

Mooring operation accident causing death of a sailor onboard DSL *Sui Sun 105* at Euroasia Wharf, Tsing Yi on 23 August 2009

1. The Incident

1.1 While a locally licensed dumb steel lighter *Sui Sun 105* was berthing at Euroasia Wharf with the assistance of a tugboat, a sailor of *Sui Sun 105*, who was waiting at the wharf to fasten the mooring ropes to the wharf bollards, was hit by a parted mooring rope of an adjacent vessel. He sustained serious head injury and died later in the hospital.

1.2 The investigation revealed that the main contributory factors to the accident were:

- the mooring rope of the adjacent vessel parted due to the sudden impact force applied on the rope when the vessel was bumped by *Sui Sun 105*, which drifted under the effect of strong current at sea; and
- there was a lack of proper planning and poor communication between the Master of the tugboat and the deceased in the mooring operation.

2. Lessons Learnt

2.1 The lessons learnt from this accident are:

- all crewmembers when working on board and shore should avoid staying inside the snapback zone of any mooring ropes; and
- the conditions of mooring ropes must be closely monitored and the ropes must be renewed when condition of the mooring rope is found to be deteriorated.