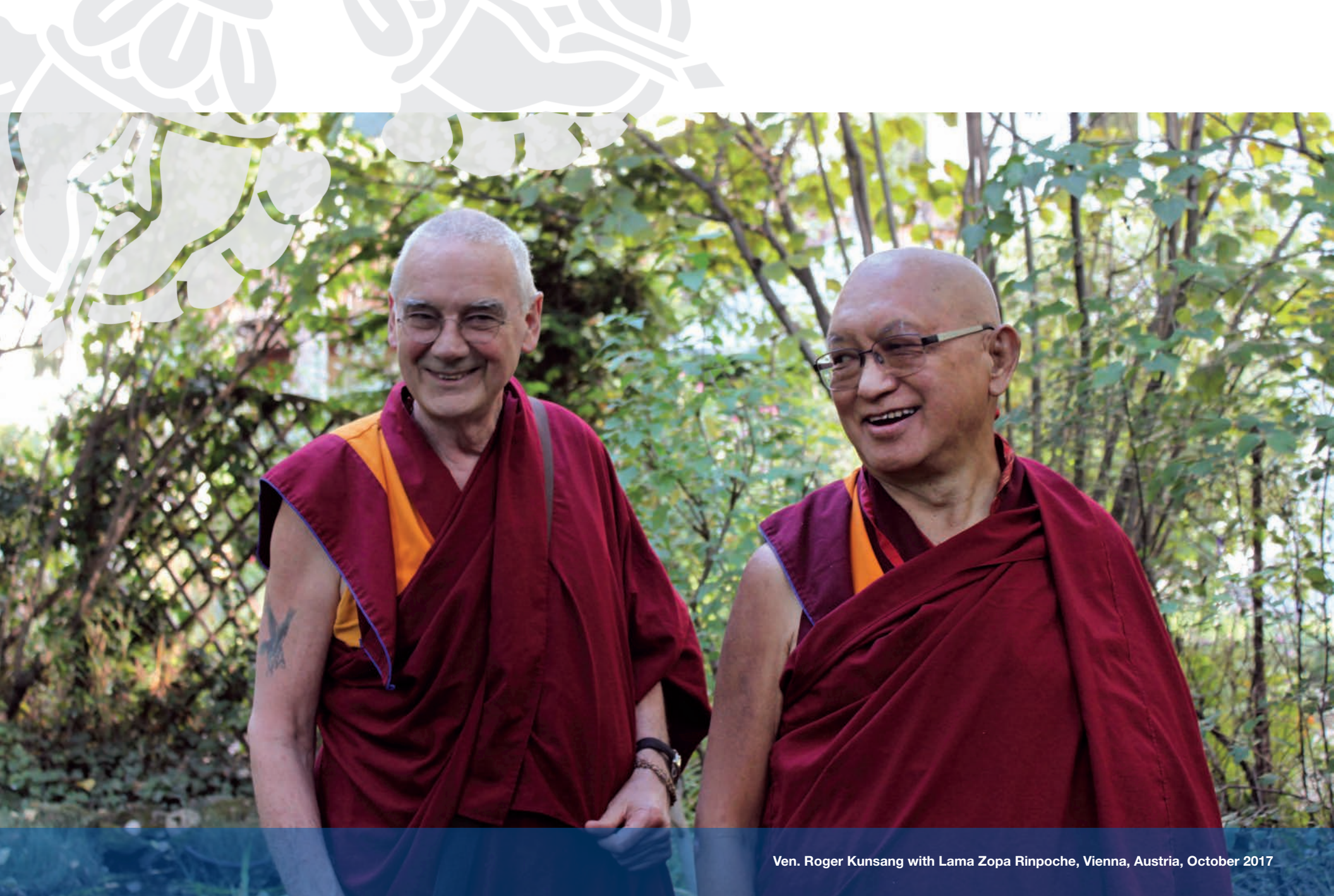
Again, I thank from the bottom of my heart and bones all of you for helping me, small Mickey Mouse, with your body, speech, and mind. Making the FPMT more and more beneficial to sentient beings and helping with others' needs in different ways, especially with the Dharma. Thank you for all your help to the FPMT centers, services, and projects for them to continue and develop for sentient beings.

As you know, our lives are in the nature of impermanence and death can happen at any time; your practice of charity and offerings is so worthwhile. I think even those who don't believe in reincarnation and karma, even if they could just think of death, if their mind could become accustomed to that, especially the idea that death can come at any time, then when death comes suddenly, there will be much less worry of being separated from family, wealth, and one's own body, which is cherished most among the numberless sentient beings. Then there is much less worry, and death becomes so much easier. However much your mind is habituated in this way, in a good way, then when the time comes, you are able to accept what's happening. This helps to cut down mountains of problems, of worry and fear, and also it will help to not create heavy negative karma.

Knowing that the nature of life is impermanence, and death can come any time, attachment becomes that much less and when you die, your mind is so very happy.

With much love and prayers,

Lama Zopa
Tso Pema, India, January 2018



Ven. Roger Kunsang with Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Vienna, Austria, October 2017

A Letter from Our CEO

VEN. ROGER KUNSANG

Dear Friends,

Along with 250 students from all over the world, I was sitting in the most recent Kopan November course listening to Rinpoche teach on how much time we waste (life after life) serving our truly existent “I”—that doesn’t actually exist, that never ever existed, that we are so devoted to, a slave to! It came to mind that this is actually the **50th one-month meditation course Rinpoche has taught at Kopan!**

So many of you reading this right now have been to the November Kopan course and have benefited so much. FPMT centers, projects, and services were started by people inspired at these courses. Rinpoche has been teaching nonstop since 1971—on the road the whole time, teaching and traveling all year. Quite amazing! Worth taking time to rejoice!

In May 2017, Rinpoche visited Kalmykia, Russia, for the first time and promised to start an annual **100 million mani retreat** in Elista, the republic’s capital. The first retreat is scheduled for the end of 2018; Rinpoche will lead it. In October 2017 at Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa in Italy, Rinpoche led a month-long 100 million mani retreat. It was very successful and participants were very inspired. In Lapchi, high in the Himalayas on the border of Nepal and Tibet, Tashi Chime Gatsal Nunnery completed two 100 million mani retreats, which are annually sponsored by FPMT and students (and have been for the past 8 years). In Mongolia each year, Ganden Do Ngag Shedrup Ling, the FPMT center in Ulaanbaatar, organizes and leads an annual 100 million mani retreat, attended with great devotion by hundreds of Mongolians. Worth rejoicing!

In 1991 when Lama Ösel entered Sera Je Monastery, Rinpoche, seeing the great difficulty monks had getting food, promised to offer food for all the monks and created the **Sera Je Food Fund**, which covers three meals a day for all of the 2,000-plus monks studying at Sera Je. In March 2017, after 26 years of continuously offering the food and raising an endowment, Rinpoche’s promise was achieved and the fund became self-sustaining; we transferred US\$2 million to the monastery for the fund’s endowment. In March 2018, the balance of the endowment will be offered for a total of more than US\$5

million. This will create sufficient interest to cover all of the food for all of the monks at Sera Je. Worth rejoicing!

Also in March 2017 Rinpoche visited Chailsa, a small town in lower Solo Khumbu in Nepal, where Kopan has a small monastery, Thubten Shedrup Ling, and school, Sagarmatha Secondary School. Local lay children and the young monks of the monastery attend the school. Most of the students are from very poor families. The education is unique in that they receive a normal education as well as learn Tibetan language and Dharma. Rinpoche did some retreat there; taught the students and teachers; and discussed plans for meeting the urgent need for more classes and facilities, and the need for more teachers, etc. Now classes are up to grade 7; the plan is to go to grade 12. Worth rejoicing!

