



TANAT a great group dynamics process!



A potential High level graduate ?

High school start: A great hope

« Since 2008, 10 classes were opened and now more than 300 pupils are successfully provided with schooling within TANAT schools.

Thanks to teaching team's dynamism and to sponsors and sponsorships' valuable support, the strong wish of Abalak inhabitants for a quality education has been made possible.

The opening of the high school, expected in October 2014, arouses great hope. It will be possible to follow up in Abalak studies in the same conditions as those one of Tanat primary school and college. Girls will finally have the opportunity to take Baccalauréat, school leaving certificate while staying with their family.

My deep thanks go to those people who will make this success possible : National Education Ministries, Tanat Association, sponsors and sponsorships, pupils' parents, management and teaching team of the school».



Hamed Billou Mohamed Moctar

Hamed Billou Mohamed Moctar
Abalak Mayor and School President.

Official acknowledgement

Two assignments from the Ministry of primary teaching level, literacy, national languages promotion and civic education have visited TANAT school.

The first one was conducted by Mr Adamou Abdoulaye, Director of private schools in the National Education Ministry, the second one was a DPDE evaluating mission (Decennial Program of Education Development).

All these assignments have been filled with wonder at this school far from large centers, however meeting perfectly international standards.

Primary school news

« Tanat primary school now welcomes 210 pupils, among which 90 girls. Compared to the previous year, these figures remain rather steady.

However, a case of withdrawal should be pointed out. The CM2 pupil in question has left for Libya. He was comparatively elderly and seeing friends not attending school. They have misled him, his parents report. This premature exodus situation is due to the fact that these young people, once in Libya, get into a military corps to earn their living.

Pupils as well as teachers are regular and punctual. However, we should also mention a few absences due to almost traditional illnesses (malaria, cold...).

The scholar museum, which was listed among goals to be achieved at new school year, has

been set up. It is decorated with snapshots, drawings and things made by pupils. The content of this museum is used as pedagogical support for some lessons such as natural science, geography, agriculture, mathematics... This already shows to pupils the concrete result of their efforts, a way to motivate them to like studying.

A scholar government is democratically elected, it checks pupils' attendance and punctuality. It is also involved in vegetable garden up keeping and sees to it that proper hygienic habits at school are observed.

It includes only one girl, Samira Souli, ministry for women promotion and infant protection. »

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed, Directeur du primaire

Kalula Keeper and Gardener

A keeper's attendance is very important to look after buildings and valuable objects in the school.

However, Kalula's task is far from being limited to this duty.

He is the one who welcomes children arriving as soon as 7 a.m. although lessons begin at 8 a.m.

He also takes passionate care of the school garden and of flowers that he waters every day. He learnt the job of gardener when he worked for 2 years in Libya when he was 20

years old. Afterwards he practiced the job of cattle keeper in bush.

When I was young, he told us, I had a great opportunity to attend to the CM2 class with Rissa (the first director of primary level of Tanat school) and I keep good memory of that. He is the one who has interceded to offer me the school keeper job and now, my daughter attends C1 class in Tanat.

The school owes very much its quiet and family atmosphere to the teaching team and to its gardener keeper who sees future adults growing up...



Hamed Moussa Mouhamadoune called Kalula
Primary school keeper and gardener.

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.

Thursday : market day in Abalak



Camels to be sold on the market of Abalak

Climate disturbance

Water problem that prevailed last years strongly beats again Abalak . It restricts some activities such as buildings and market gardening.

Everybody adapts to it gradually. And yet, from 3rd to 6th February, fantastically sweet little drops of water moistened Abalak.

This kind of poor rain called « Acham-cham » in tamajeq language is never experienced during this period of the year.

So, the dry and fresh season usually prevailed by mists and “harmattan” wind turned during few days into a little monsoon bringing with it a chilliness comparable to the European winter.



Thursday is market day in Abalak. The market draws tradesmen coming from south towards Maradi or from west towards Tahoua, Konni and nearby Nigeria and also nomadic men from east and north.

On that day, the city is awaked by “Kabou-Kabou” cab-motorcycles sounds, which as soon as 4 a.m. get up to fetch tradesmen and clients from surrounding villages. They carry together people, goats and sheep to offer them on the market.

Then it is up to tradesmen of cattle such as cows , bulls and dromedaries who have gone the day before to cover long distances. They arrive in the morning at around 7 a.m. since they are sure to sell their

cattle to important clients who came from neighbouring Nigeria.

Many tuaregs sell their goats and sheep to have their stock of millet, sorghum, corn and condiments for the month. Most often, the price for one goat is not enough to buy a 100 kg millet sack. Three or four goats should then be sold to get a quite good stock.

At 2 p.m., many nomadic men meet at the Butcher Dodo to eat meat and drink a soda “Oriba”. By the end of the day, they go to the seller of millet pancakes, he is a man renowned for his good pancakes and overall for his punctuality and his regularity to the market. Each villager buys a good supply of pancakes that must be brought to women and children remained in the village.

Garba Kadri Soumana,
College Headmaster

Tagelmoust : Tuaregs' turban

Wearing turban occurs within Tuaregs after puberty, when the young man is considered able to uphold his adult rank.

Ever since, a man will not leave this garment but in circumstances when neither his honor nor his life may be threatened, i.e. only with his near family, with his spouse or close friends.

The turban, so-called « tagelmoust », was in the past constituted by tiny wrappings soaked with indigo and sewed between them. Today, white, blue or black colored cotton fabrics replace these indigo ones, the price of which is high. The turban may measure between 2.5 to 15 meters long, according to the person's means.

The upper part that covers forehead, temples, ears, eyebrows and eyes is called “amawal” i.e. the “keeper” or the “guardian”. It is thought that it protects the person's own honor.

« Temedert », the « restraint » corresponds to the bottom of the turban that according to circumstances covers nose, mouth, cheeks and chin. Temedert means “what restraints, what compels to moderation and reserve”. This barrier channels group honor that each person gets from his rank, his family, his clan, his confederation.

Finally, « tabezt », the « handle » is the word given to the rear part of the turban that, when you draw it, is used to tighten the “restraint”.

The meaning of the gestures associated to the turban refers to warrior honor code. If honor is threatened by an attitude or remarks contrary to propriety, the first reaction will be to lift “restraint” up immediately, above nostrils and nose tip ; “isemeder” i.e. “he puts on restraint”, an expression qualifying all the graduations of veil lifting up to its final position on nose root.

This gesture points out the reserve and the gap that the individual institutes with regard to these excesses of which he is the witness and in which he himself refuses to be involved. Likewise, a peer coming, i.e. a rival in honor who commits to demonstrate and to perform his own nobleness, induces a similar reaction. Finally, in women's presence, who judge and reward the warrior honor, lifting up the “restraint” is an inescapable requirement.

During last years, new ways in wearing the turban have prospered. The fellaga's veiling, i.e. of the “rebellious” induces a differentiation with the values of the society and its moral contracts. The fabric is wrapped anarchically around forehead and covers also face's bottom, however without respecting the traditional structure.

The turban may today be worn as well around the neck in a casual way by young people who feel free in their behavior.

According to H el ene Claudot-Hawad

ONODEP
BP 71 Tahoua
NIGER
Tel : 00 227 96 28 50 73
Email : billou1985@yahoo.fr

Association TANAT
Le Glodet
1371 Route d epartementale 164
38610 Venon
FRANCE
Tel : 04 76 89 66 98
Email: association.tanat@gmail.com
Site: www.associationtanat.fr

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.