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France confident of U.S., S. Korean support for nuke fusion project

(Kyodo) _ French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin expressed confidence Wednesday that all parties involved in the international nuclear fusion reactor project, including the United States and South Korea, will soon support the European Union's proposal to build the reactor in France.

According to Radio France, Raffarin also told in parliament that he will talk with South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun about the international thermonuclear experimental reactor project during the president's visit to France next week.

The parties -- China, the European Union, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States -- have been collaborating on the ITER project but have been unable to agree on the venue to build the reactor.

While the United States and South Korea support the Japanese proposal to build the reactor in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, while China and Russia support the EU proposal to build it in Cadarache, France.

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