

KLI TIMES

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A bright future begins



KLI students and a teacher Naoko Nakamura at Kadena Town Central Community Center for the graduation ceremony.

by **Ruka Maeshiro**

On March 4th, 2023, KLI's 24th graduation ceremony was held. Eight students graduated and many guests came to congratulate them. Guests included the Chairperson of Kadena Town Council, Kenei Nakandakari; Deputy Chief Okinawa Liaison Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Takuma Kajita; 18th Mission Support Group Deputy Commander, Lt Col Jon Felmet; the Chairperson of KLI and Mayor of Kadena Town, Hiroshi Toyama; and the former Dean of KLI and Superintendent of the Board of Education, Hidekatsu Higa. Graduate Tomohiro Nakasone said, "Acquiring languages, such as non-native ones, is not easy. I thought that I wanted to

quit KLI many times, but my classmates encouraged me again and again. I appreciate everyone who has supported me. To be honest, I wanted to stay here and study English a lot." At the ceremony, the graduating students performed the Ryukyu dance kagyadefu. The former second year students received congratulations and encouragement messages from the guests and the second year students Yuwa Nakama and Rian Taira. Riku Arakaki, who worked at the Military and Family Readiness Center, was awarded KLI's best internship student of 2022 by Commander Lt Col Jon Felmet. After that, the eight students delivered short speeches about their two years of KLI life.



Meg Kamiunten receiving KLI's 'best student' award