The Japanese documents collected by Mario Marega (1902-1978) in the first half of the 20th century, recently discovered at the Vatican Library, provide opportunities for meaningful exchanges with Japanese institutions in the field of historical research as well as training in palaeography, and archival and conservation techniques.

Aiming to make available the entire collection through conservation, digitisation, and cataloguing, conservators at the Vatican Library have been working with their Japanese counterparts to preserve and conserve individual documents as part of an international project. Based on their experiences, over two days the workshop will introduce participants to Japanese archival materials and the theory and practice of their conservation.

Attendance is restricted to forty (October 5th) and sixteen (October 6th) participants, respectively. Deadline for applications: August 15th. For details, please refer to the Vatican Library webpage.

This initiative has been made possible with the generous help of the Toyota Foundation.
October 5th, Wednesday

Lectures
Scuola di Biblioteconomia Vaticana
Via della Conciliazione 1, Roma

Languages: Italian and Japanese (written English translations available)

8:30   Welcoming address

9:00   Ángela Núñez Gaitán (Vatican Library)
       The Surveying Methodology of Japanese Historical Documents in the Marega Project

9:45   Mutsumi Aoki (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
       Preservation of Historical Documents in Japan: Theory and Practice

11:15  Katsuhiko Masuda (Formerly Showa Women’s University)
       On washi: the Paper of Documents and the Paper used for Conservation

12:00  Naohiro Ōta (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
       The Formats and Typology of Japanese Historical Documents

14:00  Masako Kanayama (Gangoji Institute for Research of Cultural Property)
       Current Techniques for the Conservation of Archival Materials in Japan and Traditional Methods

14:45  Maria Rosaria Castelletti, Silvia Foschetti, Marta Grimaccia (Vatican Library)
       Western Conservators’ Experiences with Japanese Archival Materials: The Marega Project

16:15  Maki Takashina (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
       Introducing the Newest Salvage and Conservation Techniques Used after the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami

17:00  Alessandro Sidoti (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze)
       Disaster Plan for Floods at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Florence

October 6th, Thursday

Practical Training and Demonstrations
Vatican Library, Conservation studio
Cortile del Belvedere, Città del Vaticano

Languages: Japanese (Italian and English interpretation)

9:00-17:30 Water mending
   Reattaching folios of jō type documents (demonstration only)
   Reattaching manuscript strips on jō type documents (demonstration only)
   Lining
   Opening jō type documents using rayon
   Twisted paper strings (koyori)
   Binding conservation treatments: mending double folios, and reinserting koyori (demonstration only)