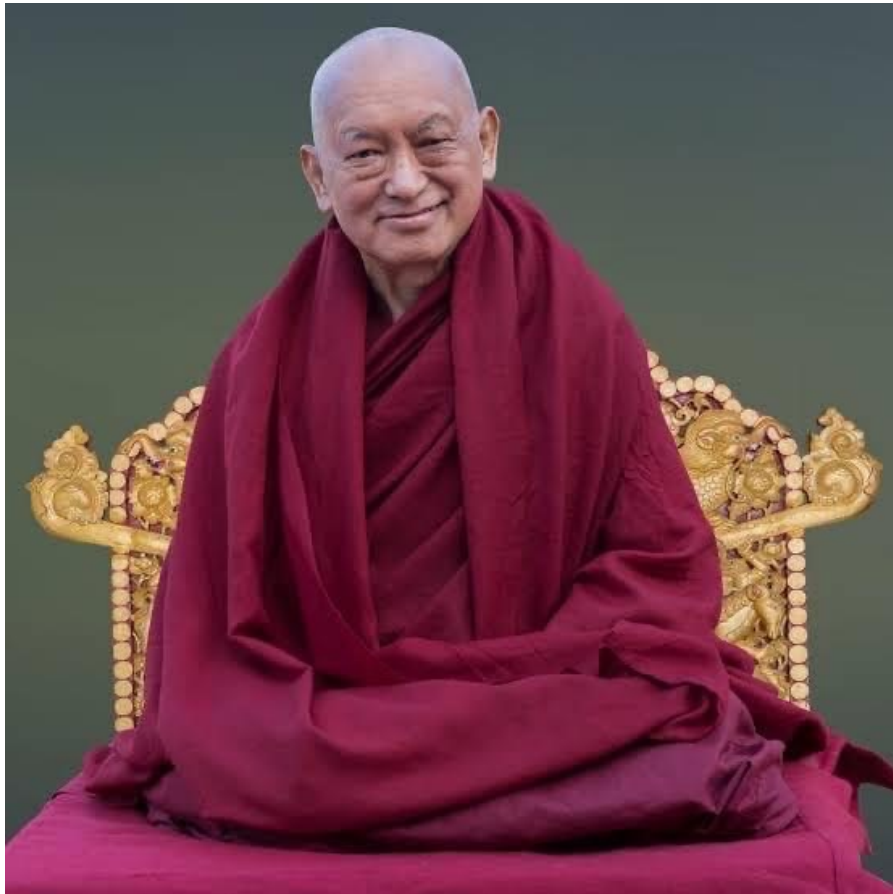




International Mahayana Institute

Dear Sisters, Brothers, Friends and Benefactors of the IMI,

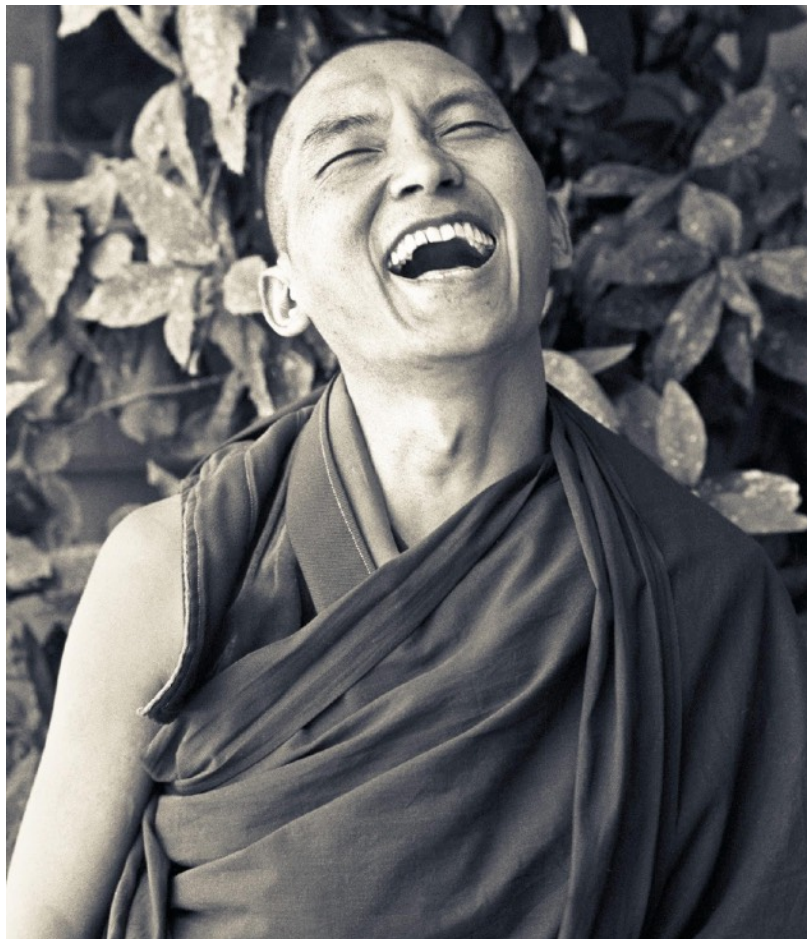
We are happy to present the 2022 year report of the International Mahayana Institute. It includes the annual financial report, and as you will find, it was financially balanced between the income and expenses. We appreciate all the contributions and donations which came in. Many individual donors, both 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.



