



Newsletter n° 6 – February 2011

Tanat school, more and more exemplary, launches the operation « clean school area »

Secondary school opening in October

Classes for 6th and 5th levels of secondary school will open this year in October. The building works will begin within the coming weeks on a large ground granted by Abalak City Hall, located approximately 2 kms from the primary school.



Well protected personal computers

In order to protect personal computers from dust that is rampant the whole year and filters into everywhere destroying rapidly electronic devices, nice made to measure fabric covers have been made by pupils' mums.



PC well protected by their fabric covers.

Information message from Director Rissa

« Tanat school, example for Sahel, located North of Abalak city, welcomes nomad children concerned by their studies.

The 7 teachers, aware of their brothers or sons lot's, grant an exemplary teaching and are highly motivated. Missing the school is a fault for each of them.

The green and computerized establishment is

composed of pupils and managed by them. The government is as follows:

One president, one minister of education in charge of the learning of lessons and of the program progress, one minister of equipment in charge of the buildings and of the furniture, one minister of health caring for cleanliness inside the establishment, one minister of jus-



The TANAT school government democratically elected by all the pupils.

itself an attraction especially for the pupils who feel proud in this school which is truly a "school garden".

The total number of pupils has reached an important level, i.e. 183, 70 of them are girls, and 113 are boys. The concession for this school has been expanded to a new space that will be used as game and gardening grounds...

The school now has an internal government democratically elected by all the pupils,

the director who manages the school clashes and the minister for games and leisure who has immediately required a ball to the director to play football : he has won his case with the immediate purchase of a ball.

Let us encourage and love Tanat school since the Niger private schools director when visiting us in last December uttered these flattering words, I quote : "Tanat private school is one of the best in Niger". »

Rissa Mohamadou TANAT school director

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.



The school area and the operation « clean school area »



Operation « clean school area » in a street which borders the school.



Bride's friends admire gifts offered by her husband.



Mens's reception on wedding day.

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.

“Azanene” district north of Abalak where Tanat school is located is inhabited mostly by Tuaregs who came after severe droughts in 1984 and 1985.

They settled with their families and herds on granted “concessions” by the village leader, around the few habitations of those who had already set up themselves in Abalak.

Progressively houses have replaced tents but « tafallas » (shelters opened on each side) remained standing beside these houses to be able to keep an atmosphere open onto nature as in tents.

Small low walls replaced wooden fences built initially to look after animals.

Afterwards children erected their own houses on their parents’ “concession” and thus a full quarter was gradually built .

Today “tough buildings” (concrete houses)



Operation « clean school area » past the school.

are close to « banco houses » (made of dried clay bricks), goats and cows are fewer but still roaming about everywhere .

The district is electrified since 2006 and has running water but neither sewage disposal nor garbage collection. Streets are really littered with plastics and other rubbishes .

Since the very beginning the most stringent tidiness has been imposed within Tanat school by the director . On the occasion of a lesson about environment and cleanliness, CM2 pupils put forward to clean the area around the school .

Operation « clean school area » is launched, it will be carried out every Sunday morning by CM1 and CM2 pupils with the help of the youngest.

Marriage today among Tuaregs in Abalak

Timidoua (literally to be friend) is the first step of marriage. Boy and girl learn to become better acquainted through meetings which must be kept very discreet due to the tradition .

Later if the two young wish to marry, the youngster makes his parents aware, never directly, but through his sisters or his friends . If parents approve their son's choice, they get in touch with the girl's parents to propose marriage .

Parents then ask their daughter her opinion. If she agrees, religious ceremony of marriage is performed in mosque in front of the imam, without the presence of the bride and the bridegroom but with their representatives . The boy's parents give traditionally a dowry of three she-camels to the girl's parents . Marriage is henceforth official and everybody is informed about it but the couple is not yet living together.

As soon as they are financially able to live together, the traditional wedding ceremony can be held . The girl 's parents offer her the trousseau, i.e. everything that will allow her to live on her own and that will remain her prop-

erty throughout her life . It is a bed, « tendes » (mortars), kitchen utensils, a few heads of cattle ...



Bed, « tendes »: part of the bride's trousseau.

On the day of the traditional ceremony, men and women meet separately.

Women may admire the gifts offered by the husband . The bride is prepared for the ceremony (plaits and henna tattooing...) and at the end of the day friends of the newly married man come and get her to bring her to his house .

The plan 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: opening of the primary school with CI, CP, CE1 CE2, and CM1 and CM2 in 2010.

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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