

ANCHANEE TUMNONOI : THE APPLICATION OF MICROCOMPUTER IN STUDY TO IDENTIFY THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF LOWER ORDER CENTERS: A CASE STUDY OF CHACHOENGSAO PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. KIAT CHIVAKUL, Ph.D. 180 PP. ISBN 974-576-813-8.

The objective of this thesis is to apply the microcomputer and utilize the secondary data in study to identify the role and importance of lower order centers in Cha Choeng Sao province. The 5 features of variables will be considered : physical, population, economic, industry and social service features. Because of the complication of data and out of number, the microcomputer is applied to this study by use software package i.e. SPSS/PC+ for Factor Analysis, LUCID 3-D for the statistical method, Micro-soft chart, Quattro and DR.HALO III for making graphs, charts, maps and Showpartner F/X for presentation.

The result of the study shows that Phanom Sarakham plays a role on the agro-industrial center, while the role of Bang Wua and Bang Pakong is the service center for transportation of industrial goods, Bang Nam Prieu is an important center for agriculture. These centers have the form and relationship of development from the higher hierarchy center to the lower hierarchy one as their location network.

So to say that the application of microcomputer and utilization of secondary data are convincing. Finally, this thesis proposal is that microcomputer and secondary data should be applied to study on urban and regional planning, in the future.