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POLICE SEIZE 101 DVD-R, CD-R BURNERS IN RAIDS ON PIRATE INTERNET OPERATIONS IN TAIWAN

MPA Investigation Sparks IPR Police Operation in Hsinchu

Hong Kong / Encino – On January 3, 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 Hsinchu City, seizing a total of 101 DVD-R and CD-R burners and arresting a 32-year-old man on suspicion of infringing Taiwan’s Copyright Law.

Also seized during the raids were 44,300 pirated optical discs. 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 1,706,400 pirated DVD-Rs and 1,584,000 CD-Rs in one year, yielding revenues of \$8,332,017, assuming the burners were in operation ten-hours-a-day, seven-days-per-week.

“Low-cost, scalable optical disc burner labs have become a leading source of piracy in Taiwan and are extremely difficult to detect,” said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. “This raid in Hsinchu underscores the effectiveness of the cooperation between the MPA and Taiwan’s law enforcement authorities in the battle against copyright theft that so badly damages creative industries and the people who rely on those industries for their livelihoods.”

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 and 2005, more than 2,500 optical disc burners were seized in FVWP/MPA operations in Taiwan.

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), São Paulo (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Singapore (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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