

GLOBAL Q & A

'Do you have a favorite local market?'  
Describe what you like about it.'

Imported goods and fresh fruits, a special coffee, and pleasant surroundings are among the attractions revealed to Epoch Times reporters from India to Costa Rica when they asked locals around the world, "Do you have a favorite local market?"



**Bangalore, India**  
Sr. Juanita, Zoology Lecturer

Yes, the market at Sigma Mall is my favorite. The food, the coffee day joy, the supermarket that is all under one roof and so walkable from my residence is what makes it my favorite. The music, the food, the colors make it full of life!



**Puerto Viejo of Limon, Costa Rica**  
Karen Dozier Rios, 26, Mother and Housekeeper

I live in a little place on the Atlantic beach, immersed in the beautiful nature of forests and beaches. We have commercial centers and a store for tourists. I prefer to buy at a store with different things, or something particular, or not a common thing. I prefer places where I can see and walk peacefully, without crowds of people, and where I can take my time.



**Canary Islands, Spain**  
Candela Lopez Galan, 40, Businesswoman

It depends on where I am. If I'm in the city, I prefer to go to big supermarkets because of the variety you find in them. On the other hand, on the weekend or on holidays, when I'm out of the city in a little village, I prefer to buy in those small traditional shops, decorated in the old-fashioned way.



**Runaway Bay, Australia**  
Suzanne Cameron, 46, Mother and Part-time Office Worker

My favorite market would be Mudgeeraba or Nerang. I like going to any market because I like getting fresh fruit and veggies. I know that it hasn't been stored at a warehouse for a certain amount of time, and I would rather buy from a farmer than a supermarket.



**Beachwood, OH, U.S.**  
Sam Karkutt, 19, Salesperson

I like to shop at Dicks because it sells outdoor stuff. I buy hunting stuff there because hunting is my favorite thing to do.



**Warsaw, Poland**  
Jacek Chwilczynski, 72, Retired Mechanic Engineer

Yes, I have my favorite local market at Moldawska Street, which is close to where I live, and I mainly buy vegetables and fruits. There is a large variety of them and they are better than in hypermarkets. I also buy chickens. The staff is very nice; I know these people.



**Victoria, Canada**  
Darren Stone, 49, Photographer at Victoria Times Colonist

It's called The Market on Yates. It is a really good downtown food market, and they have really good service. The other market that I went to for the first time this year is The Old Country Market at Coombs; it's up Island where there are goats on the roof. That is one of the best markets I have been to, and they close in the winter.



**Mölndal, Sweden**  
Christina Ek, Pediatric Nurse

No, I cannot say I have a favorite market, I can really not say that. There are very mixed markets because it depends on what I want to buy. If I only want to walk around and be inspired, I go to small shops with everything from interior design to jewelry, those small friendly shops.

Look for the Global Q&A column every week. Epoch Times correspondents interview people around the world to learn about their lives and perspectives on local and global realities. Next week's global question: "Do you feel secure about the future?"

# Croatia's new president hopes for EU entry

By KREMENA KRUMOVA  
Epoch Times Staff

Croatia's newly elected president, Ivo Josipovic, is intent on the country joining the EU and stamping out corruption. It is expected Josipovic will work closely with Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to assure the country's entry into the EU by 2012.

Fifty-two-year-old Josipovic, a professor in law and a classical music composer, is the third president elected since Croatia's independence from former Yugoslavia in 1991.

"This is a victory which we can all celebrate because it is my deep belief that all of us want a better and more just Croatia," Josipovic was quoted by BBC. "I deeply believe that all of us want to live in a country in which work is rewarded and crime punished, in a country of social security and justice."

Josipovic, with the Social Democratic Party, won with an unpredictably large share of 60.3 percent of the vote. Second was the mayor of Zagreb, Milan Bandic, an independent with 39.71 percent. The third candidate, right-wing Andrija Hebrang, left the race after the first round on Dec. 27.

The new president is more oriented toward Europe and is not part of the previously nationalistically-inclined clique of the first head of state Franjo Tudjman and later his more moderate associate Stjepan "Stipe" Mesic.

The public preferred Mesic, but he



Main Social Democratic Party's presidential candidate Ivo Josipovic raises his hand after hearing first preliminary results of the Croatian presidential elections in his headquarters, in Zagreb on Jan. 10, 2010. HRVOJE POLAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

could no longer be elected because of legislative limitations—he served two successive five-year mandates.

**MODERN DEMOCRACY**

The Republic of Croatia, locally called Republika Hrvatska, is a small country of 4.5 million people, situated in southeastern Europe. Its neighbours are Slovenia and Hungary to the north, Bosnia and

Herzegovina to the southeast, and Serbia and Montenegro to the east.

The country is famous for its beautiful, Mediterranean-climate resorts, placed along the shiny coast of Adriatic Sea.

After the death of Yugoslavia's dictator Josip Broz, alias Tito, the federation, consisting of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Macedonia, started to decay and

each region began to split apart. The end of communism in Europe in 1989 brought the final disintegration of the Yugo bloc.

