

☆RIM PETROCHEMICALS INTELLIGENCE DAILY

★No.3082 Apr 30 2020

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--TOKYO, 18:30 JST Apr 30 2020 <Assessment Closing Time>

◎Notice

○Report on adherence to PRA principles

Rim Intelligence uploaded the report of the governance, processes and controls relating to the adherence to the PRA principles based on reasonable assurance on Feb 27, 2020. All of the daily reports of Rim Intelligence are subject to the principles. Please visit the following website for perusal.

<Reports>

Bunker Oil, Crude/Condensate, Asia Products (Products), LPG, Lorry Rack, Japan Products, Petrochemicals, LNG, Power

<https://www.rim-intelligence.co.jp/contents/info/pramenuEng4/>

○Golden Week Holiday Notice

Rim will not issue Petrochemicals report on Apr 29 and May 4-6, 2020 for the Golden Week holidays in Japan. The publication will resume on May 7 onward after the holidays. To view the Rim Intelligence 2020 holiday schedule, please visit the URL below:

<https://eng.rim-intelligence.co.jp/contents/info/RimHolidayNotice2020EN.pdf>

◎RECX-22 index

RECX-22 index for Thursday was 42.49, down 2.39 points from Apr 28

-----Introduction of Rim reports-----

Please access the URL below for a lineup of Rim reports. You can view sample reports as well as detailed explanations on the contents:

<https://eng.rim-intelligence.co.jp/first/report>

Lineup:

Bunker Oil	Crude/Condensate	Products	
LPG	Petrochemicals	Polyolefins	
LNG	Power	Daily Data	Rim Data File

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For the publication schedule during the Golden Week holidays in Japan, please refer to the Holiday Notice on the top page of this report.

◎Aromatics (\$/MT)					
○Physical and Forward Prices					
	INDEX	H1 May	H2 May	H1 Jun	H2 Jun
○Benzene					
FOB Korea	+ 325/ 335+	—	306/316	325/335	325/335
FOB East Japan	+ 311/ 321+	301/311	301/311	320/330	—
FOB West Japan	+ 316/ 326+	306/316	306/316	325/335	—
CFR Japan	+ 329/ 339+	319/329	319/329	338/348	—
China Domestic*	+3, 250/3, 280+				
China Domestic^	400^				
○Styrene Monomer					
FOB Korea	+ 583/ 593+	580/590	580/590	585/595	—
CFR China	+ 623/ 633+	620/630	620/630	625/635	—
China Domestic*	+5, 170/5, 230+				
China Domestic^	638^				
○Toluene					
FOB Korea	+ 310/ 320+	—	310/320	310/320	310/320
○Iso MX					
FOB Korea	+ 376/ 378+	—	375/377	376/378	376/378
CFR Taiwan	+ 398/ 400+	—	397/399	398/400	398/400
○PX					
FOB Korea	+ 454/ 460+	—	453/459	454/460	454/460
CFR N. E. Asia	+ 474/ 480+	—	473/479	474/480	474/480
*Yuan/mt. ^\$/mt. calculated from China Domestic.					

◎Olefins (\$/MT)			
	CFR N. E. Asia	CFR S. E. Asia	FOB Korea
Ethylene	+ 380/390 +	+ 380/390 +	+ 370/380 +
Propylene	+ 700/720 +	+ 650/660 +	+ 670/690 +
Butadiene	+ 345/355 +	+ 345/355 +	+ 315/325 +

◎China Domestic (Yuan/MT)	
	East China
Propylene	5,600/5,800
Propylene (Shandong)*	+ 5,850/5,950 +
Butadiene	+ 4,100/4,300 +
SBR	7,800/7,900
BR	7,500/7,600
*Shandong prices refer to ex-tank assessments in the Shandong area.	

◎Polymers (\$/MT)				
	CFR China	CFR S. E. Asia	China Domestic*	USD^
LDPE (Film)	780/830	780/830	7,500/7,800	898 -
LLDPE (Film)	670/690	670/720	6,300/6,400	746
HDPE (Film)	700/750	700/720	7,000/7,300	840
HDPE (Yarn)	700/750	700/720	7,100/7,400	851 -
PP (Homo) - BOPP	800/820	+ 770/790 +	—	—
PP (Homo) - Yarn/INJ	780/800	+ 750/770 +	7,000/7,300	840



PP (Block Co) – INJ	830/850	+ 800/820 +	—	—
*Yuan/MT, ^USD calculated from China Domestic.				

