

青黃不接

qing1 huang2 bu4 jie1

Leading liver expert Lo Chung-mau, who oversees the liver transplant center at Queen Mary Hospital, is reportedly leaving to become head of the Hong Kong University-Shenzhen Hospital.

This followed the departure of another liver transplant expert Chan See-ching for the Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital.

Quoting *EastWeek* magazine, *Headline Daily* reported there are concerns about “青黃不接” (*qing1 huang2 bu4 jie1*) at the transplant team as the remaining doctors are not as experienced as the two departing professors.

“青” (*qing1*) is “green” or “blue,” “黃” (*huang2*) “yellow,” “不” (*bu4*) “no,” “not” and “接” (*jie1*) “to accept,” “to receive,” “to connect.” Literally, “青黃不接” (*qing1 huang2 bu4 jie1*) is “green yellow not connect,” “yellow does not reach green.” The idiom is about the crop cycle going out of sync, and there is not enough of the yellow autumn crop to last until the green spring crop.

Idiom by Lon Yan

“青黃不接” (*qing1 huang2 bu4 jie1*) means a “food shortage between two harvests.” It also means, figuratively, a “temporary deficit in manpower or resources,” a “gap between the generations or in succession.”

Hong Kong was said to have a serious case of “青黃不接” (*qing1 huang2 bu4 jie1*) with brain drain in the runup to 1997. But we turned out just fine.

In fact, there are always worries about “青黃不接” (*qing1 huang2 bu4 jie1*) whenever an experienced incumbent leaves. But it has been proven time and again that people with potential will rise to the challenge when you put them in charge.

Terms containing the character “接” (*jie1*) include:

接觸 (*jie1 chu4*) – to touch; to come into contact with

接受 (*jie1 shou4*) – to accept

接近 (*jie1 jin4*) – to be close to; to get close to

接待 (*jie1 dai4*) – to receive (a visitor); reception