



Ms Delcine See and Mr Shaun Yeo from the NEA checking a toilet in Jurong East Street 24 yesterday. Judges from the NEA, the town councils, the Restroom Association of Singapore and grassroots organisations surveyed 22 washrooms over two days to pick the winner. ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG

Yuhua Village wins toilet award for the fourth time

THE Yuhua Village Market and Food Centre has been named the hawker centre with the cleanest toilets in South West District for the fourth year in a row.

It beat seven other nominees in estates such as Bukit Batok, Boon Lay and Jurong to the South West Community Development Council's "Clean, Dry and Sparkling Public Toilet" award yesterday.

Some of the credit goes to toilet cleaner Ong Tye Siew, 67, who has been cleaning the washrooms in Yuhua Village for three years. He said he checks and cleans the toilet stalls every hour.

"It was difficult to get people to cooperate and not mess the place up at first. I learnt to speak nicely to the customers and to the stall owners to make them understand the importance of keeping the toilets clean," he said.

Judges from the National Environment Agency (NEA), the town councils, the Restroom Association of Singapore (RAS) and grassroots organisations surveyed 22 washrooms on Monday and Tuesday to identify the winner.

RAS' manager of outreach and educa-

tion, Mr Sanjay Balan, said Yuhua Village set the benchmark for other hawker centres, and was a worthy repeat winner of the award.

The toilet cleanliness contest was part of South West District's Public Health Awards, which have been given out to neighbourhoods in its jurisdiction since 2005.

Other award winners include Yuhua Zone 7 Residents' Committee for being custodians of the cleanest estate, Lot 1 Shoppers Mall for the cleanest toilets in a shopping mall, and Block 134 Bukit Batok West Avenue 6 for the cleanest toilets in a coffee shop.

Mr Neo Swee Eng, who chairs the Jurong East 254 Hawkers Association, said keeping the 144-stall Yuhua Village Market and Food Centre clean has improved its image.

Drinks stall owner Teo Lee Huang, 41, said customers have told her they like how clean the toilets are.

She said: "My business has improved about 20 per cent since the centre became cleaner."

CHERYL ONG