



Newsletter n° 14 - October 2013

5th New School Year of TANAT School 324 Pupils Already !



2013 New school Year

This 5th new school year went off quite well with the new 3rd level class and the beginning of the electricity lessons.

Tanat school now welcomes 324 pupils, among which 111 in college (6th, 5th, 4th and 3rd level classes) and 213 in primary school with 44% girls in primary level, which brings us close to our goal of 50%, but only 31% in college for the time being.

Once again it has not been possible to accept all the children wishing to join TANAT school and again, many pupils suffering from malaria were missing during first days of the new school year.

A Brilliant First Degree Certificate Candidate

Najma Achayado from TANAT school came number one in the first degree certificate out of the 262 candidates of her examination center in Abalak district and ranked third out of the 965 candidates of Abalak department.

Najma Achayado



New Steps in Favor of the Girls in College

Kadri Garba Soumana, the new headmaster of TANAT college is a man of experience. As soon as 1997, he was appointed as the headmaster of a scholar complex (college + high school) in Arlit. From 2001, he managed a scholar complex in Konni before joining us for this new school year.

« This year I would like to better emphasize on the girls of the college ; we shall thus begin to teach family economy, i.e. teaching to young girls as from the 6th level class the concepts of family, relatives, family home, housekeeping, husband...

In 5th level class, hygienics, tidiness in family home, cooking, knitting and sewing. In 4th level

class, hygiene for woman, painful periods, reproduction, different kinds of sewing, cooking, washing dishes...

In 3rd level class, we go deeper into the 4th level class knowledge by adding how protecting oneself from unwished pregnancies, premature marriage and its dangers, the forced marriage...



Kadri Garba Soumana
College headmaster

Kadri Garba Soumana, College headmaster

Primary school on its Pursuit of Excellence



Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed
Primary school Director

« Tanat primary school carries on joyfully its 5th start. All that is necessary to begin properly the academic year in good conditions is available.

Indeed, teachers' staff is all here, school books and school stationery are available and classrooms in good state are still comfortable.

This year, with Practical and Productive Activities lessons (PPA), we are going to set up a school museum. Snapshots, drawings and things that will be made inside by pupils will be used as pedagogical support for some lessons such as natural science, geography, agriculture... This will already show to pupils the concrete result of their efforts.

A new school government will be democratically elected in order to make pupils aware of their responsibilities so that they are involved with the running of the school. It will have the duty of protecting environment, looking after training lessons and the respect of internal school regulations.»

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed, Primary school Director

Official acknowledgment of Satisfaction for TANAT Primary School

At the suggestion of the primary school inspector, Ousman Mouhamadou, and in presence of numerous officials of Abalak, among which the Deputy, the Superintendent, the Mayor, the academic inspectors and the customary authorities, the Abalak district prefect Mr Abdou Salamou, has granted an official acknowledgement of satisfaction to the primary school TANAT and to its whole staff further to the outstanding scholar results achieved over three successive years : First Degree Certificate : 100% success in 2011, 2012 and 2013.



The Abalak Prefect delivers to the Director Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed the official acknowledgement of satisfaction

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.



Electricity courses

« Since the arrival of electricity in Abalak in 2004, electrical fittings are set up in most cases in a terrible mess and skilled workers in electricity people are few...

The expected aim is to give to our pupils of 4th and 3rd level classes a practical skill allowing them on the one hand to settle in complete safety little failures and on the other hand to do minor electrical fittings in their homes.

Today, everything is ready for allowing a proper start of the electricity courses in TANAT school.»

Almoustapha Mohamed in charge of the electricity lessons



President's Word

Observing the current security regulations, I have been able to go to Abalak, alone, a few days for the new school year.

In this so hard environment (oppressive heat ,unceasing power and water cuts...), once again I have been filled with wonder at noticing pupils' joy of life and longing for learning and overall school directors and whole teaching staff's motivation and efficiency.

Be sure that your donations which enable making real this great project are really productive and properly used. Thanks to all of you.

Guy de Place, Président of TANAT

Exemplary Story Lived by Alichina Kada

« From August 25th to September 24th 2013, the town of Abalak and its outskirts have received only traces of rain... Surface water trapped in valleys early disappears through infiltration in soil, evaporation and feeding cattle and nomads. This brackish water highly concentrated with impurities (defecation, cattle carcasses...) remains essential for living beings.

Its color changes progressively from a muddy brown to a greenish one thus furthering massive development of mosquitoes and other microbes such as *bilharzia*.

It is in this context while I was resting in my little patch of land located 6 kms far from Abalak by the side of one of the above described ponds, that three young tuareg nomad girls, respectively between 8, 12 and 16 years old approximately, asked me drinking water in their language (Tamachek).

I provoke them in Haoussa language showing them the water of the pond a few meters far from us. The 12 years old girl alone has understood the meaning of my words and she re-torted in her language : No, I have prevented my sisters to consume this water!

And why that? I replied, yet only just 30 minutes before your coming, your nomad parents came to load four donkeys, each one carrying

two barrels holding 25 liters of water.

After I realized that the 12 years old girl alone keeps on speaking while translating my remarks to her sisters, I worry: But why your sisters say nothing?

She said :my sisters did not have the opportunity I enjoyed through going to school. They watch over our cattle and take care of household duties. I am admitted to the first level degree and I go to college on next new school year.

I have learnt the Haoussa language and some peul words with my schoolmates. I have learnt a lot about some things of life... for instance that water of ponds contains microbes that cause diseases; one can avoid these diseases through filtrating or boiling water before consuming it.

What was my surprise in front of this young nomad girl provided with schooling who keeps on making her parents sensitive, enabling them to emerge from the darkness of ignorance ?

What will she do when she will reach an extended knowledge once in university or will obtain a good job with responsibilities?»



Alichina Kada, College teacher of Mathematics and Life and Earth Sciences

Tuaregs' Origins

Oral tradition makes Tuaregs originate from Tin Hinan, Queen and mythical ancestor. The political control traditionally belonged, within the confederation, to the direct descendants of this Mother Queen, founder of tuareg language and culture community.

Actually tuareg society is organized around « ettebel », the drum, symbol of command and right to hold the traditional authority. This word also designates the political confederation. Each "ettebel" is composed of several groups originating from a same female ancestor. This tradition implies that the status of the woman remains quite exceptional.

However, the origins of this people are still a topic for discussion. Henri Lhote's observations, an ethnologist and archeologist, specialist for Sahara, report that black populations settled in Sahara during ancient Neolithic (-6600/-4000 B.C.). Populations of the Ethiopian type, Negroid and Caucasoid are found mingled during medium and final Neolithic (till -2500).

A white migration took place later on: it is the

period told the "Caballine" with chariots and horses.

Horses style is very similar to the « flying gallop" in the Mycenaean art of Crete. And we know with certainty that around 1200 B.C., populations named by Egyptians as the "Populations of the Sea" had come from Crete and presumably from much further in the North to attack Egypt and had mixed with Libyans.

The distribution of painted chariots shows that horsemen populations originated from the Population of the Sea and from Libyans had reached Niger coming through Tassili of Ajjer and Hoggar ,approximately 1000 years before Christian era."Chariots' road" stretches out from Tripoli to Gao.

Later on, Herodote, in the 5th century.B.C., mentions that a population belonging to the great libyan nation, the Garamantes (who lived in the present Fezzan) used these chariots for war.

According to Temoust.org

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 Moc-tar, 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.

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