Your Friday Wrap #253 – 09th May 2025

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

Empowering Minds.

UM6P
DEEPTECH SUMMIT 2025

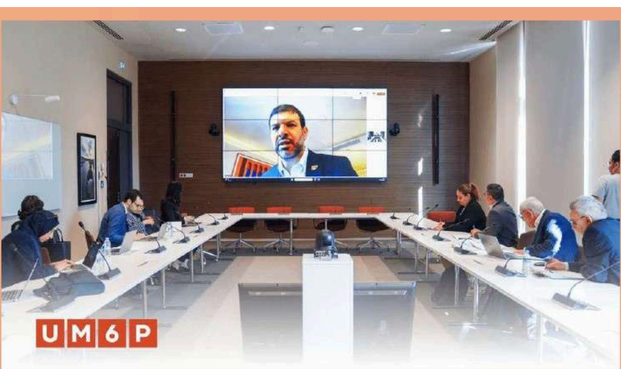
## DeepTech Summit 2025 advances dialogue on AI and emerging technologies

On the 8th and 9th of May, the second edition of DeepTech Summit was held at UM6P Campus in Benguerir under the theme “Redefining Progress: How Artificial Intelligence is Transforming DeepTech Innovation.”

The event brought together over 5,500 participants from 53 countries, including 3,000 students, with 57% representing international delegations. This edition aimed to strengthen dialogue between research, industry, and society by engaging startups, researchers, and investors in discussions on inclusive innovation and the international deployment of scientific technologies rooted in Africa.

With 66 sessions across 11 key sectors, discussions explored the role of AI in areas such as health, energy, and agriculture, while also addressing governance and ethics. The DTS Prize recognized three startups: Cure Bionics (Life Sciences), Sand to Green (Green Economy), and Nyunga Afrika (Most Promising African Startup). Winners received $50,000 and access to the university’s innovation ecosystem.

In parallel with the event, several collaboration agreements were signed with academic and industrial partners, including H&S, Attijariwafa bank, and Africorp Consortium. These agreements lay the groundwork for joint initiatives in applied research, innovation, technology transfer, talent development, startup incubation, and territorial development. They also include components such as on-campus deployment, co-development programs, open innovation frameworks, and integration into UM6P’s wider ecosystem.



## IDRC and the Canadian Embassy explored joint initiatives with UM6P during a visit to Rabat Campus

On the 9th of May, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic at its Campus in Rabat hosted a delegation from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), joined by representatives from the Canadian Embassy.

The visit focused on ongoing collaborations, including the “Gendering the Green Generation” project and the Research Chair on Forced Displacement. Participants from the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences (FGSES), the Social Innovation Lab (SIL), the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES), and the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) contributed to the discussions, highlighting work related to inclusive development, gender equity, and youth employment.

The visit reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between UM6P and IDRC, and the shared commitment to advancing research with social impact.

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## UM6P runners joined the Rabat International Marathon

On the 27th of April, a group of runners from University Mohammed VI Polytechnic took part in the 8th edition of the Rabat International Marathon, organized by the Royal Moroccan Athletics Federation.

The race followed an urban route through Rabat’s historic landmarks, bringing together runners from various backgrounds. Among the participants, Walid Elbarz from Africa Business School completed the 10 km race, setting a record time of 42 minutes and 52 seconds. This participation reflects the university community’s ongoing engagement in national sporting events that promote health, endurance, and active living.

## AI development in emerging economies discussed during Global Empowerment Meeting 2025

UM6P participated in the Global Empowerment Meeting (GEM25) event held at Boston, where speakers from the Global South shared perspectives on how AI can support locally relevant progress.

UM6P was represented by Mr. Jalal Charaf, Chief Digital & AI Officer, to a panel titled “*AI Innovations in Emerging*”. The session explored the importance of developing context-aware technologies, investing in regional talent and infrastructure, and creating solutions that connect global advancements with local needs. The panel provided a platform to highlight Morocco’s contributions to the evolving AI landscape and reflect on opportunities for inclusive innovation

### Academic engagement strengthened through outreach mission in Rwanda

This week, the Outreach and Admissions team visited the Republic of Rwanda to connect with academic institutions and prospective students.

