



International Mahayana Institute

Dear Friends and Benefactors of the IMI,

We are happy to present the 2021 year report of the FPMT International Mahayana Institute. It includes the annual financial report, and as you will find, we had a financially satisfactory good year. We appreciate all the contributions and donations which came in.

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 a lot of gratitude to all of you who provide support to the IMI, we have compiled this report for 2021 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 2021.



PROFITABLE YEAR

Even while the Covid pandemic was still happening, in 2021, the IMI was able to have a very profitable year.

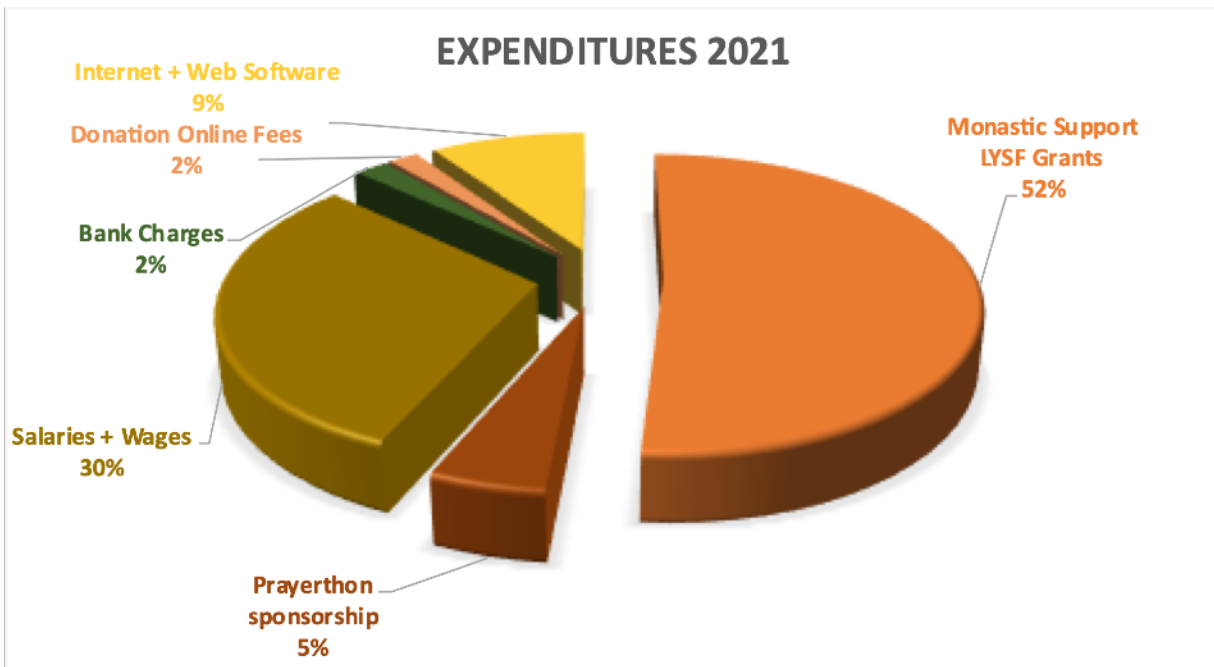
We were able to keep our costs low, reducing them by almost \$3,000 in comparison to 2020.

Besides that, due the incredible generosity of our monks and nuns, we received very special donations this year making it possible that IMI had a profit of \$38,155.52.

In 2021, we also made a very promising investment in an investment company following advice and the kindness of Ven Robina Courtin.

We dedicate that all these fruitful efforts may create the most beneficial conditions for our monks and nuns to realize the entire path to enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings!

USE OF FUNDS:



Total expenses for 2021 were \$63,113 (USD), of which 52% provided direct support to IMI Sangha members (program grants). This enabled us to support monks and nuns to engage in teaching, study, retreat and service, or to help with acute health situations.

