



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **VIDEO RENTAL SHOP ANTI-PIRACY OPERATION EXTENDED IN TAIWAN FOLLOWING SUCCESSES**

### **48 Arrested and 243,475 Pirate Optical Discs Seized To Date**

Taipei, Encino – The Foundation for The Protection of Film and Video Works (FVWP) and the Motion Picture Association (MPA) today released updated results of anti-piracy enforcement operations coordinated with the Taiwanese authorities targeting video rental shops in Taiwan that illegally manufacture and rent pirated movies.

The operations, which were begun on January 4, 2005, comprised 818 shop inspections and 34 raids and have netted seizures of 243,475 pirated CD-Rs and DVD-Rs, 127 optical disc burners and resulted in the arrest of 48 individuals.

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 targeted Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung; the program has since been expanded to other cities throughout Taiwan.

The 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. In December the government's Intellectual Property Office urged rental shop owners to respect copyright and refrain from selling or renting pirated copies

Rental shop piracy accounts for significant losses to MPA member companies in Taiwan, with individual shops or syndicates duplicating pirate discs onsite or at a nearby location and then selling or renting them 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, it is frequently the case that 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 success of these enforcement operations indicates firstly that the problem of video rental shop piracy is not insignificant, and secondly that concerted industry and government action can and will make an impact on illegal copyright theft,” said Frank Rittman, Vice President, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. “The FVWP and the MPA will continue to support Taiwan’s law enforcement agencies in their efforts to protect intellectual property rights and defend Taiwan’s creative industries against the economic damage that piracy causes.”

### ***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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