

Six markets, hawker centres to reopen

SINGAPORE — Two years ago, it was destroyed by a major fire. This Friday, Ang Mo Kio residents will welcome back in their midst the new and improved Ang Mo Kio 628 Market.

The 30-year-old centre, which houses 218 food and market stalls, is finally opening after upgrading work at the cost of \$9.35 million. Along with the new entrance lobbies and canopies, it also features improved fire safety features.

The centre is one of six that, come next month, will reopen following renovation work.

The revamped centres will sport not only updated facades but better toilets, new tables and chairs, improved ventilation and disabled-friendly features. "The upgraded facilities also allow stallholders to maintain better hygiene standards and housekeeping," said the National Environment Agency, which runs the Hawker Centres Upgrading Programme.

Reopening on Friday are the Kebun Baru Market & Food Centre, with 30 per cent more seating capacity; the Beo Crescent Market, built the year of Singapore's independence in 1965; the Kukoh 21 Food Centre, converted to a pure food centre; and the 11 Telok Blangah Crescent Market & Food Centre.

The Tanglin Halt Food Centre will reopen on Jan 16,



An artist's impression of the Ang Mo Kio 628 Market.

with patrons enjoying better shelter thanks to a new roof connecting the three blocks.

Stallholders from the centres will resume business progressively, depending on the progress of renovation works of the individual stalls.

The NEA currently manages 109 markets and hawker centres.

As of Jan 1 2010, 84 centres will have been upgraded. Others now undergoing upgrading include Blk 79/79A Circuit Road and Blk 13/14 Haig Road.