

# A Year in the Life of FPMT

“FPMT is different from many organizations in that we try to alleviate suffering permanently. The Dharma has changed our lives and it will change so many others’ lives in the future. Like the story of the tortoise swimming in the ocean who surfaces every hundred years to put its head through a small yoke floating on the surface, similarly our opportunity is unbelievably unique.

“When I think of what we are all doing and our incredible potential, I feel strong inspiration and a very strong commitment to support Rinpoche and Lama Yeshe however I can. There is nothing more worthwhile to do.” Ven. Roger Kunsang,  
President and CEO, FPMT Inc.

An abbreviated version of FPMT International Office activities in 2007 follows ...

## LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE’S TEACHINGS, TRAVELS & GUIDANCE

In 2007 Lama Zopa Rinpoche taught, gave initiations, and led retreats in India, Nepal, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United States. His new book, *Dear Lama Zopa: Radical Advice for Transforming Problems into Happiness*, was published by Wisdom Publications and was among Wisdom’s ten best-selling books. A stunning documentary film about Rinpoche’s pilgrimage to Tibet in 2000 was released (see *ad page 83*). Rinpoche also received over 3000 letters, as much as possible giving personal advice and guidance to students around the world. Much of Rinpoche’s advice is available to everyone via the Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive’s advice book ([www.lywa.org](http://www.lywa.org)).

## SUPPORTING GLOBAL CENTERS, PROJECTS, AND SERVICES

The FPMT family grew in 2007. FPMT International Office now supports 151 centers, projects, and services in thirty-three countries. Through communication, organizational development and support, we sustain the FPMT family as they serve Lama Zopa Rinpoche and benefit sentient beings.

Staying connected is the biggest challenge for an international organization. Over 13,000 readers received the FPMT e-News each month, getting updates on Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s activities and recent advice, news from around

the organization, and much more. FPMT International Office coordinates Rinpoche’s teaching tours and communicates Rinpoche’s personal advice directly to centers and individuals. We encourage and support regional and national meetings, and meetings were held in the Americas and Europe. Plans are underway for the next CPMT, the international meeting of FPMT, in 2009 in France.

Eleven new study groups were formed under the guidance of Lama Zopa Rinpoche and FPMT. Fourteen centers completed their affiliation with FPMT Inc., bringing the total number of affiliated centers to fifty-nine. The remaining unaffiliated centers and projects all made substantial progress toward this goal. FPMT provides the structure, policies, and programs that help centers know exactly how they function in the organization, and how they can develop for maximum benefit. Whether it is a hospice service, a Dharma center, a retreat facility, or a social service project, the structures are in place to help that organization flourish.

Training programs continued throughout the year: The popular Rituals Training was held at Institut Vajra Yogini, with nearly sixty people attending. The new Inner Job Description Training, which provides guidance on how to work with a Dharma attitude, was unveiled in May at International Office and its elements continue to be applied; the training was repeated with great success at Vajrapani Institute in September.



