



Dorje Pamo Monastery

Annual report 2022



**A budding community of Buddhist nuns
in the Gelug tradition**

Board

April 26th, 2022 (previous General Assembly) :

President: Ven. Chantal Tenzin Dékyi
Treasurer: Ven. Gyaltsen Palmo
Vice treasurer: Ven. Tenzin Pèldreun
Secretary: Ven. Tenzin Ngeunga

At the end of 2022 :

Chair: Ven. Gyaltsen Chökyi
Treasurer: Ven. Gyaltsen Palmo
Vice treasurer: Ven. Tenzin Pèldreun
Secretary: vacant

Members, Residents, Visitors

The community of nuns forming the "Association Dorje Pamo Monastery" comprised 12 members in 2022.

At the beginning of 2022, we were 4 permanent resident nuns: Vens. Chantal, Palmo, Chötso, and Chökyi. In September, Ven. Lhamo joined us; and eventually Ven. Chötso left us.

However, we did welcome a few temporary residents: venerable Tenzin Métok in June, and an aspirant, Marie [now venerable Chöying], who came to "test the waters" for 15 days in September.

And of course, we've been delighted to welcome groups and individuals, such as :

- Ven. Th. Gyatso, former director of Nalanda, on a beautiful June afternoon;
- Ven. T. Namdröl, famous for having performed many Nyung Näs and Director of the FPMT center in Rio, Brazil; for the occasion, we brought together 9 nuns eager to meet her again;
- including Ven. Chödrön, who was recently ordained and takes part in most of the monastery's important events;
- Geshe Namdak's exponentially growing international group before they went on a retreat from the Basic Program, at Nalanda. First announced with only 6-7 participants, then 12, then 20; they turned out to be 34! It was a wonderful surprise.
- In October, Professor Jan Willis, one of Lama Yeshe's earliest American disciples. A highly committed author who is also involved in supporting nuns in Ladakh, and a true



Vens. Metok, Jampa, Chantal, Gyatso, and Palmo

"memory keeper" of the FPMT, she made a great impression, and some of us followed her lectures at the Vajrayogini Institute with great enthusiasm.

- At the end of November, two lovely Dutch nuns stayed with us for 4 days. Their aim for coming here was to take part in a Sojong!
- In December, we also received a visit from Hup Cheng, director of Singapore's Amitabha Center and Feng Shui Master, who offered us his advice.

And that's not to mention all the visits, always impromptu, that we receive from people passing through or from the surrounding area.

This little summary is just to show you how important this welcoming quality is to us, and how we'd like to continue developing it.

Education & retraites

The spiritual development of the community is the main focus of our activities.

- Some of us followed **teachings at Nalanda Monastery**, such as the Zhine and Lhatong (Deep Vision) chapters, of the Lamrim Chenmo taught by Geshe Jamphel;
- 2022 concluded the **Basic Program** for Ven. Chötso, taught by Geshe Gyaltzen, followed by the traditional three months of Lamrim retreat she has been able to organize at Maitreya Pure Land;
- Ven. Palmo pursues the **Basic Program** and online **meditation courses** at the FPMT center Maitreya in the Netherlands, and a **debate course** on Zoom. She also did two retreats.
- The teachings at our monastery on a **Lojong** text [Mind Transformation], by our abbot, **Geshe Tenzin Loden**. This is the precious human rebirth! Greatly appreciated by the whole community of nuns, who are joined by a few friends from the surrounding area, these teaching occasions give us the opportunity to get together and share mouthwatering lunches!



Teaching on Lojong by Geshe Loden

- A **training**, spread over 8 weeks and followed with great interest, was offered by the **FDWC** (Foundation for the Development of Wisdom and Compassion), a secular branch of the FPMT. This course was expertly led by Mabel Odessey, a founding member of Education Universelle France. The course was offered free of charge to IMI members, and three Dorje Pamo nuns took advantage of this opportunity to discover the various methods often offered to lay people to develop mindfulness. Conclusion: recommended to all!