Peter Iseli from Switzerland finished another **very large thangka**. This time the thangka, which is approximately 14 by 9 meters (46 by 30 feet), is of the 21 Taras and was requested by Rinpoche for Tara Institute in Melbourne, Australia. It took Peter, with help from his wife, Jangchub, four years full-time to complete. It is so large that even Peter had not been able to see the entire piece! The thangka was displayed for the first time at the White Night cultural festival in Melbourne in February 2018. Thousands of people viewed the thangka at the Melbourne Arts Centre. Worth rejoicing!

All this was made possible due to support from the great staff at **Rinpoche’s office—International Office**—who also do their very best to serve the FPMT centers, projects, and services in 39 countries around the world.

Also this is all made possible due to the kindness, generosity, and hard work of so many people like you around the world—**helping to make a more compassionate world**. This annual review gives a little insight into how important the FPMT is in bringing kindness and compassion into this world; this is what is needed most! Worth rejoicing!

roger kunsang



Lama Zopa Rinpoche giving Most Secret Hayagriva oral transmissions at Drati Khangtsen, Sera Je Monastery, Bylakuppe, India, November 2017

A Message from Our

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board of FPMT, Inc., I want to add to Ven. Roger's words and express our appreciation and thanks to each of the staff of International Office for all the excellent work they are doing.

In this Annual Review you will read highlights of the work in 2017 of FPMT International Office, done on behalf of the entire FPMT organization. The board notes the successful completion of the Sera Je Food Fund and its transition into the hands of Sera Je Monastery. Considerable other work is always ongoing, including on our flourishing education programs, texts, and practices; ongoing support of registered teachers, centers, projects, and services around the world; and charitable projects. All of this work is enabled and supported by the fundraising, administrative, technical, and communication activities of International Office.

As so eloquently expressed in the article in the January–June 2018 issue of *Mandala* magazine, International Office is helping all of us in the FPMT organization in our mission of “Changing the Mind, Changing the World.”

With love and prayers,
Andrew Haynes, Chair of the Board of Directors, FPMT, Inc.

The members of the board of directors of FPMT Inc. are:

Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Khen Rinpoche Geshe Chonyi, Ven. Roger Kunsang, Andrew Haynes, and Rasmus Hougaard.

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.

An Update on **TENZIN ÖSEL HITA**

During the first three months of 2017, **Tenzin Ösel Hita**, the recognized reincarnation of FPMT founder Lama Yeshe, toured European FPMT centers, giving talks to hundreds of eager students. The tour began on January 25 at **Maitreya Instituut Amsterdam** in the Netherlands with a talk entitled “Easy Ways to Lessen Egoism and Develop Compassion to Increase True Joy.” The next day, Ösel went to **Maitreya Instituut Loenen** to give an improvised talk to the community of students there.

Ösel continued on to the United Kingdom to visit **Jamyang Buddhist Centre** and the **Foundation for Developing Compassion and Wisdom** in London, and **Land of Joy**, the FPMT retreat center in the north. Next, Ösel visited **Aryatara Institut** in Munich, Germany; **Tong-nyi Nying-je Ling** in Copenhagen, Denmark; **Centre Kalachakra** in Paris, France; **Institut Vajra Yogini** and **Nalanda Monastery** near Toulouse, France; and **O.Sel.Ling Centro de Retiros** in the Alpujarras of southern Spain.

The talks were all very well received and video recordings of them can be found on Ösel’s page on FPMT.org.

On September 9, Ösel gave a talk in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, organized by **Centro Shiwa Lha**. Then on September 15, Ösel and his partner Indila Dora welcomed their son, **Tenzin Norbu**, into the world. Ösel and his family live in Brazil.

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LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE'S 2017

In 2017, Lama Zopa Rinpoche taught, gave initiations, and led retreat at 9 FPMT centers in India, Nepal, Mongolia, Russia, the United States, Austria, and Italy. Most of Rinpoche's teachings were available to **watch live online**, and **all are available to watch or listen to at any time via Rinpoche Available Now** (fpmt.org/RinpocheNow/).

Lama Zopa Rinpoche started the year at **Root Institute** in Bodhgaya, India. Rinpoche was offered a long life puja by the monks of Sera Je on January 2. Rinpoche gave teachings at Root and also attended the Kalachakra initiation and teachings with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. While in Bodhgaya, Rinpoche met with many high lamas and old friends, including His Holiness the Sakya Trizin, Khadro-la (Rangjung Neljorma Khandro Namsel Drönme), and Richard Gere. Rinpoche circumambulated the Mahabodhi Stupa and visited Maitreya School, Tara Children's Home, and the Shakyamuni Buddha Community Health Care Clinic, all projects of Root. Rinpoche visited **MAITRI Charitable Trust**. Rinpoche also toured the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University, where he offered an oral transmission to the monks, nuns, and lay students who had traveled there with him.

While in India, Rinpoche also went to Sarnath, where a long life puja was offered to him at Yulo Koepa (Tara Pure Land), a project of Khachoe Ghakyil Ling, the Kopan nunnery. While in Sarnath, Rinpoche led students around Dhamek Stupa and did prayers, the seven-limb practice, and gave a short talk there.

In late February, Rinpoche celebrated Losar at **Kopan Monastery** in Nepal. The following week, Rinpoche joined Kopan abbot Khen Rinpoche Geshe



Chonyi at the enthronement ceremony of Thubten Rigsel Rinpoche, the reincarnation of Kopan's former abbot Khensur Rinpoche Lama Lhundrup Rigsel. Rinpoche remained at Kopan during the monastery's Monlam prayer festival. While at Kopan, Rinpoche made several visits to circumambulate both Boudha and Swayambu stupas as well as visited **Khachoe Ghakyil Ling** and **Himalayan Buddhist Meditation Centre**. In mid-March, Rinpoche traveled to lower Solu Khumbu district to visit Sagarmatha Secondary School and Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery, both overseen by Kopan. While there, Rinpoche also made prayers in front of Trulshik Rinpoche's holy body and offered funds to build a stupa to house the holy body. In April, Rinpoche did pilgrimage at Maratika Cave in Nepal. And back at Kopan, a special long life puja was offered to Rinpoche as advised by Khadro-la.



At 50th November course, Kopan Monastery, Nepal, December 2017

In early May, Rinpoche traveled to Mongolia, where he visited the FPMT center in Ulaanbaatar, **Ganden Do Ngag Shedrub Ling**, and the **FPMT Mongolia** projects. Rinpoche went to see Buddhist holy sites in the Gobi Desert and also visited **Golden Light Sutra Center** in Darkhan. Rinpoche next went to the Republic of Kalmykia in Russia at the invitation of Telo Rinpoche. Rinpoche gave teachings in Elista, the republic's capital. Then in Moscow, Rinpoche gave a week of teachings, including a Medicine Buddha initiation, organized by **Ganden Tendar Ling** and attended by approximately 700 people.

In August, Rinpoche gave teachings at **Thubten Norbu Ling** in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Then Rinpoche led the fifth **Light of the Path** retreat in North Carolina, organized by **Kadampa Center**. This year the retreat was four weeks long. Rinpoche made his first-ever visit to **Panchen Losang Chogyen Gelugzentrum**,

the FPMT center in Vienna, Austria, in late September. Rinpoche gave teachings to nearly 400 people. In October, Rinpoche led the month-long 100 Million Mani Mantra Retreat at **Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa** in Pomaia, Italy. The retreat was attended by approximately 400 people and a long life puja was offered to Rinpoche at the end. Rinpoche also made brief visits to **Centro Terra di Unificazione Ewam** in Florence and **Centro Muni Gyana** in Palermo.

