

**Engine Room Fire on board Hong Kong Registered Ship  
“*Maritime Alliance*” when under Repair in Shipyard  
on 1 February 2007**

**1. The Incident**

- 1.1 On 1 February 2007, an engine room fire occurred to the Hong Kong registered ship "*Maritime Alliance*" while she was mooring in Huarun Dadong Dockyard, Chongmingdao, Shanghai for repair. The Service Engineer died and Third Engineer injured in the incident. At time of the incident, they were both working individually at the bottom deck of the engine room.
- 1.2 While several workers from the Dockyard were carrying out a gas-cutting work on board, hot molten metal oxide and sparks generated during a gas-cutting process came into contact with and ignited the diesel oil collected in the drip tray of the fuel booster pumps situated underneath. The heat of the fire melted the flange gaskets of the pipelines of the fuel tanks. As a result, more fuel oil spilled out from the damaged flange gaskets which intensified the fire.

**2. Lessons**

- 2.1 Precautionary measures against fire should be taken before any hot work is carried out.
- 2.2 Source of fuel oil leakage should be rectified immediately.
- 2.3 Hot work permit requirements stipulated in the ship repair agreement should be strictly followed.