Most of your donations will be used for what is called the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund. This was established by Lama Yeshe with the aim of helping to support the monks and nuns within the IMI community by ensuring that the Sangha:

- are educated in Vinaya and Buddhist philosophy as a foundation for their spiritual development as well as in their role as spiritual guides to the larger Buddhist community.
- have appropriate accommodation
- have proper food and nourishment
- have access to proper medical care
- have a supportive environment and conditions for retreat
- are cared for when sick and elderly

The support received by the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund helped IMI monks and nuns continue to study, to practice and to live life in the Buddha's footsteps.



IMI Staff Members.

We are fortunate, and can rejoice, that about 25 nuns and monks and a few others have been actively working for the IMI in order to fulfil its aims.

The IMI Board.

Board members include representatives of all the FPMT monastic communities and are living worldwide on all relevant continents.

They are Venerables Massimo / Tsultim (monks Lhungtok Choekhorling, Italy), Siliana (nuns Lhungtok Choekhorling, Italy), Ailsa (Chenrezig Nuns Community), Namjong (IMI House Sera Jey, India), 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) Tsultrim (East-Asian sangha) and Tendar (IMI director). Ven. Nangsel (Bendigo monastics, Australia) joined

us since 2023 also as a Board member. We are happy that the relationship between the monastic communities and the IMI is strong in this way.

In 2022 the IMI Board had 9 Zoom meetings (Jan, Feb, April, May, June, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec) in order to have good governance. The main topics that the Board worked on were the IMI bylaws, Investment proposal and bitcoins, updates on the Protecting from Abuse policy, changes in the Board, finances year report 2022 & budget, Grant Eligibility Policy & LYSF, Grants to Monastic Communities and how IMI can help our monastic institutions and the Retirement Fund.

The IMI Senior Sangha Council.

This Council consists of Venerables Roger, Geshe Tenzin Namdak, Paloma, Chantal, Tsapel and Tendar. They are senior IMI nuns and monks, and met in 2022 1 time on 'FPMT Policy on Offerings to Sangha'. In 2018 they presented the charter on ethical standards ensuring the ethical integrity of the IMI community. The Senior Sangha Council's role is to advise on ethical matters related to the IMI.

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

The IMI 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. Also, the IMI representatives work together with the FPMT regional or national coordinators, and attend for example the regional or national FPMT meetings.

They are Venerables Yangchen (North America), Jamyang (European monks), Dechen (European nuns), Damcho (Australia & New Zealand), Kunphen (South Asia) and Tsultrim (Malaysia, Taiwan & Singapore).

Lama Zopa Rinpoche mentioned that the IMI should know the needs of the monks and nuns, and the IMI representatives contribute to that by reaching out at least once a year to the sangha in their region. They are the eyes and ears of the IMI.

Topics we hear about are lacking community and being isolated.



The IMI review committee

All requests from individuals for support of the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund for their studies, service, retreat or health situation are judged by the review

committee: Venerables Roger, Chantal, Steve and Tendar form this committee.

Account holders, bookkeeper and treasurer

The IMI has three accounts (you can find the details on our [website](#)): in Australia managed by FPMTA coordinator Peter Stickels, in France by Ven. Pema, in the USA by Ven. Tendron, while we still have an account at the FPMT IOF managed by Aruna Prakash. To get all the details together we have a bookkeeper, Susanna Naud. Ven Kalden oversees all these activities.

Office manager

In Drolkar McCallum we have 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, manages daily front office emails, receives all membership changes, keeps data base up to date and forwards important news (memberclicks and salesforce), administrates the grants applications, manages special projects (like the robe offerings to all IMI sangha) and is responsible for the donor management.



Additionally, Ven. Thekchok works as education officer and UK based Ven. Damchoe as coordinator for 'Prayers in Accordance with the Times'.