In November, Rinpoche continued the oral transmission of Most Secret Hayagriva texts at Drati Khangtsen at Sera Je Monastery in South India, attended primarily by monks. Rinpoche also took time to visit **Sera IMI House** and give advice to Western Sangha and foreign lay students.

Rinpoche returned to **Kopan Monastery** later in November and taught at the 50th month-long lamrim course, which concluded with the annual official long life puja offered to Rinpoche by the FPMT organization on December 14. As the year came to an end, Rinpoche attended the Guru bumtsog at **Khachoe Ghaykil Ling** with the

young reincarnation of Trulshik Rinpoche. In what is becoming an annual event, a gigantic thangka of Guru Rinpoche was displayed at the nunnery and 100,000 tsog offerings were made.

Throughout his travels, Rinpoche met with many FPMT center directors, spiritual program coordinators, registered teachers, board members, and students, and blessed animals big and small on land and in the sea and sky. Rinpoche also offered robes to all ordained resident teachers and key touring teachers.

For more photos of Rinpoche's activities throughout the year, see the photo album "[Lama Zopa Rinpoche's 2017](http://fpmt.org/teachers/zopa/gallery/)" (fpmt.org/teachers/zopa/gallery/).



Young nuns of Tashi Chime Gatsal Nunnery, Nepal

FPMT CHARITABLE PROJECTS

AN ENDOWMENT FOR SELF-SUSTAINABILITY: THE SERA JE FOOD FUND

The year began with an incredible achievement for FPMT Charitable Projects and the entire organization. For the last 10 years, FPMT International Office has been working to build up an endowment fund large enough to support the long-term health of Sera Je Monastery. In January 2017, we raised the targeted amount needed for the endowment. The interest from the endowment now covers the annual costs associated with offering three nutritious meals daily to *all* the monks of the monastery! This means that the former **Sera Je Food Fund is now self-sustaining**. Sera Je Monastery is now managing the endowment and the offering of food to the monks. Therefore, the Sera Je Food Fund is closed and is no longer an FPMT charitable project.

SUPPORTING ORDAINED SANGHA

Supporting monks and nuns is one of the highest priorities for Lama Zopa Rinpoche because the preservation of the Buddhadharma is dependent on the existence of Sangha. The **Supporting Ordained Sangha Fund** continues this important work by offering support to monasteries and nunneries for food, accommodation, health care, education, and practice opportunities. The fund is not limited to any one institution and is able to benefit many monasteries and nunneries in need.

In 2017, including the incredible endowment that was offered to Sera Je Monastery, **US\$2,236,227** was offered from this fund in support of a number of monasteries and nunneries. A sampling of the grants distributed:

- Sponsorship for **food as well as offerings to the 751 monks** who participated in the annual Gelug exam, which was held this year at Drepung Monastery in India.
- Stipends were offered to the **128 current abbots, past abbots, and main teachers** of the Lama Tsongkhapa tradition.
- Sponsorship of the annual oral examination of Sera Je Monastery's top scholars who have demonstrated excellence in memorization. This year, **213 monks were awarded new robes** for their successful memorization of particular lengthy texts.
- A grant was offered to the **Geluk International Foundation** for half of its office's operating budget. This foundation was established to preserve and promote Buddhist heritage in general and the Gelug tradition in particular.
- Sponsorship was offered to the annual winter *jang* debate at Drepung Monastery where **thousands of monks** participate in an extensive 22-day debate on Buddhist logic.
- A grant was offered toward the building of **retreat houses for geshe**s in Chailsa, Nepal, for geshe from Kopan, Sera, Drepung, and Ganden Monasteries who have completed their studies.

- A grant was offered to **Kopan House at Sera Je Monastery**, India, to assist with much needed construction, maintenance, and repairs. Kopan House is occupied by 60 monks from Kopan Monastery including incarnate lamas, geshe, and monks who are part of the monastery's geshe studies program.
- A grant was offered to finish the building of **Maratika Monastery** in Nepal. The small monastery was built adjacent to the entrance of Maratika Cave. This holy site is where Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche) achieved immortality.
- Continued support was offered to the nuns of **Tashi Chime Gatsal Nunnery** in Nepal to complete two 100 million mani retreats every year. In addition to the 100 million mani retreats, funds are offered to cover the cost of food to all the nuns for this period as well as the cost of a very qualified geshe to stay during the retreat in order to give lamrim teachings.
- Sponsorship for daily lunch was offered to the **57 monks studying at Idgaa Choizinling Dratsang** in Mongolia.
- A grant was offered to cover the cost of food for one year for the **monks of Thame, Nepal**.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

The **FPMT Social Services Fund** offers over **US\$73,000** annually to schools providing education to over 500 children of Tibetan, Nepali, Sherpa, and Indian heritage.

Schools currently supported in an ongoing way by the Social Services Fund include:

- **Sagarmatha Secondary School** in Chailsa, Nepal. A grant is offered for annual salaries for the teachers of the school. The school currently serves 120 young students and is unique as it offers Buddhist and Tibetan language and cultural classes.



Students of Ngari Institute in Ladakh, India

- **Ngari Institute** in Ladakh, India. A grant is offered for daily food for over 50 students, teachers, and young monks. The main aim of this school is to empower and enrich poor remote-area students through both modern scientific knowledge and ancient Buddhist wisdom.
- **Central School for Tibetans** in Bylakuppe, India. A grant is offered for the daily food for 24 staff and 217 elementary, middle, and secondary students. This school was established in 1971 to serve the children of refugees living at Dickey Larsoe Tibetan Settlement.
- **Maitreya School for Universal Education** at Root Institute in Bodhgaya, India. Support is offered to the school that gives 200 children living in one of India's poorest states a precious opportunity to receive a traditional education as well as life skills based on compassion, honesty, and loving-kindness.

SUPPORT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY SICKNESS, HUNGER, DESTITUTION, AND NATURAL DISASTER

Support to social services is one of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's vast visions for the FPMT organization and the entire world, and is one way of reducing the suffering of living beings that is both practical and tangible.

The **FPMT Social Services Fund** issued **US\$435,553** in grants in 2017 to:

- **MAITRI Charitable Trust**, to assist with providing essential education, medical care, aid to mothers and children, animal care, and various forms of charitable service to the destitute in Bodhgaya, India.

- **Lamp of the Path**, FPMT Mongolia, to help with the cost of providing a soup kitchen every day to the poor and homeless living in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- **Shakyamuni Buddha Community Health Clinic**, Bodhgaya, India, toward the annual expenses for providing medical care, rehabilitative services, and health promotion to the poor in Bodhgaya.
- **Lugsung Samdupling Home for the Aged and Disabled** in Bylakuppe, India, for new accommodation.
- **Pema Choeling Monastery** in Nepal to rebuild the monastery, which suffered severe damage following the massive earthquake and aftershocks of 2015.
- **Khumjung Gompa** in Nepal for complete reconstruction after the 2015 earthquake. Approximately 4,000 local Sherpas live in the area and about 300 households share this gompa for religious festivals.

As of year end, **US\$923,822** has been distributed toward **rebuilding and disaster relief following the 2015 Nepal earthquakes**.

CREATING THE CAUSE FOR WORLD PEACE

The **Holy Objects Fund** offers grants toward the creation of large holy objects around the world. Holy objects purify negativities and create merit and peace for all who come into contact with them. In 2017, **US\$533,910** was offered toward holy object creation around the world including: a stupa for Tenzin Ösel Hita's teacher Geshe Gendun Chomphel, who passed away in 2016; prayer wheels for a Tibetan settlement in Bylakuppe; and the 28-foot-by-6.5-foot [8.5-meter-by-2-meter] umbrella of the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo, Australia.

