

**INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE
2004 SPECIAL 301 REPORT**

SPECIAL MENTION

LAOS

Laos has no intellectual property regime within which to address piracy problems and is still in the initial phases of WTO accession negotiations. Like Cambodia, it is not yet a member of the Berne Convention or the WIPO digital treaties, and should be strongly encouraged to move its laws toward providing intellectual property rights protection before it becomes a haven for pirate production and export.

Laos is also of concern given the potential migration of optical disc plants because of its proximity to Thailand. The lack of an appropriate legal regime to address optical disc overproduction must be addressed to forestall the likelihood of plant migration. The United States should encourage Laos to adopt comprehensive optical disc regulations.