

## FIM ASIA MOTOCROSS/SUPERCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP



2012

General News



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### Subject: - ARNON THEPLIB Thailand

As is customary with most Thai people, Arnon has a nickname, and in his case it suits him - TURBO ! He was born at Sara Buri, Thailand on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1988 and was first exposed to big time Motorcycle Sport, when FMSCT President Thongchai Wongsawan proudly chose two of his up and coming 8 year olds to lead the Televised Opening Ceremony of the 1996 Castrol Asia Pacific Supercross Championship at Thailand's Nakornchaisri Circuit.

Check out the pictures on page 2 and you will find that facially, he hasn't really changed that much, but read on to glean what this quiet and pleasant young man has achieved in the intervening 16 years.

One of his first off shore ventures was the 1998 Australian Junior Motocross Championships at Perth, Western Australia. On that occasion as a 9yo, he competed in the 9 to under 11 year old class and was under the care of Manager Seksan Aroonpong and accompanied by Sports Editor Prasert Srisueb. The bike was a used Kawasaki KX60, loaned by the Thompson family who's Sons Bradley and Wade had raced in Thailand the previous December. A nearby Motel was home base and Nissan Motor Co Australia provided a Nissan Patrol for transport during their stay. Only 170 entries were received that year, and with Turbo the only foreign Rider, he received a special warm welcome from the Honourable WA Premier Richard Court. Motorcycling Australia conducts the Junior Championship as a one off weeklong event coinciding with Australian school holidays and at a different location each year and in 1998 the venue was Coastal Park, Henderson, WA. All was in place for the little Thai boy a long way from home, and he was happy as he was so popular with the Aussie kids and in the evenings Seksan would get down on the floor with him to play with his toy bikes and cars. For the racing itself, in almost every case, he would get the holeshot, and then get rounded up soon after in the unfamiliar sand of Coastal Park. In Moto 1, the bike stopped, resulting in a DNF. In a subsequent Moto, whilst in 9<sup>th</sup> place, Turbo and another Rider touched on the table top jump, sending them both sprawling and then a third Rider crashed into them. Two of them immediately remounted and raced on leaving a dazed Turbo to the medics, but he was OK later except for the disappointment. All in all, it could have gone better, but still a great effort by the first Thai entry in an Australian Junior Motocross Championship.

His primary foray into the fledgling UAM Series was in 2003, when Dirt Shop proprietor Duangtiva Binkamalee (Bai) entered him in the Round 4 Singapore event. Despite arriving late, Turbo went on to win that Round.

In 2005, he raced 4 of the 5 Rounds and was second in the Championship.

In 2006, the UAM Championship became more sophisticated and Turbo was the winner - and again in 2007. Along the way there were ups and downs but Turbo was maturing both mentally and as a Rider as he continued in the Thai domestic scene and an occasional Japan event.

In 2011 he returned to the Asian Championship, now with its new title of FIM Asia Motocross/Supercross Championship. Predominantly a Red Pilot, Turbo was now an official Rider for the prestigious Honda AP group and justified his place in the team with the Championship win.

Just to cap off 2011, he won the Thai Round of the All Japan Supercross.

That brings us to 2012. Turbo is currently leading the AMSC, having won all Rounds in both The Philippines and Mongolia. He is also invited to race selected events in Japan.

During the Philippine Round, FIM Asia President Stephan Carapiet, announced that both a Senior and Junior AMSC Rider would be recipients of his 2012 "Presidents Award" and his chosen Riders would be Senior Arnon Theplip for the Mattersly Basin WGP in UK on 18/19<sup>th</sup> August and Filipino 85cc Rider Mark Flores for the Serlievo WJMX in Bulgaria on 25/26<sup>th</sup> August.

Follow their fantastic experience on your dedicated website [www.asiamx.org](http://www.asiamx.org) in a post event report, as well as feature reports on other AMSC personalities in General News.

## ARNON THEPLIB (TURBO) PICTORIAL



Thailand 1966 & 8yo Turbo (No 16) and his friend prepare to lead the Official Party to the Opening Ceremony



Seksan      9yo Turbo      Prasert



The Sandy Coastal Park Circuit



Making new Aussie friends

### 1998 AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP



Thai food is not fattening !  
SINGAPORE



Success at Home



First Asian Riders Medallion  
MANILA



*SIMILAR TO A GOOD WINE -*

*- HE IMPROVES WITH AGE*