PETALING JAYA: The 10m platform is not Cheong Jun Hoong's usual event, which is the 3m springboard, and she was not even ranked.

But, as she was undergoing rehabilitation for a back injury, coach Yang Zhuliang entered her for it because platform diving does not put too much stress on the joints and back.

As a result of that switch, Malaysia now has its first-ever diving world champion.

"I've got goosebumps now," said Jun Hoong, who took a few moments to compose herself before she could articulate her feelings.

The 28-year-old notched a sensational upset in the women's 10m platform final at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, on Wednesday by beating the two top-ranked divers - China's Si Yajie and Ren Qian - for the gold medal.

Ren and Si were the gold and silver medallists respectively at last year's Rio Olympics.

Their credentials mattered little to Jun Hoong, who already had a bronze to show from the meet's 10m platform synchro event with Pandelela Rinong on Sunday.

In the individual final, Jun Hoong took charge after the third dive and held her nerve over the next two attempts.

She scored 80.00 points in her fifth and final dive. She then had to wait for her Chinese rivals to complete their final dives.

Si, the world No. 1, produced a higher final round score of 81.60 points but it wasn't good enough to beat Jun Hoong's 397.50 total. The winner of the 2013 world meet in Barcelona, Spain, had to concede defeat with a score of 396.00.

Jun Hoong had qualified for the 12-diver final in seventh spot earlier in the day.

As she stood proudly on the winners' podium, tears welled up in her eyes as NegaraKu played for the first time at the Danube Arena.

"I really don't know what happened, but I really thank God for watching over me because after so many years of competing, I have an indescribable feeling right now.

"And a world champion, my God. It's unexpected and unbelievable!"