The **Puja Fund** offered **US\$161,409** in 2017 to up to 15,600 ordained Sangha who made substantial prayers and performed pujas and practices monthly, as well as on the four main Buddhist holy days. These practices are dedicated to the well-being of all and to world peace. Gold, saffron, precious paint, and highest quality brocade are offered to the main holy objects in Nepal, India, and Tibet.



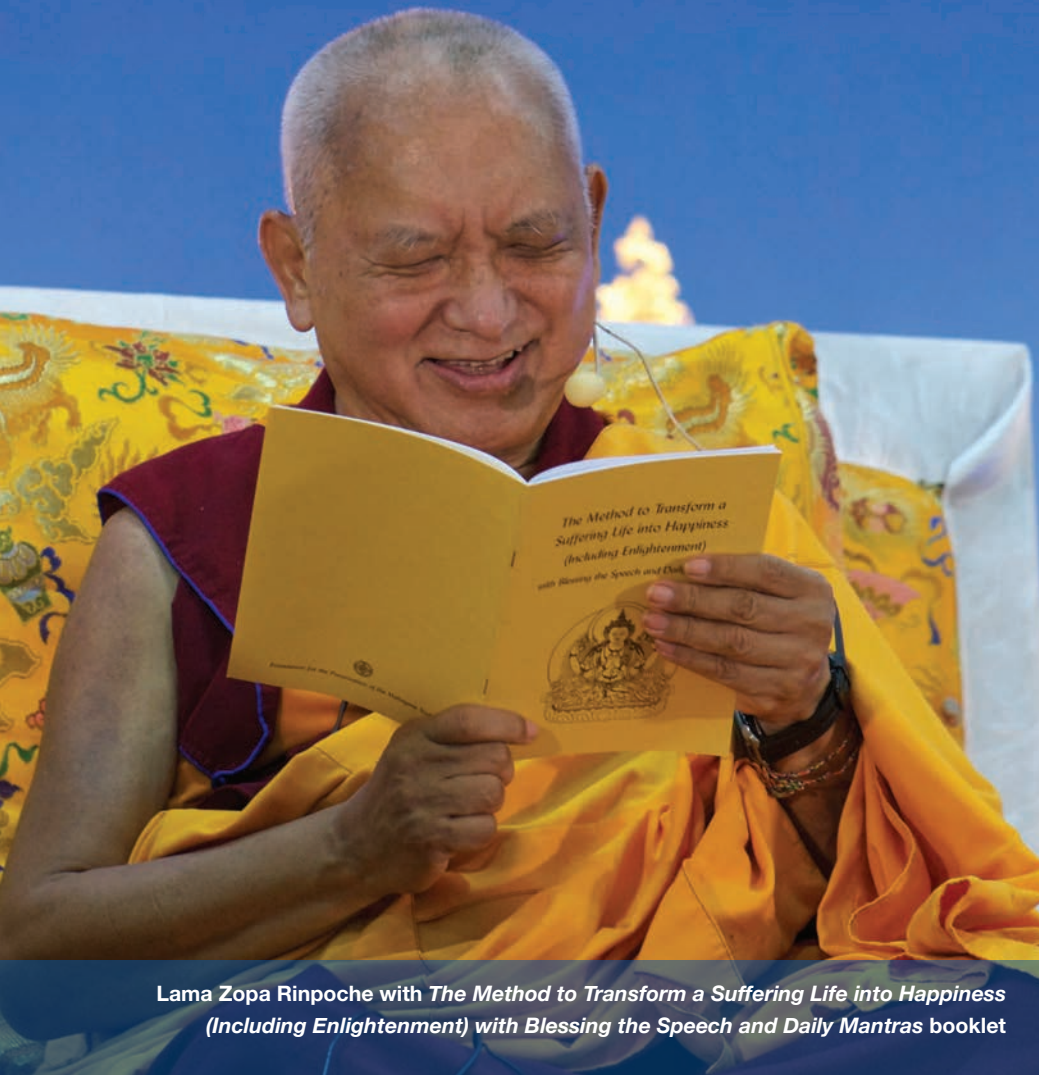
Rinpoche giving the oral transmission of OM MANI PADME HUM and explaining the benefits of reciting it, Lugsung Samdupling Home for the Aged and Disabled, Bylakuppe, India

For 15 years, the **Prajnaparamita Project** has been sponsoring the writing of the 12,000 verses of the *Prajnaparamita Sutra*, which contains the highest teachings of the Buddha on emptiness, in real-gold ink. Due to the power of this text, writing it out this way generates tremendous merit and helps create world peace.

In total, FPMT Charitable Projects offered US\$4,247,702 in grants in 2017.

You can read about all of the 2017 disbursements from FPMT Charitable Projects on page 26.

fpmt.org/projects/fpmt/



Lama Zopa Rinpoche with *The Method to Transform a Suffering Life into Happiness (Including Enlightenment) with Blessing the Speech and Daily Mantras* booklet

FPMT 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.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

PRACTICE MATERIALS

The Method to Transform a Suffering Life into Happiness (Including Enlightenment) with Blessing the Speech and Daily Mantras and Commentary

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has said very strongly on many occasions that *The Method to Transform a Suffering Life into Happiness (Including Enlightenment) with Blessing the Speech and Daily Mantras* is a practice that he would like all his students to do every day.

Since its publication in 2015, Rinpoche has taught and given the oral transmission and some explanation of the practice almost everywhere he has gone. These commentaries have now been compiled and edited by Education Services staff into a booklet for students to use along with the practice. In the commentaries, Rinpoche explains how and why it is important to transform our life into Dharma by generating a bodhichitta motivation. We hope the commentary will help inspire all of Rinpoche's students to take up these practices in their daily lives.

Rinpoche has also expressed the importance of correctly pronouncing mantras. As the difference between some sounds in the original Sanskrit is lost when diacritics are not used, Education Services has recently decided to follow a slightly modified version of the International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST) system when transliterating mantras. In this new edition of *The Method*, this system is further modified to accord with the way Rinpoche would like these specific mantras pronounced. “A Guide to Pronouncing Sanskrit” will be included in FPMT practice booklets to help readers learn the correct pronunciation of the Sanskrit mantras.

A new section, “Mantras for Specific Occasions,” has been added, which includes mantras for increasing the power of sutra recitations and blessing the feet and wheels of the car before leaving the house. These mantras are not meant to be done every morning but only on the occasions of engaging in those activities.

In addition, **36 prayers, practices, and other materials were newly released, translated into new languages, revised, or published as ebooks**, including *A Requesting Prayer to Maratika: The Source of an Ocean of Siddhis*, an update to *Lama Tsongkhapa Guru Yoga*, and the Just by Seeing mantra card.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In order to help students learn, study, and meditate on the Dharma, FPMT Education Services invests in the continued development of its education programs and in making them available to students worldwide. Key accomplishments for this year include:

- **New Masters Program materials:** the *Study Manual for Middle Way* was completed by authors Ven. Lhundup Jamyang and Helmut Ancans, and editors Tubten Pende and Ven. Sangye Khadro; the translation of *General Meaning of the Middle Way*, by Jetsun Chokyi Gyaltsen, was completed by Toh Sze Gee; the Spanish translation of Je Tsongkhapa’s *Illumination of the Thought, Chapter 6* was completed by Ven. Nerea Basurto and Ven. Jesús Revert (Champa Shenpen).
- **Basic Program Online:** a **newly designed upgrade for the Middle Length Lamrim** course was completed.
- **More than 1,500 new accounts were created on the FPMT Online Learning Center (OLC)**, which provides an opportunity for students from all parts of the world to study Buddhism online according to their interests

and needs. This brings the total number of registered users to 20,964 from 248 countries. Users initiated 1,571 new discussion posts. The OLC website received 48,686 visits from 17,303 visitors.