©PVC and Feedstocks (\$/MT)		
	CFR China	
PVC	640/660	
Ethylene Dichloride	140/160	
Vinylchloride Monomer	– 380/400 –	

©Intermediates (\$/MT)		
Phenol (CFR NEA)	880/ 920	
Bisphenol-A (CFR China)	1, 200/1, 250	
Acrylonitrile (CFR China)	1, 020/1, 050	
Caprolactam (CFR NEA)	900/ 950	

©PET and Feedstocks (\$/MT)			
		China Domestic^	
PTA (EX-Bonded Warehouse)	+ 380/390 +	+ 3, 200/3, 250 +	
Monoethylene Glycol (CFR China)	+ 405/410 +	+ 3, 500/3, 520 +	
PET (Bottle, FOB NEA)	665/715	—	
^Yuan/MT.			

©Weekly & Monthly Average**				
	20. Apr – 24. Apr	Apr Ave.	20. Apr – 24. Apr	Apr Ave.
O-Benzene				
FOB Korea	322/ 326	– 314/ 319 –		
FOB E-Japan	308/ 313	– 301/ 306 –		
FOB W-Japan	313/ 318	– 306/ 311 –		
CFR Japan	326/ 331	– 319/ 324 –		
China Domestic*	3, 044/3, 104	– 3, 099/3, 174 –		
O-Styrene Monomer				
FOB Korea	548/ 570	– 551/ 570 –		
CFR China	588/ 610	– 591/ 610 –		
China Domestic*	4, 840/4, 910	– 4, 944/4, 997 –		
O-Toluene				
FOB Korea	292/ 300	– 292/ 299 –		
O-Iso MX				
FOB Korea	363/ 366	– 364/ 367 –		
CFR Taiwan	391/ 394	– 385/ 387 –		
O-PX				
FOB Korea	439/ 443	– 446/ 449 –		
CFR N. E. Asia	459/ 463	– 466/ 469 –		
	CFR N. E. Asia		CFR S. E. Asia	
Ethylene	310/344	– 373/403 –	302/338	– 343/377 –
Propylene	634/666	– 617/647 –	584/606	– 569/589 –
Butadiene	350/370	– 385/409 –	350/370	– 385/409 –
	FOB Korea			
Ethylene	300/334	– 363/393 –		

Propylene	604/636	- 587/617 -		
Butadiene	320/340	- 355/379 -		
	China Domestic*			
Propylene	5,600/5,900	- 5,668/5,840 -		
Propylene (Shandong)	5,780/5,850	- 5,868/5,973 -		
Butadiene	3,540/3,680	- 3,625/3,795 -		
SBR	7,920/8,080	- 7,755/7,935 -		
BR	7,620/7,720	- 7,420/7,585 -		
	CFR China		CFR S.E. Asia	
	20. Apr - 24. Apr	Apr Ave.	20. Apr - 24. Apr	Apr Ave.
LDPE (Film)	780/830	- 780/830 -	816/866	- 836/876 -
LLDPE (Film)	696/734	- 677/717 -	682/724	- 697/743 -
HDPE (Film)	722/772	- 694/741 -	700/730	- 710/751 -
HDPE (Yarn)	722/772	- 694/741 -	700/730	- 710/751 -
PP (Homo) - BOPP	786/806	- 759/780 -	780/800	- 772/792 -
PP (Homo) - Yarn/INJ	766/786	- 739/760 -	760/780	- 752/772 -
PP (Block Co) - INJ	816/836	- 789/810 -	810/830	- 802/822 -
	China Domestic*			
LDPE (Film)	7,500/7,800	- 7,290/7,530 -		
LLDPE (Film)	6,300/6,400	- 6,173/6,273 -		
HDPE (Film)	7,000/7,300	- 6,975/7,195 -		
HDPE (Yarn)	7,100/7,400	- 6,975/7,240 -		
PP (Homo) - Yarn/INJ	6,780/7,080	+ 7,080/7,268 +		
	CFR China		China Domestic*	
PVC	648/ 660	- 714/ 726 -		
Ethylene Dichloride	140/ 160	- 159/ 179 -		
Vinylchloride Monomer	390/ 410	- 409/ 429 -		
Phenol	880/ 920	880/ 920		
Bisphenol-A	1,200/1,250	- 1,200/1,250 -		
Acrylonitrile	1,020/1,050	- 1,088/1,129 -		
Caprolactam	900/ 950	- 900/ 950 -		
PTA	374/ 384	- 378/ 388 -	3,076/3,128	- 3,177/3,226 -
Monoethylene Glycol	386/ 392	- 390/ 396 -	3,296/3,306	- 3,324/3,338 -
PET (Bottle, FOB NEA)	665/ 715	- 682/ 732 -		