## CHARITY IN ACTION

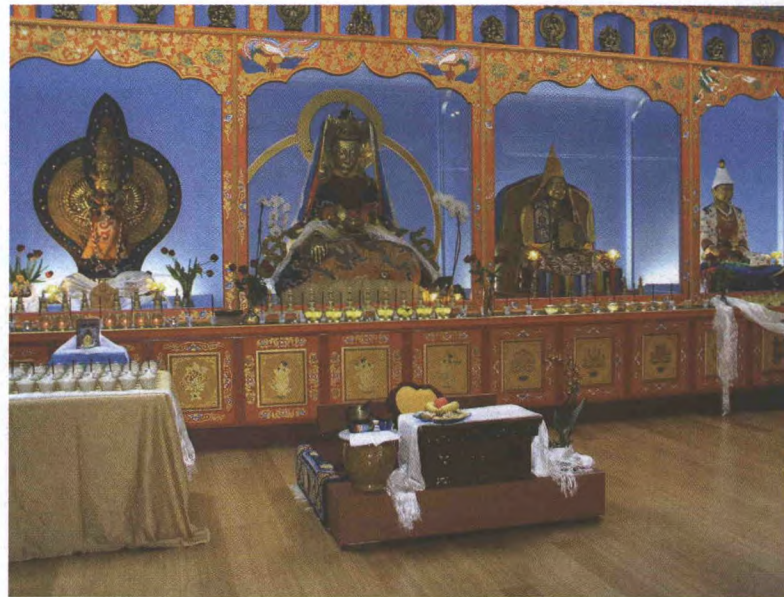
The scope of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's charitable projects has increased. A total of \$1,954,246 was distributed directly to charitable projects. Rinpoche's generosity and that of his students provided over three million meals to the monks of Sera Je Monastery in 2007, ensuring that they were well-nourished and had sufficient time to study, provided stipends to all of the main teachers of the seven great monasteries in the Gelugpa tradition through the Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund, and sponsored the special annual Winter examinations. Additionally, we sponsored robes for all monks who memorize the difficult texts such as Tsongkhapa's *Lekshe Nyingpo*. We offered food to the homeless in Mongolia and continued to support monasteries and a nunnery there, continued the sponsorship of Geshe Lhundub Sopa's monumental commentary on the Lam Rim Chenmo (now up to Volume Three), continued to support the building of holy objects around the world, and continued work on an animal liberation sanctuary in Nepal.

The Amdo Eye Center continued construction on its hospital in Tibet, while the International Mahayana Institute put structures in place for the support, education, and practice of Western and Chinese ordained Sangha. The Education Scholarship Fund has given scholarships and support throughout the organization. We also continued support for the Tsum Project as well as making offerings to Nalanda Monastery in France and towards the building of Geshe Lhundrup Sopa Rinpoche's monastery in USA and much, much more! Rejoice!

## CREATING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Education is the very heart of FPMT. Through a vast range of comprehensive study programs, practice materials, training programs, downloadable advice from the FPMT website, and scholarships, International Office nourishes the development of compassion, wisdom, kindness, and true happiness in individuals of all ages. [For a taste of how one program, **Discovering Buddhism**, is making an impact, see page 40.]

FPMT centers also requested shorter and more introductory courses, and three new programs were developed in 2007 in response. **Meditation 101** and **Buddhism in a Nutshell** are already available as center programs. Home-study versions are being created. A new course offering all of Rinpoche's instructions on death and dying is being created in both center and home-study formats.



The new altar at International Office was designed by Lama Zopa Rinpoche and is of traditional Tibetan design. It was built by Maitripa student Max Leiber and hand painted by Tibetan master artist Thubten Gelek. Rinpoche said that this can be a model for altars in FPMT centers. From left: Thousand-Armed Chenrezig; Shakyamuni Buddha in sambhogakaya aspect; FPMT Founder Lama Thubten Yeshe; and Tibet's first Dharma king, King Songtsen Gampo.

All FPMT centers had already been provided with free copies of *Essential Buddhist Prayers, Vol. 1*. In 2007, with the support of a kind benefactor, centers received free copies of *Essential Buddhist Prayers, Vol. 2*. In support of the Foundation Training in Rituals, a new rituals manual was completed, containing advice on how to lead pujas according to the style of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, inspiring commentary from Khenrinpoche Lama Lhundrup and Lama Zopa himself, and a disc of tunes. Other new practice materials include an advice book on dealing with *lung*, a comprehensive version of the Long Life Puja, and the long-awaited commentary on Six-Session Guru Yoga by Lama Zopa Rinpoche.

International Office continued to fund translation offices in Spain, France, and Germany, and opened a new office in Brazil. These offices are translating FPMT's standard prayer books and educational programs so that our larger FPMT family may literally be on the same page. International Office also coordinated the English translation of the sadhanas of Kunrig and Most Secret Hayagriva, the philosophical text *Wisdom Debating Ignorance*, and the thirty-one chapter version of the Sutra of Golden Light. Watch out for these in 2008.



**REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD**

*Mandala* has several new offerings on its website ([www.mandalamagazine.org](http://www.mandalamagazine.org)): banner advertising, Editor's Choice "Best of *Mandala*" articles, easier purchase of the current and back issues, and overall improvement of the design of the *Mandala* site, with more web offerings in the works for 2008. *Mandala* finished 2007 with a series of strategic meetings aimed at increasing *Mandala's* reach, financial stability, depth and breadth of coverage, and overall attention to the heart of the teachings and FPMT's mission to bring those teachings to life in the hearts of us all.

The **FPMT Website** ([www.fpmt.org](http://www.fpmt.org)) had almost 500,000 visits from more than 100 countries in 2007, amassing a total of 1.5 million page views. It now offers many new features: updated center locations using Google maps, and tightened security in database interaction and web forms. Scrolling announcements were added, hundreds of new photos of Rinpoche are now in the photo galleries, and current advice and practices from Rinpoche were updated often. A web standards document has been created, along with an article which helps member centers to create their own websites.

Orders and revenue for the **Foundation Store** ([www.fpmt.org/shop](http://www.fpmt.org/shop)) continued to grow and develop, with the increased revenue directly supporting Lama Zopa Rinpoche's projects. All Dharma proceeds above the cost of production are strictly categorized and used to directly support the charitable mission of FPMT. A link on the Foundation Store website explains to the customer exactly how their money is spent, making the store unique in Buddhist online shopping.

**THANK YOU!**

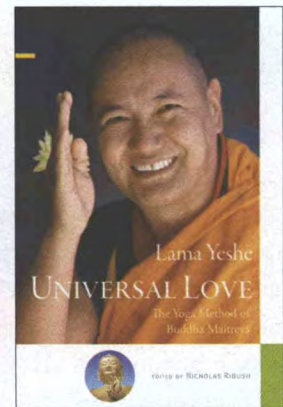
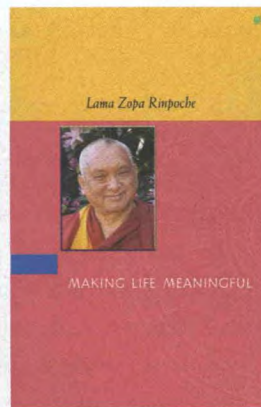
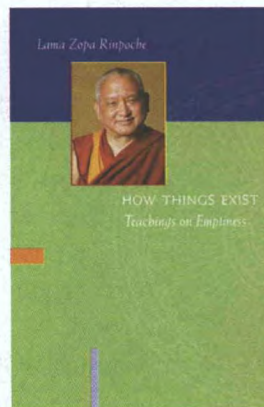
International Office would like to express its very deep gratitude for the support of all the centers, teachers, students, benefactors, and donors throughout 2007. May 2008 usher in an era of peace and loving kindness in your home, your country, and the world. ☸

*To access the full 2007 Annual Review, with special messages from LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE and OSEL RINPOCHE, letters from the President and CEO Ven. Roger Kunsang, and Board Chair Paul de Wijs-Koolkin, a comprehensive financial report and much more, go to: [www.fpmt.org/organization/iof.asp](http://www.fpmt.org/organization/iof.asp)*

Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive contains recordings and transcripts of Lama Thubten Yeshe's and Lama Zopa Rinpoche's teachings dating back to the early 1970s—and we're still growing! Our Web site offers thousands of pages of teachings by some of the greatest lamas of our time. Our latest feature is Lama Zopa Rinpoche's *Online Advice Book*. Dozens of audio recordings, hundreds of photos, and our ever-popular books are also freely accessible online at [lamayeshe.com](http://lamayeshe.com).

Please see our Web site or contact us for more information

*Our latest titles...*



**Two free books by Lama Zopa Rinpoche:**

How Things Exist: Teachings on Emptiness  
 Making Life Meaningful (reprint)

**Universal Love**

Lama Yeshe's commentary on the Maitreya yoga method \$15



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