

Thailand to support Oman's road construction



Bangkok – The Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr. Grisada Boonrach, said the government of Oman is interested in Thailand's technology of using rubber in road construction, and the Thai government is ready to support projects in the Middle Eastern country.

Grisada welcomed Oman's Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, during his visit to Chachoengsao province on Monday (March 11) to observe the rubber mixing technology of Thailand.

After their meeting, Grisada said the Omani minister expressed his country's interest in working with Thailand in various fields such as agriculture, public health, and energy.

He said Oman is also interested in acquiring Thailand's technology of using rubber in road construction, as the Middle Eastern country's landmass is mostly desert and it needs road infrastructure with high elasticity and durability. Thus, rubber is an ideal solution.

The Thai minister said Thailand is willing to support Oman in terms of technology and raw materials, adding that this would be an opportunity for Thailand to expand trade and investment while showcasing the country's rubber innovation to the international community.

Furthermore, Executives of the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives brought the delegation of Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi to Chachoengsao province to see a prototype road made from natural rubber by Ministry of Transportation. So far, 30,000 tonnes of natural rubber had been utilized for road construction and is expected to utilize more than 80,000 tonnes by September before the fiscal year.

In addition, the government also supports interest compensation statements through cooperatives and absorbs purchasing natural rubber directly from rubber farmers. The natural rubber will be processed into rubber blocks and exported to overseas markets. The aim is to reduce rubber tree plantation aged up to 25 years old, 400,000 rai.

These measures are expected to increase consumption of natural rubber in government agencies, resulting in the adjustment of rubber price approaching to the target of 60 baht per kilogram. The Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives said currently the price is above 54 baht.