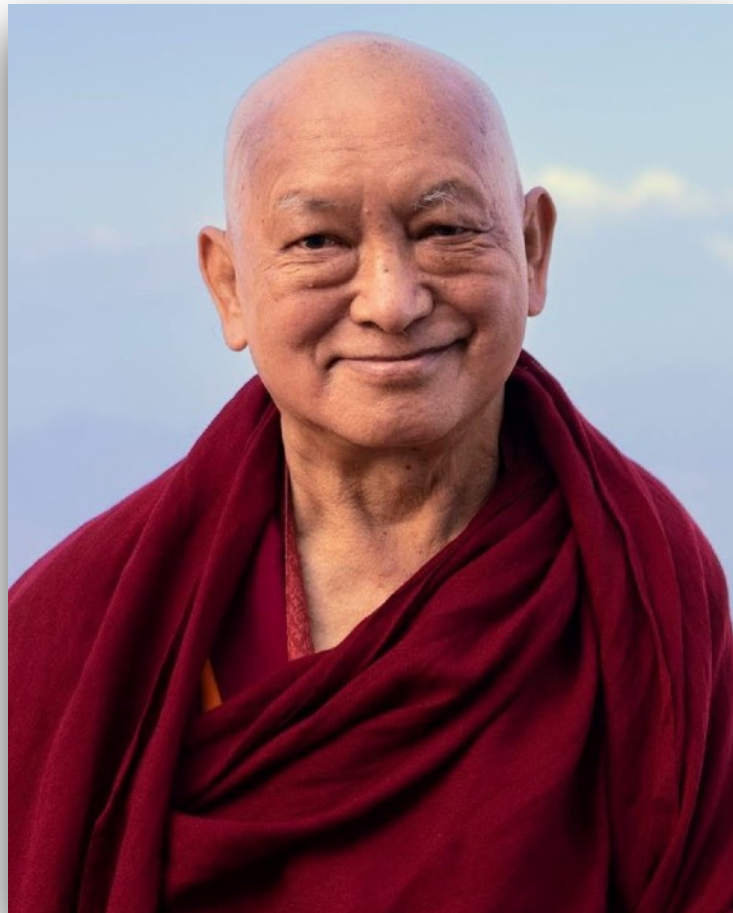




International Mahayana Institute

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

We are happy to present the 2023 year report of the International Mahayana Institute. It includes the annual financial report, and as you will find, it was financially a positive year if we look at the income and expenses. We highly appreciate your contributions and donations. 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) have supported 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.



Who we are:

You can find information about the IMI Mission Statement and Vision here; Mission Statement – [International Mahayana Institute \(imisangha.org\)](http://InternationalMahayanaInstitute.org)

The IMI has 331 registered sangha members:

Nuns: Rabjung - 5, Novice - 172, Fully ordained - 31 (208)

Monks: Rabjung - 4, Novice - 48, Fully ordained - 71 (123)

Here are the nationalities:

UK - 24, Australia - 70, Spain - 15, United States - 58, The Netherlands - 15, Ukraine - 1, Canada - 8, Switzerland - 9, Italy - 25, Sweden - 2, France - 31, Germany - 19, Russia - 4, Ireland - 1, Singapore - 9, New Zealand - 9, Mexico - 4, Malaysia - 7, Taiwan - 5, Lithuania - 1, Czech Republic - 3, Argentina - 3, Denmark - 2, Austria - 2, Israel - 2, Slovakia - 1, Columbia - 3, India - 5, South Africa - 2, Ireland - 1, Norway - 1, Nepal - 1, Brazil - 3, Croatia - 1



IMI Staff Members:

We are fortunate, and can rejoice in the fact, 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 Tsultim (Lhungtok Choekhorling, Italy), Siliana (nuns community Lhungtok Choekhorling, Italy), Lhagsam (Chenrezig Nuns Community, Australia), Namjong (later Gache, IMI House Sera Jey, India), Kalden (Nalanda Monastery, France), Chantal (Dorje Pamo Nunnery, France), Nangsel (Bendigo monastics, Australia), Tendron (representing the nuns and monks who are not living in a community, especially the North American sangha) and Tendar as IMI director. We are happy that the relationship between the monastic communities and the IMI is strong in this way.

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 once in 2022 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), Chokyi (Australia and New Zealand), Kunphen (South Asia) and Tsultrim (Malaysia, Taiwan and 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.



The IMI review committee:

All requests for support of the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund from monks or nuns for their studies, service, retreat or health situation are considered 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 of the accounts on our [website](#)): in Australia it is 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 as the treasurer.

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 the data base up to date and forwards important news (memberclicks and salesforce), administrates the grant applications, manages special projects (like the robe offerings to all IMI sangha) and is responsible for the donor management.

