

Yuhua Village wins "cleanest hawker centre toilets" title

By Wayne Chan | Posted: 28 December 2010 2118 hrs



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SINGAPORE: Would you mind paying more to use a public toilet during the busy lunch hour and evening rush hour?

The idea of such an ERP-style of charging more to use public toilets during peak hours comes from the Restroom Association of Singapore (RAS).

It hopes to channel the money collected towards the welfare of the cleaners.

The RAS also feels that the peak-hour surcharge could help defray the costs of maintaining the toilets.

Sanjay Balan, RAS manager for outreach and education, said: "People will be willing to pay a little bit more if they know that the restrooms that they visit are clean. But on the other hand, that compels the owner to provide a very clean restroom because people are paying that slightly bit extra."

But not everyone thinks it's a good idea to have peak-hour surcharge for public toilets.

"Peak hour charge? I think I will not use that....because if you charge more, not everybody will accept the price," said Jurong East 254 Market Association chairman, Mr Neo Swee Eng.

Mr Neo, 52, is in charge of 144 stalls at the Yuhua Village Market and Food Centre.

His preference - public education. Mr Neo said that so far this has worked with the hawkers in the centre. They no longer use public toilets to wash their dishes and vegetables.

Mr Neo was speaking to MediaCorp at a judging session to pick the cleanest public toilet in the Southwest district on Tuesday.

Yuhua Village Market and Food Centre snags its fourth consecutive title of having the cleanest hawker centre toilets in the entire Southwest district.

There were 22 nominations in this year's competition - 12 more than last year.

The nominees were toilets in shopping centres, hawker centres and coffeeshops.

The nominated toilets were judged on cleanliness and functionality of basic things like handwash basins, soap dispensers, hand dryers, toilet bowls and urinals.

The judging panel includes representatives from Town Councils, the National Environment Agency, community leaders and the Restroom Association of Singapore (RAS).

There are 204 coffeeshops, 19 hawker centres and seven shopping malls in the Southwest district and organisers say that such competitions have helped raise awareness on the importance of keeping toilets clean and green.

RAS says it has seen more public toilets add energy-saving and family-friendly features in recent years.

Mr Lim Meow Hong, 46, the owner of a chicken rice stall believes that better toilets mean better business.

He said: "It is important that the toilet is clean, so that when the customers come in and use the toilet, they are satisfied with the toilet. So, our business will be increased."



Photos

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