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PATTAYA: The Top of the Gulf Regatta, Asia's largest multi-class sailing event, started yesterday.

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Boats take part in the Top of the Gulf Regatta yesterday.

Sailors from over 30 countries, including some of the best in Asia and other parts of the world, are taking part in 12 classes in the four-day event at Ocean Marina Yacht Club.

Australian sailors dominate the international ranks with Oi!, skippered by Peter Ahern, the largest in the fleet, Peter Sorensen's Fujin and many others including El Coyote, Dynamite, Magic and lolante.

Past winner Karasu and their all-Japanese crew are back this year and on a different boat but with the same name.

They are up against boats from Singapore, Ireland, Belgium, Sweden and Thailand.

The Coronation Cup, won last year by Australia's Black Betty, is one of the most attractive events.

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Sailors from more than 12 nationalities, including three entries from Singapore Management University (SMU), will be battling hard in Asia's largest one-design competition.

The Thai-dominated dinghy fleets also welcome an increase in the number of participants including national team sailors from Asian countries.

There are also several Asian windsurfers who are competing in the RS One Asian Championship.

The tournament ends on Monday.