



# 2018 FAI WORLD DRONE RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

Prepared by Go International Group Dotcom Sdn Bhd  
in collaboration with Asia Fitness Today.com & Move8.org



Creative & Innovative Solutions



## Table of Contents

1. Introduction
  - a. The FAI, The AFA & MSAF
  - b. The 2018 FAI World Drone Racing Championships
  - c. Host City - Shenzhen, China
  - d. Drone Racing
2. Participation at the Competition
  - a. Team Malaysia
  - b. Other activities
3. In the News (Media Clippings)
4. Conclusion

*Disclaimer: All photos copyright FAI World Drone Racing World Championship and can be used for editorial purposes with proper credits given to "Markus King FAI.org // Team Malaysia GoInternationalGroup.com" with written permission to [kl@gointernationalgroup.com](mailto:kl@gointernationalgroup.com).*

---



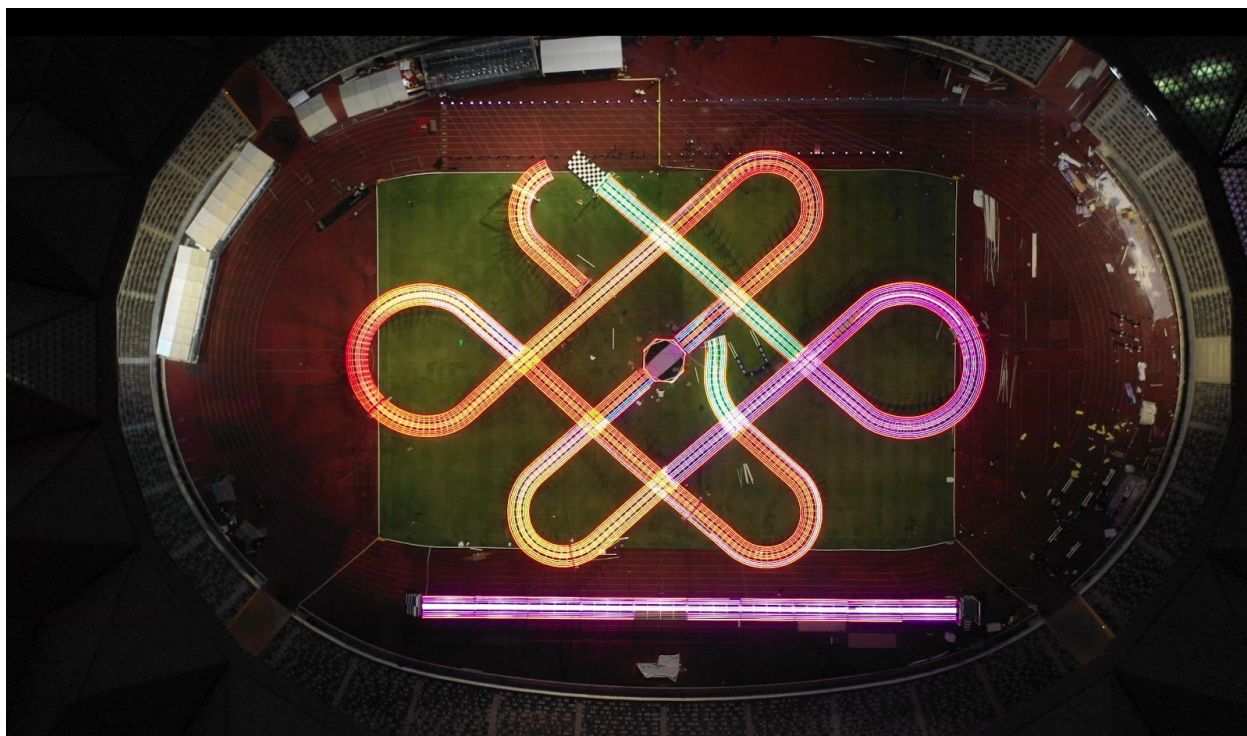
Two Malaysian youngsters participated at the 1st FAI World Drone Racing Championships made possible by the co-sponsorship from Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC).

## 1. Introduction

The 2018 FAI World Drone Racing Championships was held at Shenzhen, China on 1 – 4 November 2018 at the Shenzhen Universiade Sports Stadium. The inaugural Drone Racing Championships was awarded to Shenzhen, China after review of qualifying bids from the country, Albuquerque, United States of America and Barcelona, Spain. The decision was announced at the 111<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland by FAI President, Frits Brink. It was hoped that the Championships will present an incredible opportunity for drone racing to be showcased to the world, as it is an emerging new sport.

