

☆RIM PETROCHEMICALS INTELLIGENCE DAILY

★No.3163 Aug 31 2020

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--TOKYO, 18:30 JST Aug 31 2020 <Assessment Closing Time>

◎RECX-22 index

RECX-22 index for Monday was 67.32, down 0.65 points from last Friday

-----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:

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Lineup:

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

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◎Aromatics (\$/MT)					
○-Physical and Forward Prices					
	INDEX	H1 Sep	H2 Sep	H1 Oct	H2 Oct
<b>○-Benzene</b>					
FOB Korea	- 423/ 428-	—	418/423	423/428	423/428
FOB East Japan	- 416/ 421-	413/418	413/418	418/423	—
FOB West Japan	- 421/ 426-	418/423	418/423	423/428	—
CFR Japan	- 434/ 439-	431/436	431/436	436/441	—
China Domestic*	3,440/3,480+				
China Domestic^	438^				
<b>○-Styrene Monomer</b>					
FOB Korea	+ 618/ 623+	615/620	615/620	620/625	—
CFR China	+ 658/ 663+	655/660	655/660	660/665	—
China Domestic*	+5,290/5,310+				
China Domestic^	670^				
<b>○-Toluene</b>					
FOB Korea	390/ 400+	—	390/400	390/400	390/400
<b>○-Iso MX</b>					
FOB Korea	+ 435/ 437+	—	435/437	435/437	435/437
CFR Taiwan	+ 450/ 452+	—	450/452	450/452	450/452
<b>○-PX</b>					
FOB Korea	+ 521/ 523+	—	509/511	521/523	521/523
CFR N. E. Asia	+ 541/ 543+	—	529/531	541/543	541/543

\*Yuan/mt, ^\$/mt, calculated from China Domestic.

◎Olefins (\$/MT)			
	CFR N. E. Asia	CFR S. E. Asia	FOB Korea
Ethylene	690/730	680/720	690/730
Propylene	840/860	770/790	800/820
Butadiene	640/650	640/650	590/600

◎China Domestic (Yuan/MT)	
	East China
Propylene	6,700/6,750
Propylene (Shandong)*	- 6,850/6,950
Butadiene	- 4,800/5,000 -
SBR	8,250/8,350
BR	8,150/8,250

\*Shandong prices refer to ex-tank assessments in the Shandong area.

◎Polymers (\$/MT)				
	CFR China	CFR S. E. Asia	China Domestic*	USD^
LDPE (Film)	+ 1,020/1,050 +	980/1,000	9,300/9,400	1,132 +
LLDPE (Film)	840/ 850	850/ 870	7,300/7,350	887 +
HDPE (Film)	900/ 930	880/ 920	7,900/8,100	969 +
HDPE (Yarn)	900/ 930	880/ 920	8,000/8,400	993 +
PP (Homo) - BOPP	920/ 940	910/ 930	—	—
PP (Homo) - Yarn/INJ	900/ 920	890/ 910	7,850/7,900	954 +
PP (Block Co) - INJ	930/ 950	920/ 940	—	—

\*Yuan/MT, ^USD calculated from China Domestic.



◎PVC and Feedstocks (\$/MT)		
	CFR China	
PVC	820/840	
Ethylene Dichloride	300/310	
Vinylchloride Monomer	660/670	

◎Intermediates (\$/MT)		
Phenol (CFR NEA)	600/ 650	
Bisphenol-A (CFR China)	1,100/1,150	
Acrylonitrile (CFR China)	880/ 920	
Caprolactam (CFR NEA)	980/1,020	

◎PET and Feedstocks (\$/MT)			
		China Domestic <sup>^</sup>	
PTA (EX-Bonded Warehouse)	430/450	- 3,480/3,500 -	
Monoethylene Glycol (CFR China)	+ 470/475 +	+ 3,840/3,850 +	
PET(Bottle, FOB NEA)	655/705	—	

<sup>^</sup>Yuan/MT.

