

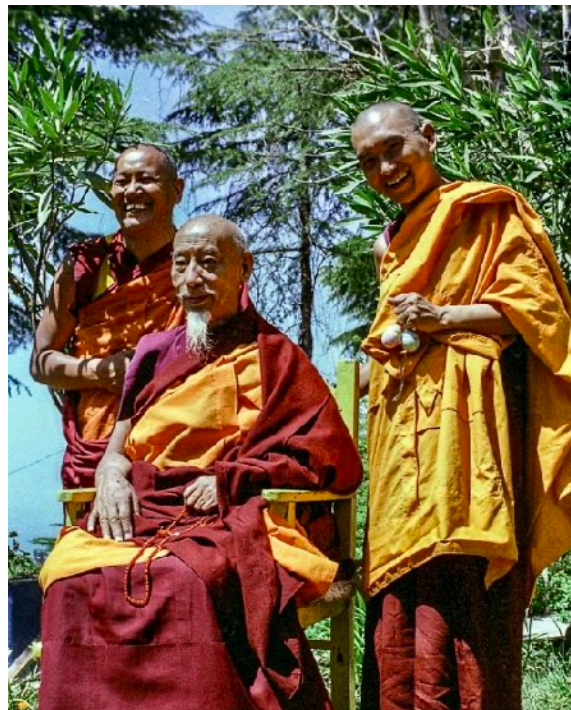


International Mahayana Institute

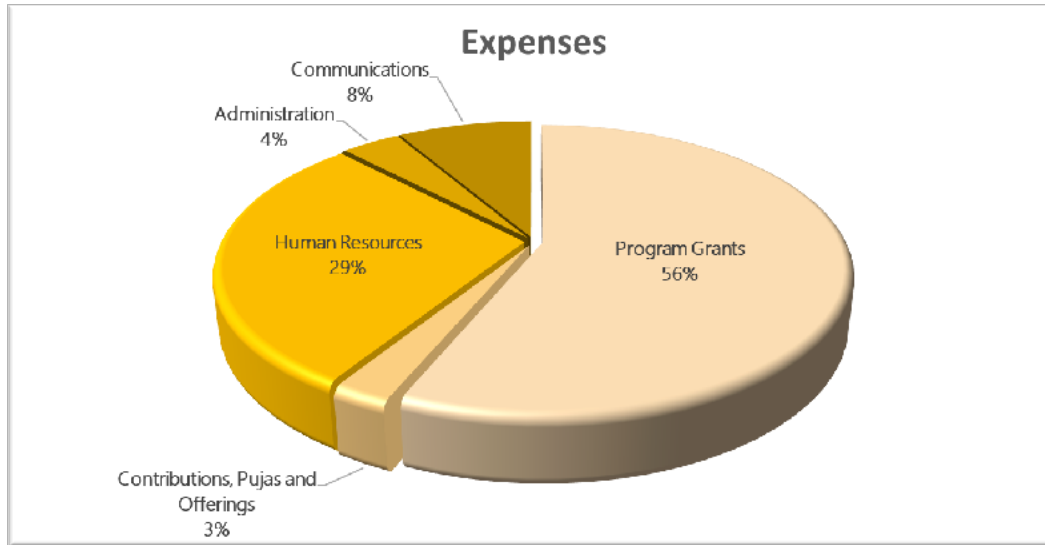
Dear Friends and Benefactors of the IMI,

On behalf of all the monks and nuns of the FPMT International Mahayana Institute, in an effort to honor our core belief in transparency, we are happy to present our 2020-year overview, including the financial report.

Many individual donors, both Sangha and lay, as well as FPMT centres, projects, and services (via the mandatory annual donation to the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund) support us financially. With extreme gratitude to all of you who provide support to the IMI, we have compiled this report for 2020 to show how your generosity has helped the FPMT monastic community. Thanks to your contributions to the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund and directly to the IMI, we have been able to support many Sangha activities in 2020.



USE OF FUNDS 2020



Utilization of Funds - See chart

Total expenses for 2020 were \$66,096 (USD), of which 56% provided direct support to IMI Sangha members (program grants). This enabled us to support monks and nuns to engage in teaching, study and retreat, or to help with acute health situations.

About 3% of our expenses went to pujas, or donations. We had increase in comparison to 2019, however, they also created an increase in our sources of income, especially with the Butter Lamp fund.

