



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## INDIA'S RAJKUMAR AKELLA SALUTED AT CINEASIA WITH MPA COPYRIGHT EDUCATOR AWARD

**HONG KONG/SINGAPORE:** Rajkumar Akella was presented with the Motion Picture Association (MPA) Asia Pacific Copyright Educator (A.C.E.) Award today at CineAsia in recognition of his significant contribution to improving the ability for filmmakers and distributors in India to best protect their creative work in the digital ecosystem.

Acknowledging Rajkumar Akella's major contribution to raising awareness about the importance of strong copyright, Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director Asia Pacific MPA, said, "Rajkumar has demonstrated incredible leadership in the field of educating people about the importance of robust copyright regimes. His drive and passion over many years is to be applauded and appreciated. We are happy to continue our work with Rajkumar on a range of content protection initiatives over the coming months, and hope to see creative rights considerably advanced for the film and television community in India."

Speaking after receiving the award, Rajkumar said, "I am thrilled, humbled and greatly motivated by this recognition. I accept it on behalf of the Indian movie industry and particularly the Telugu film industry. My heartfelt thanks go to the MPA, MPDA India and CineAsia for this award. Until recently film piracy used to be a cool thing in India. Now that perception is slowly but surely changing and it's fighting piracy that is cool. To defeat the piracy threat, I believe that the creative industries across the world must join forces and speak and act as one - it sounds ambitious – but I believe it is achievable."

In 2005, Rajkumar played an important role in the establishment of the Anti-Video Piracy Cell of what is now known as the Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce. A former distributor of films, he recognized early that the industry could not survive if piracy trends continued unabated.

In 2012, he was instrumental in establishing a strategic alliance with the Motion Picture Dist. Association (MPDA), the Motion Picture Association's local representative office in India, for knowledge sharing, adopting best practices and jointly tackling issues related to content theft. These efforts have resulted in successful enforcement operations in 2013 and 2015, which culminated in the arrest of members of major camcording syndicates in India and a decline in camcording incidents between 2012 and 2015.

Rajkumar has led successful enforcement operations to dismantle operations of multiple piracy syndicates across India. In 2013, he helped develop an innovative anti-piracy mobile application *iMovieCop*. The app has been used to train over 7000 cinema staff on how to deter camcording and it has been received exceptionally well by law enforcement authorities.

In 2016, Rajkumar helped establish the Telangana Intellectual Property Crime Unit (TIPCU) – modeled closely on the UK's Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU). This is India's first specialized state-level enforcement taskforce to fight online content theft.

Rajkumar serves as Co-Chair of FICCI's Intellectual Property Rights Outreach Committee and as a Member on the National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC).

The MPA A.C.E. Award was presented during an awards event at CineAsia, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and attended by over 350 people representing the exhibition and film community in the Asia Pacific region. CineAsia is the only international convention dedicated to Asian cinema exhibition and distribution and is now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year.

Past recipients of the MPA A.C.E. Award include Indonesian filmmakers Sheila Timothy (2015), Maya Barack Evans (2014), Philippines' filmmaker and lawyer Joji Alonso (2013), Tropfest founder John Polson (2012), Malaysian film producer and recording artist Norman Halim (2011), Australian actor Roy Billing (2010), Hong Kong film producer Raymond Wong (2009), Thai producer and director Jareuk Kaljareuk (2008), and New Zealand actor Temuera Morrison (2007).

Images from the event are available [here](#).

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#### **About the MPA:**

##### *Promoting & Protecting Screen Communities in Asia Pacific*

The Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Motion Picture Association International (MPA-I) represent the interests of the six international producers and distributors of filmed entertainment. To do so, they promote and protect the intellectual property rights of these companies and conduct public awareness programs to highlight to movie fans around the world the importance of content protection. These activities have helped to transform entire markets benefiting film and television industries in each country including foreign and local filmmakers alike.

The organizations act on behalf of the members of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc (MPAA) which include; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. The MPA and the MPA-I have worldwide operations which are directed from their head

offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. and overseen in the Asia Pacific by a team based in Singapore. For more information about the MPA and the MPA-I, please visit [www.mpa-i.org](http://www.mpa-i.org).

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