

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep appreciation to all people concerned who have extended valuable assistance to me to fulfill this thesis. I am also very grateful to the thesis committee which comprises Prof. Dr. Surachai Sirikrai, thesis advisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Corrine Phuangkasem, committee and co-advisor, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chulacheeb Chinwanno, committee, for their respected and significant advice and wise guidance in the preparation, composition, improvement and fulfillment of this thesis. My thanks also go to all staff of the MIR office who were ready to give me helping hands and valuable advice for the fulfillment of this thesis.

In addition, I would like to thank Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Deputy Director-General, Department of East Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, as well as my friends and colleagues at the work place who had always given me an encouragement to overcome difficulties and maintain energetic effort to complete this academic work. To tell the truth, it was found that studying while working is quite tough. However, I wish to inform everyone who has encountered the same situation that, with strong determination, it is indeed not beyond our strength to jump over the hurdles and reach the finish. In all respects, I wish to call upon my younger fellows at the MIR Program to understand this fact to help produce more academic works in any forms including theses, for the mutual benefit of the rest of the people in the Thai society and country.

Lastly, I wish to dedicate this thesis with profound gratitude to my parents who have done arduous works to patronize my education since I was young. I also wish to extend my special thanks to my wife and my two sons who understand the situation and always give me a lot of support, particularly time for the devotion.

Mongkol Visitstump  
Thammasat University  
Bangkok, Thailand  
June 2008