



# Running for charity

**I**NTERNATIONAL Medical University (IMU) organised a charity run and fund-raising carnival recently in its effort to reinforce the spirit of unity as 1Malaysia. The event was also held in conjunction with the Malaysia Day's celebration which coincided with IMU's 25th anniversary.

IMU's Chariofare, held for the sixth year in a row was themed "Heartbeating Moments", and focused on opportunities for hearts to be united in togetherness regardless of origin and social status.

Gracing the event was former national badminton player Wong Choon Han. "Having ran on Malaysia Day was very meaningful especially when it's for a good cause. I believe, it created more awareness among the community on the need to serve those who are underprivileged. I gave my support to this event and hope that more people will give a helping hand to those in need," he said.

Each year, IMU's Chariofare proceeds are donated to various charitable organisations.

This year, a total of RM220,000 was raised for the IMU Cares Humanitarian Fund, which collaborates with NGOs such as MERCY Malaysia and Medecins Sans Frontiers to extend medical or financial aid to the diverse communities.

Started as a natural disaster fund, the team later realised that the scope should be extended to cover humanitarian aspects of offering care and aid to migrants and refugees.

Past beneficiaries of the IMU Chariofare include victims of the Aceh tsunami, typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, the earthquake in Nepal, the flood in Kuala Krai Kelantan and the Chennai flood.

"When ethnicity, race, social or religious background do not mar humanitarian efforts, a nation is strengthened," IMU's International and Engagement deputy vice-chancellor Dr Mei Ling Young said. "The IMU Cares Humanitarian Fund is the university's heart for the people out there. Not just our student body or faculty of staff, but each and every individual residing in this beautiful na-



tion of ours called Malaysia. From the young to the old and from all walks of life, each individual matters, and IMU Cares is here to live that out," Mei added.

Meanwhile, more than 1700 participants from 5 to 72 took part in eight categories ranging from a 3km Fun Run to 10km men, women and team open.

A total of seventeen teams from seven companies then selected registered NGOs in Malaysia of their own choice to donate the cash prizes to.

The companies were Ajinomoto, MSIG Insurance (Malaysia) Berhad, Pantai Premier Pathology Sdn Bhd, Lam Soon, Parkway Pantai, Themed Attractions Resorts and Hotels Sdn Bhd (TARH) and CPA (Certified Public Accountant) Australia (Malaysia).

Among the many highlights of the event was the 3km Fun Run where participants were given a chance to snap photos at a stop along the route with their loved ones with the aim of capturing the most "Heartbeating

Moment".

Besides the run, a fund-raising carnival of 85 booths in total, kept guests occupied. The booths ranged from food and beverage stalls, extensive fun and games, enthralling performances, flea market stalls, as well as free medical and oral health screening.

Oral health screening options included dental screening, polishing and whitening. Medical health screening included body mass index (BMI) readings, blood pressure and blood glucose level readings, as well as visual acuity and counseling by a pharmacist. Visitors were also offered chiropractic health screening as well as Chinese Medicine (Tuina) advice.

Fifteen children from Rumah Charis, Rumah Victory and United Learning Centre rocked the stage with a Culture of Malaysia fashion show. The children from Lautu Education Centre also presented two songs, much to the delight of the crowd present.

The event reached greater heights when

1. Participants during the 10km run. 2. Free medical health screening and counselling by pharmacists. 3. A food and beverage booth at the fund-raising carnival. 4. Wong Choon Han, former national badminton player gracing the event. 5. Batteryheadz, a local team of young and aspiring percussionists consisting both students and professionals rocked the venue as well.

Cre Art Asia took over the stage with some hair-raising act particularly the aerial dance. The circus troupe also channeled part of the ticket sales from their upcoming performance at KLPAC to IMU Chariofare 2017.

Individual runners went home with medals and hampers whilst the first five winning teams received trophies, engraved medals, appreciation plaques and cash prizes ranging from RM1,000 to RM3,000.