The mission included meetings with staff and students from various high schools and universities, focusing on post-baccalaureate and graduate programs, the academic environment, and scholarship options. The visit provided an opportunity to share information and align with regional educational interests.

UM6P
Communicating
Science

### Communicating Science #10: The Phygital Frontier: why the future of technology Is both physical and digital

The digital revolution arrived with grand promises. Paper would disappear. Offices would become virtual. Every transaction, every record, every interaction would migrate to the cloud. Yet walk into any government ministry, university, or agricultural cooperative today, and you will find file cabinets still packed with documents, warehouses still stacked with ledgers, and people still clinging to the physical artifacts of daily life.

This is not resistance to change. It is a reflection of deeper truths about how humans interact with information. A farmer in Kenya trusts the weight of a seed bag in his hands more than an app on his phone. A student in Morocco values the texture of her diploma as much as its digital counterpart. A factory manager in Germany keeps paper logs as a failsafe when servers go down.

Check the article

MasterClass d'auteurs
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Learning Center

### Author’s Masterclasses session focused on memory and historical narrative

This week, as part of the ‘Author’s Masterclasses series, Mr. Aomar Boum, anthropologist and author of *The Last Rekkas*, joined a session at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The discussion focused on themes from the book, including memory, identity, and historical narrative. *The Last Rekkas* presents the experiences of Moroccan Jews during World War II, blending fiction and historical research to document lesser-known stories.The session offered an opportunity to reflect on how literature can connect personal histories with broader cultural contexts and contribute to the preservation of collective memory.

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### UM6P runners competed at Amizmiz Trail after qualifying in Marrakech

On the 27th of April, twelve runners from UM6P took part in the Amizmiz Trail, having earned qualification through their results at the International Marrakech Half Marathon on January 26th.

The team recorded consistent outcomes, with Othman Mataiche (CSAES) finishing 2nd in the 21 km men’s race and Wiam Abdellaoui (Cleverlytics) placing 3rd in the 10 km women’s race. The event reflected continued engagement in endurance sports and performance-focused initiatives.

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AFRICA INITIATIVE
Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest
Issue 84, May 9, 2025
EMPOWER TALENT, EMPOWER AFRICA

### Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest on its 84th edition

The UM6P Africa Initiative entity is announcing the release of the 84th 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 84th edition, please click on the link below :

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 84th edition

### Outreach activity conducted with high schools in Tangier

This week, the Outreach and Admissions team engaged with several high schools in Tangier as part of efforts to connect with prospective students in northern Morocco.

The sessions focused on presenting academic programs, admissions procedures, and available scholarship options. Through these interactions, students received guidance on potential academic pathways and gained practical information about the University's experience.

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The Globe
Digest

### The Globe Digest #65: Using AI to explore the 3D structure of the genome

Inside every human cell, 2 meters of DNA is crammed into a nucleus that is only one-hundredth of a millimeter in diameter.

To fit inside that tiny space, the genome must fold into a complex structure known as chromatin, made up of DNA and proteins. The structure of that chromatin, in turn, helps to determine which of the genes will be expressed in a given cell. Neurons, skin cells, and immune cells each express different genes depending on which of their genes are accessible to be transcribed.

**Check the article**

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### iCoRA's "Research You Can Use" event explored links between research, policy, and innovation

On the 2nd of May, "Research You Can Use", an event led by the iCoRA Student Club (Interdisciplinary Community of Research Assistants), in collaboration with SOLE (Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement) was held at UM6P Campus in Bengeurir.

The session brought together PhD and undergraduate students, moderators, and professionals for discussions on translating academic research into practical applications. Topics included funding, policy influence, entrepreneurship, and business innovation, with a focus on aligning research efforts with real-world needs.

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speakup@um6p.ma
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**Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique**
Hay Moulay Rachid Lot 660, 43 150 Benguerir – Maroc

www.um6p.ma