Singapore waters continue to see drop in 'major incidents'

The number of major incidents in Singapore waters continued to fall last year, continuing a trend seen over the last decade.

It was revealed at the annual Safety@Sea conference organised by the Maritime & Port Authority number of major incidents per 100,000 vessel movements had fallen to 0.12 in 2018, this compares to a figure of less than 0.3 in the previous year.

Read more: Singapore waters see significant drop in 'major incidents' over last 10 years

Lam Pin Min, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport for Singapore, told the opening of the conference: "As Singapore is one of the busiest ports in the world, maritime safety is naturally of utmost importance to us. I am glad to share that over the past ten years, the number of major incidents per 100,000 vessel movements has dropped from about 0.8 to about 0.1 last year.

"This is a testament to the good work that we have done for maritime safety. Congratulations to all of you. We should press on with efforts to enhance safety in our waters," he added.

The number of major incidents per 100,000 vessels movements stood at 0.8 in 2009, and around 1 per 100,000 in 2008. In 2017 there were 830,000 vessel movements in the port in 2017.

The MPA is working on technology related projects to try and further enhance safety in port waters. One of these is with Fujitsu, Singapore Management University (SMU) and A*Star which aims to enable vessel traffic system operators to give increasing warning time of the danger of a collision.

"This project uses artificial intelligence tools and big data analytics to predict and give early warnings of potential incidents during vessel traffic management. The project has shown promising results. Vessel traffic service (VTS) operators could have up to an extra five minutes of lead time to alert the ship master of the risk of collision," Minister Lam.