

# **Grounding of the Hong Kong registered bulk carrier *Ocean Victory* at Kashima, Japan on 24.10.2006**

## **1. The Incident**

- 1.1 At about 1519 (local time) on 24 October 2006, the Hong Kong registered bulk carrier *Ocean Victory* hit against the northern extremity of the South Breakwater and later ran aground in the position of 35° 56.00'N, 140° 42.68'E at Kashima in Japan. The vessel was departing from the port with a view to seeking shelter from atrocious weather caused by a depression. The weather was overcast and rainy. The wind was northerly at force 10 and the visibility was about 4 cables. The starboard bottom of *Ocean Victory* sustained considerable damages with cargo holds No.5, No.6, No.9 and the engine room flooded with sea water. The crew members were rescued by a helicopter to shore on 25 October 2006. No casualties and oil pollution were reported. Although attempts were made to refloat the vessel by a salvage company, the vessel broke into halves on 27 December 2006.
- 1.2 The investigation revealed that the accident was caused by atrocious weather due to depression with associated winds of force 10 i.e. severe tropical storm. The grounding could have been avoided if the vessel left the berth to seek shelter outside the port at an early stage.

## **2. Lessons**

- 2.1 Masters should obtain the latest weather information and liaise with the agent and port authority with a view to seeking shelter from atrocious weather caused by depression or typhoon at an early stage.