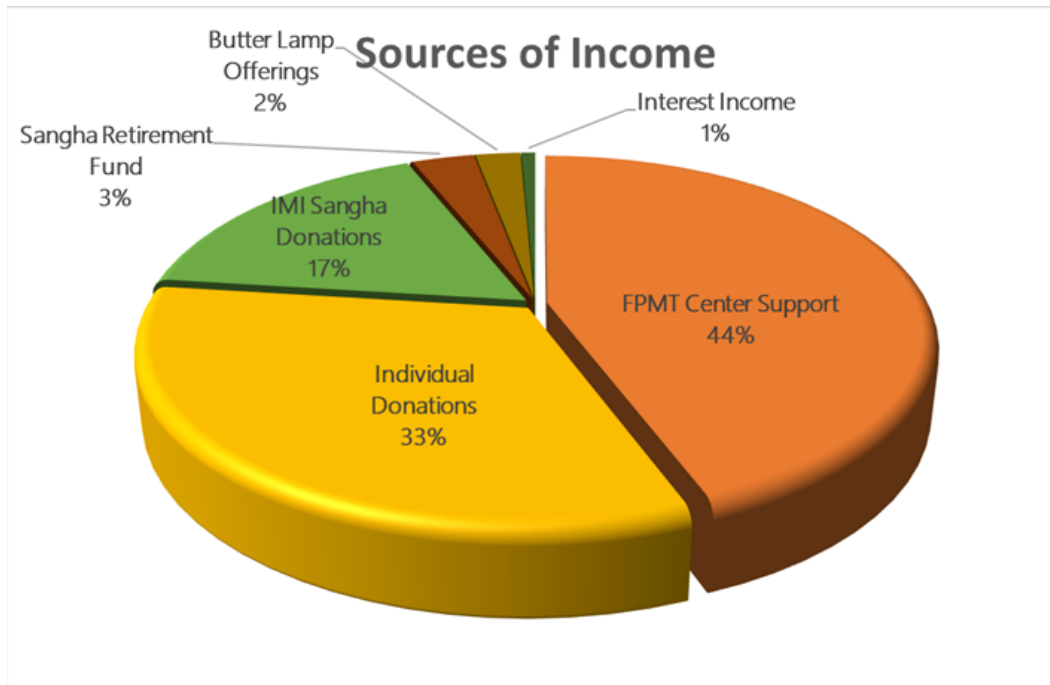
We maintained our Human Resources expenses at 29% of the total expenses. This includes the salary of an office manager and a bookkeeper.

We were able to reduce our Administration costs by 50% even though they only represent 3,7% of our expenses in 2020. These costs included bank charges and IOF credit card and admin fees for processing donations to the LYSF.

We had a small increase in our communications (8.5% of our expenses) due to our new website.

While we came much closer to meeting our annual expenses for 2020, especially compared to the previous year, we still had a loss of \$1,888.24, as in we spent more than we received for the year resulting in a loss in our savings account(s).

SOURCE OF FUNDS 2020



Sources of Funds - See chart

Individual sponsors and FPMT centres, projects, and services contribute significantly to the IMI. It is FPMT policy that centres, projects and services make an annual contribution of at least US \$240 to the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund, but it is always possible to give more or less according to their means. Unfortunately only 26% of the centres, projects, and services managed to fulfill that obligation in 2020.

During 2020 IMI received a total income of \$64,208 (USD). Of this income, 44% came from FPMT centres, projects and services, 33% came from individual donors, 17% came from IMI Sangha members, 5% was donated related to making butter lamp offerings or contributed for a retirement fund, while 1% was benefit from interest.

We can also see a small decrease of donations from Centres (around 25% less than last year) and a big increase from IMI Sangha donations (more than double in comparison to 2019). We did have a decrease in our individual donations, showing there's a possibility to work on fundraising campaigns.

We had 2 additional sources of income this year: (i) butter lamp offerings and (ii) the new restricted retirement fund.

A personal thank you to our generous donors:

From Ven Losang Thubten, Spanish Gelong Rafa Salamanca:

“The first thing is to thank, with all my heart, to whom it may concern.

To make a solitary retreat following the advice of my teacher, Ven. Geshe Jamphel, the abbot of Nalanda monastery, is very important in my life and my training. If it were not for the help of 250 euros / month that I receive from my dear donors, making a solitary retreat would be impossible.

The grant support serves me mainly to pay for basic needs [there are no others], such as electricity, [50 euros / month], gas for hot water [15 euros / month], a prepaid phone card to be connected and in case of emergency [20 euros / month] and, of course, the food that is very simple.

If I have generated some merit with my prayers, my spiritual practice, my studies and my work, I dedicate it to every person who, through IMI, support me both: to live in Nalanda Monastery and in my solitary retreats. Thanks to all of them with all my heart with much affection and prayers”

From a nun doing long term retreat in Australasia:

“A great buddhist master once said: " To go beyond samsara and nirvana, we will need the two wings of emptiness and compassion. From now on, let us use these two wings to fly fearlessly into the sky of the life to come."

No words will do justice of what your support really means...but thank you for believing in us, thank you for having trust in us, thank you making it possible to gain insight in seeing " the beyond" is possible and whats at stake for all of us. Thank you for having time to learn the theory of flying, thank you for supporting us to start growing the wings before dying, thank you for helping us so we may navigate through the clouds of disturbing delusions based on confusion, thank you for being able to spend time with our most precious guides in order to soar to new heights, to gain more and more glimpses of the blue of the sky and know, believe and join each other so we ALL can fly.”

