Kannika Chaowatthanakun 2014: Knowledge Absorptive Capacity, Effects of Transformational Leadership, Knowledge Spillover Channel Mechanism, and Impacts on Innovation of Thai Corporate Universities. Doctor of Education (Educational Administration), Major Field: Educational Administration, Department of Education. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Sudarat Sarnswang, Ph.D. 210 pages.

This research objective is: 1) to study the knowledge absorptive capacity of corporate university in Thailand. 2) To study the relationship between the knowledge absorptive capacity of transformational leadership and knowledge spillover channel mechanism including the effect of transformational leadership, knowledge spillover channel mechanism on the knowledge and innovation absorptive capacity. Three hundred and thirty samples were drawn from executives, lecturers and staffs from 5 corporate universities in Thailand. Data were analyzed using structural equation modeling.

The results revealed that: 1. There were no statistically significant difference found among the knowledge absorption capacity of five Corporate universities in Thailand in all six elements of the capacity: which were: 1) Knowledge Recognition ($F = 0.26$, $p = 0.901$). 2) Knowledge Assimilation ($F = 1.12$, $p = 0.346$). 3) Knowledge Maintenance ($F = 0.62$, $p = 0.652$). 4) Knowledge Reactivation ($F = 0.81$, $p = 0.519$). 5) Knowledge Transmutation ($F = 0.48$, $p = 0.748$). 6) Knowledge Application ($F = 1.84$, $p = 0.120$). 2. Transformational leadership was positively correlated with the knowledge absorptive capacity ($r = 0.816$) and knowledge spillover channel mechanism was positively correlated with the knowledge absorptive capacity ($r = 0.577$) with a significant rate at 0.01. 3. Transformational leadership was indirectly correlated with innovation through knowledge absorptive capacity at 0.736 with a significant rate at the 0.05 level. Therefore, the impact of transformational leadership on innovation was at 0.057 with no statistically significance. However, there was no statistically significant indirect effect found between knowledge spillover channel mechanism on innovation through the knowledge absorptive capacity. Thus, the total impacts of knowledge spillover channel mechanism on innovation was at 0.726 with a statistically significance at the level of 0.05. (Chi-Square = 87.186, $df = 77$, $p = 0.200$, GFI = 0.97, AGFI = 0.94, RMSEA. = 0.02, RMR = 0.01)

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