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

ADJUSTING TO A NEW REALITY

As the Covid pandemic finally decreased its intensity in 2022, we were able to experience a new reality of continuous online meetings, online teachings, and so on.

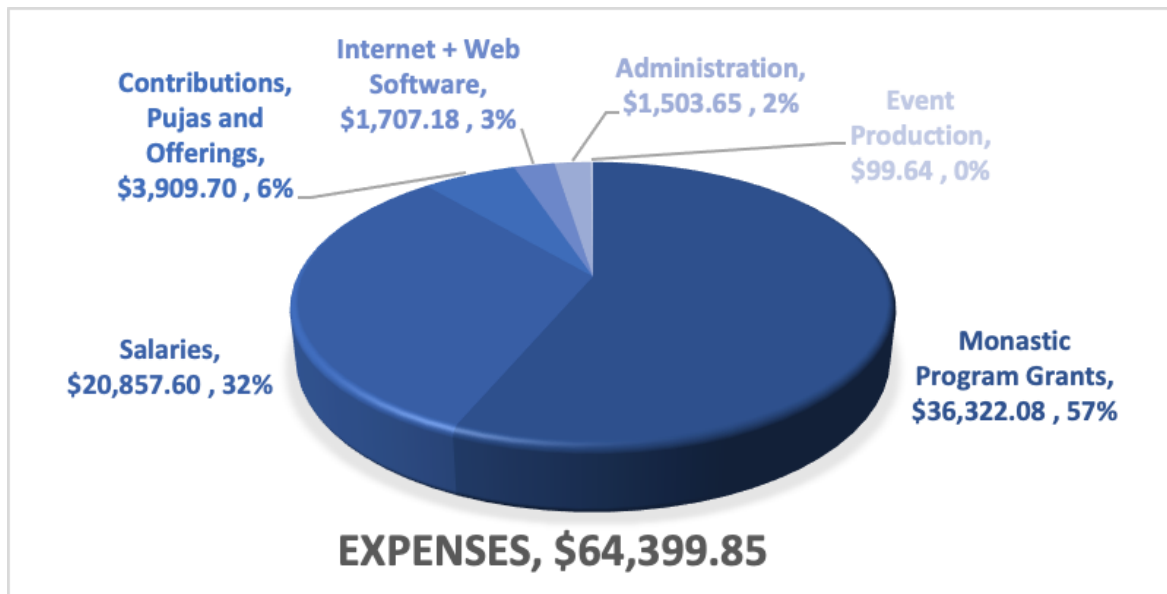
One of our main achievements last year was the successful transfer of the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund to the IMI. Due to the kindness of the International Office staff, we were able to conclude this transfer which already created a substantial decrease in our financial expenses.

We have also started discussing changes in our grant policy that would allow more monks and nuns to have access to funds. We also discussed how to better support in fundraising for all projects happening in the different monastic communities worldwide.

All IMI's finances are dedicated to support our monks and nuns in their studies, retreat, health and old age issues.

We gratefully thank all our donors and supporters for their generosity during all these years. We dedicate that all these merits created by supporting the sangha may be the cause of your and all sentient beings enlightenment quickly, very quickly!

USE OF FUNDS



Total expenses for 2022 were of \$64,399.85 (USD), of which 57% 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.

