

# **Falling overboard of Assistant Third Officer from the Singaporean Registered Container Carrier *WAN HAI 205* at Western Anchorage No.2 in Hong Kong on 25 August 2009**

## **1. The Incident**

- 1.1 At about 1045 (Local Time) on 25 August 2009, when the Singaporean registered container carrier *WAN HAI 205* was at anchor at Western Anchorage No. 2 in the position at 22° 18.87'N 114° 04.76'E, the Assistant Third Officer fell overboard from the starboard lifeboat while he was engaged in carrying out maintenance work on the lifeboat.
- 1.2 Search and rescue (SAR) operation for the Assistant Third Officer was jointly conducted by government launches and a helicopter in the vicinity. A body was found near Kau Yi Chau at 1830 on 28 August 2009 and it was later identified to be the Assistant Third Officer who had fallen overboard.
- 1.3 The cause of the accident was due to the failure of the Assistant Third Officer to take safety precautions in wearing safety belt with a lifeline and lifejacket when working aloft outside the starboard lifeboat.

## **2. Lessons**

- 2.1 The lessons learnt from this accident are:
  - a) the hazards associated with working aloft and/or over the shipside should not be under-estimated and crew members should always wear safety belt with a lifeline and lifejacket when carrying work in such situations;
  - b) Masters and senior officers onboard ships should observe applicable guidelines and take necessary precautions when assigning newly joined and/or inexperienced junior officers/ratings to work aloft and/or over the shipside.