

50 CEOs compete with gusto

BY TAN XUE YING

It was a sweltering afternoon at Padang Merbok in Kuala Lumpur. Crowds cheered as 50 company chief executives tried to outdo each other in the CEO category of the 18th edition of *The Edge* Kuala Lumpur Rat Race.

The annual event held on July 31 attracted 510 participants from 59 companies.

All the participants took part in a warm-up session conducted by professional trainers of Fitness First before the flag-off.

The 1.5km CEO race was flagged off at 3.31pm.

Nespresso Malaysia business development manager Geoffrey Dalziel surprised the crowd when he effortlessly whizzed past the finishing line to claim victory in just over four minutes.

"It was my first time running in the Rat Race, so I thought I'd give my best. I was lucky to have won," he said after receiving his medal.

Dalziel, who was sporting a barista's apron, said staying fit was important to him. He added that he was looking forward to returning to the race next year with the Nestlé Malaysia team.

"It is a pleasure to be involved in community events like this ... you can do great work for the community and certain charities. I hope the Nestlé team will stay fit and take part in the run again next year," he said.

Golden Screen Cinemas (GSC) CEO Koh Mei Lee, whose main aim was to complete the race, emerged as the first female CEO to do so.

A first-timer at the race, Koh said she was satisfied with her time of six minutes 24 seconds. "The race was quite challenging because of the afternoon heat. I didn't expect it to be so hot! But it was great fun trying to keep up with the guys. I'll definitely take part again next year."

Apart from the chilled beverages sponsored by 100Plus and a variety of snacks offered by food trucks, GSC's popcorn mascots also distributed caramel popcorn.

Among the notable participants was CIMB Group Holdings Bhd group CEO Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz.

The fitness enthusiast, who usually spends his time outside work either cycling or jogging, said the 1.5km race was not challenging enough. "I hope the distance will be longer next year," he joked.

"Nonetheless, it was fun. The purpose of coming here was to support the cause and enjoy ourselves. I met many of my old friends who also took part in the race."

Tengku Zafrul, who has been taking part in the Rat Race for a decade now, finished fifth in the CEO race. Inspired by their leader, the CIMB team took home the gold medal for the open category.

For Datuk Wan Kamaruzaman Wan Ahmad, CEO of Kumpulan

Wang Persaraan (Diperbadankan), who finished the race alongside Maybank Investment Bank Bhd regional head of dealing Lok Eng Hong, the race was short but intense.

"It was exhausting! I think that was because the beginning of the course was all uphill," the 59-year-old said after catching his breath.

"Many younger participants ran past me, but for an old man like me, I think my performance was decent. I think all of us did well."

Eco World Development Group Bhd executive director Datuk Voon Tin Yow and chief operating officer Datuk S Rajoo, who are hiking buddies, also finished the race alongside each other and made it to the top 15.

"Since I started participating four years ago, every year has been record-breaking for me. It wasn't tiring when I knew it was for a good cause," Rajoo said, adding that he finished the race two minutes faster than last year.

Voon, 61, said participating in the charity run was an incentive to maintain his fitness level. "You're running with the best runners, so you have to give it your best. I definitely feel more encouraged when running in a group."

The Edge Media Group publisher and group CEO Ho Kay Tat thanked the participants and sponsors for their unwavering support. ■



Geoffrey Dalziel, Nestlé Malaysia



Kaoru Arai, Kenanga Investment Bank



Rakesh Kaul, Citibank



Koh Mei Lee, Golden Screen Cinemas



Ng May Ching, Maxis



Susan Conradie, MCIS Insurance



Kelvin Leong, Matrix Concepts

S Ghandi Suppiah UEMEdgenta



Abdul Karim Fakir, Maxis



Adrian Hong, KPMG



Alex Tan, RHB Bank



Beh Chun Chong,
Paramount Property



Chong Kian Fah,
WCT



Chow Tuck Seng, KLX



Daivinderjit Kaur Gurdeep Singh,
Maybank



Darren Ng, KLX



Datuk Wan Kamaruzaman,
KWAP



Datuk Sundarajoo Somu,
EcoWorld



Datuk Voon Tin Yow, EcoWorld



Datuk Zairi Yusoff, S P Setia



Gooi Yong Wei, Deloitte Malaysia



Ho Kay Tat, The Edge



Howard Chong, Glomac



James Morrison, Astro



Jasvinder Singh, JKG Land



Jeffrey Chew,
Paramount Corp



Justin Ong, Deloitte Malaysia



Kwan Keen Yew, CIMB Bank



Leem Bee Yong,
Golden Screen Cinemas



Leong Jee Yan, Matrix Concepts



Leong May Lee, Ernst & Young



Lok Eng Hong, Maybank



Low Gay Teck, Land & General



Lye Chien Yung, UEM Sunrise



Michelle Liew, RHB Bank



Mohd Kamil, KWSP



Nadah Tan Abdullah, S P Setia



Neoh Kim Wah, WCT



Ng Su Yen, Nestlé Malaysia



Nur Azreen, Astro



Sharon Sung, Padini



Stephen Hagger, Credit Suisse



Steve Chia, PwC



Tan Boon Siong, Land & General



Tengku Dato' Sri Zafrul,
CIMB Bank



Tutiana Jusat, Amundi Malaysia



Wan Abdul Hadi, KWSP



Yap Kok Lin, TSH Resources



Yong Foo Ken,
Kenanga Investment Bank



Zalman Ismail, KWAP