

Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition

Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund Charter



Supporting the Great Gelug Masters and Scholars and Preserving the Mahayana Tradition

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.

Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund Overview

At the request of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund was established in 1997 by Lama Zopa Rinpoche to support current masters within the tradition, and ensure the wisdom lineage continues for the sake of all sentient beings.

The Fund covers the modest monthly needs of these teachers from the great Gelug monasteries and colleges in India and Nepal, who do not have access to regular sponsorship, and the education expenses for monks within these communities.

Objectives

The purpose of the Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund is to preserve the Mahayana tradition by supporting the great masters of the Lama Tsongkhapa lineage, and cultivate the upcoming teachers of tomorrow.

The three priorities for the Fund are:

1. Provide a monthly stipend to the Ganden Tripa, the Abbots and main teachers of Sera, Drepung, Ganden, Rato, and Tashi Lhunpo monasteries, and the Gyume and Gyuto tantric colleges
2. Sponsor the traditional annual winter debate (*Jang Debate*) that bring the best scholars together
3. Sponsor the annual Gelug exam to qualify monks to become teachers

Benefits

The Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund preserves the purity of the Mahayana teachings by supporting up to 150 teachers and hundreds of monks each year. For over a decade the Fund has met the basic needs of the great teachers and scholastic costs of monks within the Gelug tradition. The Fund is an essential resource for the ongoing cultivation of the teachings of the Lama Tsongkhapa lineage, and an important pathway for monks to become qualified as teachers through the annual Gelug exam.

"The continuity and spread of Buddhadharma throughout the world depends upon highly qualified teachers. The three great monasteries are the only place in the world where the entire, complete teachings of the Buddha are studied and practiced with deep logic." --Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Operations

The Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund is a project of FPMT Inc. and is administered by FPMT International Office located in Portland, Oregon, United States.

Annual budgeted cost of Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund is currently estimated at \$USD47,000. This includes:

- 1) Supporting the most senior teachers of the Lama Tsongkhapa tradition: \$19,710
- 2) Supporting the annual Gelugpa exam: \$8,850
- 3) Supporting the annual winter debate: \$18,230

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 Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund, please visit www.fpmt.org/projects/lkt/

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