- **Two new modules were added to *Living in the Path* on the OLC**, bringing the total number of modules to 20. “Transforming Kaka into Gold” and “Are You Sitting on Your I?” are teachings given by Lama Zopa Rinpoche on the topics of lojong, or thought transformation, and emptiness, respectively.

TRANSLATIONS

FPMT Translation Services works with translators around the world to translate Tibetan texts into Chinese, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Vietnamese, and other languages. This year **Translation Services completed the first edition of the FPMT Preferred-Term Glossary and a new style guide**. In addition, databases of common stanzas, mantras, and deity names are also being compiled on an ongoing basis. These resources are essential elements to bring more consistency and cohesiveness to the FPMT’s wide range of publications and translations, bringing our publications to an even higher standard.

Changes will be gradually implemented based on our updated guides with new releases and updates to existing texts. **One significant change is the use of transliterated Sanskrit for mantras and seed-syllables**. This will allow for pronunciation that is more accurate and will ensure the continued preservation of the sacred Sanskrit language in FPMT translations in the same way that the Tibetans did in their own.

TEACHERS

The Teacher Registration Committee ensures that FPMT centers, projects, and services have qualified teachers. The committee oversees the registration process and this year **added 16 new teachers** to the *FPMT Registered Teachers List (Non-Tibetan)*.

Key policies, guidelines, and advice covering teachers and spiritual programs were updated, including the **Spiritual Program Guidelines for FPMT Study Groups** and the **Community Advice** document. In addition, a **Teacher Development Service Seminar** was created in partnership with Center Services.

fpmt.org/education/



Clockwise from left: Drolkar McCallum (North America Regional Coordinator), Rafael Ferrer (Europe Regional Coordinator), Lara Gatto (Italy National Coordinator), Eamon Walsh (International Office COO and CFO), Paloma Fernandez (Spain National Coordinator), Ven. Paloma Alba (Latin America Regional Coordinator), and Claire Isitt (Center Services Director) met during the 100 Million Mani Mantra retreat in Italy

CENTER SERVICES

With the help of regional and national coordinators, Center Services assists FPMT centers, projects, service, 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.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

At the end of 2017, there were **163 FPMT centers, projects, services, and study groups in 38 countries** (117 centers, projects, and services; and 46 study groups). This includes **2 study groups making the transition into full and affiliated centers** and **6 new study groups**.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama met with key staff of Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa in Italy to further discuss his advice about how to study the mind and emotions in a secular way.

44 resident geshes and **14 resident teachers** provided authentic Dharma instruction at centers in **18 countries**.

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

There were **8 regional and national meetings**, connecting and supporting the directors, board members, spiritual program coordinators, and study group coordinators of FPMT entities in **9 countries**.

The **Affiliates Area**, which launched in 2016, provided organizational resources around the clock to the more than **500 directors, board members, coordinators, and registered teachers**.

The **Inner Job Description App** launched in November. By year end, **1,113 people** had downloaded it!

The **Foundation Service Seminar (FSS)** was hosted **5 times!**

Lama Zopa Rinpoche met with registered FSS facilitators in Italy in October and commented on the seminar's aim to help people transform their service in the FPMT organization into Dharma practice, and how the FSS helps people understand the mission of the FPMT:

"When the mind becomes purer and thinks more of others, then stress will go away and bearing hardships for others is pleasant. Bearing hardships for the self is uncomfortable and is a suffering, but bearing hardships for others in order to free them from suffering and to bring them happiness up to enlightenment gives real pleasure no matter how difficult it is. Even though the job is hard, changing the mind into bodhichitta brings a happy, pleasant mind. The other, self-cherishing mind is a mind that suffers very much."

Recent FSS attendees have praised the seminar:

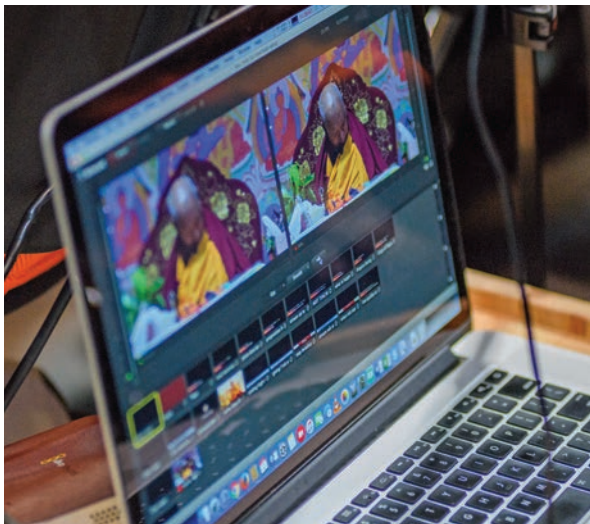
"I definitely recommend to new directors to go to an FSS! It's very informative. An FSS could fill any gaps of knowledge the new directors might have. Plus, it's a very inspiring seminar! I rejoiced a lot! As well, it's a good team-building activity. New directors will learn something just by listening to others'



Lama Zopa Rinpoche looking at the IJD App with Ven. Roger Kunsang and FSS facilitator Wendy Ridley, Italy, October 2017

experiences; it's indeed precious knowledge. Plus, through sharing information and representing their own center, the new directors plant the positive seeds for the future. Definitely the FSS practices will help me to be a better manager!"

12 students joined the Foundation Service Seminar Facilitator Training. This led to **2 new registered FSS facilitators** completing their training. There are now **13 registered facilitators** and **8 facilitators-in-training** providing the Foundation Service Seminar in English, French, and Spanish.



Ven. Holly Ansett operating the camera and computer that livestreamed Rinpoche's teachings from Moscow, Russia, May 2017

COMMUNICATIONS, ONLINE MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

BRINGING THE TEACHINGS OF LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE TO YOU

In 2017, Lama Zopa Rinpoche teachings were **livestreamed** to the FPMT YouTube channel and Lama Zopa Rinpoche and FPMT Facebook pages. The teachings could also be watched from a tab on the FPMT homepage or accessed on the Lama Zopa Rinpoche LIVE page (fpmt.org/media/streaming/lama-zopa-rinpoche-live/).

For the first time ever, **Rinpoche's November course teachings were streamed live** from Kopan Monastery!

Rinpoche's teachings from **Light of the Path** and **100 Million Mani Mantra** retreats were **livestreamed in 4 languages: English, French, Italian, and Spanish**. **Light of the Path** was also **livestreamed in Chinese!**

More than **50 video clips capturing the essence of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's 2017 teachings** were extracted and are being published in Lama Zopa Rinpoche news posts on FPMT.org and in social media.

High quality video recordings of all of Rinpoche's 2017 teachings were made available online.

fpmt.org/rinpochenow/

FPMT EDUCATION WEBPAGE REDESIGNED

To help students access the practices and programs they desire, Education Services launched

a **redesigned Education landing page**, featuring a dynamic slider that pulls in the latest education news and randomly selects an education-related quote. The redesigned page helps student navigate to specific subsections, with new images, headings, and tags. The subsections have an accordion box that expands to pull in the relevant Education pages directly into the main Education page.

fpmt.org/education/

LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE AND FPMT NEWS DELIVERED TO YOU

Our monthly eNews, daily emails, egroups, blog, and social media posts **reach tens of thousands of students around the world**. These digital communications help students:

- keep up to date with Rinpoche's latest advice, activities, and teaching schedule;
- find new materials and program updates from International Office;
- disseminate service guidelines and policy from International Office; and
- share important news from all over our international organization.

