



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
**October 19, 2007**

## **TAIWAN POLICE UNCOVER PIRATE BURNER LAB DURING DRUG BUST**

### ***Second burner lab taken out in Taiwan in two days***

Taiwan – On October 18, Taiwan's Changhua County Police raided a house in Taichung County suspected of having drugs hidden on the premises. While no drugs were found, they came across 31 DVD-R burners churning out pirated discs.

The police immediately called the Taiwan Foundation Against Copyright Theft (TFACT) representing the Motion Picture Association (MPA), to assist with the operation. As a result of the raid, all 31 burners, as well as 5,597 pirated DVDs were seized.

Five suspects, four women and one man, were arrested on suspicion of infringing Taiwan's Copyright Law. They face charges carry sentences of up to five years imprisonment.

The seized burners were capable of producing as many 1,674,000 DVD-Rs in one year, yielding potential revenues of over US\$5 million assuming the burners were in operation ten-hours-a-day, seven-days-per-week. Further investigations have revealed that the operators of the lab were distributing the pirate discs to night markets in and around Taichung County.

This is the second burner lab that Taiwanese authorities have raided in two days. On October 17, police seized 27 burners and 40,000 pirated DVDs from a lab in Kaohsiung.

"This case is another indication of the links between optical disc piracy and illegal drugs" said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the MPA. "Criminals do not discriminate. They are only out to make illegal gains at the expense of their fellow man. 58 burners and over 45,000 pirated DVDs in the past two days. All the result of hard work by the Taiwanese authorities."

### ***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.*

# # #

**For more information, contact:**

Mike Ellis  
MPA Asia-Pacific  
65-6253-1033

Edward Neubronner  
MPA Asia-Pacific  
65-6253-1033

Spencer Yang  
TFA©T  
886-2-2518-1816