

## Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition

### Stupa Fund Charter



### Creating Merit and Purifying the Mind through the Building of Holy Objects

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#### **FPMT Mission Statement**

The FPMT is an organization devoted to the transmission of the Mahayana Buddhist tradition and values worldwide through teaching, meditation and community service. We provide integrated education through which people's minds and hearts can be transformed into their highest potential for the benefit of others, inspired by an attitude of universal responsibility. We are committed to creating harmonious environments and helping all beings develop their full potential of infinite wisdom and compassion. Our organization is based on the Buddhist tradition of Lama Tsongkhapa of Tibet as taught to us by our founder, Lama Thubten Yeshe and our spiritual director, Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche.

#### **Overview**

Found in all Buddhist countries, stupas are the archetypal symbol of the enlightened mind. Each part of the stupa shows the path to enlightenment. Building a stupa is a powerful means of purifying negative karma and obscurations and of accumulating extensive merit. Even just seeing a stupa brings immense benefit and plants the seeds of enlightenment in the minds of all who see them, human or animal, Buddhist or non-Buddhist.

*"With holy objects such as statues, stupas and scriptures you do not have to have a mind unstained by anger, ignorance or attachment to create merit. For human beings or even animals, simply seeing the holy object becomes the cause to achieve inconceivable awakening and enlightenment by purifying so many defilements. The special advantage is that just by their existence these holy objects make it easy for us ordinary living beings to create merit." – Lama Zopa Rinpoche*

#### **Objectives**

The purpose of the Stupa Fund is to provide the resources for the building of stupas around the world, as directed by Lama Zopa Rinpoche. The stupas are built with the aim to increase compassion and for world peace. This Fund aims to build over 100,000 large stupas higher than 12ft, as well as a 100ft Kalachakra Stupa in Amaravati, India.

This Fund also covers the cost of making tsa tsas (small plaster images of buddhas and stupas) that are made daily by Ssangha and are dedicated to anyone who has passed away or who is sick, and for the success of all FPMT projects, students, benefactors and for all sentient beings.

#### **Benefits**

The main purpose of building stupas is to make the lives of all beings, young and old, meaningful. For those beings who see the stupa it will:

- help purify their mind
- help them collect merit, which is the cause of all happiness and all success
- help heal their body and mind through purification due to the power of the stupa, seeing and meditating on this holy object.

Building stupas also helps to preserve Tibetan Mahayana culture.

*Anybody, even animals, who sees a stupa is purified. This becomes an incredible purification of the mind. This then becomes the cause for one to see numberless buddhas in the near future. Then, when one hears the Dharma, one receives*

*the realizations of the path to enlightenment. Then one achieves total liberation, freedom forever from all suffering, and one attains the highest enlightenment by completing the Mahayana path. It is said that even a person who remembers a stupa is purified. Amazing! Even dreaming of a stupa plants the seed of everlasting freedom, total liberation from all suffering and its causes, and one can achieve everlasting happiness, the highest enlightenment. – Lama Zopa Rinpoche*

**Operations**

The Stupa Fund is a project of FPMT Inc. and is administered by FPMT International Office, which is located in Portland, Oregon, United States. The annual cost of the Fund fluctuates each year between US\$5000 - 10,000, depending on the current needs.

All donations made to the Fund are tax-deductible within the United States in accordance with IRS Code article 501(C)(3) to the extent allowed by law.

For further information about FPMT and the Puja Fund, please visit [www.fpmt.org/projects/stupa](http://www.fpmt.org/projects/stupa)

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