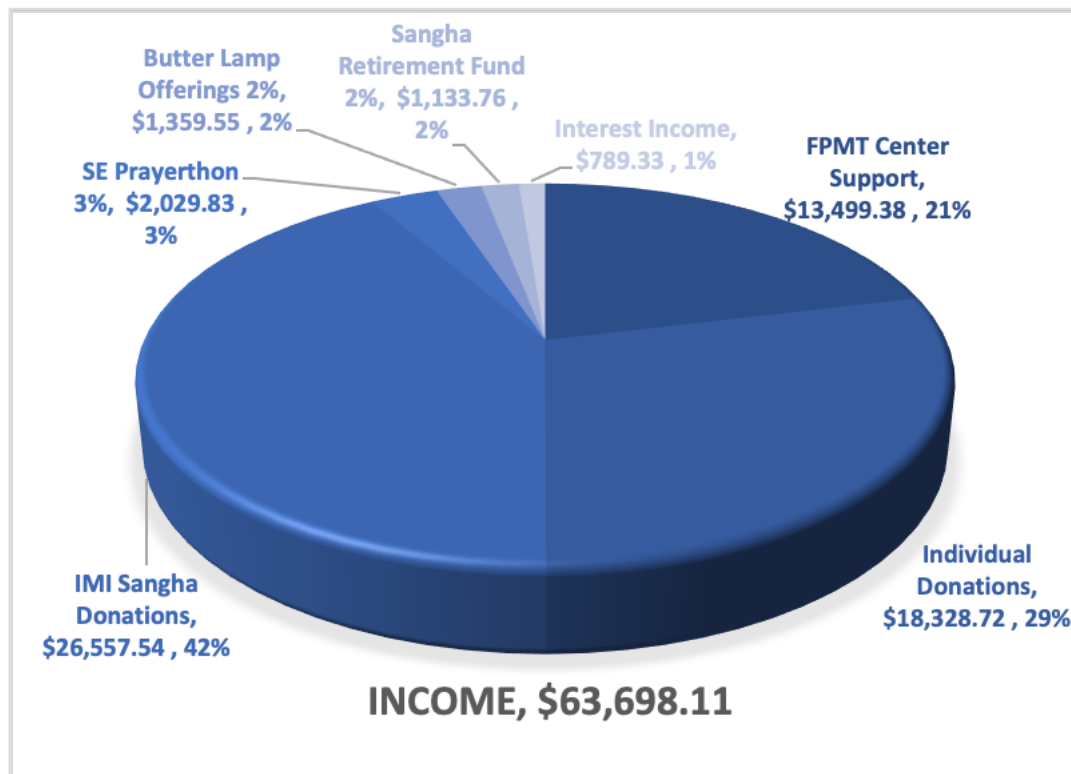
Around 6% of our expenses was used to contribute to pujas and offerings, including to the 'Prayers in Accordance with the Times'.

We maintained our Human Resources expenses around 32% of the total expenses. This includes the salary of an office manager and a stipend for the bookkeeper.

Due to the transfer of the LYSF, we were able to reduce in almost \$1,000 our administration expenses. Which represented only 2% of our expenses in 2022.

We had another decrease in our communication expenses as all the new improvements to our website were done in 2021, so we were able to just have maintenance costs.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:



In 2022, IMI received a total income of \$63,612.77 (USD). Of this income, 21% came from FPMT centres, projects and services, 29% came from individual donors, and 42% came from IMI Sangha members.

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.

Even if our IMI Sangha members continued to contribute substantially, we had a decrease in comparison to 2021.

This indicates that there's a need to improve our communication with individual donors in order to create more awareness of the IMI's important work to sustain the FPMT western sangha and its activities.

With a lot of gratitude to all of you who provide support to the IMI, we have compiled this report for 2022 to show how your generosity has helped the FPMT monastic community. Thanks for your contributions to the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund and directly to the IMI, we have been able to support many Sangha activities in 2022.

EDUCATION

One of the goals of the IMI is to contribute to good quality sangha members, who are well educated and inspiring in their behaviour, so that lay practitioners have respect and create positive karma by supporting the sangha.

The IMI contributed financially to the 2022 Pre-Ordination Course, organized by Tushita Meditation Centre in Dharamsala at the occasion of the ceremony offered by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Also, the IMI offers for new members an on-line course, which they can find in the member area of the IMI website. Ven. Thekchok is in touch with new members who have not done a Pre-Ordination Course, the IMI accepts them provisionally as members until they have watched the course. In this way we make sure that newly ordained in our tradition have the basic information.

Also, the IMI was involved in preparing a new So Jong booklet for the IMI sangha, which will be published in 2023. English Geshe Losel (Graham Woodhouse) was instrumental in this.

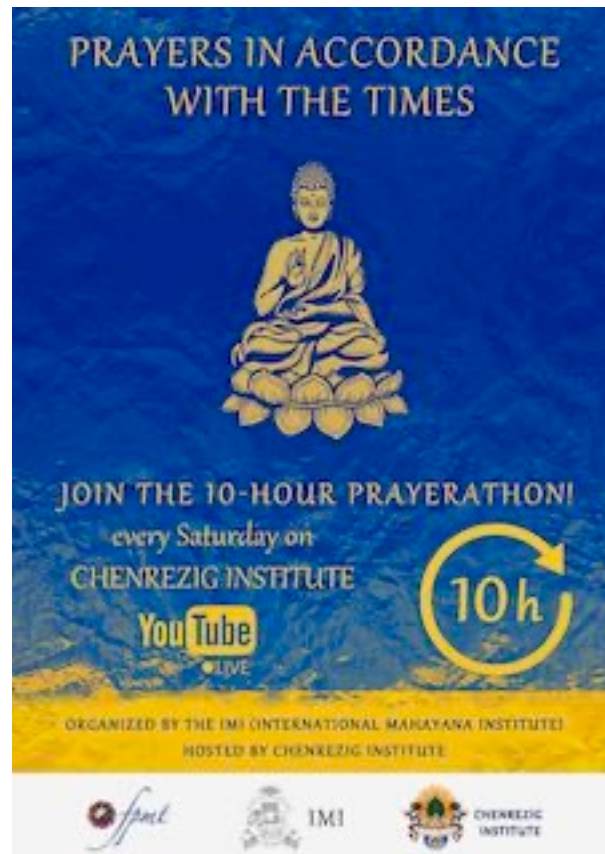
As IMI we are on the side lines involved in translation projects of major Vinaya texts.

