

# Fiber optic cable disruption due to earthquake in the Taiwan Strait



## Overview

The earthquake with an initial intensity of between 6.2 richter yesterday cut off some lines of Hong Kong fiber optic cable - China - Taiwan. This force majeure incident significantly affects all service providers in Asia, including FPT, VDC, Viettel in Vietnam. Undersea cables are the lifelines of modern economies: they carry over 95 percent of the world's internet traffic, making them one of the most critical—yet vulnerable—pieces of infrastructure in the 21st century. When these cables go dark, everything from banking transactions to emergency response. Last month, a Chinese-owned vessel was accused of cutting an undersea fiber-optic cable near Keelung Harbor, highlighting the vulnerability of critical communications infrastructure. While the incident caused only minor disruptions to Internet service, it aligned with China's broader “gray zone”. This quake was centered in the same mountainous region of rural Kaohsiung county that endured the brunt of the damage from Typhoon Morakot, a devastating storm that killed about 700 people last August, also sent Chunghwa Telecom workers scrambling to fix undersea fiber-optic telecommunications. The earthquake with an initial intensity of between 6. Internet service providers. Taiwan's internet connectivity could be severely hit if China decides to block or delay undersea cable repair missions in the event of a Taiwan Strait conflict, Taipei News reported, citing a detailed assessment by US-based intelligence firm Recorded Future.

## Article Content

Asian Internet connection interrupted because of

The earthquake with an initial intensity of between 6.7 and 7.2 richter yesterday cut off some lines of Hong Kong fiber optic cable - China - Taiwan. This

Asia communications in chaos after earthquake off Taiwan

SEOUL — Telecommunications across Asia were in chaos Wednesday after an earthquake off Taiwan damaged undersea cables, jamming Internet services, cutting phone lines and

Experience with Restoration of Asia Pacific Network Failures from ...

Significant network failures due to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, or fires could have particularly wide impact on several ISPs. We discuss the results of the critical network failures that

Undersea Internet Cables Damaged By Taiwan Earthquake

Last August, deep sea landslides caused by Typhoon Morakot damaged at least three undersea fiber-optic telecommunications cables and

China may block Taiwan's undersea cable repairs in

Taiwan's internet connectivity could be severely hit if China decides to block or delay undersea cable repair missions in the event of a Taiwan Strait

A cut undersea internet cable is making Taiwan worried

When a Taiwanese telecoms company detected that an international undersea cable was damaged earlier this month, it worked to divert internet traffic

Taiwan to ramp up monitoring of "flags of convenience"

TAIPEI - The recent severing of an undersea cable off Taiwan has underscored how important it is for the island to strengthen its communications

Taiwan reports unprecedented undersea cable damage

TAIPEI -- Taiwan's remaining undersea cable link to the Matsu Islands near China was completely disconnected early Wednesday, the

Fiber Optic Cable Tracks Tiny Slip Events Deep Within Taiwan Landslide

At the Lantai site in northern Taiwan, researchers concluded that the timing and pace of these stick-slip events was linked strongly to typhoon rainfall and earthquake shaking, they reported

After Chinese Vessels Cut Matsu Internet Cables,

When Chinese vessels damaged Matsu's two sea cables on February 2 and February 8, Matsu's 13,000 residents were effectively cut off from the

Taiwan's security lies under the sea | Taiwan News | Sep. 13, 2025 14:49

The incident that occurred on Feb. 2, 2023, when two undersea cables linking Taiwan to its Matsu Islands were severed, cutting off normal communication for nearly two months, illustrated

Fiber-optic cables can sense aftershocks

Scientists have recently started exploring whether internet fiber-optic cables can be used as earthquake monitors. In a study presented at the

Taiwan quake cuts communications | News | Al Jazeera

South Korea's leading fixed-line and broad band service provider reported that six of its submarine cables were not working due to the quake, affecting international communications.

Cable wars: what to do about deepening conflict

Internet traffic flows beneath the sea for a variety of reasons. Most importantly, seaborne transmission is markedly cheaper and more efficient than

Taiwan Earthquake Fiber Cuts: a Service Provider View

Even though many of the cables are ring-protected, both legs pass through the Bashi Channel (earthquake epicenter) and the cable systems suffered multiple failures causing the entire cable

Taiwan Earthquake Fiber Cuts: a Service Provider View

Given the current market requirements, the Luzon Strait is the best subsea cable route alternative. Even though many of the cables are ring-protected, both legs pass through the Bashi Channel (earthquake

Taiwan earthquake damages undersea Internet cables

A major earthquake and several aftershocks in Taiwan, which injured dozens of people and caused several fires on Thursday, also sent Chunghwa Telecom workers scrambling to fix

Insights from the Taiwan cable cut

Last month, a Chinese-owned vessel was accused of cutting an undersea fiber-optic cable near Keelung Harbor, highlighting the vulnerability of critical communications infrastructure.

The Most Critical Resilience Questions of Them All:

Written by Charles Mok and Dr Kenny Huang. This article examines Taiwan's critical reliance on its undersea cable system for digital resilience in the

Analysis: A cut undersea internet cable is making

When a Taiwanese telecoms company detected that an international undersea cable was damaged earlier this month, it worked to divert internet traffic

How vulnerable are undersea cables?

The global internet is connected by roughly 570 fiber optic cables on the seabed. Recent breaks have industry watchers questioning the resiliency and

Submarine communications cable

7 - Petroleum jelly 8 - Optical fibers Submarine cables are laid using special cable layer ships, such as the modern René Descartes , operated by Orange Marine.

Taiwan subsea cable breaks, Coast Guard probes nearby ships

TAIPEI (Taiwan News) — Chunghwa Telecom reported Monday that an undersea cable connecting Taiwan and the outlying Matsu Islands has been disconnected due to an abnormality.

Insights into Submarine Geohazards from Breaks in

This model is constructed using a novel multi-scale ambient noise imaging framework that integrates cross-scale distributed acoustic sensing

China's Undersea Cable Sabotage and Taiwan's Digital

The main point: Taiwan is facing an intentional and sustained campaign of undersea cable sabotage by China—part of Beijing's broader

Taiwan Submarine Earthquake Impacts on Internet Routing

Luzon Strait Cable Systems Even though many of these cable systems are SDH rings, both parts of the ring pass through the Luzon Strait, making ring-based restoration impossible when

Submarine landslide likely cause of SE Asian communication failure

Subsea Landslide is Likely Cause of SE Asian Communications Failure On 26th December, 2006, a powerful earthquake shook the seabed off southern Taiwan. The magnitude 7.1 Hengchun

Fiber Optic Cables Are Natural Earthquake Detectors

Optical-fiber cables, on the other hand, are already laid in the ground, crisscrossing everywhere, providing a dense, low-cost seismic sensor network.

Undersea Internet Cables Damaged By Taiwan Earthquake

Undersea fiber-optic cables carry the bulk of the world's Internet and communications traffic. Cables around Taiwan have a rough life. The island is

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