

Regular service return

by Matthew Hayashi

On April 13th, Kadena Language Institute (KLI) held its annual entrance ceremony at the town central community hall on the second floor of Rotary Plaza for new students.

It was the first ceremony after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, which meant there were no limits to wearing the mask and also inviting family members.

First year student Mirei Irei said, "I want to improve my English ability and achieve my goal, for this reason I am trying to find good friends and have a friendly rivalry."

Second year student Ruka Maeshiro, who made a speech on behalf of the second year students, said, "When I see new students, it reminds me of myself the year before and I want to do my best to be an example for first year students as a senior."

The guests at the entrance



KLI's new first years at the 2023 ceremony. Rino Irei (right) receives her entrance certificate.

ceremony included KLI Dean Naoya Urasaki, who spoke of the importance and purpose of this school during his speech, Mayor Hiroshi Toyama, Manabu

Miyagawa, Ambassador in charge of Okinawa Affairs, and Lieutenant Colonel Jon Felmet, the deputy commander from the 18th Mission Support Group, Kadena Air Base.



New head takes up KLI post

by Koharu Aka

On April, Toshitatsu Horii was appointed the new headteacher as a successor of Naoko Nakamura. Toshi, as he likes to be called at KLI, is from Nagoya in Aichi prefecture, he used to work for a bank in Tokyo, Los Angeles, Washington D.C, Singapore and London. When asked about the most unforgettable experience overseas, he said "It was the 7 July 2005 London bombing." He was there on his business trip to London. It was a sad and horrible incident. but what amazed him most was the government's prompt response and calmness of the people living there. Many volunteers and police officers were out there navigating and helping people in an orderly and peaceful manner while all public transportation ceased operations. "I wonder if we could respond the same way if it happened in Tokyo," said Toshi. While posted in London



he decided to move to Okinawa when the Great East Japan Earthquake happened. He said, "At KLI, I want to nurture students who can study in a fun and meaningful way, have dreams and visions, and work as a team to realize them." Toshi teaches an Eiken preparation class in the advanced class and a reading and discussion class in the intermediate and advanced classes. In the first group study class organized by him, first-

year students and Second-year students formed groups and discussed their thoughts on a given theme. The workshop was designed to strengthen Japanese language skills as well as English, and to deepen friendship among the students. second-year student Aoi Irei said, "I would like to make the rest of my time at the school more fulfilling by studying and having fun together with the head teacher and all the teachers."



(Main picture) Newly enrolled freshmans at the 2023 entrance ceremony. (Circle) new head teacher, Toshitatsu Horii.



Toshitatsu Horii leads an English reading class.