

Fatal man-overboard accident happened on board Bulk Carrier “GENCO SUGAR” at Puerto Montt, Chile on 5 March 2015

1. The Incident

- 1.1 The accident happened at about 17:45 hours on 5 March 2015 onboard a Hong Kong registered Bulk Carrier “Genco Sugar” (the ship) when the ship was preparing to sail to the next port after unloading cargo in Puerto Montt, Chile.
- 1.2 The second officer was seen going down the portside gangway and subsequently walking along the pier towards the *vessel*’s bow. At 1745, he returned back to the *vessel* and walked through the cross deck passage in way of No.5 cargo hold aft to the starboard side of the *vessel*. After that, no one saw him again. At 1750, the third officer arrived at the portside gangway to relieve the second officer, but the latter did not show up even upon calling him by means of the public address system. Searching of the missing person was launched, but in vain.
- 1.3 At about 2010, police found the dead body of the second officer floating in water at about 600 meters away from the forward of the *vessel*. There was no witness of the accident. On the day of the accident, it was cloudy, gentle breeze and slight sea. The vessel was securely moored to the berth. There was no evidence showing that the death of the second officer was due to criminal act or suicide. It was deduced that the second officer fell overboard while he was reading ship’s draught marks on the starboard side of the *vessel* before sailing.

2. Lessons learnt

- 2.1 It is important that the crew members should strictly follow the onboard safety working procedures stipulated in the Company Safety Management System Manual. Crew members should maintain their alertness to slippery surfaces, such as surfaces covered by cargo residues and rain water.