◎Weekly & Monthly Average**				
	24. Aug - 28. Aug	Aug Ave.	24. Aug - 28. Aug	Aug Ave.
<b>○-Benzene</b>				
FOB Korea	442/ 445	+ 439/ 443 +		
FOB E-Japan	432/ 435	+ 430/ 434 +		
FOB W-Japan	437/ 440	+ 435/ 439 +		
CFR Japan	450/ 453	+ 448/ 452 +		
China Domestic*	3,452/3,476	+ 3,482/3,517 +		
<b>○-Styrene Monomer</b>				
FOB Korea	612/ 620	- 621/ 630 -		
CFR China	652/ 660	- 661/ 670 -		
China Domestic*	5,260/5,292	- 5,267/5,294 -		
<b>○-Toluene</b>				
FOB Korea	388/ 397	- 390/ 398 -		
<b>○-Iso MX</b>				
FOB Korea	434/ 436	431/ 433 -		
CFR Taiwan	449/ 451	- 447/ 449 -		
<b>○-PX</b>				
FOB Korea	525/ 527	+ 526/ 528 +		
CFR N. E. Asia	545/ 547	+ 546/ 548 +		
		CFR N. E. Asia	CFR S. E. Asia	
Ethylene	692/728	- 730/760 -	680/720	- 693/724 -
Propylene	846/864	+ 837/853 +	776/794	+ 767/784 +
Butadiene	616/650	+ 579/621 +	616/650	+ 579/621 +
		FOB Korea		
Ethylene	692/728	- 726/755 -		
Propylene	806/824	+ 792/806 +		
Butadiene	566/600	+ 539/581 +		



		China Domestic*			
Propylene	6,640/6,720	-	6,640/6,718 -		
Propylene (Shandong)	6,930/6,950	+	6,873/6,938 +		
Butadiene	5,180/5,320	+	4,985/5,130 +		
SBR	8,160/8,260	+	8,063/8,163 +		
BR	8,120/8,220	+	8,048/8,148 +		
		CFR China		CFR S. E. Asia	
		24. Aug - 28. Aug	Aug Ave.	24. Aug - 28. Aug	Aug Ave.
LDPE (Film)	980/1,000		+ 966/989 +	980/1,000	+ 941/981 +
LLDPE (Film)	828/ 850		- 817/848 +	838/ 858	- 839/859 -
HDPE (Film)	888/ 930		+ 887/934 +	874/ 920	+ 872/920 +
HDPE (Yarn)	888/ 930		+ 887/934 +	874/ 920	+ 872/920 +
PP (Homo) - BOPP	920/ 940		+ 920/940 +	910/ 930	- 919/939 -
PP (Homo) - Yarn/INJ	900/ 920		+ 900/920 +	890/ 910	- 899/919 -
PP (Block Co) - INJ	930/ 950		930/950	920/ 940	- 929/949 -
		China Domestic*			
LDPE (Film)	9,180/9,280		+ 8,915/9,030 +		
LLDPE (Film)	7,140/7,210		+ 7,045/7,130 +		
HDPE (Film)	7,940/8,140		+ 8,005/8,180 +		
HDPE (Yarn)	8,040/8,360		+ 8,025/8,265 +		
PP (Homo) - Yarn/INJ	7,770/7,820		+ 7,698/7,768 -		
		CFR China		China Domestic*	
PVC	820/ 840		+ 813/ 833 +		
Ethylene Dichloride	282/ 292		+ 275/ 285 +		
Vinylchloride Monomer	660/ 670		+ 657/ 669 +		
Phenol	600/ 650		- 632/ 678 -		
Bisphenol-A	1,260/1,310		+ 1,280/1,330 +		
Acrylonitrile	880/ 920		- 901/ 940 -		
Caprolactam	980/1,020		+ 980/1,020 +		
PTA	430/ 450		+ 425/ 445 +	3,526/3,550	+ 3,549/3,576 +
Monoethylene Glycol	455/ 460		+ 450/ 456 +	3,737/3,747	+ 3,729/3,739 +
PET (Bottle, FOB NEA)	655/ 705		655/ 705		

◎Contract Prices\*\*

	Jun	Jul	Aug
Bz ACP (CFR NEA, \$/mt)	425	425	440
Yen/mt conversion	49,900	51,000	51,700
Bz USCP (FOB USGC, cts/gal)	99	138	153
\$/mt conversion	296	413	457
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)	+ 414.25/414.75 +		
Yen/mt conversion	30,352 +		
Naphtha CFR Japan prices are from Products reports			
	Jan-Mar 20	Apr-Jun 20	Jul-Sep (Implied)
Naphtha Domestic CP (Yen/kl)	44,800	25,000	30,200 -



Calculated from statistics from Ministry of Finance of Japan.  
 Forecasts calculated based on Naphtha CFR Japan prices.

