



The Malaysian boys in action against their Hong Kong counterparts in the pouring rain.

Spirited performance from our boys

Malaysian lads give their all in the top division of Asia Rugby Under-19 Championship

MALAYSIA showed their prowess through their inaugural participation in the top division of the Asia Rugby U19 Championship 2016.

The championship showcased intense competition with Malaysia challenging traditional Asian rugby powerhouses Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and Chinese Taipei.

The tournament was held at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang, Selangor.

Malaysia's commendable performance was the result of the team's hard work of two years under the 1Malaysia Cobra Youth Rugby Programme, a development programme aimed at Under-18 and Under-19 players.

The programme is a collaboration between Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia (YR1M) and Cobra Rugby Club.

Team Malaysia captain Ras Ubaidah Razbi said he was grateful to be part of the 1Malaysia Cobra Youth Rugby Programme.

In addition to giving him and his teammates the opportunity to don the national jersey at the Under-19 top division for the very first time, the programme included a holistic centralised training camp leading up to the tournament.

"In addition to rugby training, there were team-building exercises, community service and pep talks. Through that, we gained the

confidence, team spirit, motivation and inspiration to perform well on the pitch. I believe that the lessons learnt from this programme will stay with us throughout our lives," he added.

During the championship, Team Malaysia lost to Sri Lanka 21-27 in a closely-fought match. Team Malaysia bounced back to beat Chinese Taipei 38-31.

However, the boys lost to eventual champions Hong Kong 10-67 while Chinese Taipei defeated Sri Lanka 25-31.

Hong Kong will be representing Asia in the World Rugby Under-20 Trophy 2017, which will take place in Uruguay in August this year.



Team Malaysia battling it out with Team Hong Kong.