Six-party talks to be held as planned: ROK

SEOUL, June 3 (Xinhuanet) -- South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said Thursday he expects a new round of six-party talks on nuclear program of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)to take place by the end of this month as planned.

"The third six-party talks are expected to be held before the end of this month as agreed," Ban said during a speech at an international conference organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation.

The six nations, China, the DPRK, the United States, Russia, South Korea and Japan, agreed in the second round of six-way talks in this February to convene the third round of such talks before June.

And in the first working group meeting in this May under the framework of the six-party talks, the concerning countries reaffirmed their mind to hold the new round multilateral nuclear talks as planned.

The South Korean foreign minister also said the six countries share a will to resolve the standoff peacefully, but more patience and more dialogue are needed to achieve that goal.

First round of six-party talks were held in August, 2003 in Beijing. Enditem

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