**Thesis Title**  A Comparative Study of Key Economic Sectors of the Northeastern Region:

A Regional Input-Output Analysis

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## Abstract

The objectives of this study were: (1) to construct an input-output table for the Northeastern region of Thailand for the years 1985 and 1990, (2) to find the key economic sectors for the Northeastern region by computing backward and forward linkages in regard to production, employment and income, and use these results to compute the total overall region linkages for the years 1985 and 1990 in order to compare the results of each year and choose the key economic sectors for designing regional development policy in accordance with Hirschman's unbalance growth model.

This study used the following methodologies: (1) construct a Northeastern input-output tables from the 1985 and 1990 national input-output coefficient tables by aggregating the economic sectors of the national tables to make them consistent with the regional economic structure, (2) use simple location quotients to adjust and find the regional coefficients, (3) compute backward and forward linkages following the concepts of Rasmussen and Bulmer-Thomas respectively, (4) find the aggregate linkages by combining backward and forward

linkages together in order to remove contradictions arising from designed key backward and forward linkages, and then comparing the results for each year, and (5) find the total overall linkages in order to choose the economic sectors which have consistent aggregate linkages.

The results of the study showed that

(1) The first five key economic sectors for production linkages in 1985 were basic industrial chemicals, agricultural services, livestock, paddy, and slaughtering sectors. In 1990 the first five key economic sectors were agricultural services, basic industrial chemicals, paddy, livestock, and slaughtering sectors.

(2) The first five key economic sectors for employment linkages in 1985 were paddy, rice milling, basic industrial chemicals, agricultural services, and other crops. In 1990 the first five key sectors for employment linkages were paddy, rice milling, agricultural services, other crops, and basic industrial chemicals sectors.

(3) The first five key economic sectors for income linkages in 1995 were public administration and defense, education, banking, water supply and postal and communication sectors. In 1990 the first five key sectors for income linkages were public administration and defense, education, forestry, other services, and hospital sectors.

(4) The first five key economic sectors for the overall linkages in 1985 were basic industrial chemicals, agricultural services, banking, other manufactured goods, and livestock sectors. The first five key economic sectors for overall linkages in 1990 were agricultural services, basic industrial chemicals, forestry, livestock, and paddy sectors.

By comparing the results of this study in regards to the overall total linkages in 1985 and 1990 of the Northeastern region, it was found that the agricultural sector was still the most important economic sector for this region that the government should promote and increase product quality in order to support related industries such as meat processors, sugar mills, rice mills, etc. In addition to this, the government should also promote banking, transportation, hotel and restaurant, electricity, and water supply sectors in order to provide sufficient basic services to the other sectors.