◎Contract Prices**			
	Feb	Mar	Apr
Bz ACP (CFR NEA, \$/mt)	710	665	335
Yen/mt conversion	82,500	78,900	41,600
Bz USCP (FOB USGC, cts/gal)	264	257	121
\$/mt conversion	789	768	362
PX ACP (CFR NEA, \$mt)	-	-	-
Bz ACP is released by JX. Bz USCP and PX ACP are agreed prices between makers and end-users.			

◎Feedstocks**		
	Index	
Naphtha CFR Japan(\$/mt)	+ 206.75/210.25 +	
Yen/mt conversion	15,486 +	
Naphtha CFR Japan prices are from Products reports		



	Oct-Dec 19	Jan-Mar 19	Apr-Jun (Implied)
Naphtha Domestic CP(Yen/kl)	41,300	44,800	21,400
Calculated from statistics from Ministry of Finance of Japan. Forecasts calculated based on Naphtha CFR Japan prices.			
	Propane	Butane	
RIM Asia Index (\$/MT)	328.75 +	328.75 +	
China PDH Margin (\$/mt)	147 +		
RIM Asia Index are from LPG report. PDH Margin calculated based on CFR China propane and CFR NEA propylene prices.			

◎Reference Prices (\$/MT)**			
	Jun	Jul	Aug
Japan Mogas-Tocom(Yen/kl)	24,100 +	25,000 +	26,340 +
Yen/mt conversion	33,472 +	34,722 +	36,583 +
Japan Mogas-Tocom prices are settlement prices for each month from TOCOM.			
	East	West	
Japan Mogas-RIM(Yen/kl)	- 25,800/26,700 -	- 25,800/26,700 -	
Yen/mt conversion	36,458 -	36,458 -	
Japan Mogas-RIM prices are from Japan Products report.			
	WTI (May)	Brent (May)	Paper Dubai (Apr)
Tokyo Spot Crude(\$/bbl) / Apr30 16:00	16.53 +	23.96 +	19.95 +
\$/mt conversion	126 +	181 +	144 +
Tokyo Spot Crude WTI, Brent and Paper Dubai prices are from Crude/Condensate report.			
	Nymex WTI (Jun)	ICE Brent (Jun)	
Crude Futures Settlement(\$/bbl)/ Apr29	15.06 +	22.54 +	
\$/mt conversion	115 +	170 +	
Crude Futures settlement prices are settlement prices from Nymex and ICE.			
	Yen/\$, TTM	Yuan/\$	
Exchange rate	106.87 -	7.0751 +	

◎Spread/Aromatics (\$/MT)**						
	BZ	TL	MX	SM	PX	Nap
Benzene	—	15 +	-47 +	-258 +	-127 +	122 -
Toluene	-15 -	—	-62 -	-273 -	-142 -	107 -
ISO MX	47 -	62 +	—	-211 -	-80 -	169 -
SM	258 -	273 +	211 +	—	131 +	379 -
P-Xylene	127 -	142 +	80 +	-131 -	—	249 -
Naphtha	-122 +	-107 +	-169 +	-379 +	-249 +	—
Calculated from the price difference between each product and its feedstock.						

◎Spread/Olefins (\$/MT)**				
	Ethylene	Propylene	Butadiene	Naphtha
Ethylene	—	-325 +	35 +	177 -
Propylene	325 -	—	360 +	502 -
Butadiene	-35 -	-360 -	—	142 -
Naphtha	-177 +	-502 +	-142 +	—
Calculated from the price difference between each product and CFR Japan Naphtha.				

