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The MV Sewol Ferry Accident Detail

Our response to the Accident

Medical support to the survivors

Lessons from the Accident

Our effort for the future





- The MV Sewol Ferry sank on 16 April 2014
 - En route from Incheon to Jeju (13.5hrs)
 - 476 people were in there
 - mostly 2nd grade high school students; Danwon High School in Ansan city
 - 6,825 ton vessel



The MV Sewol Ferry

- Built by Japanese company in 1994
 - Originally 5,997ton \rightarrow 6,586ton \rightarrow 6,825ton
 - Ferry Naminoue(~2012)
 - Ferry Sewol from 2012, by Chonghaejin Marine
 Company
 - Passenger 804 → 921

The MV Sewol Ferry

Ferry MV Sewol (Time and Tide)

Capacity:

Passengers

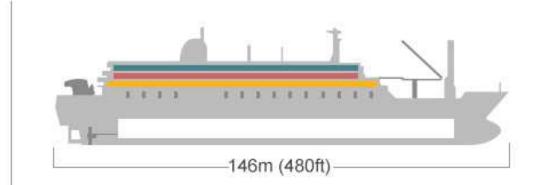
Top level: 11

Middle: 484

Bottom: 426

Vehicles: 180

Containers: 152



Max cruising speed:

21 knots

Weight:

6,825 tonnes

Built:

Japan 1994

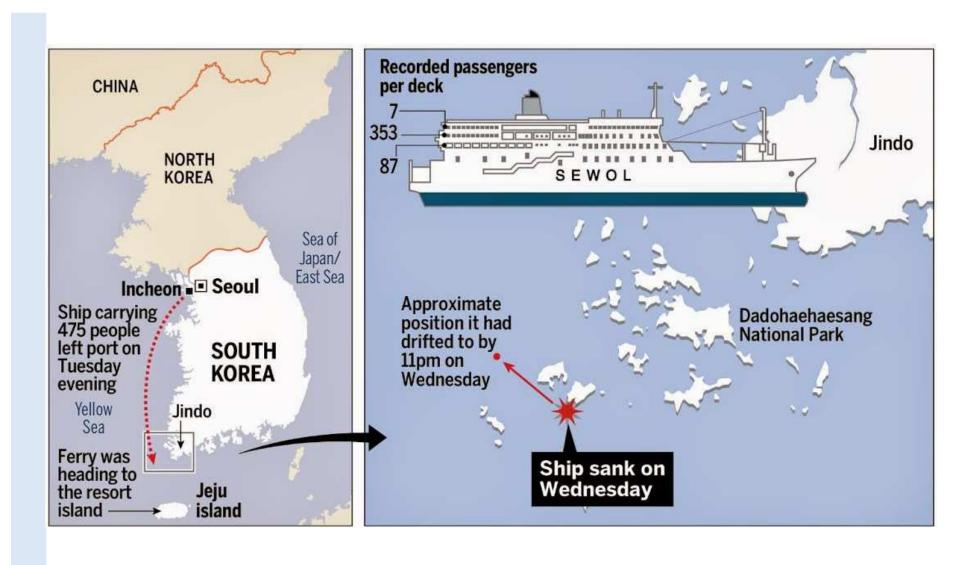
Owner:

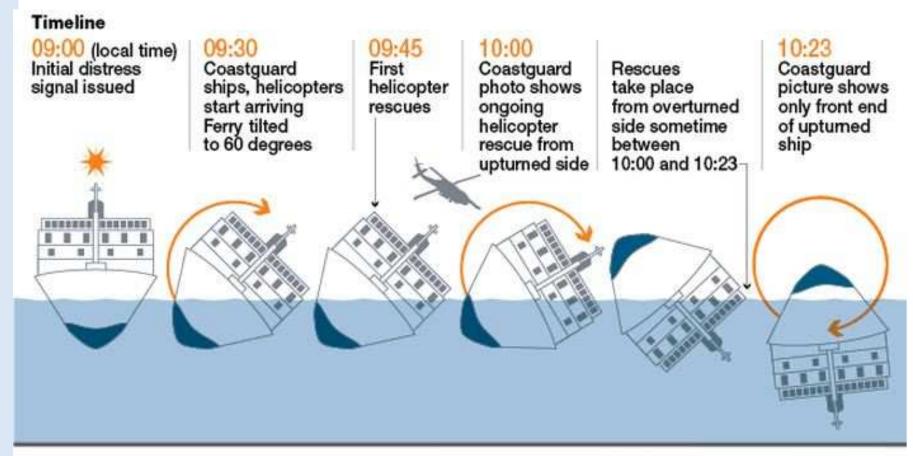
Chonghaejin Marine Co Ltd



The MV Sewol Ferry Passengers

- 450 passengers reported by company
 - Some news report: 350 to 500
- 459 passengers by Ministry of Security and Public Administration
- Lately the company changed the number of people on board to 476 (325 students)



