

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This dissertation was completed with the kind assistance from many people. I really appreciate all the help they gave me over the years. The following will have a special place in my heart.

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to my advisor, Associate Professor Dr. Saowanee Sitchawat, and my co-advisor, Associate Professor Dr. Supol Durongwatana. Their invaluable patience and guidance have made this dissertation possible. I am very lucky to have them as my dissertation advisor and co-advisor.

In addition, my sincere thanks go to my dissertation committee members: Associate Professor Dr. Angkarat Priebjrivat, Assistant Professor Dr. Kanogporn Narktabtee, and Dr. Aim-orn Jaikengkij. Their kind and thoughtful recommendations help me to improve and complete this dissertation.

Moreover, I would like to thank all my professors, throughout my doctoral study, who have given me knowledge and generous advice. I also thank my fellow doctoral students and JDBA staffs for their care and assistant.

Last, but not least, my eternal gratitude goes to my parents and my brothers. Their endless love and encouragement always make me feel grateful. Without their support, I could not have finished this dissertation.