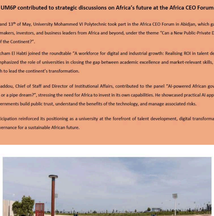


Your Friday Wrap #254 - 31th May 2025

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

Empowering Minds.



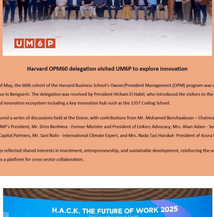
UM6P contributed to strategic discussions on Africa's future at the Africa CEO Forum

On the 12th and 13th of May, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic took part in the Africa CEO Forum in Abidjan, which gathered over 2,000 policymakers, investors, and business leaders from Africa and beyond, under the theme "Can a New Public-Private Deal Reshape the Future of the Continent?".

President Hicham El Habti joined the roundtable "A workforce for digital and industrial growth: Realising ROI in talent development", where he emphasized the role of universities in closing the gap between academic excellence and market-relevant skills, empowering Africa's youth to lead the continent's transformation.

Mr. Khalid Baddou, Chief of Staff and Director of Institutional Affairs, contributed to the panel "AI-powered African governments: A future vision or a pipe dream?", stressing the need for Africa to invest in its own capabilities. He showcased practical AI applications that can help governments build public trust, understand the benefits of the technology, and manage associated risks.

UM6P's participation reinforced its positioning as a university at the forefront of talent development, digital transformation, and AI-powered governance for a sustainable African future.



French Minister Marie Barsacq visited Lycée Rabat to strengthen sports partnership

On Friday, the 30th of May, the Lycée d'Excellence of Rabat welcomed a diplomatic French delegation led by H.E. Marie Barsacq, Minister of Sports, Youth and Community Life.

Accompanied by members of her cabinet, as well as representatives from the French Embassy in Morocco and the French Institute, the Minister visited the campus as part of the strategic partnership between Lycée and the National Institute of Sport, Expertise, and Performance (INSEP). This collaboration aims to integrate INSEP's expertise in high-performance sports training into Lycée's educational approach. The delegation toured the facilities and engaged with students and educators.

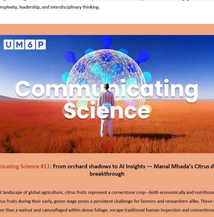


Harvard OPM60 delegation visited UM6P to explore innovation

On the 20th of May, the 60th cohort of the Harvard Business School's Owners/President Management (OPM) program was welcomed at UM6P Campus in Benguerir. The delegation was received by President Hicham El Habti, who introduced the visitors to the university's academic and innovation ecosystem including a key innovation hub such as the 1337 Coding School.

The day featured a series of discussions held at the Dome, with contributions from Mr. Mohamed Benchaaboun – Chairman of Maroc Telecom, UM6P's President, Mr. Driss Benhima - Former Minister and President of Linkers Advocacy, Mrs. Alun Adam - Senior Director & CEO, AFC Capital Partners, Mr. Sani Nafo - International Climate Expert, and Mrs. Nadia Tazi Harakat- President of Atura Foundation.

This exchange reflected shared interests in investment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development, reinforcing the university's positioning as a platform for cross-sector collaboration.



HACK the Future of Work gathered diverse voices on skills and society in the AI era

From the 13th to 14th of May, the first edition of HACK the Future of Work was held at the UM6P Campus in Benguerir, gathering over 200 participants, including corporate executives, HR leaders, researchers, and students from various institutions.

The program featured keynotes and workshops addressing skills development, leadership models, ethical transitions, and intergenerational dynamics. Under the theme "Human in the Age of AI: The Workforce & Society We Want," With contributions from 26 business leaders, 30 HR professionals, and 32 national and international experts, the forum served as a platform to examine emerging challenges and opportunities shaping the future of work and organizational transformation.



UM6P and AFD explored synergies for southern Morocco

On the 20th of May, UM6P received a delegation from the French Development Agency (AFD) at UM6P Campus in Laayoune, as part of a working mission to Morocco's southern regions.

The visit was marked by the presence of Mr. Rémy Rioux, General Director of the French Development Agency. It featured an overview of ASAKI's current research activities and included a guided tour of its laboratory facilities. The exchange offered an opportunity to share ongoing research focus areas and explore potential alignment with development priorities in the region.

