

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE
2006 SPECIAL 301
SPECIAL MENTION

BURMA (MYANMAR)

Burma is mentioned in this report because, like its Southeast Asian neighbors, the potential for migration into its territory of sources of production of piracy, including optical disc plants (it has been reported that there may be one plant there with two production lines), gives rise to our collective concern. Burma has a 91-year-old, colonial-era copyright law that is largely ignored, so is essentially a “pirate’s haven.” Burma has been a WTO member since 1995, and a WIPO Member since 2001. It is not, however, a member of the Berne Convention, nor has it ratified or implemented the WIPO “Internet” Treaties. Burma’s WIPO membership makes it eligible for WIPO programs and support. UNESCO has gotten involved, holding a seminar on copyright protection in Burma in September 2005.¹ IIPA is interested to know the outcome of the UNESCO seminar and any other engagement on copyright by other countries/organizations.

¹ UNESCO (Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO) sponsored a workshop on copyright law from September 7 to 9, 2005, along with the Japan Copyright Office. In attendance were representatives of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the Australian Copyright Office, and others.

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