

**Ready to run:** Zainal (fourth from right) and Malakoff corporate affairs and external relations chief Yusop Rashid (fifth from left) with some of the sponsors of the event.

## **Cash incentive for participation**

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THE three institutions of higher learning sending the most participants for the three-leg Malakoff University Duathlon Series (MUDS), starting at Universiti Malaya on May 12, will be rewarded with cash.

The second leg of the annual MUDS will be held at Universiti Putra Malaysia on May 19 and the grand final at Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia on May 26.

Although there are no cash prizes for the winners, the organisers have offered RM3,000 to the institution that sends the most participants. The second- and third-placed teams will receive RM1,500 and RM750, respectively.

Malakoff Corporation chief executive officer Zainal Abidin Jalil hoped the cash incentive would be a motivation for more participation from the universities.

"MUDS is part of Malakoff's efforts to boost the local duathlon community and drum up further interest for the sport as it serves as a platform for participants, especially the youth, to make the next step towards becoming professional athletes," said Zainal after a sponsorship presentation ceremony.

Unlike the triathlon, participants in MUDS will have to compete in two disciplines – cycling and running.

In the first leg, it will be a 3.5km run, followed by an 11.4km bicycle ride and finally, another 3.5km run.

The second leg will use the 3km run-13km cycling-3km run format and the final leg will feature a 3km run-13.8km bike ride-3km run.

Since its inauguration in 2003, the MUDS has grown into a major event. Last year, the event attracted about 600 participants. The organisers are expecting about 800 participants for this year's event.

There will be four categories — University and College (men and women), Open (men and women), Team Relay (mixed and mens') and Media (men and women).

The top five winners for the University and Open categories and the top three winners for the Team Relay and Media categories will be awarded medals while participants who finish the race within the stipulated time will be awarded certificates.

Visit www.duathlonseries.com.my for more information.