



# Asia (ex-China) Retail & E-commerce

## Weekly Updates

1 January – 8 January 2020

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*the latest in Asia*

### Asia at a glance

#### [Retail technologies: 15% of Asian retailers invest in AI](#)

Just 15% of Asian retailers have invested in AI technology, according to the latest research from Tofugear, Global Payments, TrendWatching and Microsoft in their survey of 150 senior retail executives across 12 Asian markets; among the retailers who embrace AI, chatbots/voicebots and machine learning technology are the most popular types, while robotics and natural language processing prove less popular

### Japan

#### [Department stores: Japan's J.Front Retailing seeks to take over Parco chain](#)

J.Front Retailing, a Japanese department store group which operates Daimaru and Matsuzakaya department stores, is seeking to buy the remaining shares in Parco, a local fashion-focused department store chain in which it already has a stake, for US\$599.7 million

### South Korea

#### [Department stores: Shinsegae Department Store sets sales record as foreigners splurge in Gangnam](#)

Shinsegae Department Store's outlet in Gangnam, an affluent area in southern Seoul, reported 2 trillion won (US\$1.7 billion) in accumulated sales last year, which is the first time for a single-department store branch to achieve the 2 trillion won milestone. The company attributed its stellar performance to increased visits by foreign shoppers in Gangnam

### Singapore

#### [Apparel and footwear: Singapore's Charles & Keith adds more stores in Hong Kong](#)

Singapore's footwear and accessories brand Charles & Keith has recently added three new stores in Hong Kong at the APM mall, DFS T Galleria Sun Plaza Canton Road and Langham Place respectively, taking its total store count to six in the city

## Malaysia

[Department stores: Parkson to close branch in MyTown Shopping Center; continues to close stores in Malaysia](#)

Malaysia's department store chain Parkson will shut down its branch in MyTown Shopping Center, Cheras, in February 2020; over the past two years, the retailer has closed several branches in Malaysia, including those in Megamall Kuantan, Melaka Mall, Maju Junction and Sungei Wang

[Convenience stores: 7-Eleven Malaysia to acquire local ride-hailing operator](#)

7-Eleven Malaysia will acquire a 46.45% stake in local delivery services provider Myinteractivelab Sdn Bhd (MSB) for US\$1.8 million; currently, MSB operates bike-hailing service provider Dego Ride, which has over 700 riders with operations spanning Putrajaya to Shah Alamin

## Thailand

[Supermarkets: CP Group and Central Group reportedly in race to buy Tesco Asia](#)

Thai conglomerates CP Group and Central Group are reportedly preparing bids for the Asian operations of Tesco, which currently operates 74 stores in Malaysia and about 2,000 stores in Thailand under Tesco Lotus brand

## India

[E-commerce: Amazon forges long-term partnership with Future Retail](#)

Amazon has entered into a long-term business agreement with India's second largest retail chain Future Retail; under the agreement, Amazon will become the authorized online sales channel for Future Retail stores, including department and grocery store chain Big Bazaar and lifestyle food superstore Foodhall

[E-commerce: Reliance Industries to tap online grocery market in 2020](#)

India's Reliance Industries has developed its online grocery app Jiomart, aiming to tap local online food and grocery market in early 2020; the app will connect both last-mile neighborhood stores and consumers, leveraging data and technology capabilities of Reliance's telecom business Jio and the cash-and-carry infrastructure of its retailing arm

[Discount stores: China's Mumuso to accelerate expansion in India](#)

Chinese discount retail chain Mumuso is seeking potential franchise partners in India, a move to accelerate its expansion in the country; the retailer currently operates more than 30 stores in India

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**Asia Distribution and Retail**

**Teresa Lam**

**Vice President**

T: (852) 2300 2466

E: [teresalam@fung1937.com](mailto:teresalam@fung1937.com)

**Tracy Chan**

**Research Manager**

E: [tracychansy@fung1937.com](mailto:tracychansy@fung1937.com)

**Fung Business Intelligence**

10/F LiFung Tower

888 Cheung Sha Wan Road

Kowloon, Hong Kong

[www.fbicgroup.com](http://www.fbicgroup.com)