Also in attendance at the announcement during the general conference was International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, Dr. Thomas Bach. A global FAI Qualifying Series will begin in 2019 to further support the Championships.

A total of 138 drone racers from 34 countries participated in this global event. A press release was issued on 29th October 2018 to announce Team Malaysia's participation in this monumental event, made possible by the co-sponsorship from **MDEC** in collaboration with **Malaysia Sports Aviation Federation (MSAF)** and supported by technology ecosystem community builder **Dojo KL** and turnkey project manager **Go International Group Dotcom Sdn Bhd**, with official media support from sports and fitness startup **AsiaFitnessToday.com** and pro-athlete programs by **Move8.org**.



The impressive USD 5 million Drone Track in the shape of a Chinese Knot

### a. The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale or World Air Sports Federation (FAI)



The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), or World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports. Headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, it was founded on 14 October 1905. It was organised following a resolution passed by the Olympic Congress on 10 June 1905 at Brussels, Belgium. FAI maintains world records for aeronautical activities including, but not limited to, aeromodelling, ballooning, and human spaceflight thus establishing standards for records in air sports activities. The body also oversees international competitions at world and continental levels, and organises the World Air Games and FAI World Grand Prix.

They also organise the annual FAI International Drones Conference and Expo in Lausanne, Switzerland where it offers a platform for organisations, businesses and individuals to discuss how drones are used today and to create a framework for how they will be used and impact lives in the future.



The Air Sports Federation of Asia (AFA), is recognised by FAI and governs all air sports in Asia. Led by President, Captain Veerayuth Didyasarin (Thailand) and Chairman Tengku Abdillah (Malaysia) the AFA is recognised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the SEA Games committee. It was formed in 2016 to promote airsports and recreational flying amongst Asians and to professionally strengthen the Asian Continent in this sphere. It is a non-government and not-for-profit sporting international institution.



**PERSEKUTUAN SUKAN UDARA MALAYSIA  
(Malaysia Sports Aviation Federation)**

The Malaysian Sports Aviation Federation (MSAF) was formed on 31st May 2003 after discussion between Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technologies (MIGHT) and the Department of Civil Aviation Malaysia (DCA) to be a govern body to all sports aviation activities in Malaysia. The membership of Malaysian Sports Aviation Federation (MSAF) is open to all associations, clubs and companies registered in Malaysia who directly or indirectly involve in sports aviation activities. The Malaysian Sports Aviation Federation (MSAF) is registered with the Federation Aeronautical Internationale (FAI), the world body for sports aviation activities. Visit [www.msaf.gov.my](http://www.msaf.gov.my).



Team Malaysia interviewed by FAI media crew at the competition

## **b. The 2018 FAI World Drone Racing Championships**

The FAI World Drone Racing Championships is a four-day international event for world-class drone racing pilots from around the world. They are either selected by their country or by FAI.

Classifications in the Championships include Senior, Female and Junior pilots, in addition to general individual and national team.



Team Malaysia represented by two drone pilots Amir Haziq and Saw Zhi Ying, one helper Muhammad Fahrudin bin Yusoff and two supporters Jack Chan of DOJO KL and Jasmine Low of Go International Group Dotcom at the FAI World Drone Racing World Championship. Images were published in FAI website: <https://www.faidroneworld2018.aero/> placed Malaysia on the leaderboard world rankings.



### **c. Host City - Shenzhen, China**

Located in Southern China, the city is one of the fastest developing cities in the world. It is renowned for innovation, technology and international exchange. Drone racing is increasingly popular in China, especially among teenagers. One big reason is that it is the heart of world's consumer electronics manufacturing industry. And as part of that DJI, the global leader in manufacturing drones, is based in there.

DJI is just one of the estimated 1,200 companies involved in making drones or their components in China today, but it is by far the largest, responsible for more than 70 percent of the world's drone market, according to Xinhua News.

