



# Student Support News

## No. 6

Tohoku University

(Student Life Support Specialist Committee)

## Note on student behavior: warning on illegal drugs

On December 6 (Wed.), an international student at our university was arrested for violating the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Law (on suspicion of importing).

Warnings have been issued to all students regarding possession and usage of illegal narcotics, such as marijuana and amphetamines, at the new student orientation, during General Education lectures, in the Handbook for International Students, via student life information, on the Student Health Care Center homepage, and on posters posted around campus. In Japan, drug abuse is becoming a social problem, and cases of narcotic possession and use by university students are on the rise.

Drug abuse negatively impacts physical and mental health, leads to deterioration of character, and places a burden on your family and community. In addition to drug use and trafficking, production and possession are also illegal.

For example, in Japan possession of marijuana carries harsh prison sentences of up to five years. Under Tohoku University regulations, drug offenders are suspended or expelled as well.

It is crucial that you have the willpower to resist in the face of situations favorable to drug use, invitations from peers, pressure from those in positions that make it hard to refuse, and opportunities to obtain drugs easily.

In some cases, students who used drugs while living overseas try to bring or mail them to Japan from abroad, or even end up working as drug mules. Whether in Japan or abroad, we implore you to refrain from using drugs.

We strongly urge you to resist any passing urges or curiosity regarding drugs, be aware of your privileged position as Tohoku University students, and conduct yourselves in compliance with our community's rules.

- If invited to try drugs, refuse.
- Have the courage to stay away from or flee dangerous situations.
- Friends who pressure you to use drugs are not true friends.