Each year our numbers and reach grow on all of our communications platforms! The monthly FPMT International Office eNews added 1,000 more

subscribers in 2017, reaching a total of 32,565 subscribers. More than 3,000 students receive our daily emails.

Through social media, FPMT reaches many more students and potential students. **Lama Zopa Rinpoche's posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter reach several hundred thousand people every day!** To support this, we expanded our auto-posting of articles to our Twitter accounts, sharing photos and text with attractive formatting, which resulted in a significant increase in our impressions and interactions.

[Sign up to receive monthly and daily FPMT news: fpmt.org/receive-our-newsletters/](http://fpmt.org/receive-our-newsletters/)

NEW AND IMPROVED LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE PHOTO GALLERIES

Photo galleries were redesigned with many new features and were optimized for viewing on phones and tablets. **24 new photo galleries**, including hundreds of photos from Rinpoche's travels in 2016 and 2017, were added to FPMT's website.

fpmt.org/teachers/zopa/gallery/

MANDALA PUBLICATIONS SHARE TIMELESS, QUALITY INTERVIEWS, ARTICLES, AND TEACHINGS

Mandala magazine continued to explore the world-changing potential of Dharma, publishing **2 print issue in 2017**, which included:

- news of the enthronement of Thubten Rigtsel Rinpoche, Khensur Rinpoche Lama Lhudrup Rigtsel's reincarnation, at Kopan Monastery;

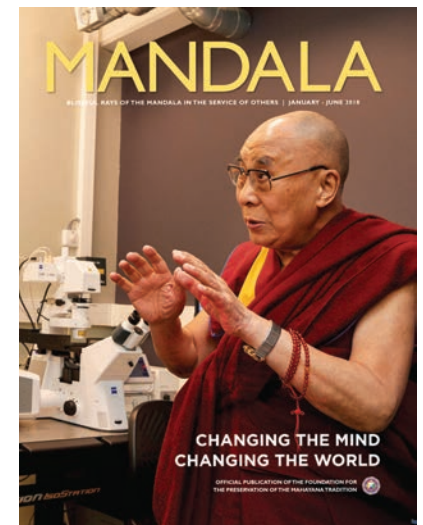
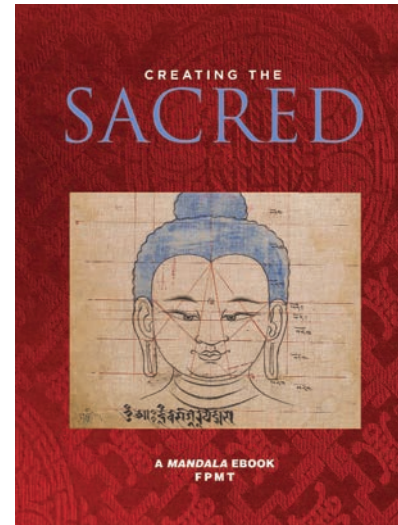
- an in-depth feature on the role of ritual in Buddhist practice;
- a look at the transformative potential of secular approaches to spreading the wisdom of the Buddha;
- stories of worldwide activities to benefit people in need, create the causes for world peace, and preserve the Dharma; and
- teachings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Lama Yeshe, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, and other lineage masters.

Through the Liberation Prison Project and Friends of FPMT, **more than 230 prisoners received the magazine each issue.**

Mandala **published 2 ebooks**, featuring interviews and articles from *Mandala's* archive, which spans more than 30 years of publishing:

- *From Warm Heart to Warm Heart: The Transmission of Dharma in the Modern World* is a collection of interviews offering insight into the transmission of Dharma from its traditional Tibetan setting into the modern world; and
- *Creating the Sacred* dives into the world of the artists and organizers creating the beautiful and inspiring sacred art of FPMT.

Mandala also published **11 online, long-form pieces**, including interviews with Geshe Tenzin Namdak, a Dutch monk who was awarded the Geshe degree from Sera Je Monastery in 2017, and with



writer Vicki Mackenzie about her new book on the extraordinary life of Freda Bedi.

fpmt.org/mandala/

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT

During 2017, the **security of International Office's online infrastructure** was again a top priority. Given the ongoing threat of cyber-attacks, considerable energy has also been dedicated to the improvement of recovery procedures for all online systems.

In addition, significant resources went to continuing the work of **centralizing International Office's digital media collection and storage**, which includes the processing of tens of thousands of new and archive photos and hundreds of new and archive video recordings of Lama Zopa Rinpoche. The storage and cataloguing of these digital assets will make them findable and available for use by the FPMT community for years to come.

DEVELOPMENT

FPMT Development serves the supporters of the FPMT mission and works to ensure that FPMT International Office activities and projects have the financial resources they need for success. This is accomplished by offering daily assistance to supporters, providing channels to practice generosity, and inviting support to FPMT activities through annual giving campaigns.

The collective generosity of the worldwide FPMT community never ceases to amaze! Of course, there's no way to quantify all the hard work and generous service of volunteers that power local FPMT communities all over the world. However, speaking of the material giving that can be tracked, thousands of people each year contribute financially to the FPMT mission. In 2017, we received donations from 3,307 supporters in 77 countries.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

FRIENDS OF FPMT

As the main fundraising program of International Office, Friends of FPMT provides supporters with a plethora of Dharma study and practice resources. Friends of FPMT receive complimentary access to FPMT Online Learning Center courses, FPMT Education Services materials, ebooks by our lineage lamas, and Mandala publications.

In 2017, we had **1,065 total Friends of FPMT supporters** who contributed **US\$233,337**.

GIVE WHERE MOST NEEDED FUND

This is a fund for unrestricted donations that can help any FPMT activity in need, including assisting with unexpected budget shortfalls and providing new projects with immediate resources.

691 people contributed **US\$98,326** to this fund in 2017, of which \$52,000 was used to support various FPMT Charitable Projects.

WORK A DAY FOR RINPOCHE

Most of the support for this fund comes through the popular campaign held during the time of Saka Dawa each year. To work a day for Rinpoche, supporters contribute a day's worth of work earnings to help the activities of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's International Office.

2017 received support from **470 "workers" in 49 countries** with a total of **US\$53,492** in contributions.

THE INTERNATIONAL MERIT BOX PROJECT

The Merit Box Project reached its 16th year. Over this time, the project has disbursed more than US\$1 million in grants to a great variety of Dharma activities. Grants have been awarded for book publication, holy object creation, educational program development, aid for retreatants, and more. The funds come from the accumulated offerings deposited into special tin Merit Boxes at centers and in students' homes.

There were **16 grants** awarded for a total of **US\$37,471** in 2017.



WORK A DAY 
for RINPOCHE





THE FOUNDATION STORE

The Foundation Store is the online store of FPMT International Office. The store makes available FPMT homestudy and online education programs; prayers and practice materials; meditation supplies such as malas, incense, ritual items, thangkas, and statues; and much more. This includes more than 700 downloadable prayer and practice texts, audio files, and online courses.

- The Foundation Store had **10,900 orders** from **5,400 different customers**, who ordered a total of **36,300 individual items** in 2017. Of these, 10,200 items were downloaded as part of the store's generosity-based program. This included distribution of 2,800 books and practice booklets; 16,165 PDFs and ebooks; 1,438 education programs; 1,989 audio and video materials; 5,982 cards, posters, and calendars; and 7,977 holy objects and meditation accessories.
- **The store updated its website language to better reflect the store's policy regarding the distribution of Dharma items:** "Dharma items are offered with the wish to benefit others. The mind should not view them in an ordinary way, i.e. as goods to be bought and sold."