Croatia is now a modern, democratic country and a parliamentary republic. The main concerns that face the government are an unemployment rate of 16 percent, widespread corruption, and a struggling economy.

# U.S. Afghan fund to lure farmers from drug trade

CONTINUED FROM P1

This year's plan is to diversify agriculture by extending the support to nut trees, fruit, and vegetables.

According to a recent report from the Center on International Cooperation at New York University, the essential condition for implementing counter-narcotics policies is "a state that works." But in most of Afghanistan, "the state is only one of several contending authorities there, and its reach is particularly weak in areas where opium production is concentrated."

The analysis suggests that to ask farmers for voluntary restraint, much larger development livelihood programs should be delivered, especially in the provinces that are not planting poppies or are reducing those crops.

The Washington, D.C.-based National Bureau of Asian Research says in a report that "a multitude of actors are involved in Afghanistan's opium poppy production, including the Taliban, all levels of the Afghan



HARVEST: An Afghan worker inspects grapes at the Badam Bagh farm in Kabul. ROMEO GACAB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

government, law enforcement, unofficial powerbrokers, and tribal elites."

The study suggests that an alternative legal economy should be in place, which cannot consist of a

mono-cropping system, but that the sustainable legal livelihoods need to include "high-value, labour-intensive, diversified crops such as fruits and vegetables."

# Google says 'no' to Chinese censorship

CONTINUED FROM P1

The blog post concludes that "these attacks and the surveillance they have uncovered—combined with the attempts over the past year to further limit free speech on the Web—have led us to conclude that we should review the feasibility of our business operations in China."

Google said that it was working with U.S. authorities on the issue, also posting links to background information on cyber-attacks originating from China and believed to be backed by the CCP. These include U.S. government reports, and a university study that uncovered the "GhostNet" tracking system that infiltrated thousands of computers around the world, allowing them to be directed by command-and-control centers in China.

# French Guiana and Martinique reject more autonomy

By AURELIEN GIRARD  
Epoch Times Staff

PARIS, France—A year after massive strikes and unrest in the French Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and despite new protests on January 10 against the rising of price of goods, French Guiana and Martinique will remain French departments.

The two regions were asked by a referendum on January 10th whether they were willing to accept more autonomy in what would have been the first step toward independence. Both have been operating under mostly French regulations and laws since World War II.

The unexpected massive refusal—69.8 percent in French Guiana and 78.9 percent in Martinique—comes as a slap in the face for local politicians who have long been lobbying for more autonomy from France.

Particularly significant is the fact that more than 55 percent of people voted, an unusually strong participation judged by local standards.

In Dec. 2003, the last time the French Caribbean islands were asked to express their views on the question of autonomy, the "no" vote prevailed by a thinner margin, indicating that in the context of an economic crisis, the social and economic support offered by France is seen by locals as a guarantee of stability.

# Earlier in the week, local union leader Elie Domota denied he had called for a general strike in Guadeloupe starting January 20

According to the French government, the decision "shows that Guyanans and Martiniquans remain attached to a status close to that of their continental counterparts; they have affirmed the strong link uniting them to the [French] Republic."

Independent leaders had no choice but to recognize that they had been rejected by public opinion. In Martinique, Alfred Marie-Jeanne, president of the regional council, accepted his defeat. He nonetheless claimed to Le Monde newspaper that "the victory is the result of frightening people in an insidious and rampant way. Yet the walk

toward independence must remain at the forefront of our requests."

For French Overseas Minister Marie-Luce Penchard however, "this vote will put a lid on the issue of autonomy for a while, as it was polluting the debate on an essential question—that is, economic development. This issue is not the answer to problems. The proof is provided when during social crisis, there is no expressed willingness to break ties with the continent."

Earlier in the week, local union leader Elie Domota denied he had called for a general strike in Guadeloupe starting January 20.

"I don't know where this comes from. We have only called for a protest and announced we would discuss how to organize other actions," explained Domota to France Info radio, arguing it was a misunderstanding about a statement he made to Le Parisien newspaper.

French media pundits have said Domota had received early news about vote results and knew his call to strike would not be answered.

Domota's Collective Against Exploitation (LKP) led 35 days of protest in Guadeloupe in January and February 2009. Precisely one year later, following a 4 cent increase of oil prices announced on Dec. 30, LKP called for new street protests, the first of which occurred on December 10 and was joined by approximately 7,500 people.



Scroby Sands wind farm offshore from Norfolk. SHAUN CURRY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

# U.K. bets farm on wind

CONTINUED FROM P1

Demonstration models and projects will have to be shown over the next two years. The competition registration closes on June 15th, 2010.

In August last year, Vestas, a Danish-based wind turbine manufacturer with operations in Newport, Isle of Wight, closed down its British facility. This loss of 600 jobs was seen as an inability by government to back its renewable energy and low-carbon industrial strategies.

Vestas said wind farms were not being built fast enough to keep it supplied with orders. The company left the UK with the possibility of returning after 2015 when projects like those named on January 8th would come into effect.

Britain currently has no commercial-scale turbine manufacturing plants following the Vestas closure.