

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Associate Professor Anchalee Suddhiprakarn, for providing an opportunity to study under her supervision. Her understanding, encouragement and personal guidance have provided a good basis for the present thesis.

I would like to thank Professor Irb Kheoruenromne for his excellent advice and important support throughout this work and I also thank Associate Professor Nipon Tungkananuruk for helping.

I would like to sincerely thank Professor Robert J. Gilkes, School of Earth and Geographical Science, University of Western Australia for his encouragement, excellent advice, innovative ideas and kind help.

I gratefully acknowledge the staff at Centre of Microanalysis and Microscopy, University of Western Australia, especially Dr. Janet Muhling. Also thanks to Mr. Michael Smirk, Mr. Gary Cass, Mrs. Elizabeth Halladin and Dr. Charter Mathison from the University of Western Australia for very good friendship and assisting with the laboratory analyses.

Special thanks are given to the staff at the Land Development Department for their assistance, especially, Mr. Pramuanpong Sindhusen for his suggestions on the thin sections and Mr. Chanchai Siriphas for the preparation of thin sections.

My deepest appreciation to Dr. Somchai Anusontpornperm, Dr. Saowanuch Tawornpruek, Dr. Sumitra Watana, Dr. Wanpen Wiriyakitnateekul, Dr. Wimolnan Kanket, Chuthamard Kaewmano for their encouragement and excellent care at all times during my work. Also thanks to Dr. Niwat Anongluk, Dr. Suphicha Thanachit, Dr. Punyisa Tragoonyingcharoen, Naruekamon Janjirawutthikul, Pattarodom Chainaronk, Krichsana Ramsoot, Saranya Norkaew for their help and special thanks for Katharine Brown, Patcharawadee Wattanawikkit, Chontira Sangsiri, Sutisa Pinitpaitoon and Punwipa Saipradit who are my friends forever.

Very special thanks to my lovely sister, Napaporn Wongpokhom for her cooking during the period I was in Australia and helping throughout my study.

The Royal Golden Jubilee PhD programme under the Thailand Research Fund is gratefully acknowledged for financial support of this research.

Finally my deepest gratitude to my mother, father, brothers and other members of my family for their love, constant support and help during my study.

Nattaporn Prakongkep

January 2008