

# Golden performance

Trio create history as they bag duel gold in world meet

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**Peerless:** Malaysia's Phoon Eyin (from third left), Tan Cheong Min and Loh Ying Ting posing with their gold medal in women's duilian at the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, Russia. — Courtesy of CHEN WS

By LIM TEIK HUAT

**PETALING JAYA:** Phoon Eyin, Loh Ying Ting and Tan Cheong Min earned a historic win for Malaysia by claiming the women's duilian (duel) event at the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, Russia.

Eyin, Ying Ting and debutant Cheong Min put up an intense display to come out tops with a score of 9.64 at the Gymnastics Centre on Tuesday.

United States duo of Lucy Lee and Mia Tian got the silver with 9.22 while Macau's Yi Li-Cho Man Sou won the bronze with 9.20.

It was the first time Malaysia bagged gold in duilian since the inception of the world championships in 1991.

The previous best was a silver achieved by Chai Fong Wei and Phoon Eyin at the previous world meet in Jakarta, Indonesia two

## THE MEDALLISTS

**Gold:** Phoon Eyin, Loh Ying Ting, Tan Cheong Min (women's duilian), Wong Weng Son (men's jianshu)  
**Silver:** Wong Weng Son (men's qiangshu), Ho Mun Hua (men's nangun), Tan Cheong Min (women's nandao)  
**Bronze:** Tan Cheong Min (women's nangun), Yeap Wai Kin (men's qiangshu), Yeap Wai Kin (men's jianshu)

years ago.

It has been a memorable debut for 18-year-old Cheong Min as it was the third medal she picked up.

Melaka-born Cheong Min will have a medal of every colour in her collection as she took silver in the women's nandao (southern broadsword) on Monday.

She had earlier picked up a bronze in the nangun (staff) on Sunday.

"I was very excited when I heard for the first time my name was on the list, so I kept

training and stayed in focus.

"I just wanted to gain more experience and learn some skills from the other countries," said Cheong Min.

The trio stand to collect RM80,000 under the National Sports Council incentive scheme.

Malaysia ended the five-day competition with two golds, three silvers and three bronzes.

Wong Weng Son delivered the first gold in the men's jianshu (sword) on Sunday.

Coach Lim Yew Fai is happy that the exponents gave a good account of themselves despite the cold weather.

"Our athletes are not used to competing in cold climate as the last few world championships were held in Asia.

"I did not set any specific target as we just finished the KL SEA Games but I'm happy they gave their best," he said.