

## **Collision between the Hong Kong Registered ship “*Hebei Spirit*” and Korean Crane Barge “*Samsung No.1*” on 7 December 2007**

### **1. The incident**

- 1.1 On 7 December 2007 at about 0706, a Hong Kong registered very large crude oil carrier “*Hebei Spirit*” was anchored in the vicinity of Daesan, Republic of Korea. She was hit by a drifting crane barge “*Samsung No.1*”, which was being towed, after one of the towing wires was parted under poor weather conditions. Three of the port side cargo oil tanks of “*Hebei Spirit*” were ruptured as a result of the collision that caused severe oil pollution to the marine environment.

### **2. Lessons**

- 2.1 The Master in charge of the towing should prepare the towing plan as comprehensive as possible to cover all aspects of the towing voyage. The Master should consider that weather might deteriorate during the voyage and a contingency plan for the situation should be prepared or the voyage to be postponed.
- 2.2 When there is a loss of control in navigation during the towage, the Master of the tug should immediately inform the local Vessel Traffic Centre of the seriousness of the situation so that the latter could issue alerts to vessels in the vicinity for them to take early precautionary actions.
- 2.3 Master of the tug should ensure proper towing wires are used for the towing.