

The dynamic of progress still goes on

Since new school year of October



The administrative building with its solar panels made porch roof, the computer room and the library of the secondary school.

A crystal-clear status for the teachers responsible for a class

A document "the teacher's assignment responsible for a class" has been set up within the secondary institution. It well enhances the principal teacher's role in close relation with the values of TANAT and the care of accompanying each pupil towards success.

This document specifically mentions: « In addition to the fulfillment with diligence, dedication and competence of the academic works that are attributed to him throughout the year, the teacher responsible of a class is in charge of solving, amicably, all disciplinary problems likely to disturb the proper running of the teaching within the class ».



Film screening in secondary school .

Within primary school

« Pedagogical activities are scheduled during the meetings that take place every Friday after the lessons, to reckon all difficulties encountered during the week. The most significant activities are the school support lessons for pupils having learning difficulties. This support is carried on every Saturday.

Besides this activity, there are mini-CAPED (unit for pedagogical facilitation) during which pedagogical exchanges between the teaching team are carried out on a quite specific topic. The school museum remains attractive thanks to the objects made by pupils and other ones (bones, boxes) collected for pedagogical aims. Pupils have elected democratically their traditional school management. This management is in charge, with the help of the keeper, of the tidiness of the school premises and of its environment. It also plays a part with the collaboration of the teachers in the follow-up of the learning of the lessons and the respect of the school rules. »

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed Director of primary school.

Within secondary school

« The secondary school runs well. Lessons proceed smoothly and discipline is now well reestablished. The administration holds meetings twice a month or each time that the context requests it. On each meeting, minutes are drawn up to ensure proper implementation of decisions made.

In each school room there is a notice board (1m long, 80cm wide) that includes all useful school and/or class information. The main information, shared by all classes, are the values of the school, the school rules and the national hymn.

Concerning girls' participation to physical education, it is not yet flawless. They take refuge behind medical exemption certificates in order to avoid practicing sport. This is especially frequent with respect to high school whereas in college, they practice sport to over 95%. The female teacher of Family and Social Economy played a big role to make aware or even to compel young girls to practice sport. Free hours of classes (or of homework preparation or also in case of a teacher's absence) are systematically filled either through seeing pedagogical films followed by discussions or through reading sessions in the library or furthermore with computer works.»

Hassane Moumouni Secondary school Headmaster.

Participation in the athletic championships of Niger.

After the athletic championships of the district, some TANAT pupils are selected to participate in the region championships, which took place this year in Abalak from March 13th to 16th.

Moreover TANAT school will accommodate athletes of other districts on this occasion . Bravo to our future champions and congratulations to the sport teachers for their involvement, specifically to Mr Salissou Oumara Mamadou.

We wish them to get great results to the region championships.

Their motivation is nicely expressed by Mr. Salissou : "we shall not content ourselves to be good but we intend to be the best ».



Long-jump competition



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 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.



Gold diggers in highlands of Djado (www.bonferey.com)

The gold rush to Djado is over !

The story would have begun in an almost common way: "At the beginning, some people got stuck in the sand with their car in the desert. On extricating themselves, they found some gold nuggets. It was in 2013, near Djado. "The place was a basin where the wind had swept the sand. So it remained only gold»,» They made three trips. On their third trip, everything started."

2235 vehicles and 13000 people on the scene."

The unregulated operation went on in 2016, however the opportunity to find gold at the surface had vanished soon. Only real wealthy people could find new gold beds through digging wells. They are mainly foreigners who were able to go on with this mining development with a chance of success. The gold diggers of Niger without a lot of means were no more able to earn money from this occupation.

Given this acknowledgment and the difficulties for providing security in the area, the authorities of Niger have decided as from March 1st, 2017 to forbid the exploitation of gold on this site. The consequences for Abalak were felt immediately through the return back home of several hundreds of gold diggers without large means. A nice dream of wealth that has evaporated like the morning dew...

According to: <http://www.slateafrique.com>

News

Billou came to Grenoble on the beginning of March since it has not been possible to go to Abalak because of Jeff's kidnapping in last October. At the time of his kidnapping, two people from Abalak taking care of his safety were killed. Jeff is an American who has devoted his life to help inhabitants of Abalak thanks to the non-governmental organization JEMED that he has been managing for more than 25 years and for which Billou works. There are still no news from Jeff since his kidnapping .

Life conditions are more and more difficult for Abalak and its area where breeding cattle is the main economic activity : drought is still prevailing and the price of cattle has decreased to more than half due to the fall of the Nigerian currency (Nigerian people are the most important purchasers of cattle).

Under such conditions exodus towards Algeria and Libya is the only way for people of this area, who no longer own anything .



Tuareg young married woman

Tekaraqit : The behavioral ethic among Tuaregs

The traditional tuareg upbringing teaches a certain number of rules with respect to relationship with others. "Tekaraqit" sets the ethic of the behavior within the tuareg society: modesty, shame or restraint.

These rules apply to the relationship between young people, but also between married people and people of older generation.

After few months of marriage, the relationship between spouses get used to cohabitation, their modesty no longer suffer in case they are seen together. However their public relationship remain marked with a great restraint and the woman never calls her husband by his name, so she does not call out to him, sometimes she says to him "man".

Young people that have been seen speaking loudly and bursting out laughing between themselves stay quiet and unobtrusive as soon as they are facing somebody older ; they speak no more, they answer only through a brief sentence and only in case they are questioned.

For the couple, restraint towards the previous generation is exacerbated with respect to parents-in-law. In the first times of marriage when the young woman does not yet eat her meals in her own tent, she does not eat in the same plate as their parents-in-law, she stands aloof and replies only through short sentences. The man adopts same behavior in front of his wife's parents.

On the opposite to these restrained relationship, relations between first cousins or similar parents play an important social role and allow acting quite freely: jokes, insinuations, thefts of things, speeches to other which verges on slander... and should be tolerated by anyone who is the victim of such behavior in the spirit of a relation that authorizes transgressing all rules of proprieties .

For example, a man disabled further to poliomyelitis was constantly imitated in his gait by his cousin; people were saying about him "he never washes himself... one day when he took off his pants, he did not find them since louses had taken them away ... »

This relationship based on jokes is not the privilege of young people. Very dignified old men or charming grand-mothers suddenly become naughty jokers, not sparing the audience with any detail on the cousin's or female cousin's anatomy, personality or love conquests .

This relationship may also exist on a collective basis, between different tribes. It is to the mythical origin of the two groups that it is then referred to for explaining that both tribes are descendent from a brother or a sister. These codes of good manners, defined by an ethic of social behavior included in the word "Tekaraqit" probably constitute the strongest bond that unites the tuareg world .

From « Touaregs Nigériens » de Edmond Bernus

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TANAT School

Faced with the condition of the educative system in the Abalak department of Niger, inhabitants gathered in 2008, within the ONODEP association chaired by the mayor Billou Mohamed Moctar, to open and manage a school from nursery to high school, with the support of the French TANAT association.

The TANAT education plan is :

- To welcome 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.