Exercise 3

Read the passage and then fill in each blank with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

The 12th successive annual marathon held in Penang, billed as the country's leading long distance **(1)**_____ (*compete*) offering RM70,000 prize money, drew over 1,200 entries. Besides local Malaysian participants, representatives from 22 nations specially **(2)**_____ (*bring*) in by the national air carrier from different corners of the globe took part. Thailand sent the largest contingent of 130 runners, while Holland fielded 46 **(3)**_____ (*enter*). Japan, Singapore and Indonesia had 30, 28 and 25 runners **(4)**_____ (*respect*). Other foreigners in the gruelling 42.2 km leg race included nationals from Australia, the United Kingdom, India, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, Germany, Uganda and others.

It was a sportive mini United Nations of sorts when they all converged on the famous holiday island known for its **(5)**_____ (*scene*) vistas, historic charms, delicious food, friendly islanders and **(6)**_____ (*colour*) culture. Rebated airfares, and special hotel and tour package deals for runners and their accompanying supporters, provided the incentive to visit Penang. Advanced planning and worldwide **(7)**_____ (*public*) helped promote the marathon internationally.

In the moonless, pre-dawn gathering, a light drizzle had prompted spectators to hold umbrellas at the **(8)**_____ (*start*) point. Though wet, it was a pretty sight to see the old historic quarter of the town, namely the State Legislative Building, Fort Cornwallis, the Esplanade field, the Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower and the roundabout in front of it, all festooned with colourful lights like a fairyland or carnival. The ambience was **(9)**_____ (*festival*), the mood happy with loud music blaring from amplified loudspeakers and the situation somewhat **(10)**_____ (*amuse*) when Thai lady tourists posed for flashlight photos in front of runners.

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