

WORLD NEWS



JAPAN A busy street in Japan has been repaired and reopened just one week after collapsing into a huge sinkhole.

The sinkhole that opened up beneath five-lane road in Fukuoka, in the south of the country, was approximately 30 m wide and 15 m deep.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, November 8, and caused disruption to electricity, gas and water services.

A large number of construction workers were quickly on the scene, with earthmoving equipment, and worked simultaneously on filling the gaping hole and repairing the damaged utilities.

It is reported that the majority of repair work was completed within 48 hours and the road was completely reopened on Tuesday, November 15.

Fukuoka mayor Soichiro Takashima released a statement apologising for the "great trouble" the sinkhole had caused and promised a full investigation.

EVENTS DIARY

2016

Bauma ConExpo India

Dec 12-15, 2016

Delhi, India

www.bcindia.com

2017

World of Concrete

January 17 – 20, 2017

Las Vegas, USA

www.worldofconcrete.com

Samoter

February 22 – 25, 2017

Verona, Italy

www.samoter.it

ConExpo-Con/Agg

March 7 – 11, 2017

Las Vegas, US

www.conexpoconagg.com

SMOPYC

April 4 – 7, 2017

Zaragoza, Spain

www.smopyc.es

APEX

(International Access Equipment Exhibition)

May 2-4, 2017

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

www.apexshow.com

International Rental Exhibition (IRE)

May 2-4, 2017

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

www.IREshow.com

Komatek

May 3-7, 2017

Ankara, Turkey

www.komatek.com

International Tower Crane Conference (ITC)

May 10-11, 2017

London, UK

www.khl.com/itc

Plantworx 2017

June 6-8, 2017

Bruntingthorpe, UK

www.plantworx.co.uk

BICES 2017

September 20 – 23, 2017

Beijing, China

www.e-bices.org

US

More gloom over exports

Exports of US-made construction equipment has seen a fall of 25% in the first three quarters of 2016, compared with the same period in 2015, according to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM).

The US-based association, which represents the construction equipment manufacturing industry, cited figures from the US Department of Commerce, revealing a total of US\$ 8.2 billion of US-made equipment shipped to global markets during the review period.

Benjamin Duyck, director of market intelligence at AEM, said, "For the past 15 quarters, US exports of construction equipment declined year over year and in the third quarter of 2016, that trend remains unchanged.

"A key factor affecting the reduction in exports is most likely due to the strong dollar making US manufacturers less competitive in the global marketplace. Of course, the strong currency is a problem."

EGYPT

Industrial zone on Suez

An agreement between Russia and Egypt could see the construction of a Russian industrial zone on the Suez Canal start next year.

A memorandum of understanding was signed by the two countries in February this year, following discussions on the project, dating back to 2014.

Russia's trade minister, Denis Manturov, said Egypt had set aside a plot of 80 hectares in Port Said, with a view to expanding this to some 2,000 hectares for the free-trade zone.

According to the minister, the zone could provide close to 80,000 jobs. However, construction of the zone would require investment of around US\$ 4.6 billion between now and 2035, all of which is set to come from Russia.

Egypt's move to strengthen its relationship with Russia follows Saudi Arabia's decision to cut crude oil supplies to its near neighbour, possibly as a result of Egypt's decision to vote against a Saudi-backed UN resolution on Syria.

FINLAND

Rail win for YIT venture

A YIT-led joint venture has signed a contract to build the Tampere light rail project in Finland.

The first phase of the project will begin in 2017 and includes a 15 km line from the centre of the city of Tampere to Hervanta.

The first phase – which is expected to be completed in 2021 – will cost €238.8 million (US\$ 257 million), with YIT's share worth €110 million (US\$ 118.5 million).

The joint venture is made up of YIT, VR Track and Pöyry.

YIT said the second phase of the project – which will include expanding the rail network from the city centre of Tampere to Lentävänniem – would take place between 2021 and 2024.

Jouni Forsman, head of YIT's infra services business division, said, "YIT's renewed strategy emphasises project development in growth centres and focuses increasingly on the involvement of partners.

"The collaborative alliance model adopted in the Tampere light rail project matches this objective well."