

Early test for divers

World Series a good testing ground ahead of C'wealth Games



Strutting their stuff: Cheong Jun Hoong (right) and Pandelega Rinong will be up against a stellar cast of divers in the Diving World Series in Beijing beginning tomorrow.

By LIM TEIK HUAT

PETALING JAYA: The opening round of the Diving World Series in Beijing starting tomorrow will serve as an early test for Pandelega Rinong and Cheong Jun Hoong in their bid to deliver gold at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games next month.

Pandelega will partner Jun Hoong in the women's 10m platform synchro.

The pair, who also won bronze at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, last year, will be up against China's Zhang Jiaqi-Zhang Minjie, Australia's Taneka Kovchenko-Melissa Wu, Canada's Meaghan Benfeito-Caeli McKay and North Korea's Kim Kuk-hyang-Kim Mi-rae for a place on the podium.

Reigning world champion Jun

Hoong and Pandelega will also be competing in the 10m platform individual event and will cross swords with Benfeito and Melissa.

China's reigning Olympic champion Ren Qian is the favourite for the women's 10m platform individual while 2015 world champion Kuk-hyang is also in with a chance.

Only the top eight finishers from the Rio Olympics for the respective events will get to take part in the Series, which will also be held in Fuji, Japan (March 15-17), Montreal, Canada (April 27-29) and Kazan, Russia (May 4-6).

Nur Dhabitah Sabri will compete in the women's 3m springboard individual event as well as the 3m springboard synchro with Leong Mun Yee.

Amateur Swimming Union of

Malaysia (Asum) secretary Mae Chen said: "How they fare in these two meets (in China and Japan) will serve as a good indication of our chances in Gold Coast.

"It will be great for our divers to finish ahead of their Commonwealth Games rivals."

Malaysia bagged two silvers and one bronze in the Series last year.