

# S'pore bowlers Bernice and Hui Fen stand tallest in Asia

**SINGAPORE** — The last time Singapore won a gold medal at the Asian Youth Tenpin Bowling Championships was in 2003, when Valerie Teo captured the girls' doubles and all-events titles.

That barren spell ended yesterday when New Hui Fen and Bernice Lim clinched the girls' doubles gold at the 15th edition in Kuwait.

Bernice, 19, and Hui Fen, 18, rolled 1,455 and 1,434 pinfalls over six games, respectively, to top the 16-strong event with a combined 2,889 total. They finished 299 pinfalls ahead of South Korea's Kim Hyun Mi and Kim Yeon Ju (2,590), with Malaysia's Hurul Ainul and Siti Shazwani taking the bronze (2,587).

The Republic's other pairing of Krishna Darshini and Gina Lim posted 2,181 to finish 13th.

At press time last night, Singapore were second in the medal standings with one gold, behind South Korea (2-1-0). Japan are third (0-1-1).

In a telephone interview from Kuwait, New, 18, and Bernice, 17, told MediaCorp they were not surprised at their win.

"We know we can do it. It's not that hard. The competition is us, not the other bowlers," said New, a triple gold medallist at last year's Asian Youth Games.



Singapore's tenpin golden girls Bernice Lim (left) and New Hui Fen with their medals from Kuwait.

Lim added: "We weren't expecting anything, but really wanted to do well. We went through our normal routine, didn't do anything different and just enjoyed ourselves."

The championships, which end on Feb 2, has attracted 89 participants from 15 Asian countries competing in the singles, doubles, team, all events and masters. It is one of four key target meets SingaporeBowling will use to help select their 12-strong squad for November's 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou.

Both New and Lim aim to make the squad, but know there is still a long way to go. Said Lim: "Initially it was (at the back of my mind), but now it's just about enjoying the competition."

New agreed, saying: "We're focusing on the task at hand. There will also be other tournaments that selection will be based on, not just one."

Singapore will be in action today in the boys' doubles, with Basil Low teaming up with Justin Lim, and Christopher Hwang pairing Benjamin Lim.

Said co-national head coach William Woo: "Our boys are well prepared. It's just how well they match up to the lanes. If they lock in faster we should get a good result."

# Bernice, Hui Fen grab gold at Asian Youth tourney



Bernice Lim (far left) and New Hui Fen won Singapore's first gold medals at the Asian Youth Tenpin Bowling Championships in Kuwait yesterday.

The duo accumulated 2,889 pinfalls over six games in the girls' doubles. South Korea (2,590) and Malaysia (2,587) settled for second and third place respectively.

The event, which concludes next Tuesday, involves keglers from 15 countries in the boys' division and eight countries in the girls' division.

PHOTO: TERENCE YAW FOR SINGAPOREBOWLING