What's up

UM6P
Communications and
Public Relations Office

Your Friday Wrap #261 – July 4th, 2025
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

Empowering Minds.

UM6P hosted Morocco’s first National Forum on Artificial Intelligence

On the 1st and 2nd of July, under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the aegis of the Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic hosted the first National Forum on Artificial Intelligence at UM6P Rabat Campus.

The conference, themed "An Efficient and Ethical AI Strategy Serving Our Society," brought together government officials, private sector leaders, academics, and international experts. The Participants discussed 13 key sectors for AI application in Morocco, including education, healthcare, agriculture, and industrial modernization.

Over the two days, the agenda featured technical panels, startup showcases, and strategic policy dialogues. The event concluded with the presentation of key recommendations and the signing of several memoranda of understanding with national institutions and global partners.

ABS contributed to dialogue on sustainable and infrastructure funding

On the 30th of July, Pr. Mohamed Amrani, Professor of Management Practice at Africa Business School, took part in a panel on infrastructure financing, addressing mechanisms, challenges, and innovations at the national and international levels.

Held under the theme “Structuring, Financing, and Managing Infrastructure for Territorial Competitiveness and Sustainable Transformation”, the session brought together representatives from BMCE Capital, ONCF, AMMC, and Paris Europlace. Discussions covered the evolving role of capital markets, Morocco’s regulatory tools, and the need for long-term financing instruments such as green bonds, debt funds, and covered bonds.

Pr. Amrani highlighted the importance of aligning financing models with local development priorities. The session concluded with reflections on future challenges tied to climate transition, technological disruption, and geopolitical shifts.

College of Computing advanced digital transformation training in Southeast Asia

From the 17th to the 21st of June, the College of Computing at UM6P participated to a joint training on “Digital Governance, Cybersecurity, and AI Adoption for Public Service,” held in Singapore under the Morocco–Singapore triangular cooperation framework.

The event was organized by the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation and the Singapore Cooperation Programme . The session brought together 20 senior officials from seven ASEAN countries. Professor Lamiae Azizi delivered the module on Artificial Intelligence, focusing on its integration in public services. This participation reflects UM6P’s commitment to global collaboration and capacity building in digital transformation.

Moroccan delegation participated in the International Quality Assurance Programme 2025 in London

From the 23rd to the 27th of June, the Quality Assurance Office took part in the International Quality Assurance Programme organized by the United Kingdom’s Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, held at Regent’s University in London.

The programme brought together quality assurance leaders from over 20 countries for peer learning and dialogue on QA frameworks in higher education. Dounia Skalli, PMO at the Quality Assurance Office, represented UM6P within the Moroccan delegation invited by the Moroccan National Agency for Evaluation and Quality Assurance of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Her participation reflected the university’s ongoing engagement in developing innovative, context-aware QA systems aligned with African and international standards.

FIRSI honored scholarship recipients from French Grandes Écoles at UM6P France

On the 28th of June, FIRSI scholarship recipients who completed studies at French Grandes Écoles were honored during a ceremony at UM6P France.

The event recognized their academic achievements and community engagement. FIRSI, which promotes equal access to higher education, has supported students from diverse backgrounds since its creation. The organization maintains an active alumni network focused on professional development and shared opportunities.

Communicating Science #18: Storing the Sun: What an experiment in Benguerir says about Africa’s water resilience

In regions where freshwater access is more a constraint than a choice, engineering must operate with a different set of priorities. The question is not how to deliver perfection, but how to deliver reliability, affordably, scalarly, and within the limits of what’s already available. In Benguerir, one research team is attempting to do just that.

At the Green Technologies Institute of University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P), Naouar El Mghari, a research engineer specializing in renewable energy systems and her team have been refining a decades-old water purification method – solar distillation – by addressing one of its oldest limitations: its dependence on daylight.

Check the article

Researchers explored heavy metals removal from phosphate streams

On the 26th of June, the Research and Global Scientific Engagement Office, through its Strategic research initiative on extraction and purification Technologies, in collaboration with OCP SBUs, held a symposium titled “Demetallization: Advancements in Heavy Metals Removal from Phosphate Industry Streams” at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The event brought together UM6P researchers and OCP experts to discuss strategies for reducing heavy metals in phosphate production. Key topics included technical and economic challenges, environmental impacts, and pathways to achieve cleaner processes by 2030.

