Conference logo of ICHA 2023 and its origins
The conference logo of ICHA 2023 is "Chattonella-Paisley in the style of a Samurai’s Family Crest (=Mitsu-Domoe)".

"Chattonella" is belonging to Raphidophyceae and known to be the most noxious HAB species in Japan. Therefore, many studies on the physiology and ecology of Chattonella have been conducted in Japan. Its teardrop shape is somehow resembling the "paisley" pattern.

"Paisley" or paisley pattern is a type of textile design using the boteh or buta, a teardrop-shaped motif with a curved upper end. It is used to decorate clothes, wallpapers, curtains, sofas, ties, etc.
"Mitsu-Domoe" is known as a family crest of Samurai, as well as the shrine crest of Hachiman Shrine, and it is the pattern on the drum held by the god of thunder (="Rai-Jin"). The pattern of "Mitsu-Domoe" is comprising three comma-shaped figures in a circle. There are various explanations about the meaning of this pattern, but one explanation is that it represents thunder, with the round part representing the striking point and the tail-like part representing the lightning.

"Rai-Jin" is a god of lightning, thunder and storms in Japanese mythology and the Shinto religion. It is typically depicted with fierce and aggressive facial expressions (appearance of a demon), beating thunder drums (den-den daiko) with "Mitsu-Domoe" symbols drawn on them. Iconography of Rai-Jin are often found in Japanese temples and shrines. It is usually depicted alongside "Fū-Jin", the god of wind.

A short movie of the ICHA 2023 logo


https://youtu.be/1Ng4Mkl31i4