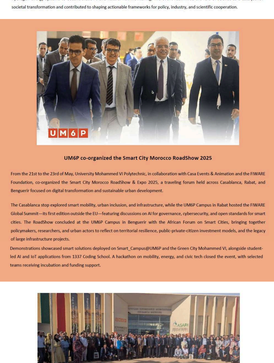


Your Friday Wrap #235 – 23rd May 2025

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

Empowering Minds

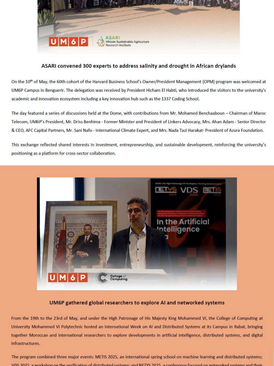


Science and society intersect at « Les Tables Rondes de l'Arbois et de la Méditerranée »

On the 19th and 20th of May, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, in collaboration with the OCP Group, CNRS, and Aix-Marseille University, organized the 11th edition of the Arbois and Mediterranean Roundtables at its Campus in Rabat.

Initiated in 2008, the event brought together researchers, engineers, public decision-makers, and civil society actors to explore how scientific breakthroughs are reshaping societies. Themed "Scientific Breakthroughs," this edition focused on emerging advances in artificial intelligence, energy systems, soil and climate interactions, and applied mathematics for modeling global phenomena.

The two-day program included plenary conferences, public dialogues, and roundtable sessions. Featured speakers included Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Nadia Yousfi-Steiner, Anne-Marie Kermarrec, and Jean-Paul Ansquers, who shared insights on topics ranging from hydrogen energy systems to decentralized AI and natural risk monitoring. The event reaffirmed the role of science as a catalyst for societal transformation and contributed to shaping actionable frameworks for policy, industry, and scientific cooperation.

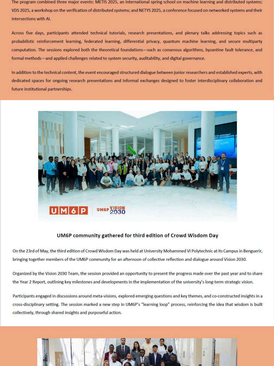


UM6P co-organized the Smart City Morocco RoadShow 2025

From the 21st to the 23rd of May, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, in collaboration with Casa Events & Animation and the FIWARE Foundation, co-organized the Smart City Morocco RoadShow & Expo 2025, a traveling forum held across Casablanca, Rabat, and Benguerir focused on digital transformation and sustainable urban development.

The Casablanca stop explored smart mobility, urban inclusion, and infrastructure, while the UM6P Campus in Rabat hosted the FIWARE Global Summit—its first edition outside the EU—featuring discussions on AI for governance, cybersecurity, and open standards for smart cities. The RoadShow concluded at the UM6P Campus in Benguerir with the African Forum on Smart Cities, bringing together policymakers, researchers, and urban actors to reflect on territorial resilience, public-private-citizen investment models, and the legacy of large infrastructure projects.

Demonstrations showcased smart solutions deployed on Smart_Campus@UM6P and the Green City Mohammed VI, alongside student-led AI and IoT applications from 1337 Coding School. A hackathon on mobility, energy, and civic tech closed the event, with selected teams receiving incubation and funding support.



ASARI convened 300 experts to address salinity and drought in African drylands

On the 10th of May, the 60th cohort of the Harvard Business School's Owner/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 Manic Telecom, UM6P's President, Mr. Driss Benhima - Former Minister and President of Linkers Advocacy, Mrs. Ahan Adam - Senior Director & CEO, AYC Capital Partners, Mr. Sani Rafa - International Career Expert, and Mrs. Nada Tazi Harakat - President of Azura Foundation.

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



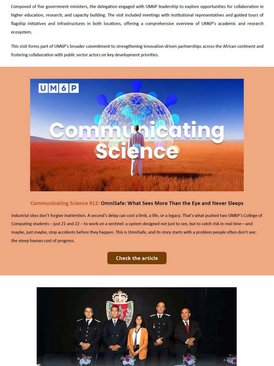
UM6P gathered global researchers to explore AI and networked systems

From the 19th to the 23rd of May, and under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the College of Computing at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic hosted an International Week on AI and Distributed Systems at its Campus in Rabat, bringing together Moroccan and international researchers to explore developments in artificial intelligence, distributed systems, and digital infrastructures.

The program combined three major events: MLCTS 2025, an international spring school on machine learning and distributed systems; VOS 2025, a workshop on the verification of distributed systems; and NETYS 2025, a conference focused on networked systems and their intersections with AI.