We provide these items to make more Dharma available and to support FPMT charitable projects."

- **The store now carries more than 130 ebooks** to support the Dharma practice of students around the world. Besides ebooks from FPMT Education Services, Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive, Service de traduction francophone de la FPMT, and Ediciones Dharma, this year the store added a large collection of titles from Wisdom Publications.
- In partnership with FPMT Education Services, **when customers order hardcopies of FPMT titles, the Foundation Store offers a digital copy at no cost.**

shop.fpmt.org

FINANCES FISCAL YEAR 2017

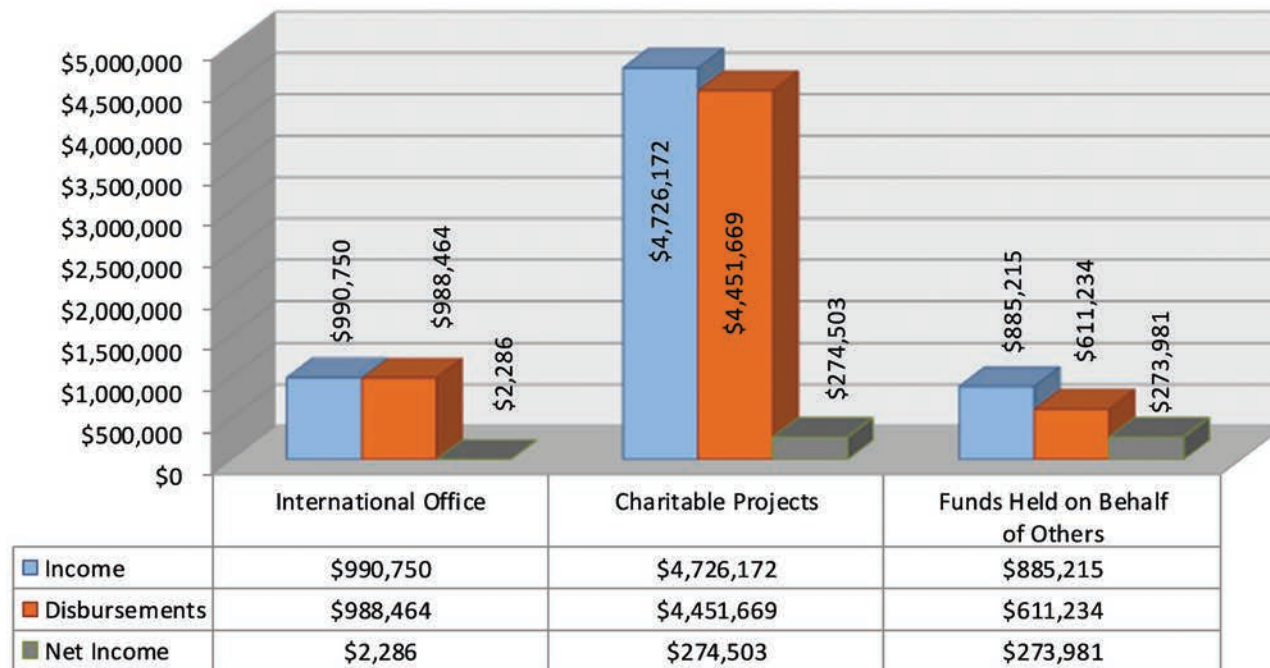
FPMT International Office is responsible for managing and supervising the finances of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition, Inc. (FPMT, Inc.) as directed by its Board of Directors. Finances are divided between general funds (unrestricted) and funds designated for specific charitable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

In 2017, total unrestricted operating income for International Office was US\$990,750, and total operating expenses were US\$988,464, resulting in an operating surplus of US\$2,286.

In 2017, the total restricted income for the Charitable Projects was US\$4,726,172, and the total disbursements and expenses for credit card and administration fees were US\$4,451,669, with a surplus of US\$274,503 held for specific future designations.

FPMT also processes and manages funds on behalf of others, and during January–December 2017, we had income of US\$885,215 and disbursements of US\$611,234 for these funds.

FPMT Inc - Overview of Income and Disbursements: Jan-Dec 2017



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 2017

Unrestricted funds do not have any donor-imposed restrictions and are used to fulfill the various activities and operations of International Office. The table and charts give a summary of income and expenses for 2017.

Unrestricted Income and Expenses 2017

Income Resources US\$

Fundraising Campaigns	\$99,818
Friends of FPMT & Mandala	\$233,854
Donations & Royalties	\$19,411
Investment Income	\$269,107
Administrative Fees	\$220,102
Foundation Store Earnings	\$148,458

Operating Income \$990,750

Resources Expended US\$

Finance & Administration	\$183,120
Fundraising & Development	\$80,198
Infrastructure Expenses	\$64,694
IT & Web Services	\$113,344
Education Services & Rinpoche Available Now	\$169,316
Foundation Store	\$109,332
Mandala & Communications	\$108,755
Center Services & Project Services	\$159,705

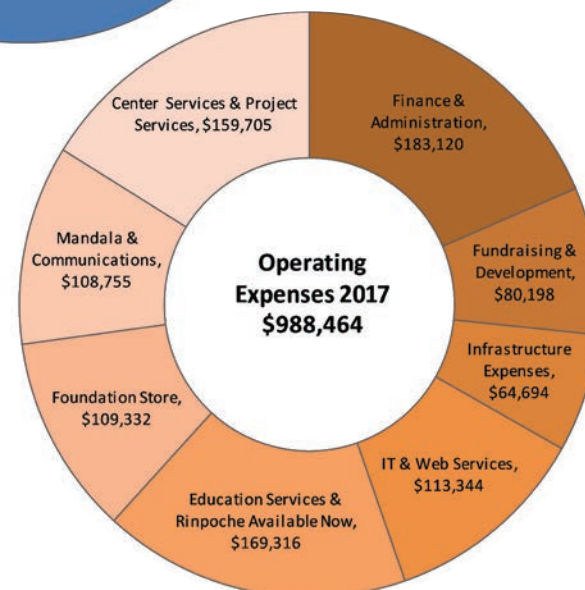
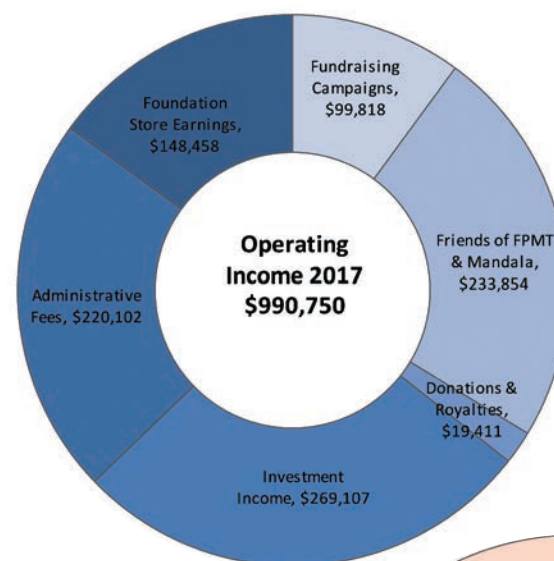
Operating Expenses \$988,464