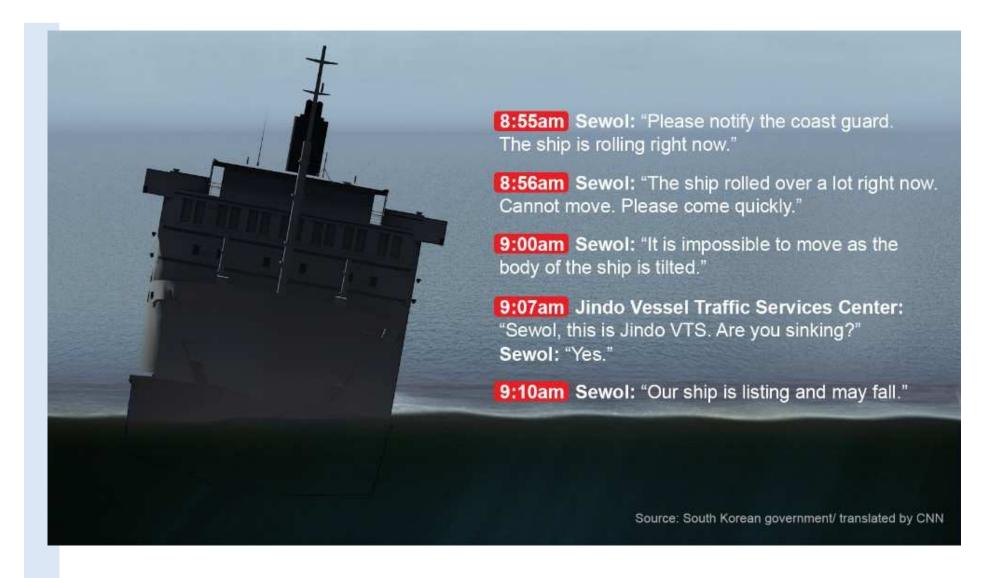


- Sharp turn?(8:49am)
 - 45 degrees to the right
 - Passengers felt tilt and heard a loud 'bang'
- A student called 119 → connected to the Mokpo coast guard(8:52am)
- Ferry contact with the Jeju VTS(8:55am)

Timeline of the accident

- Coast guard dispatched a patrol vessel (8:58am)
- Captain, communications officer repeatedly ordered passengers 'not to move'
- Ferry contact with the Jindo VTS(9:07am)
- The crew confirmed to VTS that the ferry was capsizing(9:14am)

