



Newsletter n°23 - October 2016

8th new school year : opening final year class of high school !

The great plan of TANAT school becomes real !



100 % success to secondary school certificate for TANAT

Out of 39 pupils of the 3rd class of TANAT college : 37 were admitted straight to the written test, 2 were admitted to the oral one. Thus it is a 100 % success.

It was the first class of graduates entirely trained by TANAT school, since they were admitted in CE2, at the opening of the school in October 2009. Congratulations to all these schoolboys and schoolgirls but also to their teachers, to Headmaster Hassane and to all those who have so well trained and supported them.



Flag raising with Niger national anthem in college high school.

October 2016 : over 400 pupils !

New school year with the opening of the final year class of high school did take place on October 4th.

TANAT school institution welcomes this year 212 pupils in primary school, 50 % being girls, 127 in college, 30% being girls and 74 in high school, 27% being girls.

Due to the good reputation of the school, it has been unavoidable to refuse many application requests since our classes are already quite filled.

In January 2008, I wrote a letter to friends in France :
« I have the great plan to set up a quality teaching institution from primary to secondary school. I am aware that this is a huge challenge that requires courage, means and determination. This plan originates from the observation that public school in Niger due to various causes is not able to ensure a quality teaching.

Starting from there, I think that for our town and our district, it is essential to create something. I know I cannot bear this plan alone and I need people in France who are able to understand it and help me to carry it. I ask you to support me through this venture ... »

My friends responded positively to my request and in may 2008 they created TANAT association to support this great plan. Today TANAT school is a reality : more than 400 pupils from CI (high kindergarten) to final year of high school ; it is well equipped : electrified classrooms and administrative blocks, 2 computer rooms, library, school books for pupils ... The results prove the quality of the teaching : every year 100 % success to the first degree certificate, 100 % success to the secondary school certificate.

I really want to thank from the bottom of my heart all those who have contributed to the setting up of TANAT school and more particularly :
- Directors and teachers by their skill and dedication
- Volunteers of TANAT association, sponsors, godfathers and godmothers
- Institutions and companies that financed us and specifically IB Remarketing
- Bayard institution pedagogical partner from the very beginning that allowed us to start primary school on so good bases and which continues to support us yearly thanks to a generous "bowl of rice"

- Itec Boisfleury high school which trains yearly our directors and teachers and also supports us through various actions.

But this plan is not finished, we should also think to all those who are not fitted for general education, I wish now to be able to set up a quality professional training establishment and I know that I can rely upon all of you .



Billou Mohamed Moctar Mayor of Abalak

How far we have come since the start of secondary school in 2011

Alichina Kada's testimony, teacher in secondary school since its start in October 2011 is really very interesting :

« On its opening TANAT secondary school made some visitors laugh, it was but a simple block of two class rooms welcoming 6th and 5th classes with numbers less than 35 pupils. The guard's "cabin" completed the existing infrastructure... the whole located at the eastern limits of Abalak.

It is like a bush school and not a secondary school ... cattle, pupils and teachers live together! "It is a joke" we were regularly used to hear! They will fail as did many others who embarked on such a venture.

In fact, there was not any joke, TANAT without the help of the State, took care of the enhancement of this area and the proper operation of this educational establishment.

At the time being, the concrete implementations are visible and the initial visitor switches from laugh to surprise : full outer wall, 5 blocks of two classrooms, administrative block, library, computer room, sports field, solar electricity, latrines, about one hundred trees and overall very good educational results ...

This is indeed a feat on behalf of TANAT association as the authorities' s praising speech attest, parents' enthusiasm for having their children registered and finally the impact that it generates amid the other districts .

What is obvious, it is that our children now benefit of all that is necessary to learn in this world of globalization and internationalization and this thanks to TANAT . »

Alichina Kada Censor and Maths 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 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.

Terrible floods in Abalak during the month of August



Collapsed house in the area of TANAT school.

News

Rissa Mouhamadoune, former founder director of the primary school has joined us to secondary school as general supervisor to reinforce discipline, one of our priority axes.

On August 3rd, on the occasion of the feast of the Tree, Ighlass keeper of secondary school received an award from SEM Issoufou Mahamadou President of the Republic of Niger. This prize rewards all the work carried on by Iglass for the beautiful tree-plantings of the institution.

A new computer class room has been opened in secondary school. It is equipped with 20 networked late-model computers, given by IB Remarketing, great sponsor of the school. This company had already given in 2010 the computers for primary school that still work perfectly .



High school girl with one of the new computers

During the night from August 7th to 8th, Abalak collected heavy rains (112 mm measuring rainfall).

As there had been no real rains since several years, water has run on the hard soil without soaking through it and has swollen the "koris" (the previous beds of dried torrents).

In some areas such as the one of TANAT primary school, some walls had been built across koris, these "dams" caused very quick rises of waters before giving way, then creating strong currents before waters bang against next dam.

These floods associated to strong currents had dramatic consequences on houses built with "banco" in great majority (bricks of dried muds). Literally based-undermined, houses

collapsed and inhabitants have lost all their meager possessions.

Fortunately warning was launched and inhabitants went out of their houses just in time. A 4 years old girl's death is to be mourned in all Abalak.

The official figure of the flood is impressive : 14 857 disaster victims (men, women and children), 1616 collapsed houses, 1525 lost heads of cattle .

Permanent structure-built TANAT school classrooms ("cement rubbles") have not been damaged and have been immediately suitable for accommodating almost 200 stricken people of the area.

Nevertheless one school outer wall has collapsed , the administrative block has been severely damaged and will probably have to be rebuilt .

Tekaraqit : behavior ethic within Tuaregs

The traditional tuareg education teaches young people a certain number of rules that they should conform to within their relationship with others. Tekaraqit defines the ethic of behavior in tuareg society : modesty, shame or restraint .

Well before marriage, young people meet themselves at night. The boy who wishes to date a girl comes to her parent's tent in the evening. He waits for the night being well into, for animals having stopped moving and grunting. He leaves his camel tied up apart so that cows and sheep do not get up and that dogs do not start barking. He puts his veil down in order not to be recognized and he slips unnoticed into the camp then in the girl's family tent. He gently scratches her ear to awake her. If she does not wish the interview she covers her head with the blanket and the boy has nothing to do but to retreat silently. Despite this defeat the boy is entitled to take again his chance several times .

If the girl agrees, she draws her sleeping mat and moves aside from her parents as much as allowed by the smallness of the tent to be able to talk without mishap.

Then in a low voice the talk begins. Guessing games or stories pop up, each one seeks to get the last word. For the young man it is a preliminary examination. If he cannot reply to an enigma by another one even more difficult, he is made understood that he is not accepted .

If he is accepted, he becomes the hearted boyfriend, he is proud of it and he shows it publicly by displaying some small items of his lady friend.

These relationships do not remain only verbal, the boy allowed to date his heart's young woman can indulge in pretty far liberties with her. In fact everything is permitted on condition there is no pregnancy since the only fault for a woman is to give birth to an illegitimate child before being married. She would be then disowned by her parents and would have difficulties in finding an husband. The bastard child is a curse that should be avoided at any price whereas virginity is not a precious good.

In his love games, a certain discretion should be respected, the young man who around midnight slips into his lady friend's bed leaves her around 5 a.m., the most silently possible. Shame on the one staying asleep, the camp's women seize his sword before he awakes and mock at him through songs where his name is wide open to ridicule. To get back his sword, the young man will have to give a goat or a sheep to the women to buy their silence .

These date meetings have nothing illicit but should remain anonymous and discreet.

To be followed

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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.