◎Spread/Polyolefins & Intermediate VS Feedstocks (\$/MT)**
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LDPE (Film)	412 -	PP/Homo (BOPP)	100 -	SM	208 -	EDC	38 -
LLDPE (Film)	314 -	PP/Homo (Yarn/INJ)	80 -	Phenol	246 -	VCM	147 -
HDPE (Film)	325 -	PP/Block Co (INJ)	95 -	PTA	65 -	PVC	256 +
				MEG	177 -		

Calculated from the price difference between each product and its feedstock.

©Spread/Aromatics vs Naphtha & WTI & Gasoline**				
	Naphtha	Nymex WTI	Mogas-Tocom	JPN Mogas-RIM
BZ FOB Korea (\$/MT)	122 -	215 +	17 +	-11 +
Yen/mt	12,985 -	22,998 +	1,795 +	-1,191 +
TL FOB Korea (\$/MT)	107 -	200 -	2 -	-26 +
Yen/mt	11,382 -	21,395 -	192 -	-2,794 +
MX FOB Korea (\$/MT)	169 -	262	64 -	36 +
Yen/mt	18,008 -	28,021 -	6,818 -	3,832 +

Calculated from the price difference between each product and CFR Japan Naphtha, Nymex WTI, Mogas-tocom and Japan Mogas-RIM.

**These are reference prices and not price assessments.

©TRANSACTIONS

	Benzene	
Jun 1H	FOB KOREA	330

For the publication schedule during the Golden Week holidays in Japan, please refer to the Holiday Notice on the top page of this report.

©AROMATICS

○Benzene

Benzene prices on an FOB Korea basis on Thursday increased \$38/mt from Tuesday to \$306-316/mt for second-half May loading and \$325-335/mt for June loading. China domestic prices strengthened Yuan 275/mt to Yuan 3,250-3,280/mt. The market was supported by firm crude prices. On an FOB Korea basis for first-half

June loading, a deal was done at \$330/mt. On a CFR China basis, discussions were in the range of \$355-365/mt for June delivery and \$365-375/mt for July delivery. In the China domestic market, discussions were in the range of Yuan 3,250-3,280/mt.

○Styrene Monomer

Styrene monomer (SM) prices on an FOB Korea basis for May and first-half June loading rose \$25/mt and \$30/mt to \$580-590/mt and \$585-595/mt respectively. On a CFR China basis, prices for May and first-half June delivery increased \$25/mt and \$30/mt to \$620-630/mt and \$625-635/mt respectively. China domestic prices gained Yuan 205/mt to Yuan 5,170-5,230/mt. The

markets were boosted by high crude prices and declining SM stocks in East China. On a CFR China basis, bids and offers were not heard and prices were seen to be at the same level as the paper market. In paper trade, talks were at \$625-635/mt for June delivery and \$635-640/mt for July delivery. Prices for May delivery were about \$5/mt below June delivery. On Wednesday in the paper market,



deals were reportedly done at \$615/mt for May delivery and \$620/mt for June delivery. In the China domestic market, spot cargoes were

discussed at Yuan 5,170-5,230/mt. The recent drop in SM stocks was due to high run rates of derivative facilities which led to strong buying interest for SM.

OToluene

Toluene prices on an FOB Korea basis for second-half May and June loading increased \$13/mt from Tuesday to \$310-320/mt along with

firm crude prices. Discussions for June loading were in the range of \$310-320/mt.

OMixed Xylene

Isomer grade mixed xylene (MX) prices for second-half May increased \$18/mt from Tuesday to \$375-377/mt on an FOB Korea basis and \$397-399/mt on a CFR Taiwan basis. For June, prices moved up \$18/mt to \$376-378/mt on an FOB

Korea basis and \$398-400/mt on a CFR Taiwan basis. The market was boosted by firm crude prices. On an FOB Korea basis for second-half May loading, a bid was cast at \$375/mt.

