

Johnathan to get taste of Rio venue

By LIM TEIK HUAT

PETALING JAYA: The road to a historic Olympic final for shooter Johnathan Wong Guanjie starts with the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro from April 13-25.

In February, Johnathan became the only Malaysian shooter to qualify for the Aug 5-21 Rio Games after winning the men's 10m air pistol at the Asian Qualifying Tournament in New Delhi.

He is now aiming to become the first Malaysian to compete in an Olympic shooting final.

"The World Cup is going to be held at the Olympic Shooting Range. It's going to be a useful warm-up before the Olympics. It's good to go and experience the weather as well," said the 24-year-old.

"I hope to reach the final. Then, I will know what to expect if I make the Olympic final in August," added the Malacca-born shooter.

To get into the Olympic final, Johnathan needs to improve on his national record of 585 points set last year.

"I'm setting a higher target and getting the process right. I don't want to go to the Olympics just to make up the numbers."

"It's very hard to reach the final. But once you make it, you have a good chance of a medal. Under the new elimination format, all the eight finalists have to start from scratch," added the aeronautical engineering student at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).