



Newsletter n° 7 – July 2011

Great results for Tanat school “Sahel star, collective jewel”



The CM2 class girls which all passed the first level certificate .

100 % success to the first level certificate in Tanat school

All pupils of the CM2 class sat for and passed the CFEPD (First level Certificate). In Niger, obtaining this exam is compulsory to enter the secondary school.

This is an exceptional success in comparison with the results obtained in the Abalak District, not exceeding 55 %.

Results are good for all classes :

- CI : 100 % eligible to CP
- CP : 2 repeating out of 37 pupils
- CE1 : 100 % eligible to CE2
- CE2 : 3 repeating out of 29 pupils
- CM1 : 5 repeating out of 31 pupils



Foundations of 6 th and 5 th classes

Rissa Director’s moving speech during the school year closing party

« Tanat school has great pleasure to celebrate its yearly party for the end of the school year . Tanat school, reflection of Abalak district or Azawagh, is a marvel that we must cherish. Through dispensed education, english lessons, and computer room, it is one of the best private school in Niger. Let me, esteemed guests, to address these few words :



Rissa Mohamadou ,TANAT school director

To parents : to notify them that their choice is the good one, because Tanat means « doing better ». Help Tanat school, make it more attractive because it is our future, our destiny, our safeguard . Our future because it moulds and brings forth men and women endowed with knowledge relating to interpersonal skills, know-how and manners. Our destiny :

from TANAT school will come out men and women likely to face difficulties arising tomorrow, a society elite who will be our safeguard because our choice, I hope so, will not be vain.

To teachers : I request from you to show always more love and patience to these dear pupils whose heavy responsibility you bear. I know that educating them is a noble but difficult task ; do not disappoint neither the parents nor Abalak district...

To our partners : National Education Ministry, Tanat Association, godfathers and godmothers, Bayard school of Grenoble, IB Remarketing, Neone Creation, JEMED... who greatly helped us for the founding of this school ; do not forget that TANAT is like a baby who is growing and needs your continuous support. Tanat school thanks you for your past and future support.

To Authorities : we thank them warmly for their support through visiting our Tanat School ; by this gesture, they intended to show their resolute support to this Sahel star, our collective jewel.

Let us love Tanat primary school and the future Tanat secondary school. Help them since this is our hope, our success...»

Rissa Mohamadou ,TANAT school director

Secondary school ready for the start of the new school year

The works for building the secondary school on a large site located 2 kms from downtown, have been delayed due to shortage of water in Abalak during spring, despite an expensive 400 meters long water pipe connecting which had been completed since early March. However for the new term in October, the wall fence, the keeper’s house, the 6 th and 5th classes as well as a sanitary block will be finished. On the other hand, electricity being still too far away, the link is too expensive and will be done at a later stage .

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). Whereas 60% of families pay 100 € per year to grant schooling to their child (which sum approximately equals in a monthly salary in Niger) operating costs amount to 180 € per year and per pupil.

Tanat school needs you to receive more sponsorships and supports to offer more children the possibility to take in charge their future.



Billou elected as Abalak Mayor



Hamed Billou Mohamed Moctar Abalak Mayor and ONODEP chairman

On July 1st, the new local council of Abalak district met officially for the first time and elected its new mayor : Hamed Billou Mohamed Moctar from whom the Tanat school project originates and who is the chairman of ONODEP, the structure that manages the school.

Challenges to take up by the Abalak municipality are huge :

- drainage works, waste collection and environment protection

- Mobilization of financial resources since only 20% of the municipality taxes are levied
- Urgent actions in social, education, health and water sectors
- Rehabilitation of the numerous refugees from Libya and Ivory Coast

The new mayor, in collaboration with the new municipality council, must now decide the priority actions and install a new rallied, determined and efficient municipality team.

Massive refugees influx in Abalak



Arrival in Abalak of refugees from Libya

Due to the present influx of refugees, mostly from Libya, Abalak district population has increased from 40 000 to 50 000 inhabitants within 3 months. 80% of the Abalak families were receiving a financial support from the migrant workers in Libya. It is thus a double difficulty that most of Abalak families have to cope with due to the

massive influx of people without means of living and the financial support loss.

A municipality committee is in charge of the repatriated from Libya but, presently without means, its contribution is limited to register them and to search for funds to the national committee level and to other potential sponsors.

The central function of the woman in the tuareg tradition



Anzad, traditional tuareg violin

Within tuaregs, society is traditionally structured around the woman. Warrior aristocracy succession was transmitted through the mother lineage.

The tuareg woman selects her husband or her family chooses him with her approval and then she plays a central part within the family unit, from children education to home running.

Everything that embodies the family unit to begin with the tent and its content belongs to the wife. No husband is authorized to dispose of the inalienable material property brought by his wife through marriage without her consent. In the event of a divorce, the wife keeps all home belongings.

The woman is the « Ashak » guardian, the Tamasheq word referring to the whole moral virtues that make somebody being worthy since he avoids all acts leading to disgrace. Ashak is synonymous with bravery, generosity and keeping one's word.

To convey such a virtue within the communities, « Anzand », i.e. a single chord violin, is considered as the sinew of the tuareg culture.

It is played exclusively by women as protectors of the values.

tors of the values.

According to tuareg wisdom, Anzad listen to and see people. "you don't hear the violin" this expression comes out each time a man or a woman's behaviour seems to be in contradiction with the social standards.

The judgment of the woman regulating behaviour in society is dreaded. Man is well advised to be considered by her as brave, generous and infallible. Facing a difficult situation, the young tuareg will never think about consequences of his behaviour on himself but rather at what the girls in the camp will say.

Guardian of culture and tradition, the tuareg woman is responsible for transmitting tuareg language and "Tifinagh" the tuareg writing to the younger generations and also for conducting ceremonies as baptism or marriage .

Of course these age-old traditions experience evolutions through settling process and modernization, but still today the greatest sacrilege in tuareg society is to raise one's hand to a woman and insulting her is strongly condemned. No blow on her physical, moral or spiritual integrity is bearable.

The Tanat pedagogic plan

- 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.

The project of Tanat School

Taking into account the condition of the educative system in the Abalak department of Niger, inhabitants gathered within the ONODEP association chaired by Billou Mohamed Moctar, deputy mayor, to open and manage a school with the support of the French TANAT association. A pedagogic and technical partnership has been set up with Bayard School in Grenoble.

2009 - stage 1: Primary school opening with CI, CP, CE1 CE2 then in 2010 CM1 and CM2 .

2011 - stage 2: Secondary school opening.

2013 - stage 3: High school opening.

The necessary investments for the primary level represented approximately 100 000 € and thereafter should be around 200 000 € for the secondary school and the high school. **Sponsorships** take care of the most underprivileged pupils and balance the operating expenses.

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