

# Man overboard from the accommodation ladder of m.v. "Chenan" at Ko Si Chang, Thailand on 26 November 2004

## 1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 1220 on 26 November 2004 local time, m.v. "*Chenan*" anchored at Ko Si Chang anchorage area, Thailand for loading cement. Two crewmembers fell overboard while on returning to the vessel through the accommodation ladder after landing the hand luggage onto a launch.
- 1.2 One of the crewmembers was recovered as he managed to catch a lifeline. However, the other crewmember was drifted away from the vessel. He was rescued by ship's crew and dispatched to hospital for medical treatment. He was certified dead later in hospital.

## 2. Findings

- 2.1 The weather condition was fine with moderate northerly wind. However, small crafts moving around in the anchorage area might have generated some waves in the vicinity. Such waves would cause erratic movement to the launch, resulting to the heavily bumping of the launch against the accommodation ladder.
- 2.2 The crewmembers were carrying luggage from the ship to the launch through the accommodation ladder. They were safely landed on the launch with the luggage. It is believed that the crewmembers lost their balance when they were on their way back to the ship as the accommodation ladder was bumped heavily by the launch.
- 2.3 Safety net used for preventing the crew from falling was only partially rigged at the accommodation ladder. The lower part of the accommodation was unprotected and the crewmembers fell through the unprotected section. Both of the crewmembers were not wearing lifejackets at time of the accident.

## 3. Lessons

- 3.1 Safety net used to prevent personnel from falling into water should be rigged to the entire section of the accommodation ladder.

3.2 As there is always a danger of fall when transferring personnel between vessels through accommodation ladder, crewmember should hold firmly the handrail of the accommodation ladder with their hands. Lifejacket should be worn where practical.