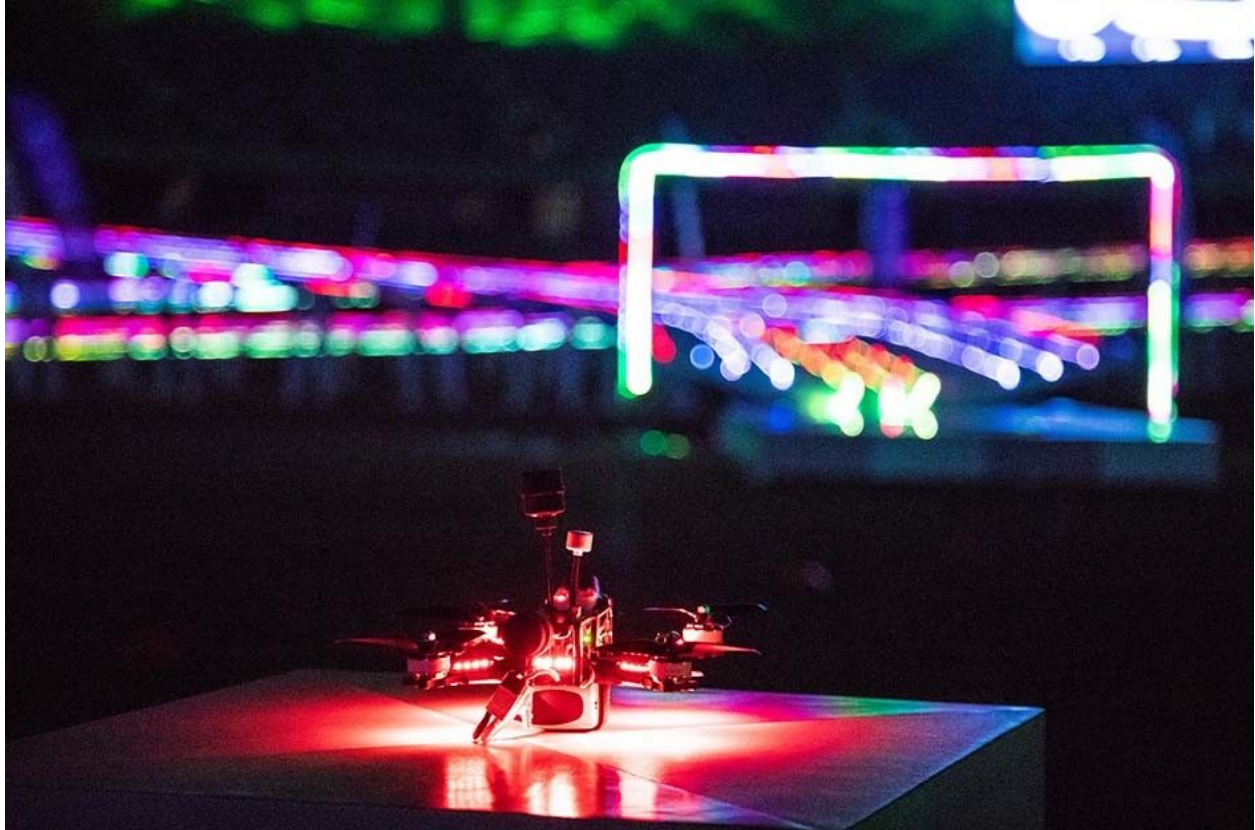
And that market is growing. Almost three million "hobby drones" were manufactured in China in 2017, a year-on-year increase of 67 percent.

It's not just hobby drones that are booming either. The whole range of drones in the emerging drone ecosystem from the size of a mobile phone, to 200kg agriculture drones that fly at 75km/h and carry 250kg of fertiliser.

The focus on drones is part of a wider technology boom that has seen the city's population and economy explode. In 1985 Shenzhen was just small coastal town of 30,000 people close to Hong Kong. But it then became one of China's first Special Economic Zones, areas where entrepreneurial and foreign investment is encouraged.

Shenzhen hasn't stopped growing since, and now has a population of 15 million, with an economy to match. Today, it is said that 90% of the world's electronics hardware is made in Shenzhen. That includes phones, televisions and of course drones.

In November, the world's best drone pilots converged in Shenzhen and raced in the futuristic-looking Shenzhen Universiade Sports Centre, a black-glass and steel stadium built in 2011 that can hold 60,000 spectators. Drone pilots travelled from all across the world to fly and compete between 1-4 November. They were joined by a myriad of drone racing officials and race supporters, including FAI Judges.



Photos courtesy: <https://www.faidroneworld2018.aero/>

#### **d. Drone Racing**

Drone Racing is an increasingly popular and emerging sport, especially among teenagers, around the world. It is one of the fastest growing air sports in the FAI and attracts thousands of participants each year.

