



NEWS RELEASE

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TAIWAN POLICE BUST LARGEST EVER PIRATE MOVIE BURNER LAB

174 DVD-R Burners Seized in Raid on Rental Shop in Tainan City

Hong Kong / Taiwan – On May 7, acting on information provided by Taiwan Foundation Against Copyrights Theft (TFACT), representing the Motion Picture Association (MPA) in Taiwan, Taiwan IPR Police raided a rental shop in Tainan city, seizing a total of 174 DVD-R burners and 7,414 pirated optical discs. They also arrested the woman shop owner.

Investigations reveal that the lab is a major supplier of pirated discs to street vendors throughout Tainan city. It is estimated that the seized burners had a production capacity of 9.4 million pirated discs, potentially generating criminal revenues of nearly US\$3 million a year. Among the discs seized were MPA titles including *Bee Movie*, *I Am Legend* and *Ratatouille*.

“This is a significant result and we congratulate the Taiwanese authorities for hitting the pirates where it hurts most,” said Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. “This effort underscores the effectiveness of the cooperation between the IPR Police and our industry. These burner labs are an increasing threat. In 2007, we assisted in the seizure of 974 DVD-R burners, an increase of 33% from the seizures made in 2006. By taking these burners off the streets, we are protecting the livelihoods of the many people who work in the movie industry.”

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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 2007, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 36,200 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 13,000 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 31 million illegal optical discs, 40 factory optical disc production lines and 6,400 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 10,000 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 and Motion Picture Association - International (MPA) represent 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. For more information about the MPA, please visit www.mpa-i.org.*

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