



2011-2012 Once more a very beautiful school year



Ready for the new school year in October 2012

Everything is ready for the new school year in October 2012. A new building was built to secure the opening of the 4th level class of the college. The buildings of the primary school



are still in perfect condition, flowers and trees have grown up. All the PCs of the computer room still work perfectly as pupils and teachers take such great care of them.



Rissa Director of the primary school retires

Rissa decided to retire after 3 years devoted to the management of TANAT primary school. We thank him from the bottom of our heart for all that he has done for TANAT school.

We owe him this strictness, culture of excellence, professionalism, these results to the first degree certificate ... that makes TANAT school being now an example for all the region.

Rissa returns to his village "Alghadad" located approximately 40 kms from Abalak but he will not leave us completely since he will be back one week per month as a consultant to ensure the training of his successor Mouhamadoune who has already been a teacher at TANAT school for 3 years.

Rissa has left to us a legacy full of wisdom and humour whose some extracts follow :

"Nobody can go beyond his destiny. With old age coming, the old director is no longer able to move but he is very concerned by the future of Tanat School populations, and of its teachers..."

No one can succeed in his work but only with an extensive professional morality. I request-



Rissa Mohamadou

those with whom I have worked and to the new ones to follow my advices since each one will only succeed in his task with his love, respect for others and pupils and the will to help those who are in distress.

Teaching is a noble job, we train, we help, we turn the tiny human being into a future development man.

Do love this job by practising it honestly, and then you will participate to the edification of a generation, of a city or of a country.

For my part, I shall contribute for the little I can give, as minor as it may be. »

Climate effect on pupils' performances



Alichina Kada

"the semester that is ending for the academic year 2011-2012 is characterized on the whole Sahelian-Sudanese strip by very high temperatures from April to June (45 ° C in the shade) and a hot dusty dry wind that blows all along this period.

Contrary to the first quarter during which climatic conditions

were mild, temperate and very favourable (20° C from December to January), , dry hot and dusty air the whole day disturbs pupils and teachers from carrying out their noble mission, and that brings a few annoyances such as :

- pupils' loss of motivation during the two last hours of the morning (from 11 h to 13h30)
- the drying of mouth, throat and skin (due to accelerated dehydration) distracts pupils' attention towards consumption of fresh and pure water.
- a feeling of mental and physical tiredness for undernourished pupils."

Alichina Kada, teacher of Mathematics in the college

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.



Goats on the market of Abalak

Assessment of the school year

During the whole year, the school has not been faced with any teacher vacancy except for a one week vacancy of the C1 teacher hit as were the pupils by a chickenpox epidemic.

The school government has contributed to beautifying the school, to devote hours of cleanliness inside and outside the school, to watering trees and flowers.

As soon as the end of April, the entire official syllabus had been completed in each class and the remaining class weeks were dedicated to revisions.

The results are as follows :

CI : all the 28 pupils admitted in CP

CP : 22 out of 27 admitted

CE1 : 32 out of 35 admitted

CE2 : 28 out of 31 admitted

CM1 : 23 out of 27 admitted

CM2 : 100 % of the 24 pupils succeeded in the First Degree Certificate.

6 th : 21 out of 25 admitted

5th : 12 out of 19 admitted

The great number of pupils repeating 5th class is explained by the fact that all the pupils were coming from outside and many had not the requested basis. Despite teachers' efforts, it was not possible to bring them up to standard. Therefore it has been decided to open not 2 classes every year but only one class. In October 2012, only the 4th class will be started.

The school year has been closed with a nice party during which an English-speaking sketch amazed everybody.

Very hard conditions in Abalak and in the neighbourhood

It is the third consecutive year of drought in Abalak region and during the "gap" (i.e. the period before the June/July rains) that has begun since early March, cereals price rockets while cattle selling price goes down. For instance, a cattle breeder who sells a goat in Abalak market will manage to buy 71 kgs of millet this year, which represents still 20 % less than last year when however the conditions for the exchange cattle/ cereals were already very worsened.

More than 130 000 repatriated people mainly coming from Libya have been registered in the region ; they have been able to be granted a financial support of 300 000 € spread through municipalities, proceeding from the High Au-

thority for Peace Consolidation of the State of Niger.

Approximately 12 000 refugees from Mali are registered in the region; they have received some support coming from PAM, HCR and the State of Niger.

As concerns Abalak city, water supply is usually provided by 3 drillings into an underground water-level located to more than 200 m in depth. However since several months, due to problems with electricity coming from Nigeria, electricity and thus water-pumping work only from 20 pm to 8 am. Consequently, some districts of Abalak are completely deprived of water, what causes serious troubles to men and animals.

Tifinagh, Tuareg script

The ancient Tifinagh appears well before our era engraved or painted on rock. These geometric characters are found in the whole sub-Mediterranean and Saharan area. Only Tuaregs have maintained the use of this script that counts from 21 to 27 marks according to the dialects.

The exact origin of Tifinagh is not known but this script is still used today by Tuaregs to write short texts in Tamasheq language, as inscriptions on objects such as jewels, weapons, carpets, earthenware, for short texts between lovers and on epitaphs. On the contrary, literature, mythology or Tuaregs' history are always transmitted through oral tradition.

Within Tuaregs, the mother teaches her child the different characters of the Tifinagh alphabet by outlining them on the desert sand, fast medium without mark. It would seem that one man out of 3 and one woman out of 2 write it unhesitatingly.



Tuareg woman teaching Tifinagh

a	•	j	#	r	○
b	⊕	k	:	s	⊙
š (che)	⊖	l		t	+
d	E	m	□	c (tch)	⊥
e	<	n		u	"
f]]	o	--	v	⌒
g	ı	p	⌒	w	=
η	≠	q	:	y	≈
h	:	x (kh)	::	z	⌘
i	↶	γ (gh)	:::		

Tifinagh alphabet characters

Traditional Tifinagh is written from right to left, and towards bottom or top.

As no vowel is used, it is hardly impossible to decipher it for who does not know very well the Tamasheq language. For this reason, the Association for the Tifinagh Promotion has created vowels and promotes this new way of writing.

It is recently that Tifinagh is used as a pedagogic support for the literacy campaign.

Sources : mondeberbere.com, agadez-niger.com, Les Touaregs - Découvertes Gallimard, solane.com, touaregs-mirages.canalblog.com

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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 Mochtar, 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.