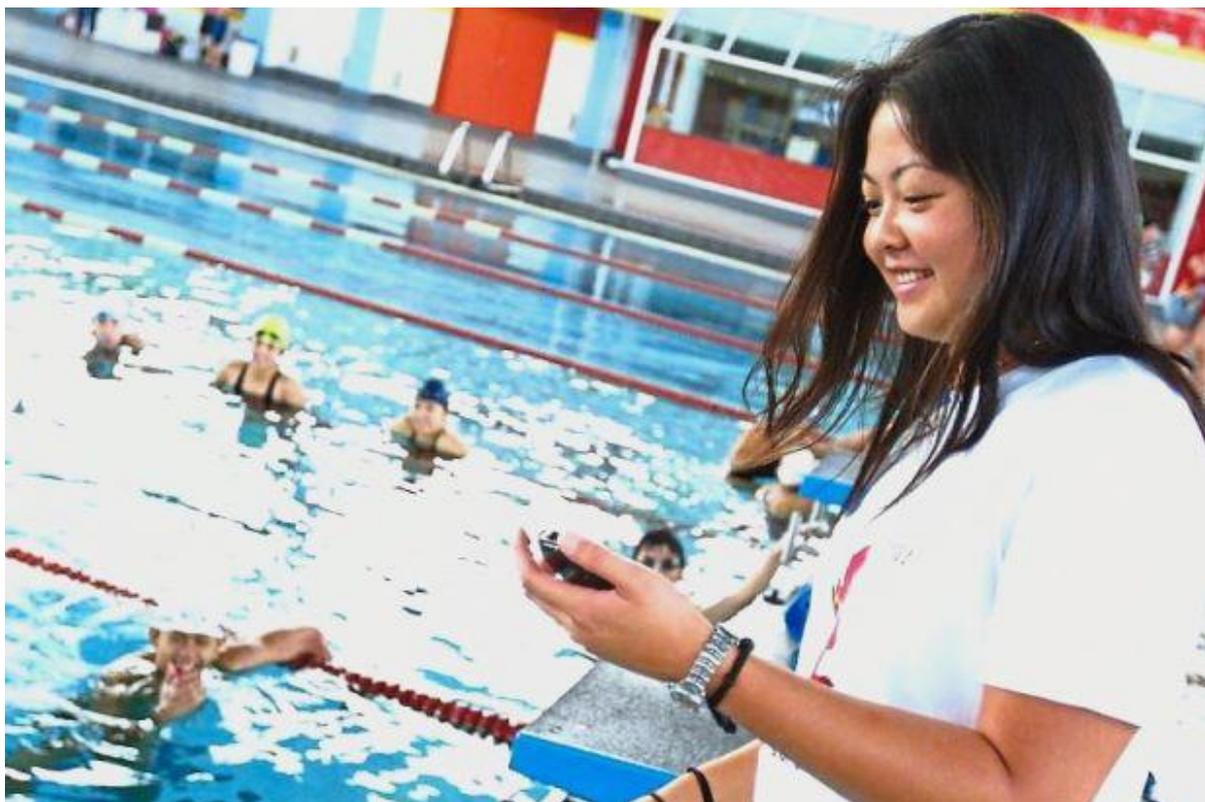


Good exposure for young swimmers

Thursday, 5 January 2017 | by YP Sivam



Marilyn checking her stopwatch during the competition.

The inaugural Selangor Novice Swimming championships was a huge success.

The one-day event, organised by the Supersharz Swim School, with support from the Low Yat Group and **Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor**, attracted about 600 participants.

Supersharz Swim School chief coach Marilyn Chua said the championships, endorsed by the Selangor Swimming Association, was to provide a platform for beginners, aged below 12, to gain competitive exposure.

“It was also to encourage new and young swimmers to participate in competitive swimming as a sport.

“The emphasis was not on the competitiveness of the event but the exposure. We had also limited the participation to swimmers who have never won a medal at the annual Selangor Age Group championships.



A group of participants in a jovial mood after their event.

“They must also not have represented Selangor in any competitions. Our aim was to provide an avenue and opportunity for new swimmers to compete among their peers of the same level,” said Marilyn.

Being for novices, there were only eight events – two each (25m and 50m) in the freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly.

Marilyn, who represented the country in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, was a freestyle specialist. She also held the National 50m freestyle record until 2004. Marilyn also attended The University of California and majored in international development studies and had swam for the UCLA Bruins under head coach Cyndi Gallagher.

Right now, Marilyn is also the Selangor chief coach and has charted its swimming programme for six years. It must be noted that Selangor has emerged as a powerhouse in the Malaysia Games.

Marilyn was surprised with the excellent response and the presence of parents was encouraging.



The juniors all set to start a race.

“It augurs well for the development of swimming in Selangor.

“The parents were supportive of the event. It has given them a chance to evaluate their children’s progress.

“Supersharkz Swim Club will be working closely with the Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) and Selangor Swimming Association in the development of swimming at grass-roots level.

“It is a good beginning and we will be initiating similar programmes in the coming months,” added Marilyn.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/metro/scoreboard/2017/01/05/good-exposure-for-young-swimmers-youths-seize-chance-to-progress-in-competitive-environment/>