



For Immediate Release

**MPA'S SUCCESSFUL TAIWAN REWARDS PROGRAM YIELDS TIP
THAT SHUTS DOWN MASSIVE PIRACY LAB**

Second Largest Seizure of Disc Burners Ever in Asia

August 24, 2004, Encino/Hong Kong: After receiving a tip about a massive illegal optical disc piracy lab, the Motion Picture Association's Taiwan Program (Foundation for the Protection of Film and Video Works, or FVWP), working with the IPR Police recently raided an illegal CD-R lab in Taichung.

The raid resulted in the arrests of seven individuals and the seizure of 228 CD-R burners and 49 DVD-R burners. IPR Police also seized 101,321 CD-Rs and 138,400 in-lay cards. The closure of the lab, capable of generating an estimated US\$47,280,000 in potential annual profits for the pirate syndicate, constitutes a significant setback for Taiwan's intellectual property pirates.

Following the raid, Commander Liao Gao-jiang of Taiwan's IPR Police Task Force, said, "We believe we have neutralized a notorious pirate syndicate supplying replicated pirate optical discs to street vendors, flyer groups and Internet pirates servicing the Taichung market. The seizure of 277 burners represents a big step forward against piracy in Taiwan."

Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association (MPA), said, "The seizure of 277 burners is the second largest single seizure of burners ever in Asia, and translates to a big, big victory over organized criminal gangs who fund a wide range of criminal activity through optical disc piracy."

"Commander Liao and his team have again underscored the effectiveness of the cooperation between the MPA and Taiwan's law enforcement authorities, as well as the importance of help from members of the public who provide information leading to the arrest of copyright thieves," Ellis added.

The MPA's DVDR/CDR Reward Scheme encourages the public to support law enforcement efforts in raiding pirate CD-R factory operations and provides significant cash rewards for people who provide information that leads to a successful raid on pirate production facilities. Since June 30, 2004, information provided through the Reward Scheme has resulted in 20 raids and 30 arrests, as well as the seizure of 410 burners and 125,050 pirated CD-Rs/DVD-Rs.

The largest ever seizure of burners in Asia was made on May 25, 2004 in simultaneous raids at three locations in Changhua and Taichung. A total of 415 burners and 250,300 burned CD-Rs were seized in the operation.

Piracy in Asia

The MPA estimates that its Member Companies lose an excess of US\$718 million in potential revenue annually in the Asia-Pacific region alone. A significant portion of the losses is due to the lack of adequate and effective copyright protection in the region.

In 2003, the MPA operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated nearly 15,500 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 13,000 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of approximately 44,000,000 illegal optical discs, and the initiation of almost 9,100 legal actions.

About the MPA: *The Motion Picture Association (MPA) represents the interests of major motion picture companies in the global marketplace. On behalf of its Member Companies, the MPA conducts investigations around the world, assists with the criminal and civil litigation generated by such cases, and conducts education outreach programs to teach movie fans around the world about the harmful effects of piracy. The MPA directs its worldwide anti-piracy operations from its headquarters based in Encino, California and has regional offices located in Brussels (Europe, Middle East and Africa), Mexico City (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Hong Kong (Asia-Pacific). The MPA's anti-piracy activities have helped to transform entire markets from pirate to legitimate, benefiting video distributors, retailers, and foreign and local filmmakers alike. The MPA Member Companies include: Buena Vista International, Inc.; Columbia TriStar Film Distributors International Inc.; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc.*

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