Aside from being fast and exciting, it is accessible. Pilots are able to join clubs, leagues and begin racing quickly. Races are often held at local airfields, fields as well as drone parks.

Using a pair of first person view (FPV) goggles, a pilot only sees what the drones see. This is accomplished by live streaming footage from a camera mounted on the drone with the image transmitted to the pilot's goggles. In competitions, drones are required to meet certain standards.

The goal in each competition is to complete a set of course as quickly as possible. Drone racing began in 2013 in Australia with a number of pilots getting together to compete in Brisbane and Melbourne.

Drone Racing has been catching on in Malaysia with hobby groups, and university clubs adding it to their activities since 2015.



## 2. Participating in the Competition

The 2018 FAI World Drone Racing Championships saw participation from 128 participants from 34 countries. The Malaysian Team was sent under the purview of the Malaysia Sports Aviation Federation (MSAF), the body that governs air sports activities in Malaysia. They are registered with the FAI and is able to issue FAI licence to local air sports athletes.

### Malaysian Team

The Malaysian contingent consisted of:

**MAS MALAYSIA NATIONAL TEAM**

**TEAM MANAGER**

- SAIFUL RIJAL AMIR HAZI**  
MAS  
TEAM MANAGER | MALE

**COMPETITORS**

- SAIFUL RIJAL AMIR HAZIQ**  
MAS  
COMPETITOR | SENIOR | MALE
- ZHI YING SAW**  
MAS  
COMPETITOR | SENIOR | FEMALE

**HELPER**

- BIN YUSOFF MUHAMMAD...**  
MAS  
HELPER | MALE

**SUPPORTERS**

- CHAN CHIAN YANG**  
MAS  
SUPPORTER | MALE
- LOW HONG CHUN**  
MAS  
SUPPORTER | FEMALE

Image from <https://faidroneworld2018.enavigato.org/participants>

The Malaysian Team consisted of:

Name	Designation
Amir Haziq bin Saiful Rijal	Team Manager/Competitor
Saw Zhi Ying (Jinny)	Competitor
Muhammad Fahrudin bin Yusoff	Helper
Chan Chian Yan (Jack)	Supporter
Low Hong Chun (Jasmine)	Supporter

The team did well for the Championships, as noted below:

Country ranking: 30/34

### Individual Ranking

<b>Name</b>	<b>World Championship Ranking</b>
Amir Haziq bin Saiful Rijal	91
Saw Zhi Ying	118

\*Results obtained from <https://faidroneworld2018.enavigator.org/results>



View this enlarged group photo here:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports\\_fai/45663859432/in/album-72157703182008655/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports_fai/45663859432/in/album-72157703182008655/)

More photos of Team Malaysia's participation can be viewed online at:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports\\_fai/albums/72157701605848271](https://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports_fai/albums/72157701605848271)

### **b. Other Activities**

Helper, Muhammad Fahrudin bin Yusoff participated in a meeting with the Airport Federation of Asia (AFA) that was held at Shenzhen, China at the same time. AFA is the Asian organisation for the promotion of air sports and recreational flying.



*Malaysian Team helper Muhammad Fahrudin bin Yusoff (second from right) with AFA members after the Shenzhen, China meeting.*

### 3. In the News (Media Clippings)

- **PRNews.GoInternationalGroup.com 29 October 2018: Malaysian youth enter first FAI World Drone Racing Championships, Shenzhen China**
- Live link:  
<http://prnews.gointernationalgroup.com/malaysian-youth-enter-first-fai-world-drone-racing-championships-shenzhen-china/>

## PRESS RELEASE



29  
OCT

### MALAYSIAN YOUTHS ENTER FIRST FAI WORLD DRONE RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS, SHENZHEN CHINA

By [PRNews.GoInternationalGroup.com](#) / [PRNews.GoInternationalGroup.com](#)

Malaysian Youths Enter First FAI World Drone Racing Championships, Shenzhen China

29 October 2018 (Shenzhen) - A team of Malaysian youth athletes took part in the world's first ever drone racing competition in Shenzhen, China, marking a significant milestone in the country's drone racing history.

Malaysian youth athletes participated in the world's first ever drone racing competition in Shenzhen, China, marking a significant milestone in the country's drone racing history. The competition was held in Shenzhen, China, and was the first time that Malaysian youth athletes have participated in a world-level drone racing competition. The competition was held in Shenzhen, China, and was the first time that Malaysian youth athletes have participated in a world-level drone racing competition.