PRAYERATHON

We are now in our third year of weekly prayers. Originally we started the Prayerathon in 2020 reciting Thangtong Gyalpo for 24 hours every Saturday in accordance with Lama Zopa Rinpoche's wishes to counteract the effects of the global Covid pandemic. As the effects of the pandemic receded and the world returned to a degree of normality with centres opening again to the public during 2022, we saw sangha members return to

give or attend teachings and retreats, as well as offering other services to the Dharma, which left us with some gaps in the original 24 hours schedule in the later stages.

Following a consultation with IMI sangha members it also became clear that, in the light of changing needs in the post pandemic world, sangha members wanted to extend prayers to be more flexible to accommodate such changes and needs. These findings were referred to our dear Lama Zopa Rinpoche for advice and future guidance.



The original Prayerathon concluded on its 100th Saturday and it was agreed to take a short break while waiting for Rinpoche's advice which did not take too long.

In September 2023 "Prayers in Accordance with the Times" was launched to reflect the changes and different needs in the world. Lama Zopa Rinpoche recommended a number of prayers, which can be accessed via the IMI website (<https://imisangha.org/prayers/>).

The weekly “Prayers in Accordance with the Times” is running from 08.00hrs to 18.00hrs CET instead of the previous 24 hours. This is simply due to the availability of leads to cover the event, even at this stage we have on occasions some gaps in the cover, which are covered with recorded sessions. We fully understand that these reduced times may exclude certain time zones, and while we would love to expand the schedule times, it is not practical to do so in terms of the demands on covering all the time slots without the use of extended pre-recordings. One of the successes of these and previous prayers was the human factor. We still receive regular requests from people to join our leads on Zoom, which is encouraging.

As I am writing this, Lama Zopa Rinpoche is in his final meditation at Kopan Monastery. May I thank all of our wonderful leads, the IMI office staff and the Media Team at Chenrezig Institute for all their hard work and contributions for the best part of three years we have been doing these prayers and by doing so not only benefited many sentient beings but also fulfilled Rinpoche’s wishes.

May I also thank everyone else who has supported the prayers or any other of Rinpoche’s projects in whatever way they could.

May we all continue to follow the guidance of our precious gurus and fulfil their holy wishes.

We live in degenerate times filled with obstacles. And it is through these obstacles that we can practice what our precious gurus have taught us. I recall a quote from a few years back which said: “Your obstacles are your gurus.” Let your hearts be kind and your resolve be strong.

May His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama live a long and healthy life and Lama Zopa Rinpoche return to us swiftly.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Public talks by Zoom on Death. In 2022 Ven. Robina offered an inspiring talk about how to prepare ourselves better for death. This is one of

Rinpoche's wishes for all his students, especially sangha. After, the IMI organized for its members a talk by Ven. Yangdzom about her experience as a consultant and nurse with preparing for death with the instructions of our teachers. The IMI offers its sangha the opportunity to leave their spiritual and worldly will in our data base.

Newsletters – the IMI published four Newsletters in 2022 for everyone who is interested to receive it.

Weekly mailing – the IMI sends out information on a weekly basis to the IMI sangha.

Advice – the IMI is approached for advice for different reasons by our own monastic institutions and by other organizations as well. For example, a group of monks and nuns in the Shakya tradition wanted to set up something like the IMI. Also, individuals who are interested in ordination approach the IMI.

Robes – the IMI helped a kind sponsor who wanted to provide new robes for the IMI sangha by asking our members who would need new robes. This involves a lot of communication.

Retreat hut – the IMI retreat hut in France was used most of the time in 2022.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2023

In December 2023 the IMI celebrates its 50th birthday. We will celebrate that with some Zoom meetings.

The IMI will be assisting in publishing teachings of Rinpoche, which were given to the general public, but were particularly relevant for the Sangha. Ven. Robina is assessing the size of the project.