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By K.M. BOOPATHY

PETALING JAYA: The national men's Junior World Cup squad will be involved in a series of quality matches against Australian Hockey League clubs during their tour Down Under next month.

National junior coach Amin Rahim said those matches would help the team who are preparing for the world event in Bukit Jalil from Dec 5-16.

It will be the Young Tigers' second tour to Perth after their first stint from Jan 17-30 where they played a series matches with the Western Australia Institute of Sport's (WAIS) Under-21 squad.

"We will have our second tour to Western Australia and this time, we will get the chance to play against clubs that play in the Australian Hockey League which will be going on for six months," said Amin.

"It will be a great exposure for the boys as they can play against some of the Australian national players in the league.

"The tour will be a good preparation before we play in the SEA Games in Cambodia and the Junior Asia Cup in Oman in May too."

Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) are targeting gold from the Young Tigers in Cambodia while the national body have yet to announce

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Amin Rahim

their target for the Junior Asian Cup.

Amin also said penalty corner consultant Chris Ciriello, who is attached with WAIS, is also expected to arrange for the Young Tigers to have a friendly match with the Australian Under-21 side during the tour.

"Chris is attached with WAIS and has got a lot of contacts. He will help out in arranging for the Australia Under-21 side to play with us," said Amin.

"Besides that, we will also have penalty corner training sessions with Chris since he will be around during our tour.

"The last time around, we could only play against WAIS Under-21 side but the players should return plenty of exposure from this trip," he added.

Young Tigers also played in the just concluded Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) where they finished fifth, losing a spot in the TNB Cup semi-finals to UiTM on goal difference.