- Live Stream from FAI official YouTube Airsports Channel
- Live link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kpqOaDW3zo>



- Participation at the FAI World Drone Racing Championships



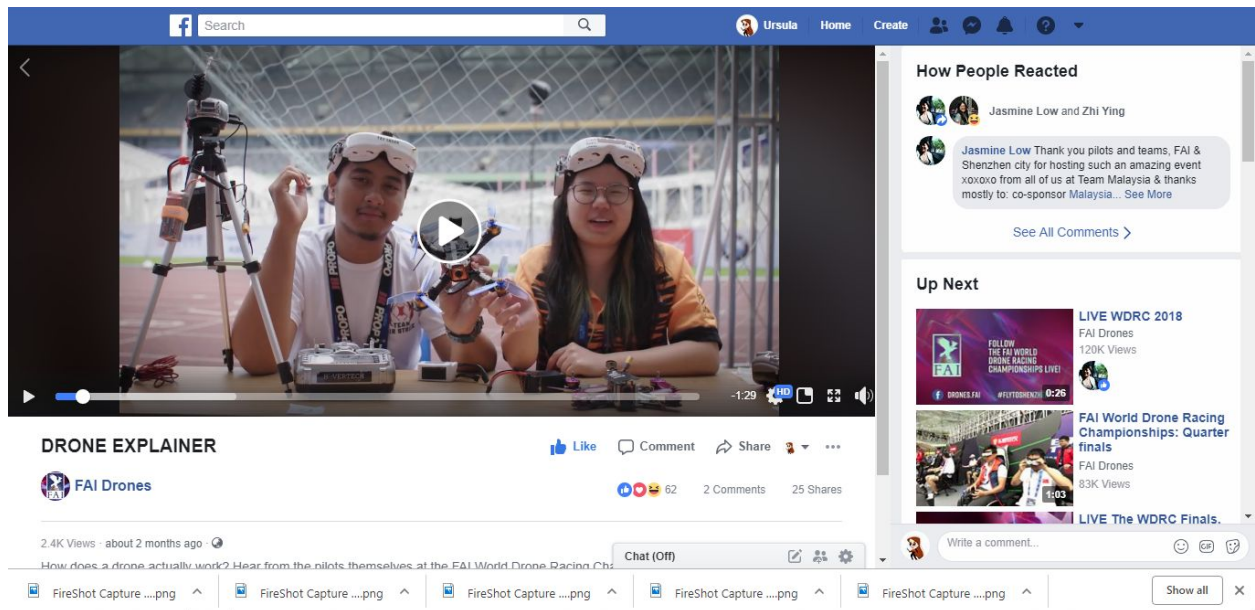
Amir Haziq at the drone pilot's seat



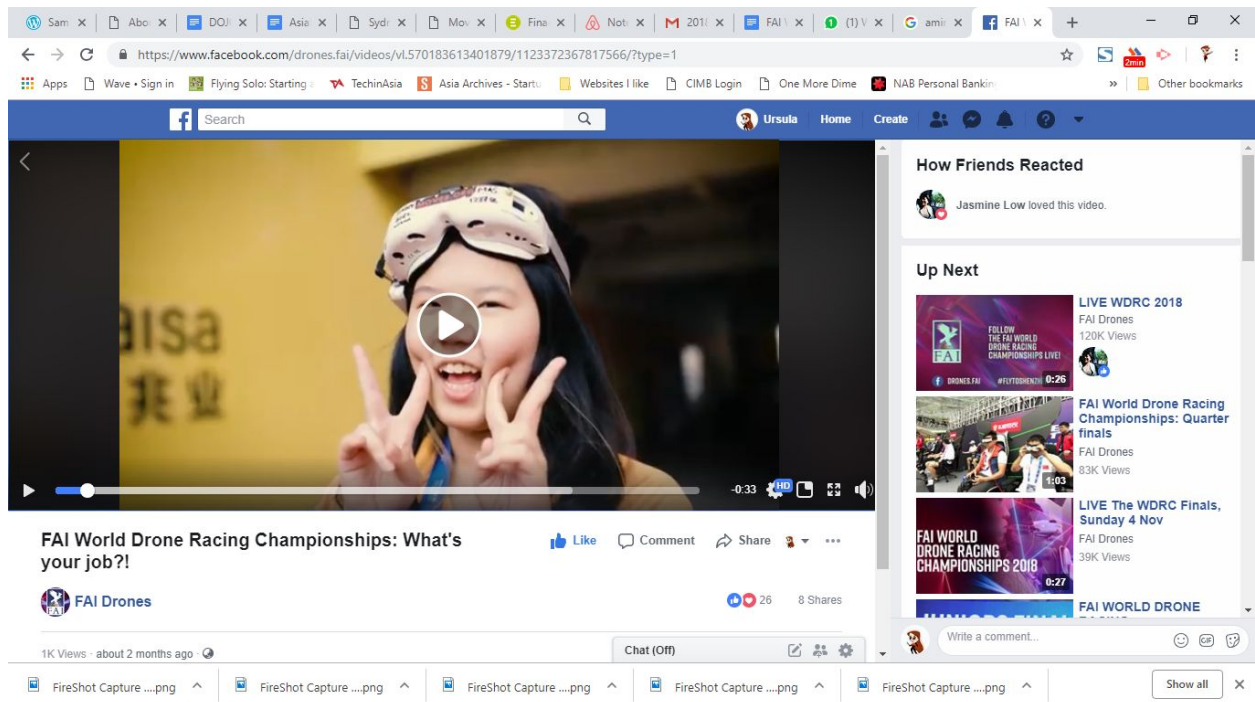
JinnyGurl aka Saw Zhi Ying preparing for her turn