Major events

In 2022 there were several events:

1. Spiritual events:

The finishing of the painting of the main altar, and the painting of the statue of White Tara. Both paintings were done by Gelek Sherpa, who came on two occasions for these tasks. Before the White Tara statue was painted, two ceremonies were held for her filling and consecration, presided over by Geshe Loden. (The whole ceremony was filmed, and we hope to be able to show a short film soon).

Note that the statue was sponsored by Mei-Chen Shen and a number of other Taiwanese disciples of Lama Zopa Rinpoche. It was offered at the puja in his honor in December in Kopan. It was then placed in our altar, in accordance with Rinpoche's wishes.



The White Tara Statue, sculpted by Denise Griffin and painted by Gelek Sherpa

2. Administrative events: we had a few bumps on the road, which actually turned out to be quite productive.

First of all, Yaël and Ven. Chötso organized some lively meetings, in which all nuns participated, to reflect on the mission and direction we could envisage for the monastery's future, and to define a framework of actions to follow.

At the Annual General Meeting on April 26th, 2022, the following members were elected on the board:

- Ven. Thubten Tenzin (president)
- Ven. Tenzin Pema (vice president)
- Ven. Gyaltsen Chökyi (secretary)
- Ven. Tenzin Dekyi (vice secretary)
- Ven. Gyaltsen Palmo (treasurer)
- Ven. Tenzin Peldreun (vice treasurer)

It was under the impetus of this board that Dorje Pamo Monastery's **affiliation to the FPMT as a Project** was finally completed. This affiliation has been confirmed by the FPMT at the end of 2022. Many thanks to the previous board for this milestone!

To meet the requirements of the FPMT with regard to the **Protection against Abuse Policy**,

the board members followed the **online FPMT training course**, and appointed three referent persons: Vens. Tenzin and Chantal, as well as an external person, trained in this field: Sam Regad.

This was followed by the **appointment of a director**, Ven. Chantal Tenzin Dekyi (Chantal Carrerot) and an **assistant director**, Ven. Gyaltsen Chökyi (M-Béatrice Guibert).

Then, as the president and vice president of the board resigned during the year, and the vice secretary had to relinquish her post due to her appointment as director of the monastery, Ven. Chökyi was appointed **interim president** by the remaining members of the board, until the next General Assembly.

Finally, in response to the FPMT's request that each of their entities appoint a **spiritual program coordinator**, Ven. Gyaltsen Chökyi has been assigned to the position of SPC.

As for the monastery's **bookkeeping**, a volunteer, **Anton Neumann**, replaces Ven. Péma, harmoniously collaborating with Vens. Palmo and Peldreun.

Dharma activities

Our daily practices have been adjusted in response to world events, as instructed by Rinpoche and our abbot.

All the nuns meet in the morning and evening for **daily prayers**. This is followed by study, and housework and community tasks, such as cooking, gardening, administration, etc.

guided by Vens. Chantal, Ngeunga, and Chökyi, respectively.

Practices of calm abiding, guided by Ven. Chantal; several full-day "retreats".

Fortnightly **Poujas with Lama Chöpa - Tsog**

Finally, the getsulmas have regularly taken part in the **Sojong** ritual at Nalanda.



Se souvenir de Lama Yéshé avec la vénérable Lhamo

Except during the summer [July-August] and winter periods [December-January], regular activities are offered:

Celebration of the 4 great holy days [düchen]: Losar, Saka Dawa, Descent of Tushita and Lama Tsong Khapa's birthday with pujas and sutra readings.

Weekly Wednesday meditations, on three successive topics: mindfulness; impermanence & Lamrim; and Questions & Answers. These were

Communication

Three **newsletters** have been published in two versions, French and English, in March, September, and December.

We have a better-documented **website**, via which registration to the various activities is possible, with program and booking. This is also possible via our **What'sApp groups**.

Furthermore, we maintain a **Facebook page** with photos of our events.

Environment and building

1. Environment

The summer of 2022 produced an impressive apple harvest! We found an association, INICI, all pensioners, who helped us with the picking and the whole process leading up to the production of a **wholly ORGANIC apple juice**. We took part in the bottling process, harvesting 150 bottles of a juice that everyone seems to appreciate.