Timeline of the Accident



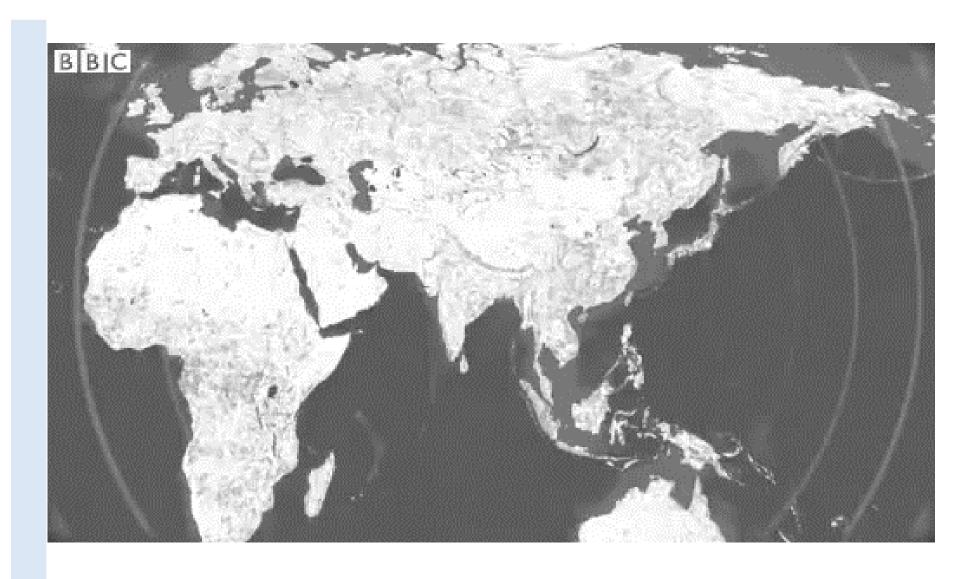
Timeline of the accident

- Crew reported that the ferry had heeled more than 50 degrees to port(9:18am)
- VTS ordered the crew to inform the passengers to wear personal floatation devices(9:23am)
- VTS told the crew to personally order the passengers to wear life jackets

Timeline of the accident

- VTS asked the captain to decide quickly whether to evacuate the ship(9:25am)
- Evacuation ordered(9:30am), but not relayed to all the passengers
- VTS told all the nearby ships to drop lifeboats(9:33am)
- All communications were cut off(9:38am)

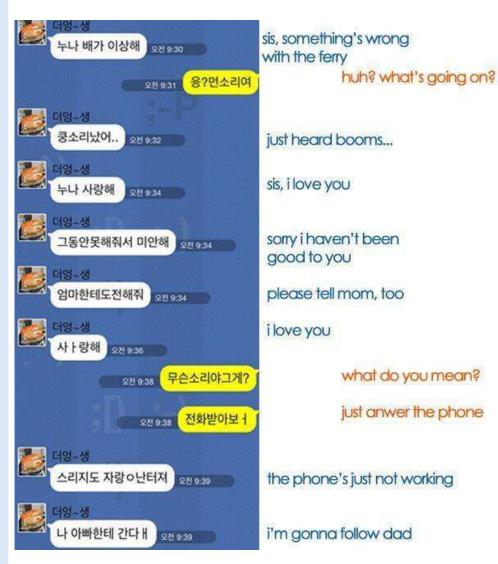
Timeline of the accident (BBC news)



