AN ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to study the anti-Japanese movements of Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia during the early twentieth century through a case study of the "Tatsu Maru Incident" in 1908. Much research has been done on the response of Chinese in mainland China to this incident. However, the response of the Overseas Chinese to this incident has been neglected. It is hoped that this thesis will provide more information on the history of Overseas Chinese nationalism.

Materials concerning this topic are drawn mainly from newspapers of the early twentieth century, with the occasional reference to works by earlier researchers.

This study shows that the Tatsu Maru incident marked the very beginning of the growth of Anti-Japanese sentiments in Southeast Asia, leading to the first anti-Japanese movement of 1908. It also paved the way for anti-Japanese movements thereafter, particularly those in 1919, 1928 and even the 1930s. As it was just the beginning of Overseas Chinese nationalism, developments were gradual and thus information obtained from the newspapers was scarce.

In conclusion, the results showed that the Chinese in Southeast Asia did play a vital role in the growth of Overseas Chinese nationalism.