



NEWS RELEASE

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TIP TO MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION NETS SEIZURE OF 168 CD-R BURNERS IN TAIWAN ANTI-PIRACY RAID

***Burner Lab Was Capable of Producing More Than 9.5 Million Discs
Per Year, Generating Revenues of Nearly US\$11 Million***

Hong Kong – On November 29, acting on a tip to the Motion Picture Association (MPA), 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 MPA, raided a pirate optical disc burning lab in Taichung, arresting four people and seizing 168 optical disc burners.

The 117 CD-R burners and 51 DVD-R burners seized at the lab, believed to have been a source of pirated discs distributed throughout Taiwan, were capable of producing 8,424,000 pirated CD-Rs and 1,101,600 pirated DVD-Rs in one year, generating potential revenue of US\$10,948,898. The raid came nine days after another raid in Taichung, during which 98 optical disc burners were seized. The earlier raid also resulted from a tip to the MPA.

“Within the past 10 days, in seizing 266 burners from two premises being used to manufacture massive quantities of pirated CD-Rs and DVD-Rs, Taiwanese law enforcement officers have sent an unmistakable signal to organized criminal gangs that copyright theft will be vigorously prosecuted,” 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, out of circulation.”

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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