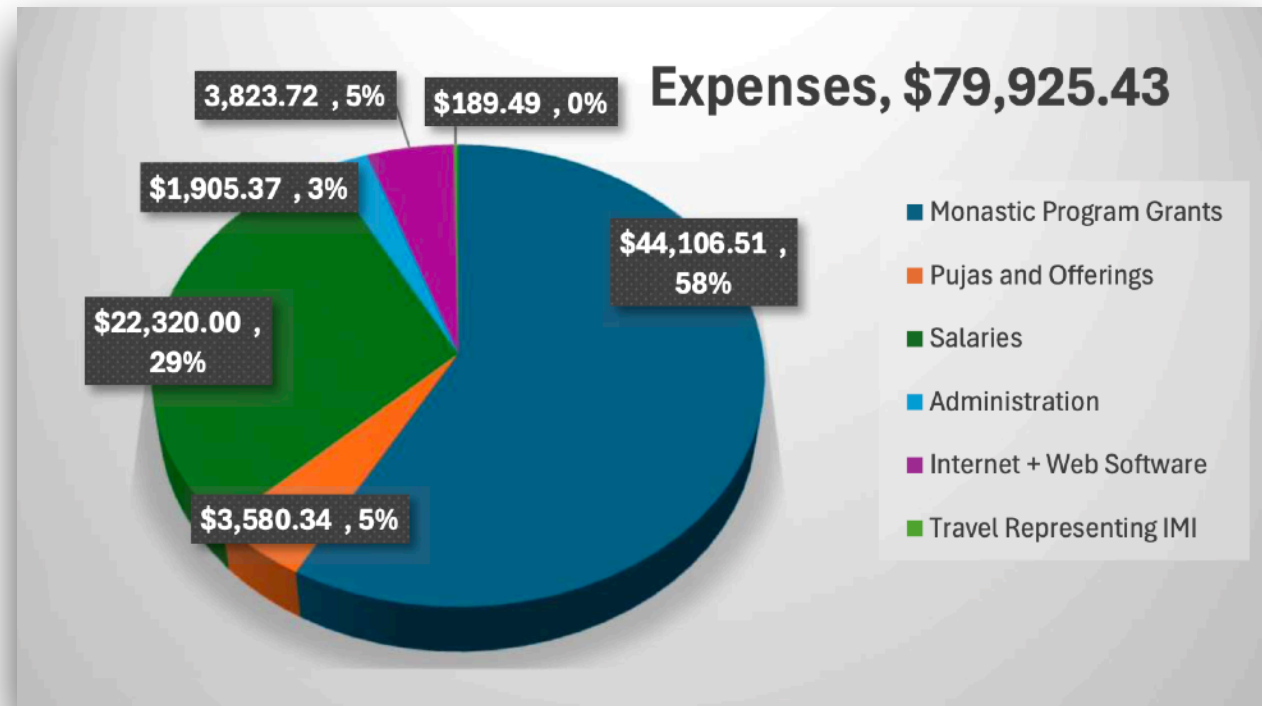
If you have any questions, please contact her at: office@imisangha.org

Education officer:

Additionally, Ven. Thekchok works as education officer to check on new members who have not followed a Pre-Ordination Course.

USE OF FUNDS

Total expenses for 2023 were of \$79,925,43 (USD), of which 58% 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 by what is called the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund. About 5% of our expenses was used to contribute to pujas and offerings. We maintained our organisational expenses around 37% of the total expenses (Salaries 29%, administration/ bank costs 3%, internet/ websoftware 5%).

