



The NYEMA Sun

NYEMA Projects' annual newsletter on humanitarian projects in eastern Tibet

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends:

Over the summer, Lama Karma Chodrak visited Nangchen and I am happy to announce that through his persistence and his attention to detail, projects at Kala Rongo Monastery, Samtenling Retreat Center and Korche Monastery have progressed significantly.

This edition highlights all the developments from his trip. The wonderful advances being made attest to your past support, for which I am so grateful. Without your generosity, these crucial projects and programs would never have become a reality.

Any assistance you can offer to complete Kala Rongo's shrine hall, support Kala Rongo's community of nuns, or toward building a larger shrine hall for Korche's monastic college is greatly appreciated. Your tax-deductible donation will enable us to provide materials and resources necessary to continue the development of these centers of learning and practice, and create a vibrant spiritual community that will benefit all sentient beings.

Best wishes,

Lama Norlha Rinpoche
Lama Norlha Rinpoche
Chairman



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Our Mission: To help the impoverished people of the Nangchen region raise their standard of living by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevail in the modern, global world without sacrificing their unique cultural heritage.

Top: Retreatants of Samtenling
Photo credits: Lama Chodrak, NYEMA Projects Inc



Monastic Initiative: Kala Rongo Palchen Göñ

Progress Continues at Kala Rongo



Shrine Hall Rebuilding Near Completion

In October of 2004, Kala Rongo experienced the devastation of having their shrine hall burn to the ground. Thanks for your generous support, we were able to begin construction of a new shrine hall for the nuns. Now thanks to Lama Chodrak's efforts this summer, the rebuilding work at Kala Rongo monastery is near completion.



Retreat Master Living Quarters Built

Living quarters for Kala Rongo's retreat master Lama Yangpe, located directly above the three-year retreat facility, has now been completed. This is great news for the current retreatants — who entered retreat in 2007 — as Lama Yangpe can now be closer to the retreat and more available for teaching and engaging more fully in the retreatants' progress.

Top: Rebuilt monastery at Kala Rongo.

Bottom: Lama Chodrak (center), Korche's Sabka Rinpoche (left) and retreat master Lama Yangpe (right) with Kala Rongo Retreatants in front of the new living quarters.



Monastic Initiative: Samtenling

New Monastery at Samtenling Provides a Home to Local Nuns

Under Lama Chodrak's direction, Samtenling Retreat facility — an affiliate of Kala Rongo — built a new monastery near the retreat location in the Karong Valley. Local nuns from the neighboring remote mountain village, many of whom completed the traditional three-year retreat, now live at the monastery and chant daily prayers of the Kagyu tradition. While the main structure is complete, there is still interior work to be finished: completing the altar and shrine cabinets, and purchasing statues.



Top: Resident nuns in front of the Samtenling Retreat Center's new monastery.
Bottom: Full view of the new Samtenling Monastery.



Monastic Initiative: Korche Monastery



Korche Continues to Grow and Inspires a New Generation

Over 150 students are now enrolled in the Korche Buddhist monastic college (shedra), pursuing studies in the essential points of Buddhist philosophy, logic, psychology and ethics. The value of this education cannot be underestimated – the graduates will be the teachers of the new generation of Buddhist practitioners around the world.

Given the large number of students enrolled in the program, however, the shedra's shrine hall can no longer accommodate everyone. A larger

hall is crucial for their continued education and practice, and for the teachings of the great Buddhist masters to spread, bringing peace and consolation to our troubled world.

The training of qualified teachers continues at the three-year retreat at Korche Monastery. The current cycle, which began last year, is progressing very well. The retreatants – including Korche's Garchen Tulku, Korche's main incarnate lama – have embraced their studies enthusiastically, and their dedication promises great hope

for a new generation of exceptional practitioners and teachers.

Korche's activities have generated much interest, new residents and visitors, necessitating the construction of a guest house onsite. The new multi-purpose building houses a large kitchen on the lower level, dedicated to providing meals for resident monks. On the second level, a kitchen, dining room and six guest rooms have been constructed for visiting Rinpoches and special guests.



Community Initiative: Shornda

Activities Serving Local Community Prove Popular



Kagyü Monlam

The Shornda Kagyü Monlam began on November 9th, the auspicious day of Lhabap Duchen, when the Lord Buddha descended back to the human realm from the heavenly realm of Tushita after teaching his mother. This five-day prayer festival is held every year, attracting thousands of monks and nuns from many monasteries to chant prayers of aspiration for universal wisdom and happiness. This year, approximately 8,000 monks and nuns and 60,000 to 70,000 lay people attended.

Nyungne House

At the Nyungne house in Shornda — which Lama Norlha Rinpoche purchased in 2007 — the nuns have been extremely diligent and committed to their practice. Each month, a group of 13 nuns take up a month-long residence (pictured above) to perform *nyungnes* — the fasting practice of the 1,000 Arm Chenrezi. To maintain the practice continuously, the nuns rotate on a monthly basis. Participation by the local community through sponsorship is immensely popular. The blessings flowing from this practice and from the nun's commitment are incalculable.

NYEMA Projects, Inc. Donation Form

Through investing financial resources, educational or medical supplies, time or skills, you can help the people of Nangchen improve their standard of living and protect their unique cultural heritage. Less than 5% of funding provided by our donors goes to administrative overhead. On behalf of the people of Nangchen, we thank you for your interest in these initiatives.

I would like to contribute to the following:

- ☐ NYEMA Projects (general) \$ _____
☐ Monastic Initiative (general) \$ _____
☐ Kala Rongo Monastery (general) \$ _____
☐ Kala Rongo Shrine Hall \$ _____
☐ Korche Shedra (college) Shrine Hall \$ _____
Donation Subtotal: \$ _____

Sponsor practice at Kala Rongo's Nyungne House:

- ☐ Nyungne ☐ Amitabha Shingdrup
Duration: ☐ \$35 for 1 day ☐ \$70 for 2 days
☐ \$350 for 10 days ☐ \$1000 for 1 month

Sponsor food at: ☐ Kala Rongo ☐ Korche

Select the meal(s) by circling the amount(s) below.

	Regular day	Chanting day
Tea	\$20	\$20
Lunch	\$100	\$120
All 3 meals	\$160	\$220

Donation Subtotal: \$ _____

Donation Grand Total: \$ _____

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Address: _____

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Special Instructions/Prayer Requests (if any): _____

Payment Options

- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

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