

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF
METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES**

INVENTORY OF DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Sector	Leisure and Sports
Sub-sector	Aviation sports
Tool Name	Webpage on weather information for aviation sports
Tool Description	The webpage provides reports of wind, temperature and visibility, and two weather indices, namely the "Thermal Index" and the "Soaring Index" to assist the glider pilots in estimating whether there is adequate lift due to upward air currents for soaring activities.
Weather, Climate or Water inputs	Meteorological information on high ground and upper-air sounding data.
Specific weather, climate, water data required	Wind, temperature, dew point temperature and visibility data
Spatial resolution	Point data
Temporal resolution	10 minutes, hourly to daily
Delivery methodology	Real-time data
Frequency of data requirement	Data updated as available
Other	Nil
Detailed Tool Description	The Thermal Index, which is based on the calculation of the temperature difference between an air parcel lifted from the surface and its surroundings, indicates the soaring conditions for heights up to 5000 feet. Users can utilize the weather indices in their planning of aviation sports based on the forecast temperature at their region of interest.
Spatial resolution	Point data
Temporal resolution	10 minutes, hourly to daily
Delivery methodology	Regional weather is shown on a territory-wide map. Thermal Index can be calculated on-the-fly with user input of surface temperature at the location of interest on a dedicated webpage on the Hong Kong Observatory's website.

Frequency of provision	Webpage updated upon user demand.
Other	Nil
Benefits of tool application	To facilitate planning of aviation sports.
Possible future advances	Increase the number of observation points to provide better coverage.
Comments	Nil
URL	http://www.weather.gov.hk/aviat/soaring/
Others	Nil