Victims in the cabin

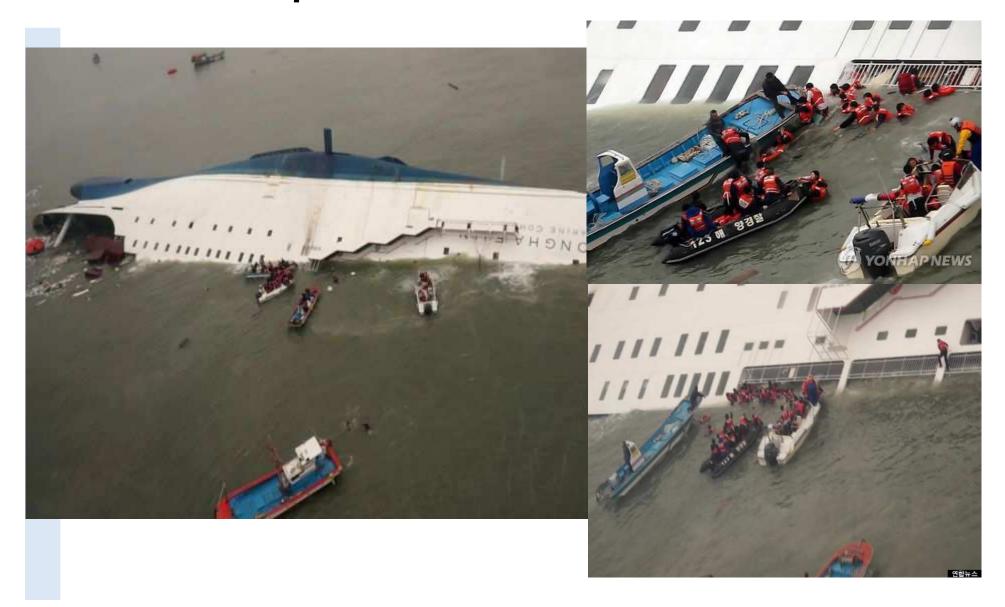


Text messages

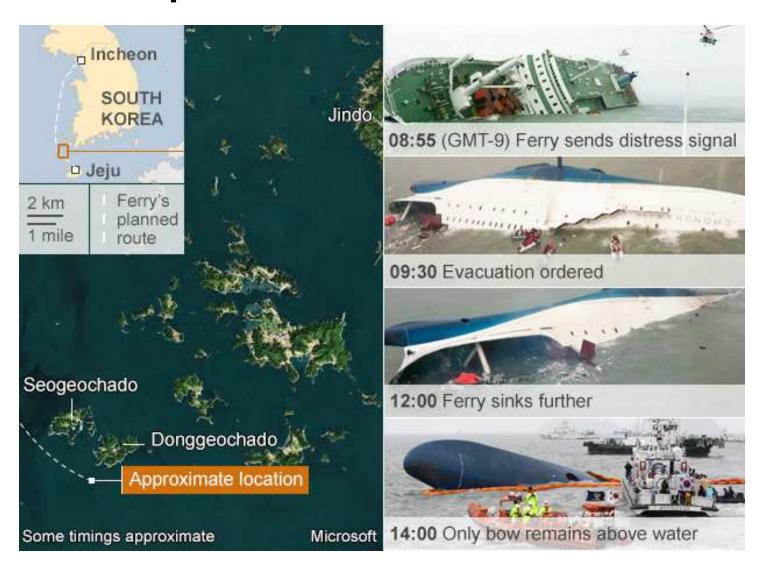








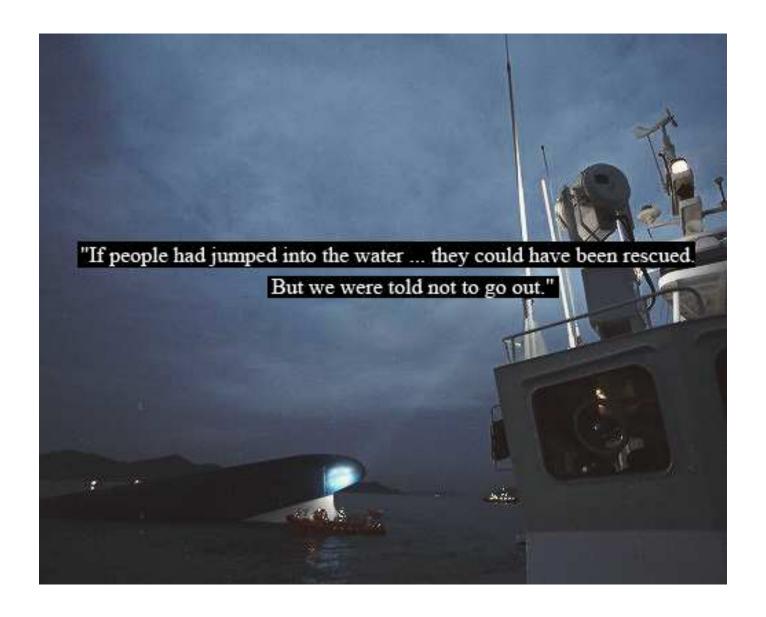




- The Central Disaster Headquarter(Government of South Korea)(9:04am)
- Rescue operation headquarters(South Korean Coast Guard)(9:10am)
- Counter disaster headquarters(Ministry of National Defense)(9:35am)
- Central accident response headquarters(Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries)(9:40am)
- DMAT were sent to Jindo(Ministry of Health and Welfare)
- Korea Navy's Ship Salvage Unit(SSU) deployed(11:28am)
- ROK Naval Special Warfare Flotilla involved(2:42pm)

Response/report to the accident

- 9:30am Coast Guard didn't entry to the vessel
- 11:01-11:25am News reported that all passengers were rescued
- 11:35am First body lifted(woman crew)
- 1:30pm The Central Disaster Headquarter reported 368 passengers were rescued
- 4:30pm The Central Disaster Headquarter corrected 164 passengers were rescued
- 17th April, 2:00pm President Park visited
- 18th April, 3:27pm Coast Guard failed to entry(SCUBA divers)



 On-site emergency medical assistance prepared: by regional EMC

Total 3 boats transferred the survivors(total 172 escaped)

 Triaged by emergency physician from regional EMC







- Most of the survivors were minimal
- Only 1 student had pelvic bone fracture but it was stable
- Some of them transferred to local hospital, others sent to Jindo gymnasium
 - → students were sent to Ansan city (local emergency center)

Medical support to the survivors

- Most of students admitted to Korea university Ansan hospital(local hospital)
 - Physical / psychological evaluation
 - Physical / psychological support