OParaxylene

Paraxylene (PX) prices for second-half May rose \$30/mt from Tuesday to \$473-479/mt on a CFR Northeast Asia basis and \$453-459/mt on an FOB Korea basis. For June, prices increased \$30/mt to \$474-480/mt on a CFR Northeast Asia basis and \$454-460/mt on an FOB Korea basis. The market

was supported by firm crude prices. On a CFR Northeast Asia basis, discussions were in the range of \$473-479/mt for second-half May delivery and \$474-480/mt for June delivery. Discussions for Asian contract prices for May reportedly did not reach an agreement.

©OLEFINS

OEthylene

In ethylene markets in Asia on Thursday, CFR Northeast Asia and CFR Southeast Asia prices increased \$35/mt from Tuesday to \$380-390/mt. FOB Korea prices rose \$35/mt to \$370-380/mt. The market rose as perceptions of slack supply/demand receded.

On a CFR Northeast Asia basis, a market source reported that a June delivery cargo was traded at \$380-390/mt but further details were not clear. The market source showed views that possible deal levels were at \$380-390/mt although selling ideas were reportedly seen at \$400/mt and above. On the other hand, another market source said that it was difficult to conduct firm discussions as makers had not decided production of ethylene and its derivatives from June onwards and many Asian countries would be on holiday this week. However, views were heard that ethylene prices might increase going forward since perceptions of surplus

supply that were observed in discussion on cargoes to be delivered until the middle of May receded and maintenance at naphtha crackers were taking place. Regarding facilities, maintenance started at BASF-YPC's facilities in its petrochemical complex including its naphtha cracker. The maintenance would take place for 50 days.

On a CFR Southeast Asia basis, bids and offers were not heard. End-users that had room to increase their ethylene stocks were reportedly interested in buying at the current market level. However, there were factors curbing demand including the COVID-19 outbreak and the start of Ramadan and buying interest was unlikely to strengthen. Market sources showed views that CFR Southeast Asia prices were at similar levels to CFR Northeast Asia prices since there were not many cargoes from the Middle East.

Propylene

In propylene markets in Asia on Thursday, CFR Northeast Asia prices rose \$20/mt from Tuesday to \$700-720/mt. CFR Southeast Asia and FOB Korea prices increased \$20/mt to \$650-660/mt and \$670-690/mt respectively. The market was bolstered by the firm China domestic market.

On a CFR Northeast Asia basis, sellers were reportedly showing ideas at \$750/mt since the China domestic market was firm recently. But it was said to be difficult for deals to be done at this price. A trader said that the upper side of possible deal levels was at \$720/mt. Buying ideas were heard at \$700/mt and lower. In talks related to market quotations, selling ideas were seen at a premium of \$40/mt and above to CFR Northeast Asia quotations.

On an FOB Korea basis, a maker closed a sell

tender on Wednesday for 1,500mt loading on May 25-30. The tender was reportedly awarded at a discount of \$20-25/mt to CFR Northeast Asia quotations. Apart from this, firm discussions were not heard and the market increased along with the CFR Northeast Asia market.

On a CFR Southeast Asia basis, bids and offers were thin and the market was boosted by the rise in the CFR Northeast Asia market.

In the China domestic market, East China prices were stable at Yuan 5,600-5,800/mt. Shandong prices rose Yuan 50/mt from Tuesday to Yuan 5,850-5,950/mt. In Shandong, some propylene facilities were still not operating and supply was not ample. Under this situation, discussion levels in Shandong were at around Yuan 5,900/mt.

Butadiene

In butadiene markets in Asia on Thursday, CFR Northeast Asia and CFR Southeast Asia prices climbed \$5/mt from Tuesday to \$345-355/mt. FOB Korea prices gained \$5/mt to \$315-325/mt. FOB Korea prices stayed steady at \$340-350/mt. FOB Korea prices stayed intact at \$310-320/mt. The CFR Northeast Asia market was boosted by firmness in China domestic prices. This in turn pulled up the CFR Southeast Asia and FOB Korea markets.

In Northeast Asia, amid recent firmness in China domestic prices, sellers apparently tried to raise their offers to \$400/mt. But with many imported cargoes arriving from mid-May, end-users had limited tank space and were not that keen to buy imported cargoes. An Indian cargo for June delivery was reportedly traded at \$350/mt. Sources mentioned that talks were at around \$350/mt with buying ideas at \$300-350/mt and selling ideas at \$350-400/mt.