Picking apples in the orchards by volunteers of INICI

For maintenance of the grounds we had to **improve our equipment**. We bought a shredder (much used!) and a second-hand mower which is suited for sloping and uneven ground, like in our orchards.

Vegetable garden squares: Unfortunately, the summer heatwave has lost us our tomato, bean, squash and other sweet plants...

A **long-broken sewage pipe** has been repaired by professionals; the greatly appreciated company Bressolles.

Several **Feng Shui poles** were painted and mounted, to channel positive energy from the surrounding hills.

2. Building

We upgraded to standards of fire protection; we purchased and installed smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, and two resident nuns have received training in fire safety and using fire extinguishers, under the guidance of a monk at Nalanda who used to be a fireman.



Ven. Chökyi trying her hand at the maneuver, with great determination

The **walls** in the gompa hall have been **renovated** and those on the second floor in front of the library will be renovated next year.

An estimate of the **work on the new kitchen** has been provided by Raynal Architectes.

Support

Many of our maintenance activities have been undertaken or facilitated by volunteers, in particular: Jean-Yves, Nathalie, Vens, Jamyang, Damchö, Tenzin, and Yeshe; Geshe Lösel, Toine, Robin, Leo, Jean-Louis, Marcel, and many, many others. Furthermore, none of our activities would have been possible without our donors, who

contribute to the maintenance of our monastery, and thus to the preservation of the Dharma. No words are adequate to express our gratitude to them all...

We dedicate all merits we jointly collected to the swift enlightenment of all sentient beings!

