

Jakarta on his mind

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Wushu world champ Weng Son hopes to feature in Asiad

By LIM TEIK HUAT

SEPANG: Newly crowned world wushu champion Weng Son is hoping his events will be included in next year's Asian Games in Jakarta.

Malaysia have two of the best exponents in jianshu (sword) and qiangshu (spear) in Weng Son and Yeap Wai Kin but they are still unsure of making it to the Asiad.

The 25-year-old Weng Son bagged his maiden World Wushu Championships gold medal in Kazan, Russia earlier this week when he posted 9.64 points to finish ahead of South Korea's Lee Ha-sung (9.60) and Wai Kin (9.53) in the men's jianshu event.

Weng Son took silver while Wai Kin got the bronze in qiangshu. Wai Kin finished ahead of Weng Son, who is also the reigning Asian champion, to deliver two golds at the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games recently.

"First of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in helping the national team achieve our target at the world championships especially the NSC (National Sports Council), the NSI (National Sports Institute) and the Wushu Federation of Malaysia," said Weng Son who returned home with the team yesterday.

"To be honest, I was not expecting to win as the field included top exponents from China and South



Golden team: (From left) Wong Weng Son, Phoon Eyin, Tan Cheong Min and Loh Ying Ting showing off their gold medals upon arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang from the World Wushu Championships in Kazan, Russia. — NORAFIFI EHSAN / The Star

Korea. My coach (Lim Yew Fai), however, played a vital role as he kept encouraging me.

"He was also the one who advised me to keep a cool head and stay calm.

"The most important thing is that we managed to retain our status as one of the top three in the world.

"What I hope most is that my

events will be included in the Asian Games next year," added Weng Son.

The trio of Phoon Eyin, Loh Ying Ting and Tan Cheong Min were over the moon when they etched their names in the history books by becoming the country's first ever world championships gold medalists in women's duilian (duel) event.

"Words can't describe how happy we are to win.

"We just trained really hard before the competition and gave our best," said Phoon Eyin.

Malaysia finished their campaign in Kazan with three more silver medals and three bronzes, surpassing the initial one gold target set by their national body.