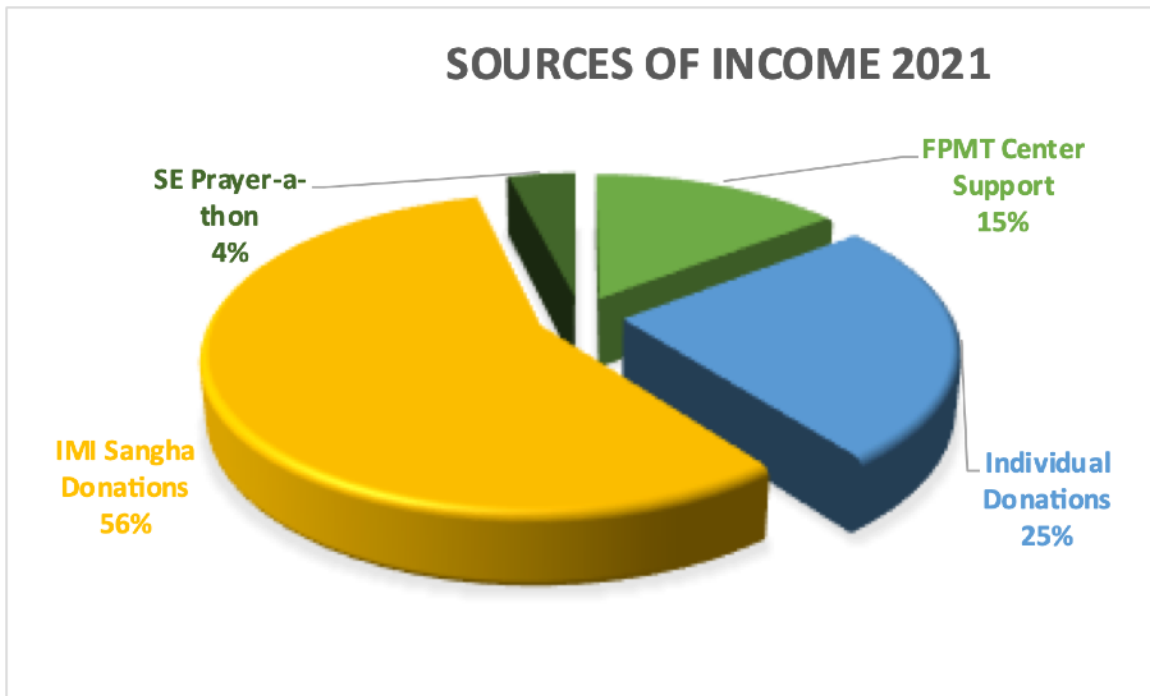
About 5% of our expenses with sponsoring the Prayerthon, which has been happening for almost two years now.

We maintained our Human Resources expenses at 30% of the total expenses. This includes the salary of an office manager and a bookkeeper.

We were able to keep our Administration costs very low representing only 4% of our expenses in 2021. These costs included 2% for bank charges and IOF credit card and admin fees for processing donations to the LYSF, and 2% for online processing fees.

We had a small increase in our communications (9% of our expenses) due to new plugins and improvements on our website.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:



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 29% of the centres, projects, and services managed to fulfill that obligation in 2021, and showed a reduction of almost -\$13,000. Therefore, it represents a point of improvement.

During 2021, IMI received a total income of \$101,123 (USD). Of this income, 15% came from FPMT centres, projects and services, 25% came from individual donors, 4% was donated to support our Prayerthon and an incredible 56% came from IMI Sangha members.

This unbelievable increase from IMI Sangha donations (more than 400% in comparison to 2020), was especially due to 2 individuals who donated \$28,000, and \$10,000, respectively.

A story of an IMI monk supported by our generous donors:

From Ven Jampa Sherab, an Italian monk studying at Sera Jey Monastery in India:

“I'm following the Geshe Program studies of Sera Jey Monastery. In May of 2019 I arrived at Sera and dedicated myself just to study of the Tibetan language. In 2020, when the pandemic begun, I started studying the first year where we learn the first topics on the path of reasoning (Established Bases, Cause and effect, etc.).

In the second year (2021) I started studying the topic of Lorig (Mind and awareness) but just after one month we entered in lockdown again being unable to have classes with our teachers and debate. At that time I decided to go and visit my family after 2 years at Sera. I didn't meet my mother in 5 years, so, with the permission of my teacher (Geshe Jampa Gelek) I went to visit her and my father. By August 2021 the situation in Sera was still not good and everything was in lockdown so, I also took some time to do pilgrimage and retreat.

Now I'm back at Sera and this year, because of the difficulties of the last year, I, with the approval of my teacher, decided to start the program from the very beginning hoping to be able to study properly this year. I don't feel in a hurry to finish this program, my main objective is to learn well.