Medical support to the survivors





Medical support to the survivors

- Discharged at 30th April
- Till May, the local hospital emergency center cared
 - 75 acute stress reaction
 - 30 somatization : general weakness
 - 2 drug intoxication
 - 1 cerebellar infarction (mother of victim)

Medical support to the community

- 'Ansan psychological trauma center'
 - Built up by the Ministry of health and welfare
 - Supported from the National Seoul Psychiatric hospital / Korean neuropsychiatric association
 - Psychiatric support to the victims' family, Middle / High school students in Ansan city
 - Visited each victims' family home
 - Programs to prevent PTSD, depression

Problems

• The ship company didn't maintain the vessel by the principles



- Negligent maintenance
- There was no safety training to crews / passengers

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Problems

• The MV Sewol was overloaded by cargo(for greed)





Safety Equipment didn't work



Problems

- The MV Sewol didn't continued the communitation between VTS
- The captain and crews escaped early(abandoned passengers)
- The Coast Guard didn't enter to the vessel



Problems

• The early diving rescue operation failed



- Scarce preparedness about marine accident
 - No safety training / instruction for equipment use
 - Coast guard readiness
 - Manpower for marine rescue (diver, specialist...)
 - Equipment for marine rescue



- No specific responsibility about marine accident
- Confused ICS







- 119 : specialized in disaster but, not specialized in marine disaster
- Coast guard : familiar with police job, not rescue or disaster
- Navy: alert for any engagement than disaster

- Difficulty in deployment of healthcare resources
 - DMAT
 - On-site emergency medical assistance (include psychiatric assistance)
 - Medical assistance for divers

Physician, nurse, EMT, drug, equipment...

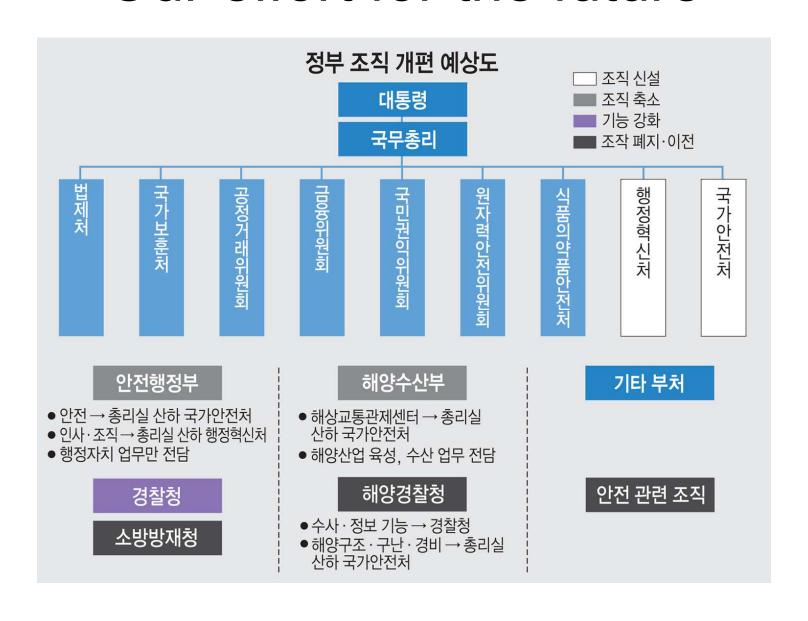
- Even if a one, simple disaster can ruin the whole society: psychiatric trauma
 - Healthy survivor or dead bodies
 - Many high school students and teachers died : national sadness / teardrops
 - Psychiatric support for Ansan city

- New disaster control tower(like NEMA): National Security Agency(tentatively)
 - Establish powerful control tower(ICS)
 - Strengthening inter-agency cooperation/communication
 - Separated disaster management system by environment(119, 122...) → unify

President announced the new disaster plan



- Specialized, integrated rescue team
 - Strengthening the specialty of human resources in disaster management area
 - Establish the initial recruitment system of specialist
 - Cover various kind of disaster



- Reinforcement of education/drill; enhance preparedness
 - Experience various simulated disaster
 - Read/memorize the manual
 - Collaborate private-public-military area





- Strengthen the power to cope with the marine accident
 - Secure the marine accident specialists
 - Develop and purchase the equipments for marine accidents
 - Maintenance of law and institutions

Thank you!





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