



Asia (ex-China) Retail & E-commerce

Weekly Updates

19 March – 25 March 2020

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the latest in Asia

Japan

[Retail in general: Japan reportedly mulls 30 trillion-yen emergency economic package](#)

The Japanese government and the ruling coalition are reportedly weighing an emergency economic package worth more than ¥30 trillion (US\$270 billion) to offset the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak; the package could involve issuing cash and gift certificates to the public, and even subsidizing travel expenses

[Discount stores: Mega Don Quijote Uny opens in Chiba](#)

UD Retail Co, a joint venture 60% held by FamilyMart Uny Holdings and 40% by Don Quijote Holdings, has recently launched a Mega Don Quijote Uny store in Ichihara, Chiba; covering 10,589sqm, the mega store carries a wide range of products including daily essentials, household goods, clothing, cosmetics and stationery products

[Apparel and footwear: Japan's sporting goods store Alpen to unveil experiential store](#)

Japan's sporting goods retailers Alpen Co will launch an experiential store in Yokohama this April; carrying over 40,000 sporting products under 200 brands, the new store will showcase products in two different zones – “Alpen Outdoors”, which will cover the entire light outdoor product range for camping and hiking, and “Alpen Mountains”, which focuses more on mountaineering

[Beauty and personal care: Shiseido sets up new research branch in Shanghai](#)

Shiseido has recently announced the launch of its China Innovation Center in Shanghai's health and beauty industry-focused economic district The Oriental Beauty Valley; Shiseido will work with companies and institutes located in The Oriental Beauty Valley to drive the development of the cosmetics industry in the country as well as to accelerate its sustainable growth globally

South Korea

[Retail in general: South Korea announces special support packages to travel-related businesses](#)

South Korea's Ministry of Employment and Labor has recently announced that it has finalized the list of COVID-19 hard-hit businesses that will be entitled to the government's special support packages, which cover travel agencies, travel service firms, hotels, resort and condos, chartered bus operators, airlines, passenger transport service operators and art and show business

[Luxury: Versace opens online store on Lotte Premium Mall](#)

Versace has recently launched an online store on Lotte Premium Mall; the online store, a partnership between Versace Korea and Lotte Premium Mall, carries a wide range of Versace products including ready-to-wear items, wallets, belts, clutches and jewelry

Malaysia

[Shopping malls: Sunway Malls offers rent concession to retailers amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Sunway Malls, the retail division of Malaysia's major conglomerate Sunway Group Bhd, is offering 20 million ringgit (US\$4.5 million) rent concession to non-essential retailers in wake of the 14-day movement control order announced by the Malaysia government to curb the spread of the COVID-19 in the country; the mall operator will also undertake steps to ease credit control for retailers in this difficult period

Thailand

[Retail in general: Thailand approves US\\$3.56 billion stimulus to cushion COVID-19 impact](#)

Thailand's cabinet approved on 24 March a package of stimulus measures worth at least 117 billion baht (US\$3.56 billion), aiming to lessen the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak that has infected over 800 people in the country; the measures include cash handouts worth 45 billion baht for 3 million workers outside the social security system, who will also be offered soft loans worth 60 billion baht as well as tax breaks

India

[Shopping malls: Malls in India seek government aid during shutdown over COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Shopping malls in India affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are looking for a bailout from the government to compensate for losses incurred during a mandatory shutdown period through to 31 March; the shutdown has affected both retailers and developers in various Indian states that have implemented the ban on trading to slow the spread of the COVID-19

[E-commerce: India reportedly plans e-commerce regulator](#)

India reportedly plans to set up an e-commerce regulator and force companies such as Amazon to swiftly turn over information sought by authorities as part of a new policy being drafted; the new regulator will be empowered to seek any information from companies to enforce the new policy and even other Indian laws aimed at protecting consumers or ensuring fair competition on e-commerce

[E-commerce: Zomato to cash in on online grocery shopping craze](#)

India's Food-delivery and restaurant discovery app Zomato is jumping on to the grocery bandwagon considering a major uptick in grocery sales amid the COVID-19 outbreak; Zomato reportedly is in talks to partner with local e-grocers including Grofers and BigBasket, to sell food products and essentials on its platform by facilitating their deliveries

[E-commerce: Bigbasket in talk to buy two milk delivery startups](#)

Alibaba-backed e-grocer Bigbasket is in advanced talks to acquire two milk delivery startups considering the sudden surge in demand for online grocery shopping; Bigbasket has already started delivering bread, milk, and other dairy products including daily essentials through its brand BB Daily

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