

DESCRIPTION OF THE DIVING ACCIDENT (for DAN Europe Civil liability)

I hereby certify that this 22d of September 2008, I was in charge of the diving activity and security surface from our diving vessel, in front of an islet, in the main bay of Noumea.

At 2 :30 pm, on my request, Miss Miwako KAWAI started an introductory dive with a japanese couple : Mr MATSUMOTO Hiroaki & Mrs MATSUMOTO Keiko.

I didn't dive, Miss Miwako was the only instructor in charge of these two persons. She conducted the introductory dive until a small drop off in front of an Islet 'Ile aux Canards », under about 80 meters away from the vessel ; the depth was about 5 metres.

Another diving instructor, Miss Naoko OGAWA was conducting a snorkeling tour, at the same place and at the same time. At 2 :40 pm, Miss Naoko OGAWA came back to the boat.

At about 3 :00 pm Miss Miwako KAWAI came back to the surface, about 10 meters away from the boat and called us for help.

Immediatly, Miss Naoko OGAWA jumped in the water and swam until Mme MATSUMOTO Keiko ; Miss Naoko OGAWA inflated Mrs MATSUMOTO'S buyoncy control devise (BCD) and towed her on the back until the boat. Mrs MATSUMOTO Keiko was breathing with her regulator.

At 3 :02 pm, Miss Miwako KAWAI, who was staying with Mr MATSUMOTO Hiroaki, called again for help.

From the boat, I saw Mr MATSUMOTO's head which was going under the surface and coming back over. I immediatly jumped in the water, and called the other Instructor, Miss Naoko OGAWA, for help.

Once close to Miss Miwako KAWAI and Mr MATSUMOTO Hiroaki, I saw him up side down sinking under the surface. He was dressed with his complete diving equipment, including the mask.

I turned him over and pulled him to the surface. I took off his diving equipment (weight belt and BCD-regulator-tank). He was not breathing any more, his regulator out off is mouth.

With the help of Miss Naoko OGAWA and a rope on the rear of the diving boat, I towed him to the ladder and once onto the deck we started the buddy breathing + heart massage + oxygene inflation. It was about 3 :20 pm.

At about 3 :25 pm, I called the emergency. They arrived at about 3 :40 with a helicopter, landing onto the islet and the doctors came with a pedal-boat until the vessel, for the first emergency care.

After a short meeting with Miss Miwako KAWAI, I could understand that Mr MATSUMOTO Hiroaki was maybe out of air at the end of the dive, reason for why he was panic at the surface and Miss Miwako KAWAI couldn't inflate his BCD, she was requiring help. I have checked Mr MATSUMOTO'S tank after the dive, it was empty.

A the present time :

Mr MATSUMOTO Hiroaki is staying at Hospital, breathing with a machine, he is uncounscious and the doctors are worrying about brain damages. His condition is stable.

There is no request of reimbursement from the injured third party.

Police investigation is under course.


We will know on next days if a legal action is on going against the Instructors Miss Miwako KAWAI (member n° 259705), Mr Raoul MONTHOUEL (member n° 161917) or against NOUMEA DIVING (member n° 145449).

Noumea 23d of September 2008.

Raoul MONTHOUEL  
Sûrctem de l'ongee



I have read the above report  
and I agree with it.

Naoko OGAWA 

I have read the above report  
and I agree with it

Miwako KAWAI 