



Asia (ex-China) Retail & E-commerce

Weekly Updates

14 May – 20 May 2020

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the latest in Asia

Impacts of COVID-19

[Japan: Apparel firm Renown files for bankruptcy](#)

Japanese apparel maker Renown Inc. has filed for bankruptcy protection, becoming the first bankruptcy of a listed company in Japan since January 2019; the company, currently under majority ownership of Chinese textiles and clothing firm Shandong Ruyi, has suffered huge revenue losses due to closures of department stores and regular retailers. Renown was reportedly saddled with debts totaling ¥13.88 billion (US\$129 million)

[South Korea: Lotte Department Store introduces “shop-alone” service](#)

Lotte Department Store has introduced a ‘shop-alone service’ for customers who do not wish to be approached by sales associates and other employees; currently available at Lotte Department Store’s flagship store, Young Plaza, and the company’s Jamsil branch, the new service enables customers to shop alone without being disturbed by sales associates if they carry a ‘shop-alone’ sticker or bag ring available near information desks or escalators

[South Korea: Shinsegae’s net profit plunges 99.8% yoy in 1Q20 due to COVID-19](#)

Shinsegae, one of the big-three retailers in South Korea, has announced that its net profit plunged 99.8% yoy in 1Q20 as the COVID-19 crisis shut down the nation’s tourism industry and caused local consumers to stay home; the retail giant, operating E-mart big-box stores, department stores, convenience stores, duty-free retail stores and more, reported net income of 1.6 billion won (US\$1.3 million) on sales of 1.2 trillion won (US\$976 million) in the quarter

[Singapore: Changi Airport closes more stores](#)

Singapore’s Changi Airport, after suspending operations in Terminal 2 starting May, has further consolidated operations and closed more retail stores; the airport has temporarily suspended Terminal 4 (T4) operations and moved T4-based airlines to Terminal 1 and 3 instead, meaning that stores and restaurants in T4 will remain closed until the terminal resumes operation

[Malaysia: Sunway Pyramid mall launches online platforms for Hari Raya amid COVID-19](#)

Malaysia's Sunway Pyramid mall has launched an online shopping platform to help customers purchase safely during this year Hari Raya, a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide; Sunway Pyramid's online store offers over 100 brands ranging from beauty, home decor, healthcare, footwear to digital lifestyle, along with exclusive promotions and a three-day flash sales at the end of May

[Thailand: Government's COVID-19 tracking app raises privacy concerns](#)

A new app named Thai Chana (Thais Win), which is designed by the Thai government to track potential carriers of COVID-19 in case of a resurgence in infections, has sparked privacy concerns among the Thai public; as shopping malls have reopened gradually in line with the country's relaxed lockdown rules, the app has been deployed at shopping malls, restaurants and other venues around the country, with customers and patrons being required to scan a QR code with their mobile phone whenever they enter and leave

[India: All shops and markets outside of containment zones reopen](#)

All shops and markets in India, except those located in containment zones, have resumed operations from 18 May following 50-plus days of countrywide lockdown to combat the COVID-19 pandemic; barber shops, salons and spas have reopened in non-prohibited areas while e-commerce platforms are allowed to resume the delivery of non-essential items, according to the country's Home Ministry

[India: Google to launch new initiatives to help offline retailers connect with online shoppers](#)

Google is set to launch a slew of initiatives to help offline stores in India connect with consumers online in order to adapt to the changed shopping behavior beyond the COVID-19 lockdown period; the Internet giant has started a pilot where offline retailers in India can list products available at their stores on Google search page themselves on a real time basis so consumers searching a product can see the variants available and prices in their nearest store

Other latest happenings

Asia at a glance

[E-commerce: Global pre-owned fashion platform Vestiaire Collective launches on Zalora](#)

Southeast Asia's fashion e-tailer Zalora has partnered with global pre-owned fashion platform, Vestiaire Collective; customers in Hong Kong can now access more than 5,000 authenticated Vestiaire items across womens' and mens' categories via the company's website and app. Plans are currently in place to extend the offering to other Zalora markets in Asia, according to Zalora

Japan

[Convenience stores: 7-Eleven, Nike to launch co-branded sneakers](#)

7-Eleven and Nike will jointly launch a new sneaker featuring 7-Eleven's distinctive logo

colours; marking the second collaboration between the two companies since 2008, the new shoes will most likely be released in Japan only

[Discount stores: Don Don Donki to add three more stores in Hong Kong](#)

Japanese discount retailer Don Don Donki is set to add three more stores in Hong Kong, including a flagship store in Causeway Bay and one each in Tseung Kwan O and Central; the new flagship store will cover a floor area of estimated 50,000 sqft, considerably larger than the brand's local debut store in Tsim Tsa Tsui's Mira Place

[Beauty and personal care: Shiseido expands into Sri Lanka market](#)

Shiseido has begun selling products of its global prestige brand Shiseido in Sri Lanka since March 2020 via Singapore-based Luxasia, which distributes cosmetics products across Asia; including the new launch, Shiseido is currently selling in 88 countries and regions around the world

South Korea

[Beauty and personal care: AmorePacific acquires Australian skincare brand Rationale](#)

AmorePacific has acquired a substantial minority stake in Australian luxury skincare brand Rationale, aiming to boost AmorePacific's credentials in the high-end personalized cosmetics market, while helping Rationale expand across Asia, with a focus on South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore initially over the next five years

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