the latest in Asia

Japan

Convenience stores: Lawson stocks Muji goods
Lawson Japan has recently entered partnership with Muji; under the deal, Lawson starts offering Muji goods, including cosmetics, stationery and innerwear, at three of its self-operated stores in Tokyo, while Muji is also given dedicated shelves to display the products at the stores

Apparel: Uniqlo opens new flagship store in Tokyo’s Ginza
Uniqlo has recently launched a new a four-story flagship store in Tokyo’s Ginza shopping district; apart from offering new items and the brand’s trademark basic items, the new store features a children’s play area and showcases a display highlighting the company’s efforts in support of medical institutions battling the COVID-19 pandemic

Apparel: 6ixty8ight forays into Japan with e-commerce store
Hong Kong-based lingerie brand 6ixty8ight has recently launched an e-commerce store in Japan, marking its first foray in the country; featuring a full range of the brand’s lingerie, homewear, casualwear and accessories, the online store aims to build brand awareness in Japan and will be followed by the brand’s the first physical stores in the market later this year

Beauty and personal care: Amorepacific’s ESPOIR available in major Japanese multi-brand stores
Amorepacific’s makeup brand ESPOIR has expanded into some mainstream multi-brand stores in Japan, including @COSME, LOFT and TOKYU HANDS; the move follows the brand’s debut in Japan through local online shopping platforms Qoo10, Rakuten, Yahoo Japan and Amazon Japan in April

Luxury: Louis Vuitton to launch its first menswear flagship in Tokyo
Louis Vuitton will open its first men’s flagship store in Shibuya’s Miyashita Park in July;
covering two stories, the new store will carry the entire Louis Vuitton men's line-up as well as special collections across accessories, footwear and fashion, coupled with jewellery and other items that are exclusive to the store

South Korea

Retail in general: Lotte launches first subscription-based snack service in South Korea
Lotte Confectionery Co., a subsidiary of South Korean conglomerate Lotte Group, has recently announced that it will launch a subscription-based snack service named “Monthly Snack,” the first of its kind in South Korea; subscribers of the new service will receive a box full of best-selling and newly-released snacks made by Lotte Confectionery at lower than market prices on a monthly basis

E-commerce: Gmarket to bring together sellers and social media influencers
Gmarket Global Shop, the English and Chinese versions of South Korean major e-commerce platform Gmarket, is looking to serve as a marketing tool for small- and medium-sized firms to tap the global market by connecting them up with relevant social media influencers from around the world; the platform is currently working with various popular online influencers around the world to sell South Korean products

Singapore

Apparel: Singapore’s Textile and Fashion Federation launches e-commerce platform
Singapore’s non-profit trade association Textile and Fashion Federation (TaFF) has recently launched an e-commerce platform named Oneorchard.store in support of local fashion labels; Oneorchard.store is designed to showcase and facilitate exposure of a range of locally-based designers from emerging to established labels

Thailand

E-commerce: 79% of Thais use contactless payments more often than before
Eight in ten Thais respondents (79%) are using contactless payments more often than they did two years ago, according to recently released Visa Consumer Payment Attitudes study; the study, which tracks consumer habits and attitudes towards payments across Southeast Asia, also revealed three in four polled Thais (75%) who are not using contactless payments today, are interested in doing so in the future
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