

Grounding of the Local Passenger Ferry "Xin Jie" on 12.5.2006

1. The Incident

1.1 At about 1310 on 12 May 2006, a local passenger ferry *Xin Jie* (新傑) with 81 passengers on board ran aground at a position $22^{\circ} 15.9'N$ $114^{\circ} 00.89'E$ west of Man Kok Tsui during her passage from Central to Mui Wo (Figure 1).

1.2 A female passenger sustained minor head injury and she was sent to the Mui Wo Clinic for medical treatment. *Xin Jie* sustained minor structural damage on her bow.



Figure 1 – Track and Grounding Position of *Xin Jie*

2 Findings

- 2.1 At the material time, the weather condition and visibility were favourable and they are not considered to have contributed to the accident.
- 2.2 The Assistant Master has suffered from hypertension since December 2004 and is taking drug twice daily to control the blood pressure. The name of the drug taken by the Assistant Master is “Nifedipine (Adalat Retard)” which has a side effect of causing dizziness.
- 2.3 Both the Master and the Assistant Master had had good rest prior to taking up their duties in the morning of 12 May 2006 and the accident occurred in daylight at 1310 i.e. only about 6 hours after the Master and the Assistant Master took up their duties on that day. Fatigue was therefore not considered as a contributory factor in this accident.
- 2.4 The probable cause of grounding was due to sudden onset of dizziness the Assistant Master suffered due to transient ischemic attack.

3 Lessons

- 3.1 The ferry company should require their master /assistant master to inform the company if they are ill or have taken medicines.
- 3.2 The ferry company should prepare a contingency plan for master/assistant master to handle unexpected sudden collapse of master/assistant master.