Achievements in 2020

Support of monks and nuns (the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund)

16 IMI Sangha members received structural support for retreat, study, service or acute medical support in 2020. Usually, we sponsor Sangha members to attend big retreats with Rinpoche, but due to the pandemic this did not happen. For the same reason the IMI did not co-sponsor the

annual POC (Pre-Ordination Course) at Tushita Meditation Centre in Dharamsala; it was cancelled.

Individual requests for support are evaluated based on need and the activity for which the grant is requested. All applications are evaluated by a committee of four senior Sangha members.

Protecting from Abuse policy

IMI welcomes this policy development, and wishes to clearly state its support for the accountability of all IMI members for their actions. If an IMI member who is also an FPMT registered teacher or affiliate board member, director or SPC, is accused of breaching the FPMT Ethical Policy we acknowledge that it is essential for that allegation of misconduct to be properly investigated, following the process described in the Protecting from Abuse policy.

New website launched

We are happy with a renewed website which looks fresh and modern, visitor friendly, and provides the all the information in a more inspirational way.

Weekly Prayerathon

Following the success of the Big Heart Sutrathon, which the IMI nuns and monks performed on July 24 2020, on which day we celebrated International Sangha Day, Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche suggested that it would be good if the nuns and monks continued the 24-hour marathons and would do the Thangtong Gyalpo Prayers to avert infectious diseases.

Since then, the Prayerathon has been (to date) organized for over half a year every Saturday (India time) for 24 hours.

Ven. Damchoe from the UK is the Prayerathon Coordinator and besides coordinating the schedule he regularly sends a nice personal accompanying Newsletter with the schedule for the monks and nuns as well as for those who signed up to receive it.

The Multi Media Team from Chenrezig Institute in Australia is taking care of the technical aspect of this 24-hour activity. Ven. Chokyi and Malgo are the key players in their commitment to make it a success from week to week. It is a big effort, and they have a wonderful team of volunteers – including a few nuns- around them.

Visitors can participate both on Zoom and on YouTube. Some sessions seem to have a lot of viewers, others less. But the numbers don't say it all, as behind one viewer might be a group of listeners and if a lot of people are connected on YouTube, they might be engaged in something

else. Also, not having someone with you on the screen does not mean that we are not surrounded by many other sentient beings from other realms.

As a practitioner it's a way of following up on Rinpoche's wish to do this practice together for the benefit of all who suffer from the Covid-19 pandemic by dying, being sick, of being hit economically, emotionally or socially. On top of that, we noticed what the Prayerathon means for a lot of monks and nuns, as there is an opportunity to connect with another sangha member before the session and after the session, so it strengthens a sense of community feeling. Some monks and nuns do it anyway as a group, like our Spanish IMI members or sometimes the Chenrezig Nuns Community, which is highly appreciated.

Internal Communication

The IMI had regular Board meetings with a committed and stable group of monks and nuns, most of them representing also one of the monastic communities.

With the IMI regional representatives, we prepared regional meetings by Zoom, which started off in January 2021.

For 2021

- the IMI hopes to continue the weekly Prayerathon!
- focus on more communication between monks and nuns.

We will organise more 'Greet and Meet meetings' for our members. With the regional representatives we organized in January 2021 four regional Zoom 'Meet and Greet' meetings (for Australia and New Zealand, Asia, Europe and North and Latin America). This provided many opportunities for IMI members to connect and discuss topics close to their hearts. Even on a smaller scale, in France and with native Indian sangha members meetings started off. This will continue in 2021. Also, topic related meetings will be organised: for/ with 'young' sangha (under 40 years), with newly ordained ones to assess educational needs and work on improvements, including organizing mentorship, old age needs or the need for more monastic institutions, like in the USA.

- working on a financial plan;
- education, mentorship and training in general, and contributing to a safe environment;
- governing the legal entity: evaluation and change of our by-laws are necessary.

Also the IMI will incorporate and contribute in 2021 to better protection from abuse policies in our Dharma world. It is very important that we evaluate how to contribute more to a world free of harm, aggression and discrimination and instead focus on inclusion and respect.

“I feel that you are very fortunate just to have met other people who are at least trying to live in the thirty-six precepts of novice ordination. It’s unbelievable. In the world today, it’s so rare. Do you think those brothers and sisters trying to keep the thirty-six vows are rare or not? Yes, they’re rare. And if you understand the spiritual significance of this, you’ll understand how valuable they are.” Lama Thubten Yeshe

We send out thank-you mails to all our donors and supporters and regularly make prayers for their long and healthy lives. May all beings be happy.

If you have any questions please contact us at: office@imisangha.org

Thank you for your continuing support of the Sangha,

Losang Tendar
IMI Director

Top photo: Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche with Zong Rinpoche, Tushita Retreat Centre, Dharamsala, India, 1982. Courtesy of lamayeshe.com