



Newsletter n° 17 - October 2014

6th new school year – 350 pupils – TANAT high school start

Excellent school results for last year

All the 27 pupils of the CM2 class have been admitted in 6th class. First Degree certificate has been suppressed in Niger but anyone must get the average through the three quarterly assessments to reach secondary school.

In 3rd class, 8 pupils out of 12 succeeded in secondary school certificate. This is an outstanding result compared to the average in

News from the new school year

« All the pupils of TANAT primary school came back full of joy on October 1st 2014 for the 6th new school year. They are 210 pupils among which 39 are new. Now we include with us 3 female teachers : Tamenot in C1 class, Zeinabou in CP class and Araza substitute teacher.

We should mention a few absences because new school year occurred on mid-week and overall it took place within four days before Tabaski feast commonly called "sheep feast". TANAT has become a model of excellence in the region. This is why all children who have

applied could not obtain their registration since all classes are full.

In TANAT children always need our greatest care; we must take them in hand so that they are allowed to learn and to be aware of their responsibilities.

All their efforts will be guided, supervised and enhanced.

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed , primary school Director

« In the scholar complex (college + high school), these are 140 pupils who have started...

There were two school start phases.

First, the 2nd class start that officially opened on september 15th and then on october 1st the college one.

On that day, pupils' parents , administrative, academic and tribal authorities, and all those who are concerned by school and excellence were attending. Each one in his turn, they lavished advice on pupils and offered their gratitude to the initiator and to supervisors of the school.

Pupils and all staff through my voice thank those who with their help and support make the school growing up and create « excellent » young people .

Our thanks especially go towards pupils' god-fathers and godmothers thanks to whom these children are granted a top-quality teaching. As the saying teaches it : each child who is educated is a man whom we win. It is to tell you that you have won and will keep on winning men and women of tomorrow.

Hassane Moumouni, Supervisor of the scholar complex



All the teaching team of TANAT school

Niger being understood that 9 pupils had not achieved their 4th class in Tanat secondary school. These very good results once again indicate teachers' skill and commitment all the year long. As Ousman Mouhamadou, academic inspector, says, « Tanat school is the model in the district »

Ighlass, keeper of college and high school, awarded by Tahoua district

Building the scholar complex that accommodates college and high school classes began 5 years ago on a semi-desertic ground put at disposal by Abalak town council.

The keeper of the scholar complex is called Ighlass. He lives there with his wife and 4 of his 5 children.

Ighlass ensures security of the scholar complex and also looks after plants with passion and skill.

More than 200 trees were planted when the scholar complex was built up and thanks to daily care from Ighlass, a great part of these trees have grown up despite droughts and water shortage that beat Abalak so eagerly.

Within the frame of Niger

program against desertification, the regional Direction for Water and Forests of the district of Tahoua awards yearly the three best achievements of plants in the district.

This year Ighlass has been awarded the second price for this nice plantation of trees.



Ighlass keeper of scholar complex



View of a part of the plants of TANAT scholar complex

Sponsor a class or a pupil of Tanat school

Sponsorships are essential to provide scholarship to underprivileged children (pupil sponsorship) or to balance operating expenses (teachers' wages...) of the school (class sponsorship). Tanat school needs you to receive more sponsorships and supports to offer more children the possibility to take in charge their future.

TABASKI Feast



Young girls wearing new clothes for Tabaski feast

Exchanges with French pupils

Last year, some TANAT pupils had the pleasure to exchange with other pupils of the same class in France :

- Nice drawings with CP class of the Vinay school
- Personal letters with pupils of a 6th class of the Bayard Institution of Grenoble .
- Questions and replies through video with CM1/CM2 pupils of the school of Notre Dame de Lourdes in Pont-Château .

This year, pupils of 2nd class of Itec Boisfleury high school of Grenoble have chosen as personalized activity to exchange with the 2nd class of TANAT.

These exchanges are a great opportunity for opening and enriching mind for both parties .



