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## South Korea To Host Talks For Int'l Nuclear Fusion Project

SEOUL, Nov 30 Asia Pulse - South Korea is to play host to negotiations this week for a six-nation project to build an experimental nuclear fusion reactor in France by 2015, the Ministry of Science and Technology said Wednesday.

South Korea is a member of the US\$5 billion International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) consortium that plans to start construction of the reactor in 2006.

The six members -- South Korea, the United States, Japan, European Union, China and Russia -- will take part in the talks from Thursday until Dec. 8 on South Korea's southern island province of Jeju.

At the meeting, the participants are to discuss a number of outstanding issues, including the drafting of provisions for a variety of agreements.

Working-level meetings will be held from Dec. 1-5 to discuss regulations for the consortium, including those relating to intellectual property rights and personnel management.

From Dec. 6, participants will hold high-ranking meetings to discuss a variety of issues, including India's petition to participate in the consortium. They are also to approve the appointment of Kaname Ikeda, Japan's ambassador to Croatia, as the director general of ITER during a preparation committee on Dec. 5-8.

South Korea holds a 10 per cent stake in the consortium that plans to build its first nuclear reactor in Cadarache, France.

Operation of the plant from 2016 is hoped will result in a cheap, clean source of electricity.

(Yonhap)

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