Across five days, participants attended technical tutorials, research presentations, and plenary talks addressing topics such as probabilistic reinforcement learning, federated learning, differential privacy, quantum machine learning, and secure multiparty computation. The sessions explored both the theoretical foundations—such as consensus algorithms, byzantine fault tolerance, and formal methods—and applied challenges related to system security, auditability, and digital governance.

In addition to the technical content, the event encouraged structured dialogue between junior researchers and established experts, with dedicated spaces for ongoing research presentations and informal exchanges designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and future institutional partnerships.

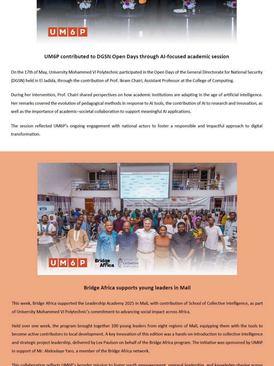


UM6P community gathered for third edition of Crowd Wisdom Day

On the 22nd of May, the third edition of Crowd Wisdom Day was held at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic at its Campus in Benguerir, bringing together members of the UM6P community for an afternoon of collective reflection and dialogue around Vision 2030.

Organized by the Vision 2030 Team, the session provided an opportunity to present the progress made over the past year and to share the Year 2 Report, outlining key milestones and developments in the implementation of the university's long-term strategic vision.

Participants engaged in discussions around meta-vision, explored emerging questions and key themes, and co-constructed insights in a cross-disciplinary setting. The session marked a new step in UM6P's "learning loop" process, reinforcing the idea that wisdom is built collectively, through shared insights and purposeful action.



AIRESS led academic dialogue on AfCFTA's legal and economic framework

On the 20th of May, the Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences (AIRESS) held an international conference titled "First Years of Functioning of the African Continental Free Trade Area: Challenges and Prospects" at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Karim El Aynaoui, Executive Vice President of UM6P and Dean of the Humanities, Economics, and Social Sciences Cluster, together with Professor Sid Benjamin Traoré, Scientific Director of AIRESS. The conference brought together distinguished group of dignitaries, experts, and participants to explore diverse perspectives on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



Guinean Officials visited UM6P to deepen educational exchange

On the 19th and 21st of May, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic hosted a ministerial delegation from the Republic of Guinea for a visit focused on education and partnership development at its campuses in Rabat and Benguerir.

Composed of five government ministers, the delegation engaged with UM6P leadership to explore opportunities for collaboration in higher education, research, and capacity building. The visit included meetings with institutional representatives and guided tours of flagship initiatives and infrastructures in both locations, offering a comprehensive overview of UM6P's academic and research ecosystem.

This visit forms part of UM6P's broader commitment to strengthening innovation-driven partnerships across the African continent and fostering collaboration with public sector actors on key development priorities.

Communicating Science #12: Omnisafe: What Sees More Than the Eye and Never Sleeps

Industrial sites don't forget inattention. A second's delay can cost a limb, a life, or a legacy. That's what pushed two UM6P's College of Computing students – just 21 and 22 – to work on a sentinel: a system designed not just to see, but to catch risk in real time—and maybe, just maybe, stop accidents before they happen. This is OmniSafe, and its story starts with a problem people often don't see: the steep human cost of progress.

Check the article

UM6P contributed to DGSN Open Days through AI-focused academic session

On the 17th of May, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic participated in the Open Days of the General Directorate for National Security (DGSN) held in El Jadida, through the contribution of Prof. Ikram Chairi, Assistant Professor at the College of Computing.

During her intervention, Prof. Chairi shared perspectives on how academic institutions are adapting in the age of artificial intelligence. Her remarks covered the evolution of pedagogical methods in response to AI tools, the contribution of AI to research and innovation, as well as the importance of academic-societal collaboration to support meaningful AI applications.

The session reflected UM6P's ongoing engagement with national actors to foster a responsible and impactful approach to digital transformation.

Bridge Africa supports young leaders in Mali

This week, Bridge Africa supported the Leadership Academy 2025 in Mali, with contribution of School of Collective Intelligence, as part of University Mohammed VI Polytechnic's commitment to advancing social impact across Africa.

Held over one week, the program brought together 100 young leaders from eight regions of Mali, equipping them with the tools to become active contributors to local development. A key innovation of this edition was a hands-on introduction to collective intelligence and strategic project leadership, delivered by Lee Hudson on behalf of the Bridge Africa program. The initiative was sponsored by UM6P in support of Mr. Abdoulaye Yaro, a member of the Bridge Africa network.