Net Operating Income 2017 \$2,286

Unrealized Investment Gains \$494,874

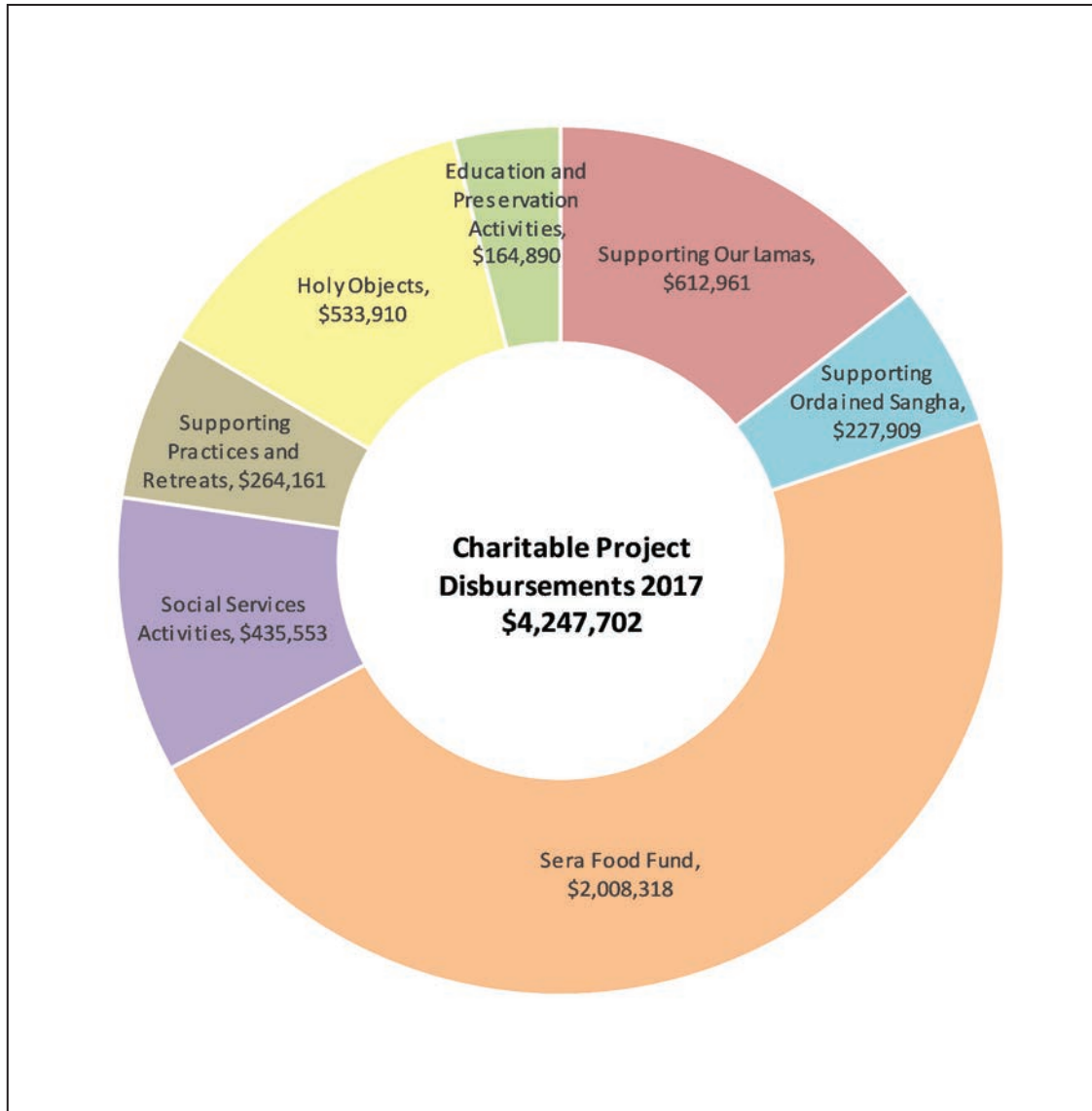
Depreciation -\$256,530

Net Income Resources for the year \$240,630



CHARITABLE PROJECTS DISBURSEMENTS 2017

The table and chart below outline direct grants totaling US\$4,247,702 disbursed to FPMT's charitable projects in 2017.



Charitable Projects Disbursements 2017	US\$
Supporting Our Lamas	\$612,961
Bodhichitta Fund	\$556,046
Big Love Fund	\$20,415
Long Life Puja Funds	\$36,500
Supporting Ordained Sangha	\$2,236,227
Supporting Ordained Sangha Fund	\$144,300
Sera Food Fund	\$2,008,318
Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund	\$83,074
Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund	\$535
Social Services Activities	\$435,553
Social Services Fund	\$341,287
Nepal Earthquake Support Fund	\$77,278
Animal Liberation Fund	\$16,989
Supporting Practices and Retreats	\$264,161
Practice and Retreat Fund	\$42,254
Buddha Amitabha Pure Land	\$6,043
Puja Fund	\$161,409
Prajnaparamita Project	\$21,326
Prayers for Dead Fund	\$28,117
Other Retreat Sub-Funds	\$5,011
Holy Objects	\$533,910
Holy Objects Fund	\$324,796
Stupa Funds	\$123,873
Padmasambhava Projects	\$17,966
Prayer Wheels	\$18,000
Maitreya Project Funds	\$49,275
Education and Preservation Activities	\$164,890
Education and Preservation Fund	\$75,308
Scholarships and Translations	\$41,632
Merit Box Fund	\$37,471
Other Education and Preservation Sub-Funds	\$10,478
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$4,247,702

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.

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 Donna Lynn Brown, who served as
Mandala associate editor during 2016–2017.

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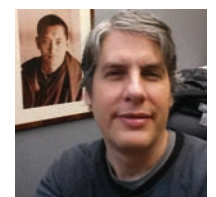
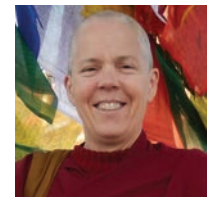
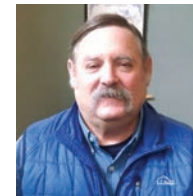
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A BILLION, ZILLION TIMES THANKS!

Without all the FPMT centers, projects, services, teachers, students, volunteers, and benefactors who supported us in 2017, International Office would not have been able to continue our mission of preserving and spreading Mahayana Buddhism worldwide.

We cannot thank enough our generous 2017 volunteers, who gave their time and enthusiasm with sincere devotion: each of our wonderful regional and national coordinators—Ven. Paloma Alba, Paloma Fernandez Garcia, Rafael Ferrer, Lara Gatto, Frances Howland, Klaus Liu, Doris Low, Drolkar McCallum, Brian Rae, Deepthy Shekhar, Jay Simpson, Peter Stickels, and Gilda Urbina; FPMT Service Seminar coordinator Amy Cayton; each Foundation Service Seminar registered facilitator; Ven. Siliana Bosa, Ven. Ailsa Cameron, Ven. Steve Carlier, Ven. Thubten Detchen, Ven. Lobsang Déтчèn, Ven. Lhundup Jamyang, Ven. Sangye Khadro, Ven. Kevin Middleton, Ven. Rigtsel, Olivier Adam, TY Alexander, Maria Anderson, Robert Beer, Alexis Ben El Hadj, Tim Burrell, Janny de Boer, Merry Colony, Antoine Janssen, Margaret Janssen, Gavin Kilty, Kendall Magnussen, Eva März, Chris Majors, Sharon Overbey, Francesca Paoletti, Nicole Parisi-Smith, Tubten Pende, Viêt Pham, Matthieu Pujol, Piero Sirianni, Sze Gee Toh, Andy Weber, and many more.

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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 2018, may you have perfect happiness and be free from every suffering!

Cover: Lama Zopa Rinpoche teaching
in Moscow, Russia, May 2017



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