



TANAT school always so dynamic

A great institution !

Guy Thomas, former director of the private high school ITEC Boisfleury in Grenoble and a godfather of Tanat School, spent a few days in Abalak; He tells us his first impressions about TANAT school institutions :

« Deep spontaneity, longing for being involved, enjoying learning, desire to please the teacher, desire to work and succeed in a sometimes hard environment...

There is a lot of respect and generosity among each pupil; these are indeed the values passed on to them by their parents which are also found in hospitality and respect of traditions.

For all pupils: school, college and high school, anyone can feel that the institution is an haven of peace and an opportunity. Discipline that prevails is well accepted.

Teachers are concerned by each one being successful and they demonstrate a lot of energy. The very mindful directors are eager to make their school going ahead, to deepen their educative project and to set goals to themselves.

Pupils contribute to the school running through the government of pupils in primary school and the board of pupils in charge of classes in college – high school. They are proud of the beauty of their institution and of its achievement.

The following main lines of work are presently being set up:

- going deeper in the educative project by clarifying the values existing at school and to be practiced there.

- support between pupils : the most advanced helping those facing some difficulties. »

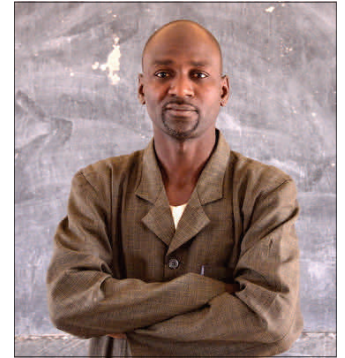


The word of the new college high school headmaster

« As all of you know it, in TANAT, the goal is to give to all children, girls as well as boys, irrespective of ethnic, religious or other background, the opportunity to learn, to be educated so as to make them people able to develop their community. It is in this perspective that the second level class has been opened with motivated pupils, ready to take up the challenge.

Thank you for all that you do and you keep on doing for us and for our school. »

Hassane Moumouni
Headmaster of college-high school school complex.



More than a lesson of geography !

« It was in 2009 , I was deeply involved into the correction of a supervised exercise when a pupil asked me to be allowed to come in and he told me :

- Sir, I have come to ask you whether the earth on which we are presently turns actually.

- Why do you ask me this question? Haven't you learnt that in geography?

- Yes, I do have learnt this lesson, however I have doubts and I believe that my father may be right. My father is a nomad, he is a great marabout. During the day we take our cattle to pasture and at night we recite Koran around a big fire . It teaches us all ages. On the subject of the moments for praying, it says : at dawn before sunrise, it is the morning prayer Sobh ; when it bends slightly towards west, it is time for the prayer Zouhr ; when it is half way between the vertical of our head and the horizon it is time to pray Asr and when the sun goes to bed for its rest, it is time to pray Magrib and Icha some time after.

- And where is your trouble with all that you have just told me, I asked him ?

- The problem is that I have understood very well what I was taught at school and one day, I told my father with the greatest respect I owe him that the sun does not go to bed, does not rest, it is rather the earth which turns around itself, and it is why there are sequences of days and nights. Then my father turned very angry against me since when he delivers his teaching he does not want to be contradicted. He said that if earth turns, animals, birds, everything which is living on earth is going to feel dizzy. Mountains are going to collapse and trees to break themselves; Walking on earth will become impossi-

ble and neither his father nor his grandfather, nobody has told him what I had just told him. He wanted to take me off the school, supposedly that the school of the white teaches us things contrary to the divine truth. My uncles' intervention was necessary for he let me continue my studies. And sometimes when I ponder over his words, I am really confused. I don't know whether it is my father who is right or it is the school of the white. Actually, even though the earth turns, we do not feel it and why Sir?

After having listened to him, I said to myself that I was in front of a pupil who is craving for knowledge and who is concerned to enlighten those who have not yet understood some astronomical phenomena.

His dad, though he recites verses of Koran, is not endowed with innate knowledge.

How many still are these marabouts who think that the eclipse of the moon means a warning for the end of the world?

How many are they those who refuse to their family watching TV, listening to the radio, using internet?

In fact, we should encourage children, girls just as well as boys, to register at school because it is the place where great knowledge is acquired.

