



NEWS RELEASE

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TAIWAN'S IPR POLICE AND MPA INVESTIGATORS SEIZE 98 OPTICAL DISC BURNERS IN RAID

1,000 Burners Seized This Year Were Capable of Producing 52 Million Discs

Hong Kong – On November 20, acting on a tip, a team of officers from Taiwan's Intellectual Property Rights Police, with support from the Foundation for the Protection of Film and Video Works (FVWP), representing the Motion Picture Association (MPA), raided a pirate optical disc burning lab in Taichung, arresting three people and seizing 98 optical disc burners.

The 76 CD-R burners and 22 DVD-R burners seized at the lab, believed to have been distributing pirated discs throughout Taiwan, were capable of producing 5,472,000 CD-Rs and 475,200 DVD-Rs in one year, generating potential revenue of US\$6,106,346.

To date this year, police have seized more than 1,000 CD-R and DVD-R burners, with a total annual production capacity of more than 52 million pirate discs generating potential revenue of over US\$70 million.

"The seizure this year of more than 1,000 optical disc burners demonstrates conclusively that the Intellectual Property Rights Police are committed to aggressively combating copyright theft, and that they are hammering home the message that Taiwan is committed to the fight against intellectual property theft," said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. "The Motion Picture Association and our member companies greatly appreciate the continued efforts of the Taiwan government and the Intellectual Property Rights Police to fight copyright theft and protect intellectual property rights."

In Taiwan, pirated movies are increasingly being individually burned onto optical discs with DVD-R or CD-R burners. Large-scale burner labs, which allow pirates to individually burn movies onto optical discs, are capable of producing millions of pirate CD-Rs or DVD-Rs per year.

The tip that led to the raid resulted from the MPA's DVD-R/CD-R Reward Scheme, which encourages the public to support law enforcement efforts in raiding pirate optical disc factory operations and provides significant cash rewards for people who provide information that leads to a successful raid on pirate production facilities.

Piracy in Asia

A comprehensive study aimed at producing a more accurate picture of the impact that piracy has on the film industry including, for the first time, losses due to internet piracy, recently calculated that the MPA studios lost US\$6.1 billion to worldwide piracy in 2005. About US\$2.4 billion was lost to bootlegging*, US\$1.4 billion to illegal copying* and US\$2.3 billion to Internet piracy. Of the US\$6.1 billion in lost revenue to the studios, approximate \$1.2 billion came from piracy across the Asia-Pacific region, while piracy in the U.S. accounted for \$1.3 billion.

In 2005, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 34,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting more than 10,500 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 34 million illegal optical discs, 55 factory optical disc production lines and 3,362 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 8,000 legal actions.

**Bootlegging: Obtaining movies by either purchasing an illegally copied HS/DVD/VCD or acquiring hard copies of bootleg movies.*

**Illegal copying: Making illegal copies for self or receiving illegal copies from friends of a legitimate VHS/DVD/VCD*

**Internet piracy: Obtaining movies by either downloading them from the Internet without paying or acquiring hard copies of illegally downloaded movies from friends or family.*

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 Los Angeles, 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.; 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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