

## Welcome & Farewell Ceremony for "Machinaka Study Abroad" at AEC Supporting Global Education as a Bridge Between the Local Community and the World

AEC recently hosted the Welcome & Farewell Ceremony for *Machinaka Study Abroad*, an initiative by HelloWorld that fosters international exchange through homestays and cultural experiences.



With a vision of "creating a society where having friends from different countries is the norm," *Machinaka Study Abroad* offers students opportunities to connect with foreign families in Okinawa and the Kanto Region. This program provides an accessible alternative to studying abroad, allowing students to experience different cultures regardless of their financial background.

Recognizing the importance of nurturing future global leaders, AEC proudly supports HelloWorld's initiative. On the day of the event, 38 children from Okinawa and 15 host families gathered, creating a lively and heartwarming international exchange, filled with laughter and new friendships.



▲ This international exchange has brought many wonderful encounters and memories.

### ■ Voices from Participants' Parents

*"At first, my child and I were nervous, but seeing their smile and the bond they formed with new friends and the host family made me realize how accessible international exchange can be in Okinawa.*

*I knew AEC through work but didn't know AEC supported initiatives like this. AEC has a bright, open atmosphere and truly feels like a global business. I'd love for my child to work at a company like this one day."*

At AEC, we believe in fostering global connections and strengthening local communities. We will continue supporting initiatives that build bridges between Okinawa and the world.