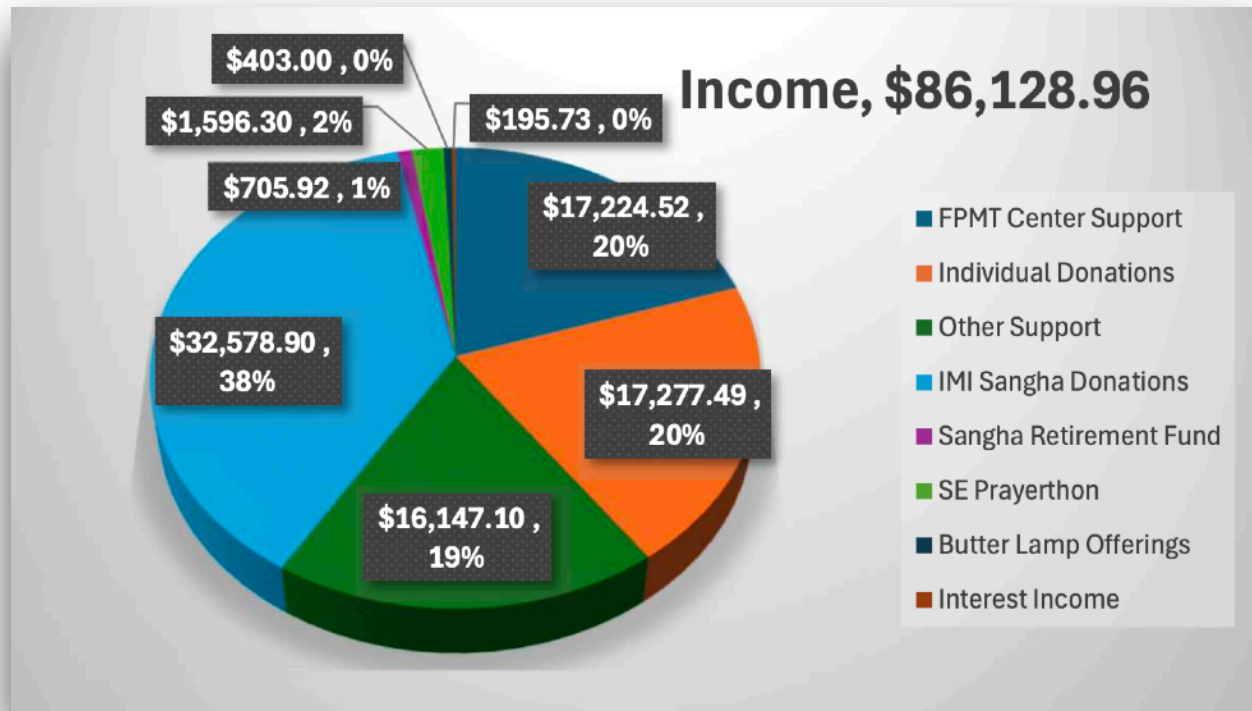


The Lama Yeshe Fund was established by Lama Yeshe with the aim of helping to support the monks and nuns within the IMI community by ensuring that the Sangha:

- * 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
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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.

SOURCE OF FUNDS



In 2023, IMI received a total income of \$86,128.96 (USD). Of this income, 20% came from FPMT centres, projects and services, 20% came from individual donors, and 38% 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.

With a lot of gratitude to all of you who provide support to the IMI, we have compiled this report for 2023 to show how your generosity has helped the FPMT monastic community. Thanks to your contributions we have been able to support many Sangha activities in 2023.

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 2023 Pre-Ordination Course, organized by Tushita Meditation Centre in Dharamsala, India at the occasion of the ceremony offered by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

* 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 is able to present a new (getsul and gelong) So Jong booklet for the IMI sangha with thanks to our publishing friends in Singapore and Geshe Losel (Graham Woodhouse), who did a lot of editing on the book.

* As IMI we are involved in translation projects of major Vinaya texts.



PRAYERATHON: PRAYERS IN ACCORDANCE TO THE TIMES and CHANTING THE NAMES OF MANJUSHRI

We are now in our third year of doing 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, sangha members wanted to extend prayers to be more flexible to accommodate such changes and needs.

The original Prayerathon concluded on its 100th Saturday and after a short break, following Rinpoche's advice, we continued in September 2022 with "Prayers in Accordance with the Times", for example to respond to the war in Ukraine. Lama Zopa Rinpoche recommended a number of prayers, which can be accessed via the IMI website (<https://imisangha.org/prayers/>).

Sadly, in April 2023 Lama Zopa Rinpoche showed the aspect of physically leaving us. Some months later we accommodated an on-line schedule for daily recitations of 'Reciting the Names of Manjushri' for FPMT and Rinpoche's worldwide students, following the advise of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in order to create causes and conditions for a swift return of Rinpoche.

Additionally, on Saturdays we offered the opportunity to do on-line recitations together or under guidance.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported this project of doing prayers, especially thanks to Ginny de Giovanni and Nana Martynova, who have guarded our Zoom while being 'live'. May we all continue to follow the guidance of our precious gurus and fulfil their holy wishes. May His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama live a long and healthy life and may Lama Zopa Rinpoche return to us swiftly, having good parents, good genes and a long life ahead.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

IMI celebrated 50 years of existence on December 15, 2023. We were grateful with some talks of Ven. Roger, Kopan abbot and FPMT Board member Khen Geshe Chonyi and former monk Nick Ribush, who was present at the birth of the IMI. You can listen to all the talks on YouTube here: [IMI 50th Anniversary Celebration](#).

Public and community Zoom talks. Mainly for our members, but open to the public, we organized some talks given by Ven. Chokyi, Ven. Robina, Ven. Losang and Ven. Yonten. You can find these talks also on the YouTube link above.

Newsletters – the IMI published four Newsletters in 2023 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. 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 permanently in 2023.

*May the smile of a reincarnation swiftly beam in
glory for fortunate disciples!*