

Seaman I fell overboard from the Hong Kong registered car carrier *HUA XING*

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 1849 (Local Time) on 4 September 2008, when the Hong Kong registered car carrier *HUA XING* was leaving Ulsan, a Seaman I fell overboard from the bottom platform of the accommodation ladder while he was engaged in recovering the pilot ladder on the starboard side.
- 1.2 The Master reported the accident to the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) of Ulsan at 1858 and VTS initiated a search and rescue (SAR) operation for the Seaman I. Despite the SAR operation was jointly conducted by a pilot boat, two tugboats and four Coast Guard boats, the missing Seaman I could not be found. The SAR operation were stopped at 1100 on the next day, i.e. on 5 September 2008, when the body of the missing Seaman I was found by a fishing boat.
- 1.3 The cause of the accident was due to the failure of the Seaman I to take safety precautions of wearing safety belt and lifejacket when working over the shipside as stipulated in the International Safety Management Manual of the vessel.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 It is important to ensure that the safety procedures regarding ship personnel working over the shipside as laid down in the International Safety Management Manual of the vessel are followed at all times. While working over the shipside, the masters and persons in charge e.g. Chief Officer / Bosun should ensure that crew members are wearing safety belts and lifejackets.