



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
in collaboration with Toyo University and University of Camerino

Building Bridges Between Italy and Japan

A Celebration of Academic Collaboration Between Italy and Japan

Bologna 1 September 2026 3:00–6:00 p.m.

University of Bologna - Sala del VIII Centenario - via Zamboni 33

About the Event

Over the past years, **Toyo University** and several Italian universities have built a vibrant and enduring academic partnership founded on interdisciplinary research, educational exchange and public engagement.

Bringing together scholars from architecture, urban planning, law, languages, environmental studies and the social sciences, this collaboration has generated joint research projects, Summer Schools, fieldwork, student mobility programmes and international dialogue.

Originally inspired by shared reflections on post-disaster reconstruction and the revitalisation of inland territories, the partnership has progressively evolved into a broader platform for cooperation addressing sustainability, resilient communities, cultural heritage, regional development and the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities.

This event celebrates not only the achievements of this long-standing collaboration, but above all the people, ideas and friendships that have made it possible. It also offers an opportunity to reflect on future directions for academic cooperation between Italy and Japan.

Programme

3:00 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Addresses

Giovanni Molari

Rector, University of Bologna

Etsuko Yaguchi

President, Toyo University

Introduction

Paola Scrolavezza

Head of Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
University of Bologna

Panel I

Building Bridges

Shared Experiences in Research, Education and International Collaboration

Moderator

Lucia Ruggeri

Director of the School of Law, Scientific Coordinator of the Collaborative Programme
“From Earthquake Reconstruction towards Sustainable Cities and Regions in the Post COVID-19 Era”
University of Camerino

Speakers:

Diego Cucinelli

Associate Professor, University of Florence

Norihisa Shima, Academic Coordinator of the UNICAM-Toyo University Collaborative Programme

Toyo University Students

Ideas and Experiences from Toyo University

Panel II

Inspiring the Future. New Perspectives for Italy-Japan Academic Cooperation

Moderator

Simona Tondelli

Deputy Rector, University of Bologna

Speakers:

Stefano Capolongo

Full Professor, Polytechnic University of Milan

Daniele Giondrino

Researcher, University of Torino

Kazuhiko Okamoto

Professor, Toyo University

5:45 p.m.

Interactive Dialogue

Building the Next Chapter Together

An open dialogue among speakers, participants and institutional representatives on future directions for academic cooperation between Italy and Japan.

Celebrating Partnerships, Inspiring the Future
Academic cooperation is more than the exchange of knowledge: it is the creation of lasting relationships, mutual understanding and shared responsibility for addressing the global challenges of our time. The partnership between Toyo University and Italian universities demonstrates how international dialogue can connect disciplines, cultures and communities, generating innovative ideas and tangible impact for future generations.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