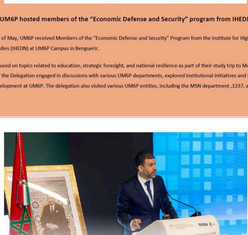
This collaboration reflects UM6P's broader mission to foster youth empowerment, regional leadership, and knowledge-sharing across the continent.



Moutglay project launched poultry distribution initiative to support post-earthquake recovery

On the 20th of May, the Moutglay Project, a joint initiative by ReBuild and the African Applied Agricultural Technology and Innovation Center (AATIC), distributed laying hens and roosters to six women in Douar Ouaouizeft at Al Haouz region.

Each recipient received 25 birds to support egg production and livelihood recovery post-earthquake. The hens were raised at the experimental farm, where they were vaccinated and prepared for distribution under optimal conditions. The project plans monthly distributions until reaching 1,000 hens, aiming to support women across the region.



UM6P hosted members of the "Economic Defense and Security" program from IHEDN

On the 23rd of May, UM6P received Members of the "Economic Defense and Security" Program from the Institute for Higher National Defense Studies (IHEDN) at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The visit focused on topics related to education, strategic foresight, and national resilience as part of their study trip to Morocco. The members of the Delegation engaged in discussions with various UM6P departments, explored institutional initiatives and security focused development at UM6P. The delegation also visited various UM6P entities, including the MSN department ,1337, and the Data Center.

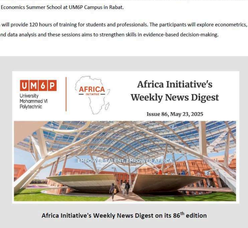


Industry X.0 Day examined protection strategies for industry 4.0

The College of Computing, in collaboration with the DGSSI, held the "Industry X.0 day" at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

The event, under the theme "Cybersecurity and Industry 4.0: Protecting Industrial Systems and Exploring Innovation Opportunities for the Moroccan Industry", brought together experts from academia, government, and industry to discuss digitalization and industrial security challenges.

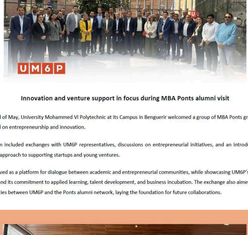
President Hicham El Hadati emphasized the importance of collaboration in advancing industrial innovation. Speakers also shared insights on securing digital infrastructure for industrial transformation.



Consulting and AI merged in two-day competition at the consulting X AI challenge

From the 19th to the 18th of May, the African Consulting Club (ACC), in collaboration with Leyton Cognitif, SouthBridge A&I, Student Organizations, Leadership and Engagement (SOLE) and Africa Business School (ABS) hosted the "Consulting X AI Challenge" at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The event involved Students in the two-day competition, applying AI solutions to public service challenges. Industry experts guided interdisciplinary teams through problem-solving exercises using consulting frameworks and AI approaches.



FGSES launched the fourth edition of the Quantitative Economics Summer School

On the 19th of May, the Faculty of Governance, Economics, and Social Sciences (FGSES) officially commenced the fourth edition of the Quantitative Economics Summer School at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

The program will provide 120 hours of training for students and professionals. The participants will explore econometrics, impact evaluation, and data analysis and these sessions aims to strengthen skills in evidence-based decision-making.



Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest on its 86th edition

The UM6P Africa Initiative entity is announcing the release of the 86th 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 86th edition, please click on the link below :

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 86th edition

Innovation and venture support in focus during MBA Ponts alumni visit

On the 22nd of May, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic at its Campus in Benguerir welcomed a group of MBA Ponts graduates for a visit focused on entrepreneurship and innovation.

The program included exchanges with UM6P representatives, discussions on entrepreneurial initiatives, and an introduction to the university's approach to supporting startups and young ventures.

The visit served as a platform for dialogue between academic and entrepreneurial communities, while showcasing UM6P's innovation ecosystem and its commitment to applied learning, talent development, and business incubation. The exchange also aimed to strengthen ties between UM6P and the Ponts alumni network, laying the foundation for future collaborations.

UM6P earned first place at the national inter-university chess championship

From the 16th to 18th of May, the second edition of the Inter-University Chess Tournament led by the Sports Department in collaboration with the Squares Chess Club took place at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

The tournament brought together over 60 players from 15 universities and higher education institutions across Morocco an event endorsed by the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation (FRMéchecs) and the International Chess Federation (FIDE). UM6P placed first in the Rapid Team Tournament category, followed by ENSEA in second place and UIR in third.

Eco Vision session explored the role of bees in ecological balance

This week, the Sustainable Department, as part of its ongoing sustainability engagement efforts, featured the screening of The Bee Movie during the third Eco Vision session at the Sustainability Department Space at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

Following the film, participants took part in a knowledge assessment and discussion focused on the role of bees in maintaining ecological balance. The initiative forms part of broader awareness efforts linked to environmental education and sustainable development to prompt reflection on the ecological importance of pollinators and their role in biodiversity.