AI applications in mining optimization, cost barriers in cadmium removal additives, and opportunities for local material development were discussed and emerging technologies like liquid membranes and nanofiltration were presented. UM6P also announced a Call for Projects to develop scalable solutions.

UM6P joined 70 institutions for continental dialogue on AI and education in Kigali

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, through its Digital Ecosystem Office, participated in The Education Collaborative's annual convening in Kigali, alongside over 70 institutions from 16 African countries.

Mr. Jalal Charaf, Chief Digital and AI Officer, delivered a plenary on artificial intelligence in higher education, focusing on assessment adaptation and sharing advances from UM6P’s Digital Learning Center. The event formed part of a research initiative led by WISE and AfriLabs, reinforcing UM6P’s commitment to digital innovation in education across the continent.

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AFRICA INITIATIVE
Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest
Issue 92, July 4, 2025
EMPOWER TALENT, EMPOWER AFRICA

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest on its 92nd edition

The UM6P Africa Initiative entity is announcing the release of the 92nd edition of the Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest. The main objective is to share with UM6P community members the latest news, opportunities, and events from across the continent.

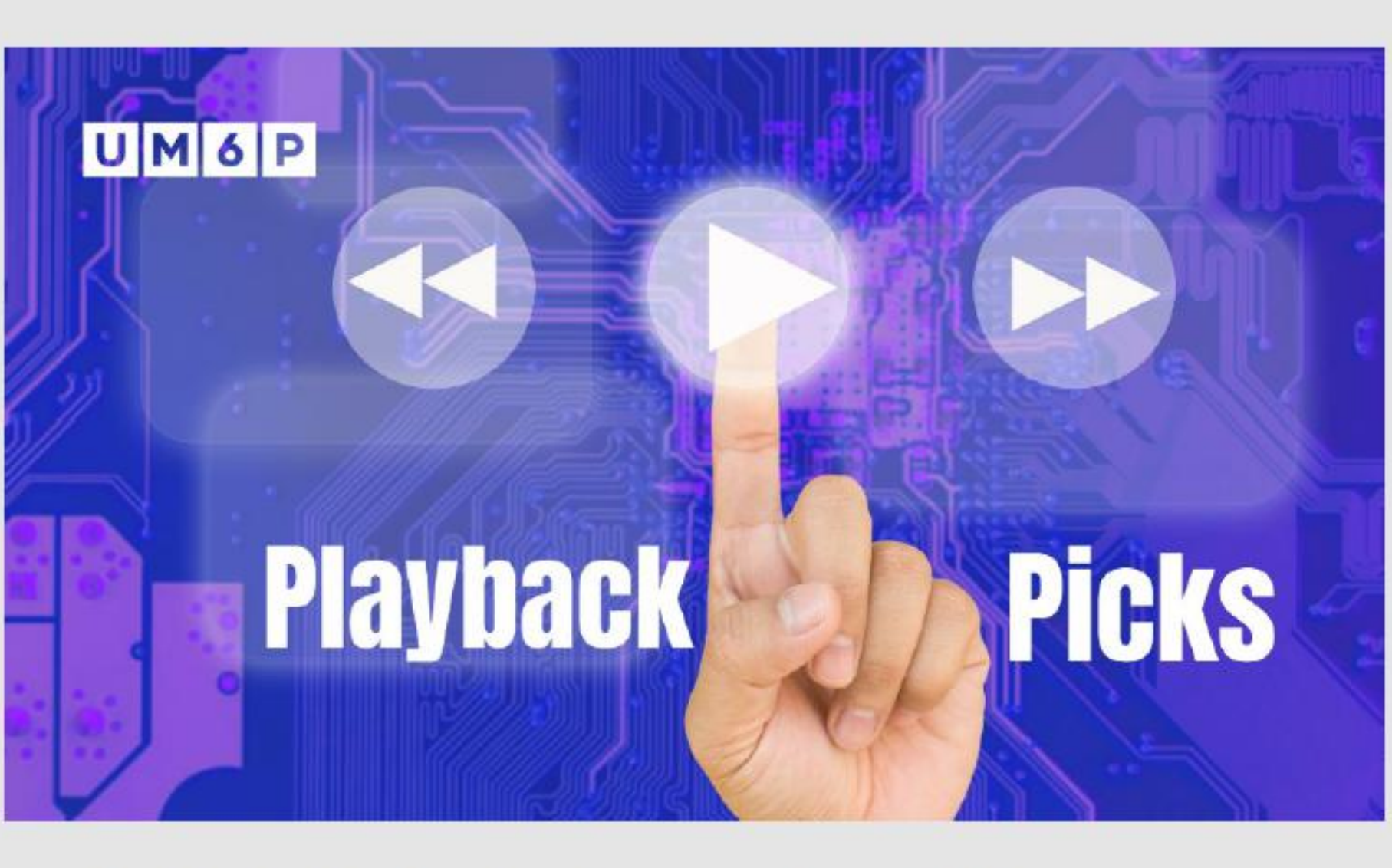
We invite you to stay informed and engaged with the evolving developments shaping Africa's growth and future. To consult the 92nd edition, please click on the link below :

