



# International Rafting Federation

## International Relations Committee Report – Congress 2017 4 & 5 October, Miyoshi City, Japan

Note: all International travel to important events, I represent my rafting company Rios Tropicales, as well as the IRF, as Founder /Ex-president /Head of International Relations. All expenses are incurred by myself or my company, there is no Budget allocation towards this committee, nor production of funds.

2015 - Elected as Head of International relations at WRC 2015

2016

January

Participated in ESTC 2016 (Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference) in Tampa Florida where I presented the WRC 2011 in Costa Rica's Carbon Neutrality initiative.

Attended Douglas Tompkins Memorial in San Francisco. Met for lunch with Jib Ellison (Project Raft), and Tony Hansen (Camel Challenge).

June

Attended Adventure Next, an ATTA event in Quebec, also used the WRC 2011 in Costa Rica as an example on how we could accomplish a similar goal with their upcoming Summit. Discussions with Communication director Casey Hanisko, and Vice President Jason Reckers, turned positive as project was accepted.

Sept

Attended ATTA Summit in Anchorage, Alaska.

Created the summit Carbon Neutral using WRC 2011 Costa Rica as an example, planted 5,000 trees in Costa Rica to compensate 1,200 Tons of CO2 emitted. For WRC 2011 we planted 2000 trees to compensate 1000 tons of CO2.

Met with Dan Moore and Alice Glifford, regarding IRF certification in ATTA.

Reinitiated IWHOF, International Whitewater Hall of Fame. Worked closely with Nada to propose candidates from our membership, nominated Nikki Kelly, who won in the champion category. Induction to take place in late October in North Carolina.

More member Federations need to be part of next year's nominations, as all nominees that come from the IRF have won and there are many, as we know, amazing people in different corners of the world that should be part of the hall of Fame, as champions, explorers, advocates or pioneers.

## 2016-2017

Follow up conversations regarding how to proceed with SportsAccord, it continues to be an expensive and unknown road to the Olympics, too much money and politics would block us from ICF. (Personal point of view) Sad!!

## December 2016

Participated in America Outdoors Association convention, Daytona, Florida.

Spoke with equipment manufacturers, and raft distributors in the USA about WRC, they all would be eager to help, and still don't like the fact that we use all same boats. They would be able to sponsor teams and develop a standard race boat if necessary. "Talk about it "

## June 2017

Represented IRF in Wubu, China, from July 19-24, the event was denominated: The Yellow River Grand Canyon International Drifting Open Tournament in Wubu & the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Yellow River Drifting.

It was supported by 10 different government agencies. The spectator record was broken during this event, with over 100,000 showing up to the river, and 60,000 at closing ceremonies. Teams were invited from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Italy, Serbia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, China.

## October 18 2017

Will participate in the ATTA 2017 Summit to be held in Salta, Argentina.

Will be part of "Shaping the future of the International Adventure Travel Guide Standard" where we continue to stand our ground as International Certification Entity.

[www.adventuretravel.biz/events/summit/argentina-2017/shaping-the-future](http://www.adventuretravel.biz/events/summit/argentina-2017/shaping-the-future)

Thanks for your attention

Rafael Gallo

Founder/ Ex-president /Head of International Relations