



NEWS RELEASE

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TAIWAN POLICE BUST SECOND LARGEST PIRATE MOVIE BURNER OPERATION

329 Burners Seized by CIB is Biggest Haul Since 2004

Hong Kong – On July 17, Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) officers with the assistance of Taiwan Foundation Against Copyright Theft (TFACT), representing the Motion Picture Association (MPA) in Taiwan raided a major pirate burner lab in Taipei County, seizing 120 DVD-R and 209 CD-R burners.

In addition to the burners, police seized more than 130,000 pirated discs, including MPA member companies' titles "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull", "Iron Man", and "The Incredible Hulk". A 43 year old man was arrested.

Investigations into the pirate website <http://98.to/vcd911> by CIB and TFACT officers led to them to this burner lab located at Hsintien City, Taipei County. The burner lab used the website and flyers to sell and distribute pirated discs they produced. Had the operation remained in business for one year, the lab could have produced over 14 million pirated discs.

"The size of this burner lab is a clear indication that piracy remains a key concern in Taiwan" said Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director, Asia-Pacific for the MPA. "This action underscores the resolve of the Taiwanese authorities and sends a strong message to the pirates that the war against piracy has no summer vacation."

"With the support of TFACT and MPA, we will not rest until the last pirate is taken down" said Section Chief Officer Wen-Chun Huang of the CIB.

In Taiwan, it is frequently the case that pirated movies are individually burned onto optical discs with CD-R or DVD-R burners. Burner labs can contain dozens of burners, capable of producing millions of pirate CD-Rs or DVD-Rs per year.

The number of burners seized in this raid is the largest in Taiwan since May 2004 when officers from the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau found 416 burners in an enforcement operation against a major pirate syndicate based in Changhua City.

To date 1,084 burners have been seized in TFACT/MPA operations in Taiwan, surpassing last year's total of 1,076.

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 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 (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. For more information about the MPA, please visit www.mpa-i.org.*

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