



## Thailand National Report



### Introduction

Paramotor and Microlight have seen their drastic surge in popularity in Thailand over the past few years. The Royal Aeronautic Sport Association of Thailand (RASAT) is an authorised governing body responsible for promoting and upholding the high standard activities and enhanced safety. Over the past year, pilots in Thailand can be divided into two groups: air sport enthusiasts and competition pilots. Although the former group is still a majority, the latter is drastically growing in number.

This year the number of sporting pilots has increased by 30%, that shows a success in promoting air sport within the country.

### Trends and Development

Thailand has its own national sport event—called ‘Thai National Games’ mobilised by the Sport Authority of Thailand. In the event, selected athletes from each area are competing. The winners are highly recognised and there may be some money rewards from the local authority. The national ranking system is adopted and thus the results from the game will justify the right to become a national athlete to compete in international events such as SEA Game, Asian Game, Asian Beach Game and Olympic Game.

Paramotor is one of the air sports being included in the national sport event. RASAT is responsible to organise the competition. Since the game was based on old local competitions, the regulations and task catalogues do not always follow FAI sporting code.

Seeing how important it is to incubate new pilot athletes to participate in international competitions, RASAT has been very active over the past few years to promote the FAI style competition. The Air Sea Land Games and King’s Cup Paramotor Open were founded and meant to follow FAI sporting codes. There are many new pilots attracted to compete in the game. In addition, there are many groups of young pilots and female pilots participating. The games are also open for international pilots.

This year, Thailand was chosen to organise the 1<sup>st</sup> FAI Asia-Oceania Paramotor Championship, an FAI CAT I Continental Championship. It was the first time for

Thailand to organise CAT I competition. The preparation was quite slow at the start due to many complications such as venue relocation (From Krabi to Phuket) and finance. However, after a long fight with all problems, the competition turned out to be quite successful.

In year 2014, Thailand is hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Beach Games in Phuket. Powered Paraglider is one between two air sports to be competed in the Games.

## **Conclusions**

Thailand microlight/paramotoring sport is in its rising mode. The sport becomes relatively well-known to public. The local competition standard is being improved. FAI sporting codes are seriously adopted in many modern competitions.