

Acknowledgement

First, I am indebted to my dissertation advisor, Professor Dr. Pornchai Chunhachinda, who has provided guidance and insight throughout the development process. He is an outstanding (his superb knowledge), strict (quality-oriented, mistakes are not compromised), and friendly (he is always there ready to listen and provide suggestions) advisor. Without his continuous guidance and support, I could not have finished my dissertation.

I also wish to thank my dissertation committee members: Associate Professor Dr. Seksak Jumreornvong, Associate Professor Dr. Sunti Tirapat, and Associate Professor Dr. Aekkachai Nittayagasetwat. They have asked me many good questions and provided valuable insightful comments, which helped to improve my dissertation.

I am also grateful to my fellow friends: JDBA batch 11. We have given each other continuous support and encouragement, which is essential for the long dissertation writing process. I also thank JDBA staff Ms. Kanokporn Banreangsri for her wonderful clerical work.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my family: my parents HaiYuan Li and XiangDa Wei, my husband Veerawit Sasipattanawong and my daughter Sornsawan Sasipattanawong, for their endless love. Without their understanding, support and encouragement, I could not have reached my goal.