	Propane	Butane
RIM Asia Index (\$/MT)	372.25 -	374.75 -
China PDH Margin (\$/mt)	246 +	

RIM Asia Index are from LPG report.  
 PDH Margin calculated based on CFR China propane and CFR NEA propylene prices.

◎Reference Prices (\$/MT)\*\*

	Oct	Nov	Dec
Japan Mogas-Tocom(Yen/kl)	41,700 +	41,750 +	41,660 +
Yen/mt conversion	57,917 +	57,986 +	57,861 +

Japan Mogas-Tocom prices are settlement prices for each month from TOCOM.

	East	West
Japan Mogas-RIM(Yen/kl)	+ 45,800/46,300 +	+ 45,800/46,300 +
Yen/mt conversion	63,958 +	63,958 +

Japan Mogas-RIM prices are from Japan Products report.

	WTI (Sep)	Brent (Sep)	Paper Dubai (Aug)
Tokyo Spot Crude(\$/bbl) / Aug31 16:00	43.27 +	45.52 +	45.21 +
\$/mt conversion	330 +	344 +	327 +

Tokyo Spot Crude WTI, Brent and Paper Dubai prices are from Crude/Condensate report.

	Nymex WTI (Oct)	ICE Brent (Oct)
Crude Futures Settlement(\$/bbl)/ Aug28	42.97 -	45.05 -
\$/mt conversion	328 -	341 -

Crude Futures settlement prices are settlement prices from Nymex and ICE.

	Yen/\$, TTM	Yuan/\$
Exchange rate	105.36 -	6.8605 -

◎Spread/Aromatics (\$/MT)\*\*

	BZ	TL	MX	SM	PX	Nap
Benzene	—	31 -	-11 -	-195 -	-97 -	11 -
Toluene	-31 +	—	-41 -	-225 -	-127 -	-20 -
ISO MX	11 +	41 +	—	-184 -	-86 -	22 -
SM	195 +	225 +	184 +	—	98 -	206 -
P-Xylene	97 +	127 +	86 +	-98 +	—	108
Naphtha	-11 +	20 +	-22 +	-206 +	-108	—

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

◎Spread/Olefins (\$/MT)\*\*

	Ethylene	Propylene	Butadiene	Naphtha
Ethylene	—	-140	65	296 -
Propylene	140	—	205	436 -
Butadiene	-65	-205	—	231 -
Naphtha	-296 +	-436 +	-231 +	—

Calculated from the price difference between each product and CFR Japan Naphtha.

◎Spread/Polyolefins & Intermediate VS Feedstocks (\$/MT)\*\*

LDPE (Film)	311 +	PP/Homo (BOPP)	80	SM	67 +	EDC	99
LLDPE (Film)	171	PP/Homo (Yarn/INJ)	60	Phenol	-187 +	VCM	171
HDPE (Film)	177	PP/Block Co (INJ)	48	PTA	77 -	PVC	158



	MEG	47 +	
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)	11 -	98 -	-124 -	-182 -
Yen/mt	1,159 -	10,319 -	-13,086 -	-19,128 -
TL FOB Korea (\$/MT)	-20 -	67 +	-155 -	-212 -
Yen/mt	-2,055 -	7,105 +	-16,299 -	-22,341 -
MX FOB Korea (\$/MT)	22 -	108 +	-114 -	-171 -
Yen/mt	2,265 -	11,425 +	-11,980 -	-18,021 -
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

MX			PX		
Sep 2H	FOB Korea	436	Oct	CFR NEA	542

## ©AROMATICS

### ○Benzene

Benzene prices on an FOB Korea basis on Monday fell \$2/mt from last Friday to \$418-423/mt for second-half September loading and \$423-428/mt for first-half and second-half October loading. The market fell along with a decrease in US benzene prices on last Friday. Bids and offers for November loading were heard at \$433/mt and \$438/mt respectively. The price spread between October and

November loading was at a contango of \$10/mt. On a CFR China basis, discussions were in the range of \$425-445/mt for second-half September delivery, \$430-450/mt for October delivery and \$435-450/mt for November delivery. China domestic prices increased Yuan 5/mt to Yuan 3,440-3,480/mt, supported by firmness in crude prices.

