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Malaysian show-jumpers make it a top-three finish

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NATIONAL show-jump riders Syed Omar Syed Abu Bakar, Azni Mat Azar and Qabil Ambak did the country proud when they finished first, second and third in the Centenary International Horse Show 2002 show-jumping event at the Selangor Polo and Riding Club in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Syed Omar, riding O'Canthus, completed the course clean in 52.72 seconds while Azni, on mount Grand Slam, recorded 56.51s with four penalty points.

Qabil, riding Gallium, who emerged champion in the classic event on Friday, clocked 1:10.56s and had to be contented with third placing.

The three defeated 18 other riders - nine from Malaysia, four from the Philippines, three from Thailand and one each from Indonesia and Sweden.

The victories have enhanced their chances to represent the country in next month's Busan Asian Games. There are two more show-jumping events, after which three riders will be picked for the Games.

The trio have, however, qualified for the South East Asian World Cup qualifying round.

Meanwhile, in the dressage event, Quzandria Nur Ambak was unmatched when she amassed 64.46 percent to Putri Alia Suraya's 59.46 percent. Third was Abdul Salim Fadzli Rahman with 52.57 percent.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave away the prizes. Also present was Equestrian Association of Malaysia president Tan Sri Musa Hitam.