

note

note inc.
March 2, 2026

note and NAVER Launch First Collaboration: "LINE MANGA x TALES Webtoon Original Story Awards"

Grand Prize: 3 Million Yen, LINE MANGA Serialization, and Global Distribution



note inc., in partnership with LINE Digital Frontier Corporation, will launch the "LINE MANGA x TALES Webtoon Original Story Awards" on March 2, 2026. This contest seeks original stories to be developed into webtoons.

This initiative marks the first collaboration under the capital and business alliance between note and NAVER. The project connects "LINE MANGA," operated by NAVER affiliate LINE Digital Frontier, with "TALES," a story-posting site jointly managed by note and its subsidiary, Tales & Co. Inc. The collaboration aims to transform creator-written stories into webtoons for a global audience.

The Grand Prize winner will receive 3 million yen and a guaranteed serialization on LINE MANGA. Furthermore, the work will be distributed globally in multiple languages through the WEBTOON Entertainment group network. This project aims to expand opportunities for creators by bringing Japanese stories to readers worldwide.

Bringing Creator Works to the World via Webtoons

note is home to numerous storytellers. The "Creative Awards," Japan's largest creative contest hosted by note and TALEs, has received over 170,000 entries to date, with 34 works adapted into books, films, or stage plays.

Webtoons are a rapidly growing medium for delivering Japanese stories globally. The global webtoon market is projected to reach approximately 7 trillion yen by 2030 (*1), with many titles being adapted into live-action dramas and films. The LINE MANGA original series "Viral Hit" (Kenka Dokugaku) reached 2.28 billion global views (*2) and is scheduled for a worldwide live-action release as a Netflix series in 2026. The power of the "original story" as the starting point for such media mixes is more critical than ever.

To broaden the reach of its creators' works, note entered a capital and business alliance with NAVER Corporation in November 2025, receiving an investment of 2 billion yen. A core pillar of this alliance is the "Joint Development and Expansion of IP and Content," of which this contest is the inaugural project.

By combining original stories from TALEs with the editorial expertise and distribution network of LINE MANGA—the No. 1 manga app in Japan by cumulative downloads (*3)—the companies will expand the reach of creator-driven narratives further than ever before.

*1 : Grand View Research 「Webtoons Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report」 (<https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/webtoons-market-report>)

*2: As of January 2026

*3: No. 1 in cumulative downloads for Japanese manga apps (App IQ: Books & Comics) from Jan 2014 to Aug 2025 / iOS & Google Play combined / Source: Sensor Tower

Outline: "LINE MANGA x TALEs Webtoon Original Story Awards"

■Submission Themes

Original stories set in popular webtoon genres where the protagonist carves out their own path against a harsh fate. Categories include Female-oriented (Romance Fantasy, Romantic Drama) and Male-oriented (Action Fantasy).

■Submission Period

Monday, March 2, 2026 – Saturday, October 31, 2026.

Submissions are accepted year-round, divided into four phases (Phase 1 to Phase 4).

■Prizes and Benefits

- Grand Prize: 3 million yen + Webtoon serialization rights + Top banner exposure on LINE MANGA + Global distribution rights.
- Excellence Award: 1 million yen + Webtoon serialization rights + Top banner exposure on LINE MANGA.
- Special Award: 100,000 yen + Dedicated editors from LINE MANGA and Tales & Co. to work toward serialization.
- Season Award: 10,000 yen (At least one winner per phase).

■How to Enter

Register as a member on TALES and select "Webtoon Original Story Awards Phase [X]" from the contest submission section. Open to both professional and amateur creators.

■Screening

Primary Screening: TALES Operations Team

Final Screening: LINE MANGA WEBTOON STUDIO (LINE MANGA Editorial Dept.) and Takeshi Hagiwara (Editor-in-Chief, TALES)

For full details, please visit:

https://note.com/topic/tales_webtoon2026

Comment from LINE MANGA WEBTOON STUDIO (Editorial Dept.)

"For this contest, we are looking for stories about protagonists who resist harsh circumstances and forge their own paths through sheer will. We await dramatic works with a sense of catharsis—such as a self-reliant heroine using modern-day skills to overcome adversity, or a powerful lead achieving an underdog victory. We look forward to meeting undiscovered talent!"

Comment from Takeshi Hagiwara, Editor-in-Chief of TALES

"As the first collaboration under the note-NAVER alliance, this is the first webtoon-focused contest on TALES. While the starting point is 'storytelling,' the output is a vertical-scroll format. The key to winning will be mastering the unique presentation and appeal of this medium. We hope to see works born from this contest expand globally in various forms."

About LINE MANGA

LINE MANGA is an electronic comic service for smartphones and tablets. It is part of "WEBTOON Worldwide Service," the world's leading platform alliance with approximately 150 million monthly active users globally (as of September 2025). Launched in Japan in 2013, it currently holds the No. 1 spot in cumulative downloads among Japanese manga apps (*3).

URL : <https://manga.line.me/>

About TALES

TALES is a story-posting site designed to expand creator potential and deliver entertainment that transcends media and language barriers. It is jointly operated by note inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Tales & Co. Inc.

URL : <https://tales.note.com/>

Official note : https://note.com/tales_story_

Official X : https://x.com/tales_story_

note inc.

Our mission is to "Start, and Keep on Creating," and we are building systems for expression and creation. The media platform note supports all kinds of creative activities by creators. Creators can publish their original content, receive support from fans and peers through memberships, shops and brand owners can showcase products in their stores, and corporations and organizations can use note pro to disseminate information.

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Date of Establishment: December 8, 2011

Representative Director and CEO: Sadaaki Kato Corporate Website: <https://note.jp>

【For inquiries regarding this press release】

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