### ○Styrene Monomer

Styrene monomer (SM) prices on an FOB Korea basis for first-half and second-half September loading climbed \$5/mt to \$615-620/mt. Prices for first-half October loading rose \$5/mt to \$620-625/mt. On a CFR China basis, prices for first-half and second-half September delivery increased \$5/mt to \$655-660/mt. Prices for first-half October delivery strengthened \$5/mt to \$660-665/mt. China domestic prices moved up

Yuan 45/mt to Yuan 5,290-5,310/mt. High crude prices and rising SM futures in the China domestic market gave the markets a boost. On a CFR China basis, prices were seen to be about \$10/mt lower than the paper market. In paper trade, discussions were at \$665-670/mt for September delivery and \$670-675/mt for October delivery. In the China domestic market, spot cargoes were discussed at Yuan 5,290-5,310/mt.



### OToluene

Toluene prices on an FOB Korea basis for second-half September, first-half October and second-half October loading on Monday rose \$3/mt from last Friday to \$390-400/mt. The market was

boosted by firmness in benchmark feedstock naphtha prices. For second-half September loading, bids and offers were in the range of \$390-400/mt.

### OMixed Xylene

Isomer grade mixed xylene (MX) prices for second-half September, first-half October and second-half October on Monday increased \$4/mt from last Friday to \$435-437/mt on an FOB Korea

basis and \$450-452/mt on a CFR Taiwan basis as crude prices were firm in Asian trading hours. On an FOB Korea basis for second-half September loading, a deal was done at \$436/mt.

### OParaxylene

Paraxylene (PX) prices for second-half September on Monday increased \$7/mt from last Friday \$529-531/mt on a CFR Northeast Asia basis and \$509-511/mt on an FOB Korea basis. For first-half and second-half October, prices moved up \$7/mt to \$541-543/mt on a CFR Northeast Asia basis and \$521-523/mt on an FOB Korea basis. The market was bolstered by a rise in benchmark feedstock

crude prices and PTA futures in the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange in China. On a CFR Northeast Asia basis for October delivery, a deal was done at \$542/mt. In talks for Asian contract prices for September conducted by PX makers and PTA makers, an agreement was reportedly not reached.

### ©OLEFINS

#### OEthylene

In ethylene markets in Asia on Monday, CFR Northeast Asia and FOB Korea prices were unchanged at \$690-730/mt. CFR Southeast Asia prices were stable at \$680-720/mt.

On a CFR Northeast Asia basis, discussions were muted since it was the beginning of the week. In addition, as vessel schedules were affected by a typhoon, it was difficult to conduct fresh discussions. As reported, talks for September were finished and China, a major consuming country, would be on National Day holiday on Oct 1-8. Therefore, Chinese end-users were not in a hurry to buy and this was also a reason why discussions were inactive.

In talks for non-regional cargoes, a European

maker chartered an ethylene vessel via a short period time charter contract to ship a cargo loading in the first half of September for delivery to Asia. The cargo to be loaded was reportedly already traded. Views were heard that the maker was also able to sell cargoes loading at the end of September but it had not started discussions as of now. On the other hand, in the US, a hurricane hit the state of Louisiana but the impact in the state of Texas, where terminals for shipping ethylene are located, was reportedly minimal. As US ethylene prices were firm, the arbitrage to Asia was perceived to be closed. Players focused on how US cargoes would be sold going forward.

#### OPropylene

In propylene markets in Asia on Monday, CFR Northeast Asia prices were unchanged at \$840-860/mt. CFR Southeast Asia and FOB Korea prices held steady at \$770-790/mt and \$800-820/mt

respectively.

In the Northeast Asia market, talks would be shifted to October delivery going forward. Both sellers and buyers were not in a hurry for trade and



a wait-and-see mood was strong. As supply in the China domestic market was becoming plentiful, reluctance in selling was said to be receding. But as supply was currently tight, no sellers were willing to decrease ideas to sell.

On an FOB Korea basis and on a CFR Southeast Asia basis, bids and offers were not heard and trade was thin.

In the Middle East, a sell tender closed by Petro

Rabigh on Sunday for a cargo loading Sep 15-16 was reportedly awarded at \$760-770/mt on an FOB basis. Views were heard that the cargo might be supplied to Vietnam.

In the China domestic market, Shandong prices fell Yuan 40/mt from last Friday to Yuan 6,850-6,950/mt since demand for derivatives except for polypropylene was low.

## ○Butadiene

In butadiene markets in Asia on Monday, CFR Northeast Asia and CFR Southeast Asia prices were stable at \$640-650/mt. FOB Korea prices showed no change at \$590-600/mt.

