



Opening of university !

Results of A-Degree Exam and Secondary School Certificate

The results for the first TANAT graduating class to A-degree exam are the following :

In literary studies (named option A) 5 out of 12 candidates are admitted, i.e. 42% of success.

In scientific studies (named option D) 5 out of 15 are admitted, 33% of success rate.

The conditions of this A-degree examination were difficult since the exam had to be postponed until mid-July due to numerous strikes of teachers and of pupils at the national level which have strongly disturbed the school year. With an average rate of success of 37%, we are above the national average but still far from our aim of 80% of success.

It was also the first A-degree examination of our teachers of the high school. These results have been evaluated (comparison of the results of the A-degree mock exams and of the A-degree exam subject by subject...) and improvements have been set up for this new school year: use of the Niger school records of A-degree exams, increase of the number of tests...

The results of the secondary school certificate are the following:

21 out of the 28 pupils of the 3rd class were admitted i.e. a success rate of 75 %.

Out of the 13 girls who took the exam, 8 got their certificate.

The conditions of the exam were particularly tough this year in Abalak since soldiers were present in the exam room to check that everything was going smoothly, what of course was very stressful for the pupils.



Opening of the Digital Academy of Tanat

This year Roukayatou and Zahra have registered for the first year of bachelor in mathematics in the University of Franche-Comté in Besançon.

They will follow their courses through internet and will take their tests and exams in Niamey at the French Embassy.

They will be supported and mentored by experienced teachers in Abalak.

By the end of their studies, they will get the same french degree of bachelor in mathematics as the ones who have studied within the university in France.

It is thanks to the help of the Digital Academy of Montereau that we are able to offer these young girls the opportunity of university studies while staying in Abalak.

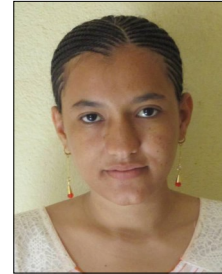
The city of Montereau has set up in 2017 a digital platform so as any A-degree graduated may have the opportunity for university studies while staying in Montereau.

Each student can register in one of the 3000 digital courses leading to degrees recognized by the French state (university or institution of higher learning).

The A- level graduated students of Tanat can now benefit by the same opportunities.

Roukayatou and Zahra are the pioneers of such advances.

Our aim is to register every year 5 to 6 further students in the Digital Academy of TANAT to count permanently a total of about 25 students after a few years.



Zahra (left) and Roukayatou (right) students for their first year of bachelor in mathematics at the Digital Academy of TANAT

The cost of higher learning of these 25 students will be approximately the same as to bring only one student to France to obtain the same French diploma.

Girls will be given priority since it is much more difficult for them than for boys to go studying for higher learning in Tahoua or in Niamey.

The students will be advised to degrees leading to immediate opportunities of work within the teaching field, or in NGO or companies, with advanced technician's certificate in accounting / bookkeeping , bachelor degrees in computer science....

The opening of the Digital Academy of TANAT is a great promise of social development for girls and of progress for Abalak and its area.

430 pupils for the 9th new school year of the TANAT school

The new school year went fine and this year TANAT school institution welcomes 430 pupils: 200 in primary school with 48% of girls, 134 in secondary school with 35% of girls and 96 in high school with 30 % of girls.

In secondary school:

« On Monday October 2nd, the day of the new school year, pupils rediscovered their classrooms neat, well-equipped and ready to welcome them.

The academic, customary, community, district authorities and the pupils' parents did not miss to make the trip to wish a fine new school year to pupils and teachers and to provide them with wise advice. They reminded the pupils among other things that if their parents have chosen TANAT, it is because they have seen and heard of the good results and they are aware of the quality of its teaching. It is now up to them (the pupils) to strengthen this by working hard and to satisfy their parents.»

In primary school :

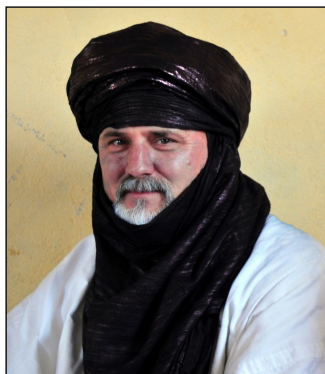
« Lessons have begun as from the first day of the new school year. This was allowed due to the fact that the teachers' counsel met twice since mid-September to prepare properly the new school year. Education materials were put in each classroom and each teacher became aware of his headcount. As every year, a school government will be democratically elected in order to make pupils accountable so that they take part in the running of the school. Its tasks will be to ensure the protection of the environment of the school, the follow-up of the learning of the lessons and the respect of the school rules.

