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note inc.

April 22, 2026

Story-Posting Site TALES Surpasses 24,000 Published Works in First Year Expanding into Books, Audio Dramas, and Anime



TALES, a story-posting site co-operated by note inc. and Tales & Co. Inc., celebrated its first anniversary on April 22. Since its launch, the platform has surpassed 24,000 published works. The reach of these stories is expanding through various formats, including book publications and audio drama performances.

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

Over the past year, works posted on TALES have begun transitioning into books and audio dramas. Projects are also underway for adaptations into manga, anime, and children's literature. In collaboration with diverse partners—including publishers, film production companies, and voice acting agencies—TALES held nine contests over the year, receiving a total of more than 14,000 entries. Moving forward, the platform will continue to expand its collaborations and contests to bring creators' works to more readers.

Creating a Place Where All Stories are Born

While the print publishing market in 2025 fell below 1 trillion yen for the first time in 50 years (*), web-based stories are gaining a stronger presence as original sources for dramas, manga, and films. The channels through which stories reach readers continue to diversify.

*Source: Research Institute for Publishing Science (Released Jan 26, 2026)

TALES was launched in April 2025 amid these industry shifts. It aims to be a hub where stories of all genres gather and reach readers through books, video, manga, and theater. For this reason, it is branded as a "story-posting site" rather than a "novel-posting site." Designed as a platform without a specific genre bias, TALES has fostered a wide variety of stories over the past year.

Progress Over the Past Year

The number of published works on TALES exceeded 24,000 within one year of service, reaching approximately 250,000 individual episodes as of April 14, 2026. While the most popular genre is "Work & Human Drama," active posting continues across broad genres such as Sci-Fi, Horror, Mystery, Youth, and Romance. Many full-scale serializations have also emerged in the "Isekai Fantasy" and "Modern Fantasy" categories.

In September 2025, TALES launched mobile apps for iPhone and Android, allowing creators to write and post entirely via smartphone. In March 2026, an "AI Assistant" feature was added to detect typos and formatting inconsistencies. Furthermore, external distribution through SmartNews and Gunosy has increased the visibility of creators' works.

A detailed report on the 1st-anniversary online talk event is available here:

https://note.com/tales_story/_/n3c545a3773ac

Multi-Media Developments

TALES delivers creators' works to readers in various formats:

TALES コンテスト開催実績

TALES

1. Book Publications

The "Creative Award 2025," co-hosted with note, received approximately 70,000 entries. Twenty-two works from TALES won or were shortlisted for Media Awards. Among them, Chestnuts are Moon-colored, Gold-colored: Nagatsuki-do Wagashi Shop by Shiko Akita was published by Asahi Shimbun Publications on April 7, 2026. This marks the first book originating from TALES. Many more titles, including six Media Award winners, are scheduled for publication.
<https://note.jp/n/n61390cc48cf0>

Additionally, a three-month short story contest based on original illustrations received 1,006 entries. A collection titled Short Stories Starting from Illustrations (cover art by Hidari), featuring nine winning stories, was distributed at Literature Flea Market Tokyo 41 and is currently available online.

https://www.melonbooks.co.jp/detail/detail.php?product_id=3398956

2. Audio Dramas

A contest co-hosted with the voice acting agency Raccoon Dog, featuring voice actor Nobuhiko Okamoto as a final judge, received 686 entries. TALES produced a script based on the winning work, Welcome to Namida-kan by yukari. This will be performed at note place on May 24, 2026, as a double feature with a new story by Tappei Nagatsuki, author of Re:Zero – Starting Life in Another World.

https://note.com/tales_story/_n/na9f719e6d19d

3. Manga Adaptations

A manga source material contest held with Kodansha's Monthly Shonen Magazine and Women's Comic editorial departments received 1,852 entries. Another contest with Shueisha's Digital Margaret is currently ongoing.

4. Anime Adaptations

A short anime source material contest was co-hosted with Evolany Inc. The winning work will be produced as an anime.

5. Children's Literature

TALES co-hosted the "2nd Eiko Kadono More New Children's Story Award" with Poplar Publishing. Five of the 12 finalists were from TALES, and Maho-chan and the Little Winter Wizard by Kaya Komai won the Encouragement Award.

Comments from Creators

We have received comments about TALES from the winners of the Media Awards at the Creative Award 2025.

Najimi Takatsu | Rental Myself, The Voice of Poison: Case Files of Forensic Toxicologist Rui Ietatsu / Winner of the Media Award in the Entertainment Original Category and Mystery Novel Category at the Creative Award 2025

https://tales.note.com/723_takatsu/wvrkel84hogw6,

https://tales.note.com/723_takatsu/wr6bnzex512b4/

"TALES is easy to operate! That is the best thing about it. Adding furigana is simple, and because you can post and edit by dividing the work into chapters, it was very convenient to be able to make quick edits whenever I wanted during the application period. Also, I think the ability to add a catchphrase to a work is a great way to draw in readers. It means I don't have to cram everything into the title!"

Rikusa Giko | Memento Furor: Visit Log of St. Basilio Psychiatric Ward / Winner of the Media Award in the Horror Novel Category at the Creative Award 2025

https://tales.note.com/par_rik/wb0meoywylbv0/

"It was extremely convenient for publishing long-form novels. I use it from a PC, and the editor's usability is very easy to understand. Also, since a table of contents is created automatically, managing and viewing the work was effortless. There is also a review function, so in addition to comments on each posted episode, being able to receive reviews and feedback on the entire work was very encouraging! Personally, my favorite feature in TALES is the one that tells you how many people accessed your work via a link shared on SNS or other platforms. Knowing the number of people who visited from the outside makes me feel motivated to work harder to attract more people!"

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

"Today marks one year since TALES began. I am incredibly pleased that so many stories creators 'wanted to write' have gathered here regardless of genre. We built TALES as a 'starting point' where writers, readers, and distributors meet. The fact that commercial adaptations have already begun is thanks to our many partners.

To all authors: we believe the impulse to write is the most precious seed of creation. TALES is only one year old. From here, many more stories will take flight into the world and the future. Let's continue spinning these tales together."

Upcoming Developments

- Manga Source Material Contest with Shueisha Digital Margaret: Open until April 26.
- Creative Award 2026: Japan's largest creative contest. Open until July 8.
- Webtoon Source Material Award with LINE Manga: Open until October 31.
- Literature Flea Market Tokyo 42: TALES booth exhibition on May 4.
- TALES x Raccoon Dog Audio Drama Event: May 24.

About TALES

TALES is a story-posting site that expands the potential of creators and delivers entertainment that transcends media and language barriers. It is co-operated by note inc. and its subsidiary, Tales & Co. Inc.
<https://tales.note.com/>

Official note : https://note.com/tales_story

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

About Tales & Co. Inc.

Established in May 2024 as a subsidiary of note inc., Tales & Co. Inc. acts as an agent for creators and works, produces in-house content, and collaborates with publishers, film companies, and game developers. With over 1,000 registered creators, it delivers stories in diverse formats.

Location: 6-6-2 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Established: May 24, 2024

Representative Director: Takeshi Hagiwara

URL: <https://talesandco.com/>

【For inquiries regarding this press release】

note inc. IR inquiry desk: <https://ir.note.jp/inquiry>