



For Immediate Release
November 14, 2005

POLICE SEIZE 58 CD-R BURNERS IN RAIDS ON PIRATE INTERNET OPERATIONS IN TAIWAN

MPA Investigation Sparks IPR Police Operation in Taoyuan County

Hong Kong / Encino – On November 7, the Foundation for the Protection of Film and Video Works (FVWP), representing the Motion Picture Association (MPA), joined Taiwan's IPR Police Task Force in a raid on a pirate optical disc manufacturing and distribution facility in Taoyuan County, seizing 58 CD-R burners and arresting a 27-year-old man on suspicion of infringing Taiwan's Copyright Law.

Also seized during the raids were 5,116 pirated optical discs infringing more than 100 MPA member company titles. The facility was suspected of selling significant numbers of pirated discs via the Internet to customers throughout Taiwan.

The seized burners were capable of producing as many as 4,176,000 pirated CD-Rs in one year, yielding revenues of as much as US\$3,142,685, assuming the burners were in operation ten-hours-a-day, seven-days-per-week.

“During the past month Taiwanese law enforcement officers have seized well over 100 optical disc burners being used to create pirated CD-Rs and DVD-Rs,” said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. “By seizing burners as well as discs, the police are raising the cost of doing business for these criminals, and it is a great success to have these burners, which had the capacity to produce millions of pirated optical disc, off the streets.”

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.

In response to the reduced cost of entry into the motion picture piracy business via CD-R and DVD-R burners, and the increased influence of organized criminal

gangs with global manufacturing and distribution networks, the MPA sharply increased its investigation activities in Asia-Pacific, and conducted over 25,500 investigations in 2004, a 65% increase over 2003. These investigations resulted in nearly 12,000 raids and over 8,000 criminal legal actions.

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), Sao Paulo (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 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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