

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is an honor to express my gratitude to those who gave me valuable services, constructive criticism and generous help.

Firstly, I would like to express my deep gratitude and indebtedness to Professor Dr. Abdul Kariem Arof, my supervisor and Associate Professor Dr. Wan Jeffrey Basirun, my co-supervisor, who have given me the guidance and supportive idea that have been manifested into reality. This work would not be possible without their encouragement and whole hearted support.

Next, I would like to thank University of Malaya for giving me the opportunity to complete my Master Degree and provided me with scholarship and grant.

My thanks are also extended to my fellow Master and PhD friends, University of Malaya's staffs, laboratory assistance for their contributions, ideas and technical supports in finishing my research.

Lastly, to my loving fiancé, King Soon Hock and my family who sacrificed their valuable time to ensure that I successfully completed my dissertation.