On an FOB Korea basis, amid sluggish demand, some makers seemed to have room to sell butadiene but deals and firm talks were not heard at present

and prices tracked movements in the CFR Northeast Asia market.

On a CFR Southeast Asia basis, a cargo loading early May within the region was apparently traded at \$390/mt but sources reckoned that this was a special deal with some reasons behind it. As the automobile industry remained sluggish due to the COVID-19 outbreak, demand for synthetic rubber and butadiene was poor. Under this situation, discussion levels were seen to be the same as those in the CFR Northeast Asia market.

In the China domestic market, East China prices strengthened Yuan 400/mt to Yuan 4,100-4,300/mt. As mentioned above, imported cargoes were only arriving from mid-May and some domestic butadiene facilities were scheduled to enter maintenance in May. As a result, perceptions of ample supply might ease. On the other hand, derivative synthetic rubber makers were seeing good profitability. This prompted Sinopec to raise ex-works prices to Yuan 4,500/mt. This in turn caused spot prices to rise to Yuan 4,100-4,300/mt.

©Tender

Olefin Tenders					
Company	Buy/Sell	Quantity	Timing	Close	Price
	Cargo	Basis	Result	Validity	
Korean Supplier	Sell	1,500	25-30 May	29-Apr	CFR NEA -20~-25
	Propylene	FOB	Awarded		
PTTGC	Buy	3,500-5,000	16-18 May	29-Apr	
	Ethylene	CFR		30-Apr	
PTTGC	Sell	1,600-2,350	15-17 May	24-Apr	
	Propylene	FOB	Awarded		
PTTGC	Buy	3,500-5,000	5-9 May	23-Apr	
	Ethylene	CFR	Awarded		
Quantity mt, Source: Rim survey					

©POLYMERS

The CFR China polyolefin market held steady on Thursday. With a long holiday starting May 1, the market showed no movements. High density polyethylene (HDPE) Film from Indonesia was reportedly traded at \$700/mt.

On a CFR Southeast Asia basis, polypropylene (PP) Homo Yarn/Injection (Inj) prices gained \$10/mt from Tuesday to \$750-770/mt while BOPP and PP Block Co prices increased \$10/mt to \$770-790/mt and \$800-820/mt respectively. Sellers adopted a bullish stance due to firm crude prices

but as demand was lackluster, buyers did not bid up. For delivery to Vietnam, linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) Film from the Middle East was offered at \$730/mt while HDPE Film from the US was offered at \$740/mt. Further, PP Homo Yarn/Inj from India was offered at \$800-810/mt but buyers bid for taxable cargoes at \$750/mt. For delivery to Indonesia, activity was subdued. Owing to Ramadan, the fasting month in the Islamic calendar and concerns about the COVID-19 outbreak, the market was quiet.

©PVC and RAW MATERIALS

Vinylchloride monomer (VCM) prices on a CFR China basis fell \$10/mt from Tuesday to \$380-400/mt on Thursday owing to low demand for derivative polyvinyl chloride (PVC). In PVC consuming countries including India, measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were taking place and demand for PVC and feedstock VCM was weak in the world. Even if the measures like lockdown

were lifted, it was unclear whether demand would recover soon. In talks on May VCM cargoes, a deal was reported at \$350-400/mt. After this deal was done, selling pressure receded and no VCM makers in a rush to sell were seen. Under this situation, if discussions were conducted at present, no sellers would be willing to sell at \$400/mt and below, said market sources.

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○Purified Terephthalic Acid/ Monoethylene Glycol

Purified terephthalic acid (PTA) prices for cargoes ex-bonded warehouses in China rose \$10/mt from Tuesday to \$380-390/mt while China domestic prices increased Yuan 155/mt to Yuan 3,200-3,250/mt, bolstered by gains in crude prices. Possible discussion levels for cargoes from bonded warehouses were seen at \$380-390/mt. In the China domestic market, spot cargoes were discussed at

Yuan 3,200-3,250/mt.