- Official Facebook Page @Drone.FAI: Team Malaysia explain what's Drone Racing
- Link: <https://www.facebook.com/drones.fai/videos/vl.570183613401879/765282203820421/?type=1>



- Official Facebook Page @Drone.FAI: What's your job? I'm a Creative Technologist
- Link: <https://www.facebook.com/drones.fai/videos/vl.570183613401879/1123372367817566/?type=1>



- **FAI Female Drone Racers Hall of Fame features 13 drone pilots, JinnyGurl aka Saw Zhi Ying (MAS) being one of them**
- Live link: <https://www.fai.org/news/women-wings-female-drone-pilots-fai-world-drone-racing-championships>



Zhi Ying Saw (Jinny), 19, started racing in 2016 and is at the FAI World Drone Racing Championships on the Malaysian team. The computer science student from Kuala Lumpur believes women have some advantages when it comes to drone sports.

“I think girls can excel in drone racing because the movements are very small so you have to be very precise,” she said.

- **BBC News 5th November 2018: World drone racing championship won by Australian teenager**
- Live link: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-46093708>

The screenshot shows the BBC News homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo and various menu options like Home, News, Weather, and Search. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner, there are more navigation links including Home, Video, World, Asia, UK, Business, Tech, Science, Sports, Entertainment & Arts, Health, and Education TV. A secondary navigation bar lists 'World', 'Asia', 'Australia', 'Europe', 'Last America', and 'Middle East'. A promotional banner for 'THE BENEFITS OF BOREDOM' is visible, with a 'WATCH NOW' button. The main article is titled 'World drone racing championship won by Australian teenager' and is dated 5 November 2018. It features a video player showing a drone race at night. To the right of the article, there are sections for 'Top Stories' and 'Features'. The 'Top Stories' section lists several headlines, including 'China's mission leads on Moon's far side' and 'Apple blames China as it calls forward'. The 'Features' section includes a photo of three people and a headline 'I met my biological 12 years after giving birth to her twins'. At the bottom of the article, there is a photo of a young man celebrating his victory, with the caption 'Neil Storey, 15, has become a world champion drone racer'.

**World drone racing championship won by Australian teenager**

5 November 2018

**THE BENEFITS OF BOREDOM** WATCH NOW

**World drone racing championship won by Australian teenager**

5 November 2018

**THE BENEFITS OF BOREDOM** WATCH NOW

**Top Stories**

China's mission leads on Moon's far side

Apple blames China as it calls forward

UK's abandoned roundabout you'll find

**Features**

I met my biological 12 years after giving birth to her twins

The ship's white water chimney setting your brain

Comedian of America's most powerful woman

**Neil Storey, 15, has become a world champion drone racer**

- **AsiaFitnessToday.com 11th December 2018:**

- Link:

<http://www.asiafitnesstoday.com/2018/12/11/fpv-pilots-today-athletes-tomorrow/>

The screenshot shows a news article on the AsiaFitnessToday.com website. At the top, there are navigation links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'CONTACT', 'SITEMAP', and 'RSS'. Below the navigation is a header with the site's logo and a banner for 'Trade on the Go Anytime. Anywhere'. The main article title is 'FPV pilots today, athletes tomorrow' by James Hutchinson, dated December 11, 2018. The article features a group photo of five people, including a woman in a grey t-shirt with 'MOVE' on it. A sub-headline reads: 'A special feature on tomorrow's athletes by creative, events and technology entrepreneur, Jasmine Low.' Below the photo is a 'Printable PDF - (Free)' button and a 'Share' icon. The article text discusses the growth of FPV racing and mentions the '2018 FAI World Drone Racing Championships'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'move.' logo with a circular icon containing the number '8', and a 'LATEST NEWS' section with several article teasers. At the bottom of the article, there is a video player titled 'FAI World Drone Racing Championships 2018 WRAP-UP'.

- Novapr 2nd November 2018: Malaysian youth enter first FAI world drone racing championships in Shenzhen, China
- Live link: <https://novapr.wordpress.com/2018/11/02/malaysian-youth-enter-first-fai-world-dron-e-racing-championships-shenzhen-china/>

The screenshot shows a news article on the PRNews website. The article title is "MALAYSIAN YOUTH ENTER FIRST FAI WORLD DRONE RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS, SHENZHEN CHINA". Below the title is a photograph of two young people, a woman and a man, standing on a red carpet. They are both wearing white headbands with a drone icon and holding up their smartphones, likely taking a selfie. The background features a banner with logos, including the FAI logo and various corporate logos. The website header includes the PRNews logo and the text "By Go International Group Online". Below the article title, there is a large image of the two individuals on the red carpet. The article text is partially visible but mostly illegible due to the low resolution of the screenshot.

- **New Straits Times, 1st Dec 2018: Mastery in the Skies**
- Live link: <https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/pulse/2018/12/436244/mastery-skies>

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

**Mastery in the Skies**

FAI Drone Racing World Championship, Shenzhen China (MAS)

INSIDERS 2018



Portrait of a young man wearing a dark cap and a polo shirt, sitting and smiling.



Portrait of a young woman with glasses and a white headband, wearing a white top and floral skirt, standing in front of a large wicker chair.



Portrait of a man in a dark t-shirt holding a drone controller, looking towards the camera.

- The Star: Propelling STEM to new heights

- Live Link:

<https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2018/12/10/propelling-stem-to-new-heights/>

The screenshot shows a news article on The Star website. At the top, there is a banner for 'Personal Branding' dated 24 Jan 2019. The main article title is 'Propelling STEM to new heights'. The article features a large image of a drone in flight. Below the image, there is a portrait of a woman, likely the author or a key figure mentioned in the article. The article text is partially visible, discussing STEM education and its impact. To the right of the article, there is a sidebar with a 'Recommended Reading' section containing several article thumbnails and titles. At the bottom right, there is another image with the text 'The Star's Top 100'.





**Competition Information**

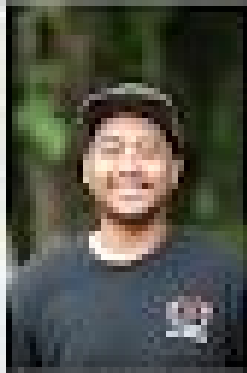
The FAI Drone Racing World Championship is the most prestigious drone racing event in the world. It is held annually in Shenzhen, China. The competition is open to all drone racing pilots, regardless of their nationality or experience level. The event is divided into several categories, including indoor and outdoor racing, and is held over a period of several days. The competition is held at the Shenzhen International Convention and Exhibition Center, which is a large, modern facility with a state-of-the-art drone racing track. The track is a complex, multi-level structure that is designed to challenge pilots' skills and endurance. The competition is a highly competitive event, and the winners are awarded a large cash prize and a trophy. The event is a major attraction for drone racing enthusiasts and is held in a city that is known for its advanced technology and innovation.



The FAI Drone Racing World Championship is a highly competitive event that attracts pilots from all over the world. The competition is held in Shenzhen, China, which is a city known for its advanced technology and innovation. The event is held at the Shenzhen International Convention and Exhibition Center, which is a large, modern facility with a state-of-the-art drone racing track. The track is a complex, multi-level structure that is designed to challenge pilots' skills and endurance. The competition is a highly competitive event, and the winners are awarded a large cash prize and a trophy. The event is a major attraction for drone racing enthusiasts and is held in a city that is known for its advanced technology and innovation.