By the end of the first week, a pupils' parents meeting was called. The agenda was the reading and the approval of the school rules. The pupils' parents answered the call overwhelmingly. They appreciated this approach.»

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.

Declaration of the population of Abalak when commemorating Jeff's kidnapping



Jeff Woodke Director of the NGO
JEMED in Abalak

October 14th, 2016 – October 13rd, 2017; It is a year since individuals not yet identified have snatched Jeff from our affection.

One year gone since some individuals lacking any humanism and any faith have withdrawn him from us. Well then we say to those people that admittedly they have kidnapped him, but that they will never withdraw him neither from our hearts nor from our thoughts.

News

It is the first new school year since the opening of the school in 2009 that nobody from TANAT association has been present in Abalak because the security conditions still do not allow it.

We learn to work remotely through SMS, WhatsApp and phone in order to preserve as far as possible a pedagogic and methodological support, a key condition for good results.

All the class pictures and those of the sponsored pupils have been made by Ghissa teacher of French in the college and further sent on USB key through the post office since the network in Abalak does not allow to dispatch so big data.

A new block of 2 classrooms has been built for secondary school, it will enable to split the tuitions of the studies in the 1st and A – degree classes and thus to improve the quality of the work.

The ceremony that brings us together today, if needed, is a testimony. A testimony of love, a testimony of sympathy, a testimony of gratitude to his 25 years of immeasurable efforts for the development of our district, to his 25 years of friendship, to his 25 years of sharing good as bad times of our population's life.

It is why, in this unforgettable occurrence, we the population of Abalak, gathered around our administrative and customary officials, deliver the following statement:

- Believing deeply in peace and cultural dialogue between all the peoples of the entire world, request his release without any condition and expeditiously;

- Repeat our gratitude to the efforts he has sustained for radiating happiness among poor families of the district of Abalak ;

- Declare that the ones who have kidnapped Jeff have not kidnapped an American but one of our people, so much that his integration is fully achieved in our community;

- Pay a tribute to all those who lost their life during this tragic kidnapping;

- Reiterate our support to the authorities of our country for their involvement towards his release and confirm our strong involvement to support them in their struggle against any form of violence and of banditry.

State that whatever it may occur, Jeff Woodke is inscribed for posterity on our communitarian heroes' list due to the significant services provided to all our community .

We shall end this statement with a special thought for his family: to Els his spouse, to Mathieu and Bobby his children, we say that we are supportive of your grief, we are united behind your bitterness, we are in solidarity with your hope that one day Jeff will be back among us.

At last, we pray the Almighty so that he protects him wherever he is and says to him that Abalak will never forget him.

Birth and Imposition of the Name within Tuaregs

The tent is the living environment of the Tuareg family: it is the symbol of marriage, the meeting spot where the isolated shepherd returns periodically, the seat of home and of the life in society. It is under the tent that the woman gives birth to her children, that the boy lives till the age of puberty and the girl till her marriage.

When the young spouse is to deliver her first child, sometimes the second one, she comes to her mother's camp since it is in the motherly camp among the women who have raised her, that she will be the best nursed and comforted. She usually brings her tent with her. During this time her husband, if he has remained in his camp to take care of the cattle, will have to content himself with sleeping under the stars sheltered under a tree.

The woman goes on to attend to her daily activities till the final term: it is known that she must not stay still what would make the childbirth difficult and the child "made lazy" would not attempt to come to the world rapidly. If birth pains become clearer and birth takes a long time, two women take the parturient woman by the shoulders and make her running. When the time has come, the woman kneels and grasps strongly the central peg of the tent and the assistants receive the baby in their hands. They cut the umbilical cord, then

wash the baby with hot water. The woman then lays down with her newborn child by her sides.

During the six first days of the child's life that precede the imposition of the name, the mother stays lying and it is only on the seventh day that she appears in public. She then can return to her husband's camp or still stay in her parents' camp since she will really reconnect with the usual course of her married life only after forty days following the birth, and only then she gets her hair done, washes herself completely, has her clothes cleaned and can pray again.

It is on the seventh day that a marabout or the father or the grandparents give a name to the child. This name comes from the koranic tradition: Mohamed, Youssouf ... for boys, Fati, Mariama.... for girls.

In addition to the name given on birth, the child often gets a nickname reminding a physical flaw, the place of the birth or any other event.

In order to specify in its records the identity of each of its citizens, the French colonial authority had each person's name followed by the father's name.

According to « Niger Tuareg s » by 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.