



Asia (ex-China) Retail & E-commerce

Weekly Updates

27 February – 4 March 2020

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the latest in Asia

Japan

[Retail in general: Rakuten Fashion Week Tokyo cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Rakuten Fashion Week Tokyo, one of Japan's largest fashion gatherings, has been called off due to the COVID-19 outbreak; the fashion event, scheduled to take place on 16-21 March, marked the second round of shows and presentations since local e-commerce giant Rakuten took the reins as the event's title sponsor

[Apparel and footwear: Fast Retailing reopens more stores in China](#)

Fast Retailing, the parent company of fast fashion chain Uniqlo, has reopened more than 100 stores in China over the past week, while 125 stores remain closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak; currently, the company operates 750 Uniqlo stores in China

South Korea

[Retail in general: South Korea rolls out relief package for airport duty-free SMEs](#)

The South Korean government has recently announced a comprehensive support package worth more than KRW20 trillion (US\$16.5 billion) to cushion the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak; the package includes relief measures for small and medium sized duty-free retailers at airports which experienced a sharp decline in passenger traffic and duty free sales caused by the outbreak

Taiwan

[Apparel and footwear: Bossini to quit Taiwan market](#)

Hong Kong-based apparel brand Bossini has decided to shut down all its 50 stores in Taiwan by 31 July as the company has been losing money since fiscal year 2005-2006; it will cease its operations in Taiwan and focus its resources on its other major markets

Singapore

[Retail in general: Changi Airport supports tenants with halved rents amid COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Retailers at Singapore's Changi Airport will be granted half-cost rents for six months, backdated to 1 February in wake of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak; the rent rebate will support over 540 retail, F&B and service tenants at the airport who are facing a slump in sales during the outbreak

[E-commerce: Lazada's RedMart sees record demand for online grocery services in Singapore](#)

Lazada's grocery arm RedMart sees unprecedented demand for online grocery services in Singapore amid the COVID-19 outbreak; shoppers in the country have been buying 4 to 10 times more food staples, 3.5 to 5 times more paper products, and 2 to 6 times more personal care and household cleaning supplies

[Beauty and personal care: Sasa partners with Shopee to relaunch in Singapore](#)

Hong Kong's cosmetic retail chain Sasa has relaunched its presence in Singapore through an exclusive online partnership with local e-commerce platform Shopee; following its exit from the Singapore market last year, Sasa hopes to leverage Shopee's extensive user base to reach a wider audience in the city

Malaysia

[Convenience stores: Malaysia's CVS chain 99 Speedmart launches in Singapore](#)

Malaysian convenience store chain 99 Speedmart has forayed into Singapore by opening three mini-market stores in the city; currently, the retailer operates over 1,500 grocery stores in Malaysia

[E-commerce: Malaysian food delivery firm Dahmakan raises US\\$18m in Rakuten-backed funding round](#)

Malaysian food delivery startup Dahmakan has recently secured US\$18 million in a Series B funding round joined by Rakuten Capital, White Star Capital, JAFCO Asia, and the GEC-KIP Fund; founded in 2015, the company will use the fresh funding to finance the ongoing construction of its end-to-end operating system

Thailand

[Retail in general: Central Retail to spend US\\$575m on expansion this year](#)

Central Retail will invest US\$575 million to expand its business in Thailand, Vietnam and Italy this year, including opening three Robinson Lifestyle stores, seven Thai Watsadu stores and three Baan and Beyond stores in Thailand; adding six supermarkets in Vietnam; and refurbishing its department stores in Florence and Rome

[Apparel and footwear: Pomelo to use in-app livestream tech for new collection launch](#)

Pomelo, a Thailand-based fashion e-tailer, will unveil its Spring/Summer 2020 Collection online via the Pomelo app with the use of in-app livestream technology; the brand will be the first fashion brand in Southeast Asia to adopt the technology

India

[E-commerce: Flipkart launches furniture experience center in eastern India](#)

Flipkart has recently set up a furniture experience center in Kolkata, marking its first offline presence in eastern India; covering 2,200 sqft, the experience center is operated in partnership with local real estate company Emami Realty

[Apparel and footwear: H&M labels India as its fastest-growing emerging market](#)

H&M has labeled India its fastest-growing emerging market; currently operating 47 stores in India, the retailer targets 2,000 crore rupees (US\$280 million) in turnover from the country by the end of the year

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