Experts explore approaches to navigating uncertainty

On the 19th of May, the Science & Quête de Sens Center of Excellence, part of Africa Business School, held a session focused on the theme "Facing Uncertainty: Understanding, Acting and Creating" at UM6P Campus in Rabat, led by Professor Jean Staune.

The event brought together speakers from academia, entrepreneurship, and the creative sector and also Contributors including Philippe Silberzahn, Danya Chiga, Thierry Pick, Sébastien Gaulding, and Marie Lemaitre exploring how uncertainty can be approached through strategic thinking, creative methods, and reflective practices. The session supported continued engagement with themes related to complexity, leadership, and interdisciplinary thinking.

Communicating Science #1: From orchard shadows to AI insights — Manal Mhada's Citrus detection breakthrough

In the vibrant landscape of global agriculture, citrus fruits represent a cornerstone crop—both economically and nutritionally. Yet, detecting citrus fruits during their early, green stage poses a persistent challenge for farmers and researchers alike. These young fruits, often no larger than a walnut and camouflaged within dense foliage, escape traditional human inspection and conventional computer vision tools.

Why does this matter? Because early detection is key to estimating yields, optimizing resources like water and fertilizers, and planning timely harvests...

Check the article

Representatives from ENGIE toured UM6P's energy and water research platforms

On the 14th of May, representatives in charge of Research, Innovation, and Strategy at ENGIE Group, accompanied by a delegation from OCP Group, visited University Mohammed VI Polytechnic at its Campus in Benguerir.

The visit aimed to advance the collaboration between ENGIE and OCP, a few months after the signing of an agreement during French President Emmanuel Macron's state visit to Morocco. The delegation discovered UM6P's key energy research facilities, including the Material Science, Energy & Nano-engineering (MSN) platform, the Laboratory of Inorganic Materials for Sustainable Energy

Second cohort of WI progress program kicked off with focus on industrial leadership

This week, the second cohort of the WI Progress program, a professional development initiative aimed at supporting women with technical backgrounds across OCP's industrial operations was launched at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

This initiative was developed collaboratively by Executive Education STH and the Talent & Organizational Development teams from OCP Mining and Manufacturing. This new edition builds on insights gathered from the first cohort.

The program welcomed 30 participants for an initial session led by a visiting faculty team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), including Professors Deborah Ancona, Meg Rogan, and Diane Abbott. The partnership with MIT brings an added academic dimension to the program, contributing to its objective of advancing leadership development in industrial settings.

Creative writing engaged students in a discussion on contemporary themes

On the 17th of May, the Learning Center welcomed Moroccan writer and filmmaker Hicham Lasri at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic's Campus in Benguerir for a discussion centered on his book Punk Hina.

The session created space for dialogue around narrative style, social critique, and creative expression. Hicham Lasri reflected on his writing process and the themes that shape his work, including literary experimentation and storytelling as tools to explore contemporary issues. The event featured an open Q&A with students and a distribution of the book to attendees.

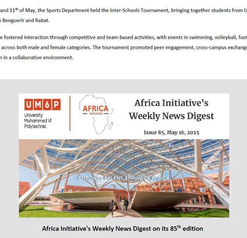
This initiative contributed to ongoing cultural engagement on campus and encouraged discussion around literature and societal challenges.



Cultural Days Roadshow returned to UM6P with student-led celebrations

On the 10th of May, the second edition of the Cultural Days Roadshow kicked off at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic at its Campus in Rabat. The event was coordinated by Student Affairs through the International Student Office (ISO), in collaboration with the International Student Club (ISC).

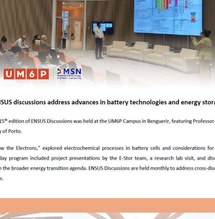
The program brought together students from diverse backgrounds for a series of exhibitions, performances, and interactive experiences celebrating cultural diversity within the UM6P community. Highlights included a Flag Parade, student-led showcases, and a live concert by Ahmed Soultan. The Roadshow will continue on the 23rd and 24th of May at UM6P Campus in Benguerir



UM6P campuses connected through Inter-Schools Tournament

On the 10th and 11th of May, the Sports Department held the Inter-Schools Tournament, bringing together students from UM6P's campuses in Benguerir and Rabat.

The initiative fostered interaction through competitive and team-based activities, with events in swimming, volleyball, football, and table tennis across both male and female categories. The tournament promoted peer engagement, cross-campus exchange, and participation in a collaborative environment.



Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest on its 85th edition

The UM6P Africa Initiative entity is announcing the release of the 85th 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 85th edition, please click on the link below :

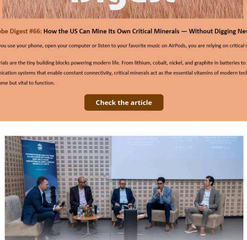
Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 85th edition



ENSUS discussions address advances in battery technologies and energy storage

On 7th of May, the 15th edition of ENSUS Discussions was held at the UM6P Campus in Benguerir, featuring Professor Maria Helena Braga from the University of Porto.

Her lecture, "Follow the Electrons," explored electrochemical processes in battery cells and considerations for sustainable energy storage. The two-day program included project presentations by the E-Star team, a research lab visit, and discussions on battery technologies within the broader energy transition agenda. ENSUS Discussions are held monthly to address cross-disciplinary energy and sustainability topics.



National debate competition engaged university clubs in structured dialogue

On the 10th and 11th of May, the inaugural edition of the National Debate Competition, initiated by the Outloud Student Club in collaboration with the Agora Student Club and SCILE (Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement) was held at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

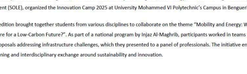
The event brought together university debate teams from across Morocco for a series of structured debates conducted in the World Schools Debating Championship (WSDC) format. Participants engaged in formal rounds aimed at developing argumentation, public speaking, and critical thinking, while facilitating the exchange of ideas in a collaborative academic setting.



Second cohort of Metallurgy training program launched in El Jadida

This week, the Executive Education STH launched the second cohort of the metallurgy training program, developed in partnership between the MSN Department and Technix, aligned with the collaboration between UM6P and Sonasid.

The program was designed for Sonasid's industrial managers, focusing on enhancing technical and managerial skills relevant to industry challenges. The training will span several weeks and combines theoretical learning, case studies, and practical simulations. The program aims to provide participants with knowledge and tools to address operational performance, transformation, and innovation within their work environment.



The Globe Digest #66: **How the US Can Mine Its Own Critical Minerals — Without Digging New Holes**

Every time you use your phone, open your computer or listen to your favorite music on AirPods, you are relying on critical minerals.

These materials are the tiny building blocks powering modern life. From lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite in batteries to gallium in telecommunication systems that enable constant connectivity, critical minerals act as the essential vitamins of modern technology: small in volume but vital to function.

Check the article

Safety initiative Introduced at Jorf Lasfar to strengthen industrial collaboration

On the 13th of May, Technix brought together over 250 participants to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work and to introduce a new joint safety initiative involving key industrial actors in the zone.

This initiative was driven by OCP, in coordination with TAQA Morocco, SONASID, BONTAZ, and Technix, the initiative is designed to align safety practices, promote shared training resources, and enhance subcontractor capacity. The approach supports a collective framework aimed at reinforcing occupational health and safety across the industrial ecosystem.

The program included HSE presentations, panel discussions, and the signing of a joint safety charter to formalize the collaborative commitment.

Rugby Training Camp Introduced Student Cohort to Athletic Discipline and Performance Culture

From the 9th to 11th of May, 30 students took part in a rugby-focused training program held at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The experience combined physical preparation with structured sessions on tactical systems, discipline, and time management. In addition to on-field activities, participants joined discussions covering sports nutrition, anti-doping awareness, and overall athlete well-being. The program was designed to promote both physical engagement and a deeper understanding of the values and routines associated with high-performance sport.

Infrastructure solutions for low-carbon mobility explored during the 2025 Innovation Camp

On the 9th of May, the Sustainbuilding Club, in collaboration with Injaz Al-Maghrib, Vivo Energy, and Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement (SOLE), organized the Innovation Camp 2025 at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic's Campus in Benguerir.

This year's edition brought together students from various disciplines to collaborate on the theme "Mobility and Energy: What Infrastructure for a Low-Carbon Future?". As part of a national program by Injaz Al-Maghrib, participants worked in teams to develop practical proposals addressing infrastructure challenges, which they presented to a panel of professionals. The initiative encouraged applied learning and interdisciplinary exchange around sustainability and innovation.

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LET US HEAR YOU OUT



SPEAK UP

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Corporate Communication

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