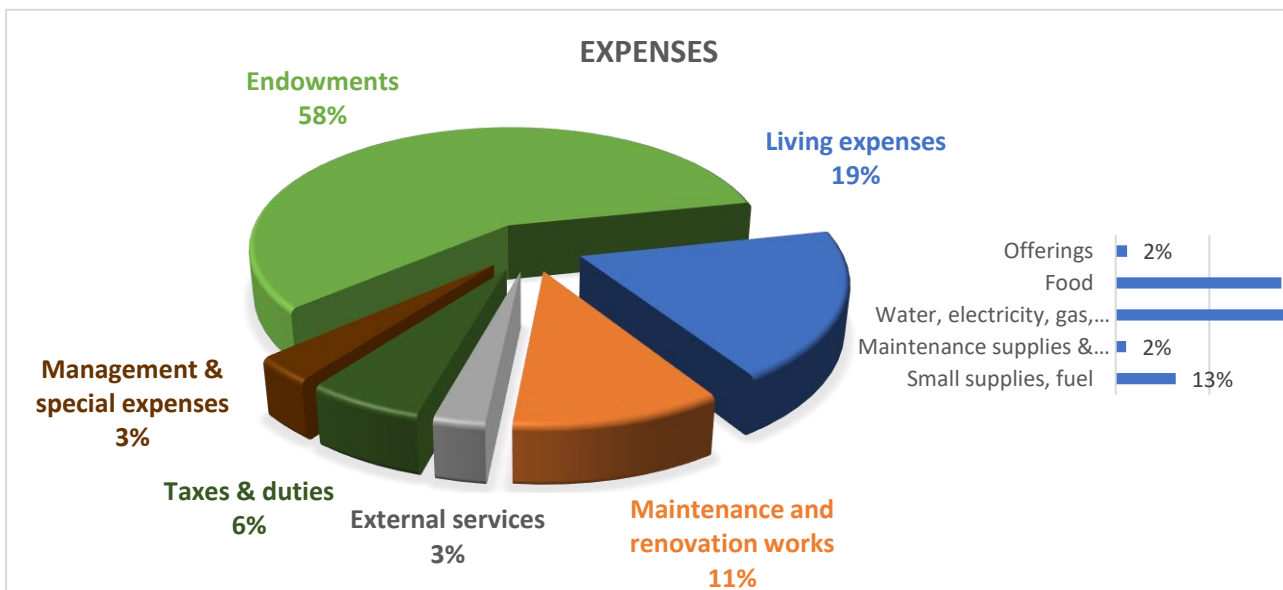
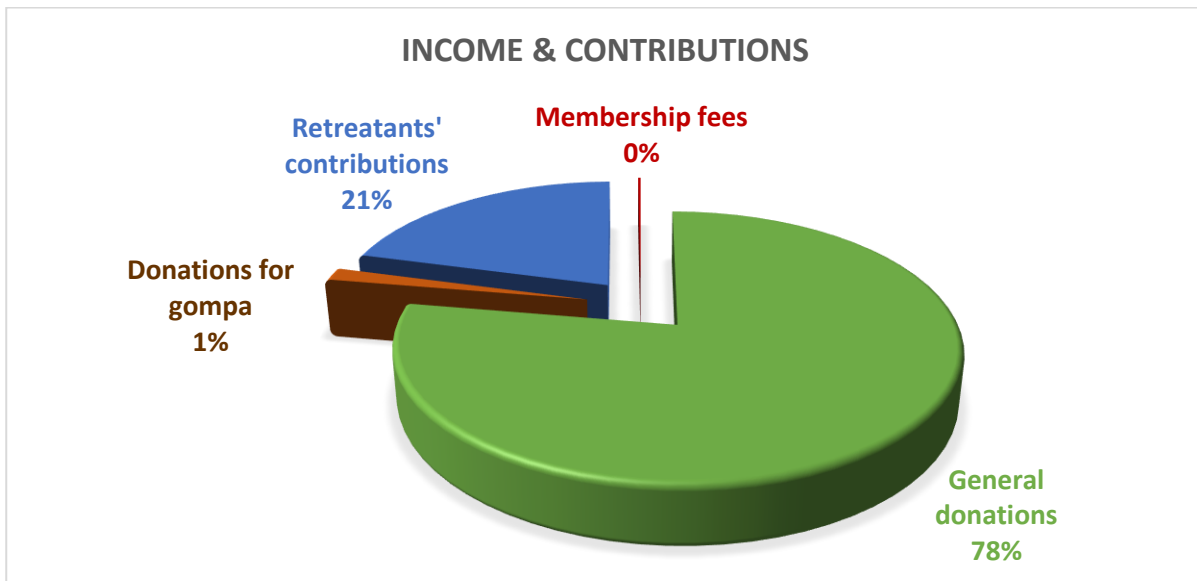


Financial situation December 31st, 2022

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES		OWN FUNDS	
Land	26.486	Associative funds	669.613
Buildings	567.340	Retained earnings	48.066
Other	5.483	Net income for the year	3.928
Property, equipment and consumables under development	40.381	Investment grants on non-renewable assets	22.087
SUB-TOTALS OF FIXED ASSETS	639.690	SUB-TOTALS OF OWN FUNDS	743.694
CURRENT ASSETS		RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Advances and deposits paid on orders	960	Restricted funds	48.059
Liquid assets	159.529	Supplier debts	3.187
		Payables on fixed assets	4.674
		Other debts	565
SUB-TOTALS OF CURRENT ASSETS	160.489	SUB-TOTALS	56.485
GRAND TOTALS	800.179	GRAND TOTALS	800.179

INCOME & CONTRIBUTIONS		PAYMENTS	
General donations	50.387	Living expenses	11.941
Donations for construction work	1.000	Maintenance & renovation works	6.694
Donations for gompa	13.402	External services	1.658
Retreatants' contributions	110	Taxes & duties	3.743
Membership fees		Management & special expenses	2.011
		Endowments	36.078
TOTAUX	64.899	TOTAUX	62.125

Breakdown of income and expenses:



We intend to slowly, slowly expand Dorje Pamo Monastery and to welcome new (aspirant) nuns in the coming years. In order to be able to offer an appropriate environment for all to live, to study, and to practice, we plan to construct a new, separate kitchen next year. More rooms and several other facilities are planned to follow soon.