

Asia scoops WUWM awards

Maria Cavit, the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) secretary general, reports on the winners of the 2008 Wholesale Market Awards

Wholesale markets in the Asia-Pacific region scooped two of the three 2008 Wholesale Market Awards at the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) 26th congress in Denmark on 1-3 October.

The WUWM award for Community Support went to Garak Wholesale Market in Seoul, Korea. The judges said they were impressed by its wide-ranging community support programme, which covered various community education services, a number of social contributions to rural communities, a trader-market employee sponsored "Neighbours in Need" programme, and a Green Market Festival that annually feeds upwards of 5,000 people.

Sydney Markets Ltd in Australia won the WUWM award for Environmental Sustainability for its impressive



Maria Cavit awards Hamburg's Torsten Berens

environmental sustainability activities, including waste management, energy savings and water saving programmes. The market's carbon footprint has reduced by 10 per cent through improved waste diversions and initiatives – savings on energy, water; waste diversions, and waste recycling.

WUWM ASPAC meet in China

The WUWM Asia/Pacific Regional Working Group will co-host with the China Agricultural Wholesale Markets Association (CAWA) and the China Farm Brokers Association a 1st Asia-Pacific Wholesale Market Conference and the 2nd China International Agri-Products Trading Fair in Zhengzhou, China on 17-19 November 2008.

One of the first conferences to be held in the Chinese wholesale market industry, this follows up the success of the WUWM 25th Congress held in Beijing in September 2008. The conference will develop cooperation between fresh produce distribution industries in the Asia-Pacific region, and promote the development of international trade, using wholesale markets as a major platform.

For more information on the conference programme and registration, please visit: www.wuwm-aprg.org



Garak Market's Na Sun-joong and Kim Dae-gun

London, England's New Spitalfields Market was awarded a "Highly Commended" in this category thanks to the enormous work done over the past two years in environmentally managing its waste disposal.

WUWM awarded the gong for Market Innovation to the Hamburg Wholesale Market in Germany on the strength of its three new innovative facilities: a German Additives Museum which opened in

the spring of 2008, a SCOLAB schools laboratory, and a pesticides laboratory which opened in June 2007.

The WUWM 2008 judges were Edward Seidler of FAO, Italy; Stephen Davies, Project for Public Spaces (PPS), US; Dr John Mann, retired superintendent of Smithfield Market in London; Bruno Christensen, Retail Institute of Scandinavia in Denmark; and Maria Cavit, WUWM secretary general. ■