Executive Education STH's field module connected theory and practice in maritime transport

This week, the Executive Education STH organized a field module on maritime transport and port operations for the Executive Master's in Manufacturing Strategic Logistics program at Tanger Med port.

Participants engaged with core aspects of the maritime transport ecosystem, examined the strategic positioning of port infrastructure in global supply chains, and connected theory with real-world logistics operations. The visit served as a platform for applied learning, combining industry exposure with analytical reflection on manufacturing and supply chain systems.



Medical and psychological impacts of smoking discussed at HECO Student Club event

On the 19th of May, HECO Student Club, in collaboration with Student Organizations, Leadership and Engagement (SOLE), organized the second session of Health Education Program at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The session focused on medical and psychological effects of smoking. The discussion, led by Dr. Imane Saidi - Interventional Pulmonologist at UM6P Hospitals, addressed tobacco use and its long-term health consequences.



The Globe Digest #67: Scientists discover potential new targets for Alzheimer's drugs

By combining information from many large datasets, MIT researchers have identified several new potential targets for treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease.

The study revealed genes and cellular pathways that haven't been linked to Alzheimer's before, including one involved in DNA repair. Identifying new drug targets is critical because many of the Alzheimer's drugs that have been developed to this point haven't been as successful as hoped.

Check the article



Geospatial analytics experts convened at UM6P-MIT climate monitoring workshop

On the 19th of May, the Center for Remote Sensing Applications (CRSA), in collaborations with MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, organized a Workshop on Earth Observation for Assessing Climate Impacts Across Africa at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The event was part of the African Geospatial Data Portal Framework for Science, Capacity-Building, and Decision-Making Purposes (AEOP) project. The list of speakers included professors and experts from MIT, University of Valencia, French National institute for Agricultural, food and Environmental Research (INRAE), Paris-Est Sup, and the Institute of Research for Development. The workshop hosted Participants from universities in Tunisia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Morocco.



Learning Center conducted debate and writing workshops for local students

On the 22nd of May, a group of students from Essalam High school in Benguerir visited the Learning Center for a workshop focused on communication and literacy.

The program featured a debate session aimed at developing public speaking skills and a writing activity designed to reinforce the value of reading. Students engaged in discussions and shared reflections on how reading supports both academic and personal development.



Summer school program explored key topics in plant biology research

From 12th to 18th May, the third edition of the Summer School in Plant Biology took place through a collaboration between Sherbrooke University's Centre SEVE, the African Genome Center, and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

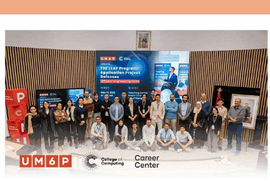
The program convened graduate students from Canadian and Moroccan institutions to examine research topics including abiotic and biotic stress, molecular biology, and soil fertility. The agenda combined scientific exchanges with site visits to research facilities such as ICARDA, CRRA Marrakech, and UM6P laboratories.



Sustainable Development Department observed Biodiversity Day through student-led green action

On the 22nd of May, the Sustainable Development Department and the Agricultural Innovation and Technology Transfer Center (AITTC) marked the International Day for Biological Diversity with a collective tree-planting initiative held at the experimental farm.

The activity involved students from the Mahir Center that took part of the third edition of the "Plant It Forward" program. The initiative aligns with the Institution's broader sustainability and carbon reduction strategy, contributing to ecosystem resilience and long-term environmental planning.



LEAP program showcased students' solutions at the College of Computing

This week, the College of Computing, in collaboration with the Career Center, held the LEAP Program project defenses at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

Engineering students in their second year presented business-oriented projects they had developed during the program. The projects included AI-based itinerary planning, tax code automation tools, and digital twins for energy management. A jury of UM6P faculty and industry mentors evaluated the presentations.

The program featured a certificate ceremony for students who completed the "Professional Scrum Developer Training," delivered in partnership with Futurate by Infosysta (Sami Zreoull, Saad Ziadi, Youssef Boudebz).



OCP ESG experts shared sustainability insights with students in Rabat

On the 19th of May, Africa Business Unit - Junior Enterprise (ABU-JE) in partnership with Student Organizations, Leadership and Engagement (SOLE) and Africa Business School (ABS) hosted a sustainability talk session with OCP at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

Mr. Bachir Mouhyi, Head of ESG Compliance at OCP Group, spoke about ESG reporting and sustainability strategies. Walid Acharkouk, Associate Strategy Consultant at OCP Solutions, discussed practical applications of sustainability consulting.



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