

A fatal accident on board a Container Ship “HEUNG-A SINGAPORE” at North West Lamma Anchorage on 23 March 2014

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 0345 on 23 March 2014, a sailor of an ocean going container ship MV“HEUNG-A SINGAPORE” (the vessel) was killed when cargo operation was under progress.
- 1.2 During discharging of containers onto a local dumb steel lighter “FLOATA 97” (the barge) from the vessel, the barge listed towards the vessel due to uneven disposition of containers loaded on the barge.
- 1.3 At the time of the accident, when a container was being lifted up by the crane of the barge from the vessel, the barge further listed towards the vessel. Suddenly, containers stacked on the barge collapsed resulting in four of the containers falling onto a hatch cover of the vessel. The sailor, who was working on top of the hatch cover, was crushed and killed by the falling containers.

2. Lessons Learnt

- 2.1 During cargo operations for loading and unloading of containers at sea, it is important that:
 - (i) containers stowed on a vessel should be evenly distributed to prevent causing vessel heeling;
 - (ii) containers should be adequately secured by twist-locks, stacking cones and lashing equipment; and
 - (iii) the cargo work should be well-planned and the risks should be assessed taking into consideration of the ship’s stability under cargo operations.