

The sinking of the Chinese cargo vessel *Shan Wei 009* (汕尾009) near Tai Long Tsui on 15 Jul 2004

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 2300 on 15 July 2004, the Chinese cargo vessel *Shan Wei 009* (汕尾009) listed and sank at the approximate position of 22° 24.44'N 114° 24.12'E near Tai Long Tsui.
- 1.2 The weather conditions were fine with southeasterly force 3 wind at a speed of about 13 km per hour.
- 1.3 Five crew members were rescued but one crew member was missing.

2. Findings

- 2.1 The investigation establishes the sinking of the vessel was attributed to inadequate stability, most probably caused by improper loading of cargo and the subsequent flooding of the engine room during the passage.
- 2.2 It is also noted that the failure of the master and crew to monitor the condition of the vessel during the passage, which had led to the late detection of water ingress into the engine room.
- 2.3 The lack of awareness of the master on the developing dangerous situation was also a contributory factor to the accident. As a result the crew members were not prepared for the emergency, and none of them was able to get hold of any life-saving appliance when the vessel sank.
- 2.4 The vessel was not certificated for carriage of cargo which impaired its seaworthiness at sea.

3. Lesson

- 3.1 It is important for the master and his crew members to maintain vigilance on the safety of their vessels during operation, including loading and stability conditions, watertight integrity and emergency preparedness.