It has been a few years since talks began about the government issuing new free-to-air television licenses, but the public has yet to see any new stations or new programs actually coming on air.

When three local companies applied for new licences there was much excitement and, after much rigmarole (不必要的冗長繁複手續), two of the applications were approved. The rejected party sued the government and won. Its application is now being processed again.

Then there is the on-again-off-again “white knight” for financially stricken (財困的) ATV. To the viewing public, it seems the only thing interesting to watch has been these dramatic (戲劇化的) developments, which can be described by the idiom “峰迴路轉” (feng1 hui2 lu4 zhuang3). “峰” (feng1) is “a peak,” “迴” (hui2) means “to wind,” “路” (lu4) is “a path,” “a road,” and “轉” (zhuang3) means “a change,” “to take a turn.”

Literally, “峰迴路轉” (feng1 hui2 lu4 zhuang3) is “the path winds through high peaks.”

The idiom may be used for its literal meaning, which is to describe the scenery of a path winding through high peaks. But in modern usage, it is often employed to mean “a new development,” “a new hope” in a bad situation.

“峰迴路轉” (feng1 hui2 lu4 zhuang3) is similar in meaning to the English expression “turn of events” which means an unforeseen development. When events take a turn for the worse, they deteriorate. When they take a turn for the better, there is an improvement.

**Terms containing the character “轉” (zhuang3) include:**

扭轉 (niu3 zhuang3) – to turn round
轉變 -(zhuang3 bian4) – a change, a shift
轉機 (zhuang3 ji1) – a change for the better
轉捩點 (zhuang3 lie4 dian3) – critical point