



NEWS RELEASE

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PIRATE WEBSITE OPERATOR BUSTED IN KAOHSIUNG

“XYZ” website offered pirated discs to users in the region

Hong Kong / Taiwan – On October 17, Taiwan’s IPR Police, acting on information provided by the Taiwan Foundation Against Copyright Theft (TFACT) representing the Motion Picture Association (MPA), raided a pirate website “XYZ” in the city of Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan. The two people behind this operation were arrested, and 27 burners and over 40,000 pirated discs seized.

The website used seven different URLs, all believed to be run by a China-based operative. Email orders were sent to the website from customers not only in Taiwan, but also in neighboring Hong Kong, Macau and China. The operators would then arrange for the production and delivery of the pirated discs.

The seized burners were capable of producing as many as 1,458,000 DVD-Rs in one year, yielding potential revenues of US\$4,519,800, assuming the burners were in operation ten-hours-a-day, seven-days-per-week.

Among the pirated discs seized were almost two hundred MPA member company titles, including *300*, *Die Hard 4.0*, *Evan Almighty*, *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, *Knocked Up*, *Meet the Robinsons*, *Ocean’s Thirteen*, *Spider-Man 3*, *The Bourne Ultimatum* and *Transformers*. The two suspects now face charges carrying potential penalties of up to five years imprisonment.

“This is the second burner operation taken down in Kaohsiung by the Taiwanese authorities in a month. It reflects their serious intent in dealing with criminals involved in piracy,” said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the MPA. “That the website served users in the region made it imperative for the IPR Police to take quick enforcement action. We congratulate them on another job well done.”

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 US\$1.2 billion came from piracy across the Asia-Pacific region, while piracy in the U.S. accounted for US\$1.3 billion.

In 2006, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 30,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,400 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 35 million illegal optical discs, 50 factory optical disc production lines and 4,482 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 11,000 legal actions.

**Bootlegging: Obtaining movies by either purchasing an illegally copied VHS/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.*

About the TFA©T: *The Taiwan Foundation Against Copyright Theft was established in 1986 by the Motion Picture Association to protect the film industry in Taiwan from the adverse impact of copyright theft. TFA©T works closely with its supporters, government and enforcement authorities to protect the Taiwan film and television industry, retailers and movie fans.*

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