During all this time in Sera I mainly dedicated my time to the study of the Tibetan language which is getting better and better but I still need a few years of serious study in order to understand it well. However, I'm really happy with my progress until now despite the obstacles that were present. I really enjoy being a monk and I feel very happy and fortunate of being able to dedicate my life to the Dharma.”

Achievements in 2021

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

15 IMI Sangha members received structural support for retreat, study, service or acute medical support. 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 accepted in 2021 this new PfA policy and shared it to the members by mailings and on the [website](#). With the acceptance of this policy, the IMI wishes to underline its support for the accountability of all IMI members for their actions. If an IMI member, who is also an FPMT registered teacher, an 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 of the IMI or of an affiliated center or project.

As part of the introduction the IMI organized in December 2021 a Zoom conference meeting, with a contribution from Paula de Wijs, currently chair of the board of FPMT Inc., which was attended by about 40 monks and nuns. The policy and the background were more broadly explained and questions were asked. 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.

May peace reign throughout the world and all sangha have the resources to live well in their vows.

New Member Management Platform Launched

Wild Apricot software helps us to better organize and keep members informed with a new and easier to use private members' area and email creation capability. It will help to strengthen the connection between our organization, our members, and our mission.

Weekly Prayerathon

Following the success of the Big Heart Sutrathon, which the IMI nuns and monks performed on International Sangha Day -July 24 2020- 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 almost two years 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. We would like to thank the whole team for their tremendous ongoing efforts.

Dharma practitioners can participate both on Zoom and on YouTube. 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.

Regional Meet & Greet Meetings: knowing the needs of the nuns and monks

The IMI regional representatives prepared a few regional 'Meet and Greet' meetings by Zoom. This started off in January 2021. The regions are Australia & New Zealand, Asia, Europe and North & Latin America. This provided many opportunities for IMI members to connect and discuss topics close to their hearts. For the IMI it has been a tool to know what the needs of the sangha are. We also had a few meetings on a smaller scale, in France and with native sangha members in India. Hereby a few impressions of three representatives on the meetings which took place.

Ven. Damchoe, IMI representative for Australia & New Zealand reports:

"We have met with monks and nuns four times in 2021 via zoom with a range of topics for discussion. Discussion varied from access to on-line teachings, development of skills to give on-line teachings and staying connected with the sangha. There was much praise for the Prayerathon continuing and people see this also as a quick catch-up time with those beyond our region. Covid has had a varied impact on us all across the world. One unexpected way was the return of many monks and nuns from Nepal and India back to our region. With the help of the IMI community we have been able to

offer assistance to many with practical issues such as access to income and pensions, healthcare needs, accommodation and transport.

We also discussed the new Protecting from Abuse policy and the local implications including designated protective persons identified for those not living in community and the local implementation in relation to an issue.”

Ven. Tsultrim, IMI representative for South-East Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan) and reports:

“Two online meetings were held in March and November 2021 and all regional members were invited to attend. Both Zoom meetings were attended by a small number of the members. Despite the low attendance, the participants showed interest in putting forth questions. The topics focused mainly on wanting to know how the IMI was relevant to and of benefit to their communities, also financially for them as individuals, and requesting for training and instruction for new or recently ordained sangha. The meetings and several discussions that followed, provided an opportunity to get to know the members and their concerns.”

Ven. Yangchen, IMI representative for North-America, reports:

“In the North American region, we had a successful Meet & Greet. We are starting to get to know each other, many individuals sharing their interests, activities, concerns... the beginning of friendships, conversations. With all the teaching offerings online and the 24 hr Prayerathon on Saturdays.... we get to see each other’s faces more often!

Since the Meet & Greet I had quite a lot of interaction with NA Sangha, also some who missed would like to attend the next meeting. I have had requests from members for info so they could connect with other sangha. Someone wrote: "I look forward to connecting more with (NA) IMI brothers and sisters; so wonderful we can support each other, especially as we age and perhaps start to appreciate more support”.

Also, we had meetings with North American sangha about the need for a monastic institution. During our meetings in 2021 we were mostly focussed on Land of Medicine Buddha, but the management situation was very unstable there so we had no continuing conversations. Also social security (health insurance, pension plan) for sangha is a recurring topic in North-America. That is why the IMI wants to work on a financial plan.”