In Northeast Asia, firm discussions were not heard and activity was thin. Owing to facility maintenance and troubles, supply of Asian cargoes was perceived to be tight. In addition, availability of non-regional cargoes was declining and sellers maintained a firm stance. On the other hand, Chinese buyers focused on procuring domestic cargoes but end-users in Korea and Taiwan still had room to buy. Under such circumstances, the market

was supported.

On an FOB basis, makers adopted a bullish position in view tight supply of Asian cargoes. Some sellers apparently hoped to sell at close to \$700/mt. But buyers at this level were not observed.

In the China domestic market, East China prices slid Yuan 250/mt from last Friday to Yuan 4,800-5,000/mt owing to ample supply. In order to prevent imported cargoes from undergoing polymerization due to high temperatures in summer, some traders apparently sold at a relatively low price of Yuan 4,800/mt. Discussions were mostly conducted at Yuan 4,800-5,000/mt.

## ◎POLYMERS

In the CFR China polyolefin market on Monday, low density polyethylene (LDPE) Film prices rose \$45/mt from last Friday to \$1,020-1,050/mt. As it was still difficult to import Iranian cargoes, supply of LDPE Film was tight. Under such circumstances, possible deal levels for Middle East cargoes were seen to be in the range of \$1,020-1,050/mt.

On a CFR Southeast Asia basis, prices were unchanged. Amid strong sentiment in the CFR China market, some sources reckoned that many sellers would focus on sales to China and might not be keen to sell to Southeast Asia. In Southeast Asia, economic activities were sluggish and polyolefin demand was not seen to be strong.

## ◎PVC and RAW MATERIALS

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) prices on a CFR China basis on Monday were unchanged at \$820-840/mt. Discussions were still not observed.

For delivery to India, a Japanese maker was considering to move to sell soon. The maker was expected to offer at a price slightly higher than \$1,000/mt. For Japanese cargoes, deals had been

previously done at \$1,000/mt, as reported. As supply for imported cargoes was thin and some end-users were still showing buying interest, supply/demand was tight. Under this situation, sellers were expecting that prices might rise going forward.



◎PET and RAW MATERIALS

○Purified Terephthalic Acid/ Monoethylene Glycol

Purified terephthalic acid (PTA) prices for cargoes ex-bonded warehouses in China stayed intact at \$430-450/mt. China domestic prices declined Yuan 20/mt from last Friday to Yuan 3,480-3,500/mt, weighed down by softening derivative polyester prices. Spot cargoes were discussed at Yuan 3,480-3,500/mt.

Ethylene glycol (EG) prices on a CFR China basis increased \$10/mt to \$470-475/mt while China domestic prices moved up Yuan 75/mt to Yuan 3,840-3,850/mt, bolstered by rising EG futures. Talks were heard at \$470-475/mt on a CFR China basis and Yuan 3,840-3,850/mt in the China domestic market.

◎OTHERS

○Naphtha

Open-spec naphtha prices in Asia were in the range of \$414.25-414.75/mt, up \$7.75/mt from a day earlier on soaring up Brent crude prices.

In Brent crude oil futures trades on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) early in the evening in Asia, the Nov contract was at \$46.34/bbl, up \$1.46/bbl from last Friday. Open-spec naphtha prices for H1 Oct arrival, H2 Oct arrival and H1 Nov arrival were at \$414.25-414.75/mt.

On a timing spread, a H1 Oct/H1 Nov spread became flat. An Nov Brent/H1 Oct naphtha spread was at \$67/mt in favor of naphtha, narrowing \$3/mt from last Friday.

Early in the evening in Asia, Sep NWE naphtha prices were at \$396.25-398.25/mt. Prices for Oct and Nov were at \$394.00-396.00/mt and \$392.75-394.75/mt. A H1 Oct Asia/Sep NWE spread was at \$17/mt in favor of Asia, shrinking \$1/mt from last Friday.

○Japan Domestic Naphtha Price

The Japan domestic price for naphtha for the quarter July to September was forecast at Yen 30,200/kl, down Yen 200/kl from the previous forecast. In the trade statistics published by the Ministry of Finance last week, import price for July was lower than Rim's expectations. The price for the quarter October to December was forecast at Yen 32,800/kl, up Yen 600/kl from the previous forecast. CFR Japan spot naphtha prices increased.

