

IDRC Traditions: The IDRC Whip

Some organizations have a gavel that they pass from one chairperson to the next; the International Diffuse Reflectance Conference has a whip. Lest you think that sounds a bit harsh, you need to know that this is a very special whip—a gift from a dear friend and long-time attendee of IDRC, the late Professor Karoly Kafka. At the last IDRC conference that he was able to attend, Professor Kafka gave a very ornate Hungarian bullwhip to that year's chair, Gary Ritchie. At the 2014 IDRC conference, as part of the tribute to Professor Kafka, Gary Ritchie offered up the whip as a tradition to be passed down from IDRC chairperson to chairperson.



Prof. Karoly Kafka at the 2009 INIRS meeting in Thailand.



The IDRC Whip.



Close-up of the intricately inlaid handle of the IDRC Whip.