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 92nd edition

Green Energy Park delegation led academic and research collaboration on renewable energy

This week, a Green Energy Park delegation led by Mr. Mohamed Bousseta and Mr. Abdellatif Ghennioui visited Côte d’Ivoire for a series of institutional and technical meetings to strengthen academic and scientific cooperation.

The delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and held a working session with the Félix Houphouët-Boigny National Polytechnic Institute of Yamoussoukro to explore collaboration in renewable energy and sustainable technologies. They also visited OCP Africa and toured the Digital Farming School, an UM6P-partnered initiative supporting advanced agricultural training across the continent.



Playback Picks #07: Mrs. Valérie Pécresse’s visit to UM6P Campus in Benguerir

A look back at Mrs. Valérie Pécresse’s visit to UM6P Campus in Benguerir on the 23rd of April. As President of the Île-de-France Region, she explored opportunities for strengthened Moroccan-French cooperation in research, academia, and innovation. Her visit also included an open dialogue with students, where she reflected on her career path and the role of public leadership in tackling global challenges

Watch the Rewind Video

“Mine of the Future” workshop advanced tech-driven mining practices

This week, the Executive Education hosted Colorado School of Mines for a five-day executive workshop titled "Mine of the Future" at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The program focused on strategic transformation in mining operations, covering disruptive technologies, operational optimization, sustainable practices, and leadership development. Participants explored applications of AI, automation, and digital twins in mining. The workshop supported OCP’s initiative to modernize mining practices through technological innovation and sustainability.

Moroccan scholars joined international expert for clay mineralogy workshop

On the 1st and the 2nd of July, the Geology and Sustainable Mining Institute held a clay mineralogy workshop at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The workshop was led by Professor Abderrazzak El Albani from the University of Poitiers together with master's students, PhD candidates, researchers, and faculty from Moroccan universities.

The workshop covered clay mineral identification techniques, their role as environmental indicators, and their economic significance. Participants examined both historical and contemporary applications of clay studies across scientific and industrial fields. This event forms part of GSMI's ongoing efforts to advance mineralogy research and training in Morocco.

The Globe Digest #73: An exercise drug?

For years, researchers have seen a connection between exercise and the progression of cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer’s — but ramping up movement isn’t possible for many patients. A new study looks at how to mimic those benefits without having to hit the gym.

“We know that exercise does so many good things to the brain and against Alzheimer’s disease,” said senior author Christiane Wrann, assistant professor of medicine at the Cardiovascular Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. “Instead of prescribing the exercise, we actually want to activate these molecular pathways using pharmacology to improve cognitive function in these patients.”

Check the article

Emerging business leaders convened at UM6P for second Youniverse edition

On the 27th and 28th of June, the International Student Office and International Students Club hosted the second edtiton of Youniverse Business Summit at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The summit, which brought together students from UM6P and other Moroccan universities, focused on "Innovation and Disruption," the summit featured panel discussions and keynote addresses on leadership, economic development, and global business challenges. The summit provided a platform for interdisciplinary exchange among emerging business leaders and strategies for addressing contemporary issues in various industries.

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LET US HEAR YOU OUT

SPEAK UP

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