

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank my thesis advisor Assistant Professor Dr. Pisanu Suntharaks for his advice and consultations on the subject of non-traditional international relations theory. As in many disciplines, *IR* academics are often steeped in tradition, which has made his open mindedness and forward thinking indispensable during my research. I was also extremely lucky to have one of the premier agricultural experts in South East Asia as a committee member, Associate Professor Dr. Siriporn Wajjwalku, whose grounding and guidance kept my lofty ideas within the realm of reasonable academic inquiry. Next, it is seldom one meets visionaries of the caliber of His Excellency Ambassador Kasit Piromya, who knowing it or not, has been an extremely influential person in my research agenda, a political mentor during my studies in South East Asia, while holding me to the highest of standards during the writing of this project. I would also like to acknowledge my dear friend Thanakit (Jack) Beadayanonda for his warm welcome and unwavering support during my stay in the Kingdom of Thailand. I thank my children, Nacha, Javier and Max for allowing me the space to complete this project, during which time I was a bit of an “absentee father”. Finally I thank my lovely wife Suwassa who suffered with me through each and every page and is ultimately my partner and inspiration in everything.