One IMI sangha member said:

‘My wish is to cultivate care for the sangha, amongst each other and by others, cultivate the causes for the sangha to flourish...cultivate care even if it's not for my future’.

Finally Internal Communication : the people who made the IMI work in 2021:

The IMI Board:

The IMI had regular Board meetings with a committed and stable group of monks and nuns, most of them representing one of the monastic communities and covering the main continents. We also strive for an equal number of monks and nuns.

They are Venerables Massimo (monks Lhungtok Choekhorling, Italy), Siliana (nuns Lhungtok Choekhorling, Italy), Chokyi (Chenrezig Nuns Community, Australia), Legtsok (IMI House Sera Jey Monastery, India), Gyaltzen, later Kalden (Nalanda Monastery, France), Chantal (Dorje Pamo Nunnery, France), Tendron (representing all the nuns and monks who are not living in a community, especially the North American sangha) and Tendar (IMI director). We are happy that the relationship between the monastic communities and the IMI is strong in this way.

Main topics of the 2021 meetings were the year report (finances), governing the legal entity (evaluation and change of our by-laws) and establishing the IMI Protecting from Abuse policy.

The IMI monastic communities functioned well. They reported their highlights in the IMI Newsletters.

The (FPMT/ IMI) Senior Sangha Council:

This Council consisted in 2021 of Venerables Roger Kunsang, Geshe Namdak, Paloma, Chantal, Tsapel, Tharchin and Tendar. They are senior IMI nuns and monks. The Senior Sangha Council's role is to advise on ethical matters related to IMI members. In 2021 the council was only approached for advice on one situation in which an IMI member was involved.

The IMI Regional Representatives:

The IMI regional representatives are monks and nuns who, in cooperation with others, take care of the needs of the monks and nuns in the region.

They are Venerables Yangchen (North America), Yeshe (Latin America, who stopped mid 2021), Tsultrim (South East Asia), Damchoe (Australia & New Zealand), Kunphen (South Asia, meaning India, Nepal, Sri Lanka). For Europe there was a vacancy, but one nun has been found for 2022.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche advised that the IMI should know the needs of its monks and nuns, and the IMI representatives are the eyes and ears of the IMI, as one of the goals of the IMI is to have good quality sangha members, who are well educated and inspiring in their behavior, so that lay practitioners have respect and create positive karma by supporting the sangha.

The IMI representatives work closely with the FPMT regional or national coordinators.

The IMI Review Committee:

All requests from individuals for support from the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund for their studies, service, retreat or health situation are evaluated by the review committee: Venerables Roger Kunsang, Chantal, Steve Carlier and Tendar form this committee.

Account Holders, Bookkeeper and Treasurer:

The IMI has three accounts (details can be found on our [website](#)): Ven. Tendron (our USA account), Ven. Pema (our French account) and Peter Stickels (of FPMTA for our Australian account). To get all the details together we had a very efficient bookkeeper in 2021. In 2020 Ven Kalden started as treasurer. We were very happy with this precious team.

Office Manager:

Drolkar McCallum is an experienced office manager. She is the central figure for the publication of the quarterly newsletter, keeping the website up and running, IMI Facebook page, managing daily front office emails, receiving all membership changes, keeping data bases up to date and forwards important news (Memberclicks then Wild Apricot and Salesforce). She administrates the grants applications, manages special projects and is responsible for the donor management (thank-you's).

As you can see, we can rejoice that about 25-30 people have been actively working for the IMI organization in order to fulfil it's aims. Besides that, we welcomed many monks and nuns in the Prayerathon!

The IMI monastic communities functioned very well. They reported their highlights in the quarterly IMI Newsletters.

Thank you for helping our community of Sangha in their efforts to attain enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings by contributing to the requisites for ordained life, the conditions to practice the holy advice of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the trainings to be a source of inspiration to others, the studies to become qualified FPMT registered teachers. This financial support helps to ensure that FPMT centers, projects and services have qualified Sangha available to assist them both now and in the future.

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

***Wherever there is SANGHA
There, the Dharma will flourish***

Thank you for your continuing support for the Sangha.

Losang Tendar
IMI Director

Top photo of Lama Zopa Rinpoche and Lama Thubten Yeshe courtesy of the FPMT website.