



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **TAIWAN CRACKDOWN AGAINST PIRATE VIDEO RENTAL SHOPS**

### **Operation Launch Nets More than 68,000 Discs, 50 Burners Seized**

Taipei, Encino – The Foundation for The Protection of Film and Video Works (FVWP) and the Motion Picture Association (MPA) today announced a series of anti-piracy enforcement operations targeting video rental shops in Taiwan that illegally rent pirated movies. Since raids began on January 4, 2005, the operations, which will run throughout 2005, have netted seizures of over 68,000 pirated CD-Rs and DVD-Rs and more than 50 optical disc burners and resulted in the arrest of 12 individuals involved with unauthorized manufacturing activity.

The program comprises two phases: issuance of warning letters to shops in targeted cities suspected of renting pirated movies, followed by raids on selected shops in those cities. Initially, enforcement operations are targeting Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung; the program will be expanded to other cities later in the year. This program builds upon recent undertakings by the Government Information Office and the Intellectual Property Office to ensure that shops in Taiwan are not engaged in pirate activity.

Rental shop piracy accounts for significant losses to MPA member companies in Taiwan, with individual shops or syndicates burning pirate discs onsite or nearby and then selling or renting to customers. Piracy has a direct impact on jobs and revenues in the local film production and distribution industries, and it costs Taiwan's economy in terms of lost tax revenues and lost investment opportunities.

In Taiwan, the majority of pirated movies are individually burned onto optical discs with CD-R or DVD-R burners. Burner labs can contain dozens of burners, capable of producing millions of pirate CD-Rs or DVD-Rs per year. In 2004, 1,775 optical disc burners were seized in FVWP/MPA operations in Taiwan, representing 56% of total MPA seizures in the Asia-Pacific region.

“The Taiwan government has clearly demonstrated its commitment to protecting intellectual property rights, and in December the government's Intellectual Property Office urged rental shop owners to respect copyright and refrain from

selling or renting pirated copies,” said Frank Rittman, Vice President, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association.

“The enforcement operations begun last month support the government’s stance against illegal video piracy and are aimed at supporting the rental and sale of legitimate copies, protecting the interests of MPA member companies and the entire film industry in Taiwan,” Rittman continued. “The FVWP and the MPA will continue to support Taiwan’s law enforcement agencies to the fullest extent possible as well as defending intellectual property rights where necessary through criminal prosecution and/or civil litigation.”

### ***Piracy in Asia***

The MPA estimates that its member companies lose an excess of US\$896 million in potential revenue annually in the Asia-Pacific region alone. In 2004, the MPA operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 25,500 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,000 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of approximately 49,000,000 illegal optical discs, and the initiation of more than 8,000 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.; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International; 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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