

Lai Kwan the undisputed queen

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Chui Lai Kwan capped a stellar outing at the inaugural Malaysian Institutions of Higher Learning Games (SUKIPT) with another three gold and a silver on the final day of swimming to bring her personal haul to a remarkable 13 gold and two silver medals.

Lai Kwan emerged victorious in the women's 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 200m butterfly and later, together with teammates Woo Yi Wen, Tan Mei May and Yeo Pei Ling, helped UPM clinch silver in the 4x100m medley relay at the National Aquatic Complex in Bukit Jalil.

The 21-year-old, who left the national set-up last year after a misunderstanding with the Amateur Swimming Union of Malaysia, said her performance came as a surprise considering her recent return to the sport after taking a two-month break.

"This is the first time I have entered so many events in one competition (15 events) and to win 13 of them is just amazing for me," said Lai Kwan, who trains at the Darul Ehsan Aquatic Complex in Shah Alam.

"To do this well is certainly a proud moment for me especially as I am representing not only myself but also my university."

Lai Kwan, who is coached by former national swimmer Marilyn Chua, however, said there is work to be done if she is to be as equally successful at the Laos Asean University Games (AUG) next month.

Lai Kwan, who won six gold medals at the Thailand AUG in 2010, will be competing in at least seven events in Laos.

As expected, UPM emerged overall swimming champions with 15 gold, four silver and one bronze. Second were

Universiti Sains Malaya (USM) with seven gold, eight silver and 10 bronze while Universiti Malaya (UM) took six gold, eight silver and three bronze for third place.

In bowling, UiTM clinched the only gold medal on offer yesterday when Nur Umirah Abdul Radzuan, Fatin Azmira-Khairul Faizi Nursyamimi Supardi and Nazrinnah Mohd Kamil emerged the winners of the women's team at the Sunway Megalanes bowling centre.

UiTM downed a total 5,016 pinfalls ahead of Segi University (Syaidatul Afifah Badrul Hamidi, Nurul Nadia Zainuddin and Siti Safiyah Amirah Abdul Rahman) who took silver on 4,802.

Bronze went to UPM's Tengku Emanina Laily Tengku Zahri, Liyana Putri Mohd Suhaimi, Tunku Haifaa Tunku Osman and Nur Syakirah Yeoh (4,721). **By Fadhli Ishak**