

Diana eyes Asian Games

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wants gold to complete collection of titles

FADHLI ISHAK

fadhli_ishak@nst.com.my

IT has been a long and successful career for Diana Bong but despite bagging a maiden world title and a third Sea Games gold medal in 2013, the wushu exponent insists that her motivation to succeed remains as strong as ever.

Diana, who will turn 29 next year, said she still has unfinished business and is eyeing a gold medal at the Incheon Asian Games, the only title missing from her list of achievements.

"Incheon next year will most likely be my last Asian Games as I do not think I will still be competing in (Hanoi) 2019," said the Sarawakian.

"I have won at the Asian Championships before but the best I have done at the Asian Games is a bronze in Doha 2006. I made a few mistakes in Guangzhou (2010) and it cost me a medal.

"Obviously I really want to win the gold this time but to be honest, I will be happy with any medal.

"There is a lot of pressure competing at the Asian Games as the format usually combines scores from the various disciplines (nangun, nandao, nanquan).

"This means that there really is no room for error in either event if you want to win.

"I expect the same group of exponents from the World and Asian championships to be the frontrunners for the title but as the tournament is still nine months away, there is always the chance that someone new will turn up and give us a run for our money."

Diana, who graduated with a degree in mass communications earlier this month, added that she is looking to turn to coaching once she decides to call it a day.

"I hope to continue studying and have already applied to do my masters degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia but I also hope to start coaching when I retire.

"I will most probably work and coach part-time first as it is not as easy as you think.

"Teaching experience is something that takes time to develop.

"When I believe I am capable, I might open my own (wushu) training centre."



Diana Bong

Diana's winning performance in the nanquan delivered Malaysia's first gold at the Myanmar Sea

Games earlier this month.

She had also won gold in Laos (2009) and Thailand (2007) when

the sport was judged based on a combination of the three disciplines.