

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The completion of this doctoral thesis has been intellectually demanding and profoundly rewarding. Its realisation has been made possible through the support, guidance, and encouragement of numerous individuals and institutions, to whom I am deeply indebted.

My sincere and utmost appreciation is extended to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Keerati Chayakulkheeree, whose expert guidance, steadfast support, and thoughtful advice have been central to the development of this research. His academic insight and dedicated mentorship have significantly shaped the direction and quality of this work. I am equally grateful to the thesis examination committee. I offer my appreciation to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Naebboon Hoonchareon, Chair of the committee, for his constructive comments and discerning observations. I further acknowledge the valuable scholarly contributions of Prof. Dr. Thanatchai Kulworawanichpong, Asst. Prof. Dr. Supattana Nirukkanaporn, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Tosaphol Ratniyomchai, whose expertise strengthened the academic rigour and clarity of this thesis. My thanks are also extended to Dr. Nan Zhao of Lancaster University for his academic guidance and professional support during my research placement in the United Kingdom; his insights contributed meaningfully to the refinement of this research.

This research benefitted from the generous support of several funding bodies. I gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance provided by the Suranaree University of Technology Research and Development Fund, which supported the core development of this work. Additional funding was received through Research ID 204158, supported by (i) Suranaree University of Technology (SUT), (ii) Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), and (iii) the National Science, Research and Innovation Fund (NSRF). I am also profoundly grateful to the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) for supporting my doctoral studies under Contract No. N41A670289, which encompassed tuition fees, research expenses, overseas research activities, and a stipend throughout the duration of the programme. I further acknowledge Suranaree

University of Technology for providing an excellent academic environment, advanced research facilities, and continuous opportunities for professional and intellectual development.

Finally, I extend my deepest gratitude to my family, friends, and those whose encouragement and unwavering support have sustained me throughout this academic endeavour. Their confidence in me has been an enduring source of strength. I also acknowledge, with humility, the perseverance and resilience that enabled me to overcome the challenges encountered over the course of this doctoral journey.

PRAKAIPETCH MUANGKHIEW