

Supong Chaloeuwongwiwat 2010: The Effect of Information and Communication Technology on Economic Growth in Thailand. Master of Economics, Major Field: Economics, Department of Economics. Thesis Advisor: Miss Wuthiya Saraithong, Ph.D. 213 pages.

The objective of this research is to gain more understanding in the current situation of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand and in the effect of ICT on economic growth, both at the national level and at the sectoral level. The study uses secondary data from the period of 1992 to 2007 in both descriptive and quantitative analysis.

The analysis on the recent situation of information and communication technology in Thailand finds that the Gross Domestic Product of information and communication technology (ICT GDP) and Capital Stock of information and communication technology (ICT Capital Stock) move in the same direction as the overall economic growth. The number of ICT labor increases at the rate of 1.10 percent from 261,220 persons in 1992 to 407,763 persons in 2007. As for the number of ICT labor in each industrial group, a constant increase of ICT labor is found in three categories: public utilities and public health, commercial service and service. The quantitative analysis finds that the ICT capital stock had most influence on ICT GDP with the coefficient of 0.6145 followed by the ratio of high skilled ICT labor to other labor, with the coefficient of 0.4944. For the industry level, the ratio of ICT capital stock shows the highest influence on ICT GDP in every industry, followed by the number of the high skilled ICT labor to other labor, especially in the service sector and public utilities and public health sector, with the coefficient of 0.4228 and 0.1188 respectively.

This study recommends that the government sector and relevant agencies should continue to have supporting policies for investment in information and communication technology as it is an important factor that influences the country's GDP growth. Furthermore, all relevant parties should have policies to promote and support technology transfer to increase manufacturing efficiency.

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