Wholesome fun in the sun

THE Teluk Bahang beach in Penang was abuzz with activity as 100 participants enjoyed the Braille on the Beach 2012 carnival.

The event, co-organised by St Nicholas Home Penang and Disted College Penang, saw people taking part in various beach activities such as sandcastle building, seashell colouring and tug-of-war.

The highlight of the event was the Braille on the Beach competition where sighted participants in groups of 10 worked together to form the most original, correct and nicely decorated sentence in Braille.

They were given an hour to complete their task by making large dots in the sand in specified sizes using a small standard-sized pail at the intertidal zone (the area between high and low tides) along the beach.

The home's executive director Daniel Soon said the event was held to promote Braille and the need for more educational books in Braille to offer more opportunities to the blind and visually impaired community.

Reading Braille: St Nicholas Home residents touching the sand dots made my sighted particpants

"We hope that through this event, we can raise awareness about the importance of Braille," he said, adding that the event was also to raise more funds for the continuation and expansion of the home's services.

The team from Philips Lumileds ended up the winners of the competition, taking home a trophy for the team and medals for the members.

Project manager Johan Van Der Werf, 29, from the winning team said although he had to wake up early in the morning, it was worthwhile as it was for a good cause.

"Overall it was a fun team-building event for the company.

For a good cause: Participants making Brailel dots from sand during the carnival at the Teluk Bahang beach

"It was all for a good cause and we were happy to participate in the Braille on the Beach' competition," he said.

The event on Saturday was officiated by Penang Assembly Speaker Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain. Also present was Disted College president Dr Koo Wee Kor.