ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to dedicate my sincere thank to people who have contributed either directly or indirectly to this thesis. I am deeply indebted to Assist. Prof. Dr. Nanthiya Hansupalak, my thesis advisor who provides the guidance and fruitful discussion throughout the course of this work. I would also like to thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. Apinya Duangchan and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kejvalee Pruksathorn, the thesis committee, for providing useful comments and suggestions during the thesis examinations.

Finally, I would like to thank the financial sponsors of this study the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Supatra Patrawoot May 2007