Tuareg tent

Tabaski feast is the Aïd feast or feast of the sheep. It always takes place on the 10th day of the month of Mecca pilgrimage. This year, it occurred on Sunday 5th October

This feast commemorates the day when Abraham wants to sacrifice his son Isaac for Catholics or Ismaël for Muslims. In the end, he will sacrifice a sheep in place of his son.

In Abalak, the feast lasts for 3 days ; the first one is devoted to preparation, during the second one, the feast strictly speaking begins; men are going to mosque early in the morning wearing their most beautiful clothes ; sermon advocates tolerance, forgiving and peace.

Back home, each family cuts the throat of one sheep per adult, and if they can afford it, a few more to distribute raw or cooked meat to the most needy in full discretion.

Traditional values of the Tuareg tent

The tent of Tuaregs living in North Niger in Agadez region reflects their values. It is made of a jointing of mats that are fixed to arches made of acacia roots. Its base is a curvilinear quadrilateral of which four pegs would indicate the angles, to south-east, to south-west, to north-west and to north-east, but Tuaregs talk of it as a circle.

It always opens towards west and it is there that they live, they eat, they drink tea, they welcome visitors. On the other hand they are seldom standing at east, on the blind side of tents, an empty space more often kept for prayer.

The base of the tent is seen as a replica of the world circle, since the earth for Tuaregs had the shape of a disc. Concerning the tent itself, its shape as a dome makes it a replica of the celestial vault. And its four angle pegs are analogous to the four columns that support the celestial vault. Nobody has ever seen these columns, but in order that men believe in their existence, God has set in the sky four stars reflecting their image. These four stars make a constellation so called “the Roof” which is nothing else than our “Pegasus Square”.

North of tent is thought as ill-fated since forces of evil so-called “kel-esuf” (“those of loneliness”) are crowded here in great number, especially at twilight.

Most often they do not kill their sheep themselves but they give formally an oral proxy to the one who slaughters sheep on their behalf. For this very special day, all adults and children get dressed up, women and their daughters have their hair plaited and have their hands and feet painted with henna drawings and they have adorned themselves with new clothes..

Each one pays a visit to his family, his friends and his neighbors. During these visits, everybody asks to forgive him (Assourouf) for hurts that he might have caused, knowingly or unknowingly.

All of them eat a lot of meat during these days and their stomachs not very accustomed suffer. Then the joke between relatives and cousins is to say “atarmous” he has caught...

Whereas south is full of blessing, of luck, it is why a woman goes and lies down here when it is time to give birth. It is the same for the world , Tuaregs are saying: “In south stretch out fertile areas from where our millet comes, whereas in north only desert and hunger pervade”.

In the matrimonial bed, man lies at north in order to protect his spouse against kel-esuf. He acts accordingly because south and north of tent, being at the same time respectively prosperous and ill-fated, are stamped one by a feminine feature and the other by a masculine feature.

It is why on the wedding day, the bride groom must come into the bridal tent through north and the bride through south. Here again, it is the same for the world : « When God created the world, he put Adam at north and Eva at south. Then they have been walking, he towards south and she towards north, till they met in the center of the world. This type of conception is borne out with many peoples, however it is rare that the lucky side of the house and of the world is, as here, the feminine feature.

But this characteristic no doubt originates from the status of the woman with respect to the tent within Tuaregs. Tents belong to women.

According to Dominique Casajus—www.issikta.com

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TANAT School Project

Faced with the condition of the educative system in the Abalak department of Niger, inhabitants gathered within the ONODEP association chaired by the mayor Billou Mohamed Moc-tar, to open and manage a school with the support of the French TANAT association.

The TANAT pedagogic plan is :

- To welcome children, boys and girls, irrespective of social, cultural and religious background.
- To give the young entrusted to Tanat school on top of a sound academic education, human training to prepare them for behaving in life like trustworthy men and women.
- To foster a family atmosphere that allows young people to feel loved, accepted, supported and valued.