Purpose of Travel
Participate to the ‘Eight International Conference on Development of Drylands’ Human and nature – working together for sustainable development in Dry lands. February 25-28, 2006. Beijing, China. 8ICDD sponsored by: Arid Land Research Center (ALRC, Japan), Cold and Arid regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI, China), ICARDA, Desert Research Institute (DRI, USA), NSFC, China, UNESCO and UNU.

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Presentation
The paper ‘Pastoral strategies as related to community characteristics: The case of the Syrian Badia’ C. Dutilly-Diane, J. Tiedeman, G. Arab, N. Batikha, F. Ghassali, E. Khoudary, and C. Saint-Macary was presented in a session under the theme ‘sustainable development’ and chaired by T. Ngaido. Other presentations in this session were related to urbanization and water resources utilization and environmental law to combat desertification in China.

J. Tiedeman presented in a session on ‘range management’ the ecological results of the survey in a presentation titled: ‘Rangeland degradation related to social and ecological characteristics of 50 communities in the Syrian steppe’.

Other interesting presentations were:
- An ecosystems approach for sustainable management of dryland environments, by Gemma Shepherd, UNEP, Project in 5 SSAfrica countries, where environmental accounting is performed using EMERGY model.
- Range management options and transaction costs amongst pastoral households in West Asia and North Africa, by T. Ngaido, IFPRI. Estimations of distance of transhumance and transactions costs (cost of mobility) compared between Jordan and Tunisia.
- Experiences of sustainable management of drylands in 8 countries, by Zafar Adeel, UNU. Presentation of the Sumamad project. http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/drylands/SUMAMAD.htm
Evaluation of agricultural sustainability in rural village in the suburbs of Yanan City, China, by S. Nishino, Tottori University. The concept of human carrying capacity for sustainable agriculture was presented, referring to the model of Komatsu and al., 2005. http://www.dicer.org/jsp/journal/show_article.jsp?jid=JA-100-108-1-29