I. Introduction

The past two decades have been characterized by passage of major federal legislation dealing with the environment, including specific legislation on control of water and air pollution, solid and hazardous-waste management, resource protection, and soil and groundwater remediation. Perhaps the most significant legislation is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, which became effective on January 1, 1970 (Canter, 1996). NEPA represents the national environmental goals and policies which are intended to mitigate mistakes of the past and to
avoid possible problems in the future through thoughtful and coordinated planning efforts (Bregman, 1999).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool used to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts caused by various human projects. It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in the project planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment and present the predictions and options to decision-makers.

EIA requirements have been applied, to varying degrees, to polices, plans, programs, legislative proposals, technologies, development assistance, products, and trade agreements (Lawrence, 2003).

The EIA is one of the fundamental pillars of a country’s environmental laws, additionally it is one of the standards by which a country is considering to preserve the environment and reduce pollution from different human activities, through its regulations for each activity. The EIA law is implemented worldwide, and differs between countries depending on the regulations and activities of each individual country.

The Korea government was pressured to take measures to handle emerging environmental problems, as rapid industrialization and urbanization since the 1960s made the quality of the environment deteriorate rapidly, especially from the mid 1970s. Based on the development of environmental regulations correspondent to EIA, in 1977 the Environmental Conservation Act was enacted for the basis of the introduction of EIA. In 1981, the legislation and notification of “Regulation on the Drafting of Environmental Impact Assessment Statement” could frame the implementation of EIA in a concrete way. In 1993, “Environmental Impact Assessment Act” was enacted as an independent law. EIA in Korea has been embodied with Korea Environment Institute (KEI) establishment in 1997. In 1999, the Prior Environmental Review System (PERS) was established as preliminary basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment. In 2000, the Impact Assessment Act on Environment, Transportation and Natural Disaster replaced the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (Lee, 2006).

The Implementation of EIA in Paraguay was a long process because the system of government which was dictatorial, prevented the process. In the 1980s, Paraguay began with implementation of the EIA, not as law but as rules granting certain loans that were made to the World Bank. In 1989, when the dictatorial government was overthrown, Paraguay began to implement the EIA as a law.

With the new government system, that was democratic, the Paraguayan parliament promoted the EIA law national law. In 1990, it enacted the first law of EIA which was repealed in 1993 and regulated in 1996

II. Methodology of Research

The method of this research will provide the chronology and ordered steps to follow in order to achieve the research objectives which are the differences and similarities of environmental acts related to the Environmental Impact Assessment of South Korea and Paraguay.

1. Formulating of the research objectives

Compare the existing acts on environmental impact assessment between South Korea and