Ethylene glycol (EG) prices on a CFR China basis increased \$18/mt to \$405-410/mt while China domestic prices strengthened Yuan 185/mt to Yuan 3,500-3,520/mt, lifted by firm crude prices. Talks were heard at \$405-410/mt on a CFR China basis and Yuan 3,500-3,520/mt in the China domestic market.

©OTHERS

○Naphtha

Open-spec naphtha prices in Asia were in the range of \$206.75-210.25/mt, up \$62.88/mt from Apr 28 with a rise in Brent crude prices.

In Brent crude oil futures trades on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) early in the evening in Asia, the Jun contract was at \$24.39/bbl, up \$4.90/bbl from Apr 28. Open-spec naphtha prices for H1 Jun arrival were at \$204.25-204.75/mt, H2 Jun arrival at \$206.75-207.25/mt, and H1 Jul arrival at \$209.75-210.25/mt.

On a timing spread, a H1 Jun/H1 Jul spread was in contango of \$5.50/mt. It had been in backwardation of \$3.50/mt on Apr 28. A Jun Brent/H1 Jun naphtha spread became at \$22/mt in favor of naphtha.

Early in the evening in Asia, May NWE naphtha prices were at \$168.00-170.00/mt, up \$23.50/mt from Apr 28. Prices for Jun and Jul were at \$181.00-183.00/mt and \$193.25-195.25/mt. A H1 Jun Asia/May NWE spread was at \$36/mt in favor of Asia, widening by \$34/mt from Apr 28.

○Liquefied Petroleum Gas

In the CFR Far East market on Thursday, prices for delivery to Japan fell due to weak buying interest. Meanwhile, CFR China prices rose due to the May CP having been set higher than expected. Nevertheless, expectations of slack supply/demand of pure propane cargoes ex-US limited the magnitude of the gain in CFR East China prices.

CFR Japan

Propane and butane prices for second-half May delivery fell by \$4/mt from Tuesday to \$323-333/mt. Relative to the May CP, the discount for propane and butane tumbled by \$19/mt to \$7-17/mt.

Propane and butane prices for first-half June delivery softened by \$4/mt from Tuesday to \$293-303/mt. Relative to the June CP, the premium for propane and butane shrank by \$8/mt to \$18-28/mt.

Propane and butane prices for second-half June delivery weakened by \$4/mt from Tuesday to \$290-300/mt. Relative to the June CP, the premium for propane and butane declined by \$8/mt to \$15-25/mt.

○OUS Summary

WTI crude futures on the NYMEX rebounded sharply on Thursday. The front-month June contract was at \$15.06 per barrel (bbl), up by \$2.72 from the previous day. The contract was \$1.28 higher than one week ago.

According to weekly inventory data released by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) on Wednesday, US crude inventories rose by 8.99 mil bbl from the previous week. While the crude inventories increased for fourteen consecutive weeks, the size of a rise was smaller than market expectations. The market had expected crude inventories would rise by 10.60 mil bbl. In addition, US gasoline inventories



unexpectedly declined by 3.67 mil bbl from the previous week. The market had predicted gasoline stocks would increase by 2.90 mil bbl. The increasing pace of crude inventories slowed down, which triggered buying in the crude oil market. Elsewhere, US equity prices surged as progress was reported in COVID-19 drug trial, which was also regarded as a bullish factor.

North Sea Brent crude futures on the ICE advanced. The June contract gained by \$2.08 from the previous day to \$22.54/bbl. The contract was \$2.17 higher than one week ago.

The June natural gas contract on NYMEX closed at \$1.869 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) on Wednesday, down 7.9cts from the previous day. The downslide came with weather forecasts stating that temperatures would rise late this week in US Northeast and Midwest, prime gas consuming areas.

The June WTI contract was at \$16.97/bbl as of 17:00 Tokyo time on Thursday, up \$1.91/bbl from the closing price on Wednesday.

In the US benzene market on a Delivered Duty Paid (DDP) basis on Wednesday, discussions were at 87-91cts/gal for April, at around 97cts/gal for May and at 100-104cts/gal for June. In Europe on a CIF Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp (ARA) basis on the same day for May, bids and offers were cast at \$260/mt and \$265/mt respectively. For June, bids and offers were cast at \$270/mt and \$295/mt respectively.

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