JAPAN DOMESTIC NAPHTHA PRICE DELIVERED BASIS				
	Estimated Import Price (JPY)	Year-on-Year Ethylene Price Change (JPY)	Duty-Paid Import Price (USD)	Yen Rate Estimation
Jul-Sep	30,200	10.4	382.91	106.27
Oct-Dec	32,800	5.2	421.09	105.36
	Duty-Paid Import Price (USD)	Yen Rate Estimation	Estimated Import Price (JPY)	Change on Week
Jul	338.73	107.28	25,031	-693
Aug	398.51	105.96	29,304	0
Sep	411.49	105.57	30,148	98
Jul-Sep	382.91	106.27	28,161	-198
Domestic price			30,200	-200
Oct	419.78	105.36	30,695	519
Nov	421.75	105.36	30,838	679
Dec	421.75	105.36	30,838	679



Oct-Dec	421.09	105.36	30,790	626
Domestic price			32,800	600
Unit of Measurement: kiloliter (kl) Domestic Price = Japanese Yen (JPY/kl) Change of ethylene price on year = JPY/kilogram (kg)				
Duty-paid import price = USD/mt, Yen rate estimation = JPY to USD				

Note:

- the Japan Ministry of Finance (MOF) publishes monthly average domestic naphtha delivered prices for the previous month at end of the current month.
- in its determination of the monthly domestic naphtha delivered price, MOF adds a JPY 2,000/kl surcharge to account for delivery costs to the monthly average.
- when available, the Rim Intelligence domestic naphtha delivered price for a quarter takes the average of the MOF monthly average and a running average of Rim Intelligence daily CFR Japan naphtha assessments plus the MOF JPY 2,000/kl surcharge.
- when not available, the Rim domestic naphtha delivered price for a quarter is the running average of Rim Intelligence daily CFR Japan naphtha assessments plus the MOF JPY 2,000/kl surcharge.

### Liquefied Petroleum Gas

The CFR Far East market lacked clear directions in the presence of both bullish and bearish factors on Monday. Prices for second-half September delivery to Japan rose due to rising crude prices during Asian trading hours while prices for second-half September delivery to China fell on account of the September CP having been set below expectations. Moreover, prices for October delivery to Japan weakened owing to slack supply/demand.

#### CFR Japan

Propane and butane prices for second-half September delivery inched up by \$3/mt from last Friday to \$356-362/mt. Relative to the September CP, propane and butane prices sharply rebounded by \$13/mt to a discount of \$3-9/mt and a premium of \$1-7/mt respectively.

Propane and butane prices for October delivery edged lower by \$2/mt from last Friday to \$371-377/mt. Relative to the October CP, propane and butane prices fell by \$4/mt to a discount of \$4-10/mt and flat to a premium of \$6/mt respectively.

### OUS Summary

WTI crude futures on the NYMEX extended falls last Friday. The front-month October contract was at \$42.97 per barrel (bbl), down 7cts from the previous day. The contract was 35cts higher than one week ago.

Oil production facilities in the US Gulf Coast had stopped operations temporarily amid approaching Hurricane "Laura", but damage was limited so that the facilities would be restarted at an early time. Supplies were expected to recover soon, easing concerns of tightening supply/demand fundamentals and triggering selling in the crude oil market.

But price falls were limited. The dollar fell against the euro, making prices of dollar-base commodities like crude oil undervalued. US Federal Reserve Board (FRB) decided to adopt a new monetary policy that aims for an economic recovery by implementing low interest rate policy over the long-term period. The announcement increased prospects over an early recovery of the US economy, which prevented sharp price falls.

North Sea Brent crude futures on the ICE fell further. The October contract dropped by 4cts from the previous day to \$45.05/bbl. The contract was 8cts lower than one week ago.



The October natural gas contract on NYMEX closed at \$2.657 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) on Friday, down 5.3cts from the previous day, due to profit taking after a rise on the previous day.

The October WTI contract was at \$43.29/bbl as of 17:00 Tokyo time on Monday, up 32cts from the closing price on last Friday.

In the US benzene market on a Delivered Duty Paid (DDP) basis on last Friday, discussions were at around 144cts/gal for September, 150.5-151.5cts/gal for October and at around 152cts/gal for November. In Europe on a CIF Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp (ARA) basis on the same day, bids and offers for September were cast at \$420/mt and \$430/mt respectively. For October, bids and offers were at \$420/mt and \$435/mt respectively.

#### ©Market News

#### ○Japan July chemical industry statistics: METI

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