

Collision between *THE VENETIAN* and *YUE TAI SHAN 33040* in the Estuary of Pearl River, China on 2nd September 2008

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At 1142 on 2 September 2008, the Hong Kong registered passenger high-speed craft *THE VENETIAN* collided with a Chinese registered fishing vessel *YUE TAI SHAN 33040* at the approximate position 22° 11.58' N 113° 41.0' E near to the No.2 buoy within the Qing Zhou High-Speed-Craft Traffic Separation Scheme in Chinese waters.
- 1.2 *THE VENETIAN* sustained minor damage on forward part of the hulls while *YUE TAI SHAN 33040* sank after the accident. The Master and his wife onboard the fishing vessel fell into water. The wife was rescued, but the Master was death.
- 1.3 At the time of the collision, the weather was very poor and the visibility was about 100 meters with heavy rainstorm/thunderstorm. *THE VENETIAN* was traveling at full speed of 42 knots.
- 1.4 The investigation revealed the most probable causes of the accident was due the Master of *THE VENETIAN* failed to take appropriate action in restricted visibility as required by COLREGS. He also failed to follow the Shipboard Safety Guidelines on Navigation in Restricted Visibility of the Company Safety Management System

2. Lessons

- 2.1 During restricted visibility, which includes circumstances of heavy rainstorm / thunderstorm, the Masters of high-speed crafts should:
 - a) take all necessary precautions to ensure safety of navigational of their vessels by such means as reducing ship's speed, posting extra look-out, taking precaution to the limitation of radar detection of small craft and sounding appropriate signals, etc. ;
 - b) strictly follow Bridge Resource Management procedures to ensure appropriate action is taken and effective communication among members of the bridge team.