By the end of our meeting, I have again confirmed to my pupil to content himself on science that is not conflicting with religion, to read a lot and that he know that earth really turns around itself and to put out nomadic legends such as earth is put on a big ox... »

Alichina Kada Math teacher

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.



New Logo for the Association

Change of the logo of TANAT association

You had probably noticed on the website of our association or on the front page of this newsletter that TANAT association had from now on a new logo that symbolizes a young schoolgirl writing TANAT on a blackboard.

The previous logo was drawn up in 2008 in a security context prevailing in Sahel and showed a tuareg's eyes turbaned in the letters of TANAT. Unfortunately the context has deeply changed and we have been told that this logo could recall often turbaned terrorists who rage since a few years.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding and bad connotation, we have taken up a new logo that clearly calls up to our world and our values: children, school, education.



Meeting of Association of parent's pupils in primary school



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Boko Haram and Abalak

« Even though the situation in Abalak has always been quiet, fear does not leave our hearts. Threats that were far from us are now almost between our kitchen stuffs, as they say in Tamacheq... »

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed Director of primary school

The following event mentioned in his class letter by Ghissa Hamed Alyakib teacher of CM1 is quite revealing.

« During the recent visit of TANAT School by the Head of the American Cultural Center, pupils were frightened while looking at the Head's body guards with their weapons. They thought these guards were Boko Haram elements who came to the school. It was necessary that one of the guards be asked to explain to the pupils that Boko Haram is not located in our area (Boko Haram's stronghold is around 1500 kms far from Abalak). He spoke to them in such terms : We are here to protect you and not to harm you" and he added that the Boko Haram do not wear the

military dress, they wear large boubous (common african dress) »

At last Hassane Moumouni Headmaster of College High school tells us with humour the republican march organized in whole Niger.

« Pupils from TANAT School took part to the republican march by supporting the Security and Defence Forces (SDF) in their war against Boko Haram . During this march on late February 17th, pupils sang loudly in Abalak anti Boko Haram slogans and slogans to support the SDF and the Republic.

In the last ranks of the procession, there are two young boys with inflated balloons . I do not know whether it was intentional or mere coincidence, balloons blew up. And what was the fear for the others! Children shouting and yelling, saying that Boko Haram was attacking them. Fortunately panic did not reach the rank of the officials and the mystery was solved quickly. ».

The subtleties of the tuareg speech

This on what Tuaregs base their identity, what makes them feel as Tuaregs and not as haoussas, djermas, peuls, arabs or westerners is the awareness of their belonging to a linguistic community.

Before being a man who is dressed or feeds himself in a certain way, lives in the bush and not in cities, a Tuareg is a man who speaks the « tamacheq » ».

Proprieties favor a specific way to use « tamacheq », considered, as well as the language itself, as typical of the tuareg being. It is improper, indeed, to tell things without using roundabouts, litotes and understatement, figures depicted through the term "tangält".

Speaking through tangält as a well-born Tuareg should do, it is thus let his thought in the background, not to have the crudeness to tell things too abruptly and admit to his interlocutor that he is able to understand at half word.

The Tuareg that is supposed to personify at the very best the qualities specifying the tuareg being : reserve, generosity, a certain distinction, are the most often quoted, but the most eminent one is the language elegance herein described. It is the one through that all the others find the way to be expressed: showing reserve, it is first being able to mod-

erate one's language; to be generous to others, it is first being so through his words or his silences; to be distinguished, it is first speaking with refinement.

A saying summarizes this state of mind: « The well-born man, speaks obscurely (through tangält)), the man of little, speaks clearly».

An anecdote shows properly this way of feeling. Tuaregs were to move. They did not own donkeys to transport their tents as it is usually done. So they decided to hire services from a man of their acquaintance, who owned a car. They sent him a young man who asked him to come with his car.

The young came back alone, saying that the man wanted first to know the price that would be offered to him.

A Tuareg, I was explained, would have understood by himself what was implied by sending this emissary, that from the moment when somebody had come to search for him, it was because they had a fair idea of the price that he would request and that in advance they were prepared to accept it, may be after some minor bargainings. But the man had not been able to understand.

According to Islam and Nobleness within Tuaregs, from Dominique Casajus.

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.