

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to express his deepest sense of gratitude to his advisor, Associate Professor Dr. Pisal Yenradee for his valuable continued guidance, suggestions, and encouragement throughout my Ph.D. program. This grateful acknowledgement is also extended to committee members, Associate Professor Dr. Suebsak Nanthavanij, Assistant Professor Dr. Reungsak Kawtummachai, and Associate Professor Dr. Navee Chiadamrong.

The author wishes to thank Mr. Naret Sukwises, Mr. Varin Rerkchavee, and all staffs at Summit Steering Wheel Co., Ltd who support the author in collecting information throughout this dissertation.

Sincere thank is also expressed to other companies who help the author in collecting the information for this dissertation, namely, Kulthorn Kirby company, Kulthorn Universal Company, Siam Inter Pacific Company, Siam Kubota Company, and Thai Hygiene Company.

The author also thanks the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) for their financial support throughout the Ph.D. program.

Last and unforgettable, the author could not give appropriate words to explain how he feels to his parents and wife. Throughout doing this dissertation, they always give an encouragement to the author. Without them, this dissertation would not be completed.