### Meet the Pilot

Dr. [Name] is a [Title] at [Institution]. He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].



He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].

He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].

He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].

He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].



He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].

He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].

He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].

He is a [Nationality] and a [Pilot License Type]. He has been flying drones since [Year] and is currently competing in the [Competition Name].



- Move8.org features PRO drone racers
- Live link: <https://move8.asiafitnesstoday.com/pro/>

+60322820093 info@asiafitnesstoday.com Moving you through rhythm & movement



HOW TO EVENTS PARTNER MOVE8 PRO Q 0

MOVE8 PRO

## #MOVE8PRO

### ADVANCE YOUR SPORTING CAREER

Access sponsorships, coaching, strategic marketing, publicity management and business services for the athlete so you can reach your potential in your sporting career goals.

#Move8pro helps prepare and advance the careers of youth in professional sport, fitness and wellness in a competitive and global environment. If you'd like to represent your country at an international level, send us your resume. We'd love to hear your story. We assist in coaching, strategic marketing, publicity, business services for the athlete so you can reach your full potential in your sporting career goals.

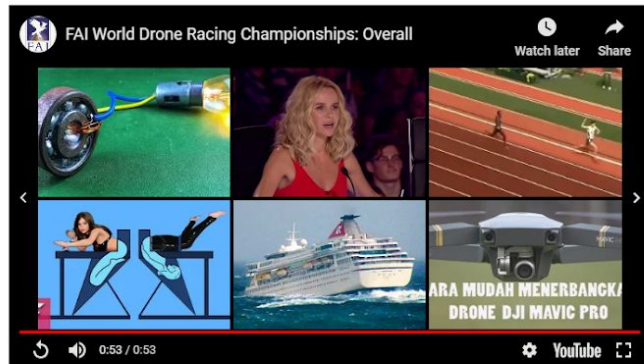
### POWERED BY:



## DRONE RACING



FAI WORLD DRONE RACING CHAMPIONSHIP SHENZHEN, CHINA 1-4 NOV 2018



## General Tweets

**Safuan Zairi** @SafuanZairi · 2 Nov 2018  
Represent!!!!... You guys make us proud and thanks for putting Malaysia on the drone racing map #drone #dronetech #droneracing @lizasahar76 @SyedSaddiq



3 replies 3 likes

**Safuan Zairi** @SafuanZairi · 1 Nov 2018  
Woot woot ...congrat guys. Do your best and win it for Malaysia  
[novapr.wordpress.com/2018/11/02/mal...](http://novapr.wordpress.com/2018/11/02/mal...) #drone #dronetech #droneracing @lizasahar76 @SyedSaddiq

Drone Racing Championships,  
Shenzhen China



**Liza Sahar** @lizasahar76 · 5 Nov 2018  
Awesome! Thanks for putting Malaysia on the map!  
#drone #dronetech #MalaysiaGotTalent

cc @SafuanZairi awesome kan

**Jasmine Low** @gojasminelow  
What's drone racing? Listen to this from team Malaysia's Amir Haziq & Zhi Ying aka JinnyGurl ;)

FEYST . Indie Youth Fest OFFICIAL / FEYST Malaysia / Malaysia Digital...

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the organisers thank MDEC for their support that helped us pave the way towards bringing a team of 2 drone pilots and 1 helper to participate at the 1st FAI World Drone Racing Championship in Shenzhen, China.

As a result, we garnered some RM50,000 worth of media return on investment through publicity stories written by two of the nation's largest newspapers, and also social media viral of the videos, press releases and photos.

The future is bright for drone racing in Malaysia. Together with Malaysia Sport Aviation Federation (MSAF) with the support from Asian Federation of AirSports and Majlis Sukan Negara in collaboration with Go International Group Dotcom, Malaysia is set to host its first FAI World Drone Racing Cup Malaysia in September 2019, with international invitationals sent out to five countries.

Thank you.

---

#### For further information:

- Captain Mohd Arif Ibrahim, President MSAF  
Email: [official@msaf.gov.my](mailto:official@msaf.gov.my)
- Jasmine Low, Sponsorships & Media Relations  
Email: [jasminelow@gointernationalgroup.com](mailto:jasminelow@gointernationalgroup.com)