

UM6P
Communications and Public Relations Office

Your Friday Wrap #263 – July 18th, 2025
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

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UM6P, UNESCO and OCP Foundation Operationalize a Triangular Platform for African-Centered Development Agendas

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, the OCP Foundation, and UNESCO are entering a new operational cycle of their collaboration, extending from 2025 to 2027, with a budgetary commitment of $6 million. Signed by Mostapha Terrab, Chairman of OCP Group, and Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, the agreement marks a new stage in a collaboration anchored in long-term vision and operational pragmatism.

Built on a joint implementation mechanism between UM6P and UNESCO, supported by the OCP Foundation, the initiative reflects a shared objective to integrate education, science, technology, and cultural knowledge as interdependent levers of sustainable development on the African continent.

The collaboration will unfold across five workstreams: operationalizing the Rabat African Consensus on AI; enabling academic mobility and co-production through Campus Africa; integrating the General History of Africa into university curricula; expanding the Maou'root initiative on heritage governance; and piloting ecosystem restoration projects linking biodiversity and economic resilience.

This renewed phase reflects a common position: development outcomes in Africa are shaped less by isolated projects than by the architecture connecting knowledge, institutions, and operational design.

Young leaders explored new models of African leadership at the Bridge Africa Summit 2025

From the 17th to the 19th of July, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic is hosting the second edition of the Bridge Africa Summit at its Campus in Benguerir.

The event brings together 130 young leaders from over 30 African countries to reflect on new forms of leadership aligned with the continent's transitions. The opening session featured welcoming remarks by UM6P President Hicham El Habti and Mr. Khalid Baddou, Chairperson of Bridge Africa, who emphasized the role of collective responsibility in shaping future leadership practices.

Structured around three phases—immersion, co-creation, and commitment—the program includes discussions on public policy, social innovation, and the political economy of change. Highlights include a keynote by Amadou Diaw on the responsibilities of African elites and a workshop led by Professor Hamid Bouchikhi on economic models for the continent's transitions.

Participants are also engaging with UM6P's research and innovation platforms through guided visits. The summit will conclude with the presentation of the "Bridge Africa 2025" call to action, addressed to African political and economic leaders.

FGSES celebrated the graduation of the 2024 and 2025 cohorts

On the 11th of July, the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences held the graduation ceremony for the Undergraduate and Master's classes of 2024 and 2025 at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic at its Campus in Rabat.

The event marked the completion of academic journeys and the transition of graduates into new professional and educational paths. Faculty, students, and families gathered to recognize the work accomplished and the opportunities ahead. This celebration reaffirmed FGSES's commitment to academic excellence and the development of future leaders.

Research Office launched 'Bench' to accelerate research-based innovation

The Research Office held the launch event for *Bench*, a pre-venture program aimed at transforming scientific and engineering outputs into real-world, high-impact solutions.

The event brought together faculty, researchers, and students from across the UM6P community. It featured a presentation of the program framework, project pitches from the current Bench cohort, and a panel discussion on research valorization and innovation pathways.

The Bench call for projects remains open until the 31st of July, inviting UM6P professors, researchers, PhD students, engineers, and affiliates to apply. This initiative reinforces UM6P's commitment to bridging research and entrepreneurship through structured support for early-stage innovation.

Cultural heritage hackathon fostered innovation in preservation practices

From the 11th to the 13th of July, the CIC Student Club, in collaboration with Student Organizations, Leadership and Engagement (SOLE), the School of Collective Intelligence, ACM MEDCHI, iCoRA, and the International Students Club, hosted the Cultural Heritage Hackathon at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

Held under the theme "Preserving Culture Through Interaction," the event brought together students from UM6P and other Moroccan universities to design digital experiences inspired by Moroccan cultural heritage. Participants explored human-centered design and emerging technologies to address traditions in storytelling, craftsmanship, and cuisine.

The hackathon marked the beginning of a four-month creative cycle leading up to the Human-Computer Interaction Workshop, scheduled for October 2025.

Learning center engaged high school students through structured expression workshops

This week, as part of the *Welcoming Youth* initiative, the Learning Center hosted students from Lycée Abdellah Ibrahim for an afternoon of structured engagement focused on written and oral expression.

The program featured debate and writing workshops designed to encourage critical thinking, communication skills, and active participation. This initiative reflects UM6P's commitment to fostering early academic exposure and promoting inclusive access to intellectual development.

Communicating Science #20: From Mining 4.0 to 5.0: The Shift toward a Greener, More Human-Centric Industry

While Mining 4.0 was more of a technological leap, Mining 5.0 is a conceptual and cultural progression of extractive industries. It goes beyond the drive for automation and digital efficiency to embed sustainability, inclusiveness, and ethical governance into the DNA of mining operations.

As Dr. Bassma Azzamouri noted in her recent Mining Technology article, this new phase of innovation doesn't follow Mining 4.0—it completes it. Where 4.0 was concerned with efficiency and remote work, 5.0 reintroduces the human element, not just questioning how we mine, but why and at what cost. It's a balance between productivity and accountability to the planet.

Check the article

StartGate wrapped up the 3rd edition of the African Youth Climate Hub

On the 10th of July, the African Youth Climate Hub held its Demo Day at Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, concluding its third edition.

Ten startups presented climate-focused solutions across sectors such as Water Tech, AgriTech, CleanTech, Renewable Energy, and Circular Economy. The event highlighted youth-led innovation addressing environmental challenges on the continent.

Dr. Fadwa Baladi, Loubna Dirai, and partners from OCP Group, Les Eaux Minérales d'Oulmès, and Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection served on the jury, offering feedback to participating ventures.

Africa Initiative and Agrinova explored innovation and value chain development

This week, the Africa Initiative hosted a delegation from Agrinova at UM6P Campus in Benguerir, as part of a collaboration between the two institutions.

The visit focused on exploring opportunities in innovation, entrepreneurship, and agricultural value chain development. Discussions centered on the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Lab, represented by Mr. Adnane Alaoui Soulimani and Ms. Samira Azouakan, who presented UM6P's programs in agri-food tech, startup incubation, and capacity building — with attention to the olive value chain.

The Agrinova delegation was led by Ms. Somaya Hammou-Sghir, Director of the Technology Hall, and included members of her team. The meeting contributed to shaping a long-term collaboration rooted in shared priorities across Morocco and Africa.

Executive master participants completed applied HSE module in Senegal

This week, as part of the Executive Master's in Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Management, Executive Education conducted a field learning mission in Senegal focused on HSE strategy implementation in infrastructure and industrial contexts.

The program included site visits to the Dakar desalination plant, the Taïba N'Diaye wind farm, AGEROUTE, and OCP Africa, offering participants exposure to risk management in water systems, safety in renewable energy, road construction, and the intersection between industrial practices and community wellbeing. The mission underscored the role of HSE as a strategic component of sustainable development across sectors.

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest on its 94th edition

The UM6P Africa Initiative entity is announcing the release of the 94th 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 94th edition, please click on the link below :

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 94th edition

ReBuild and the Academic Services Department fostered civic engagement through cross-cultural learning

On the 12th of July, ReBuild and the Academic Services Department organized a day of learning and cultural immersion in Imlil as part of the Youth Tech Challenge Africa initiative.

The program engaged 50 students from the Lycée d'Excellence, Benguerir-based schools, and Cameroonian institutions. The morning featured a cultural tour of Imlil and the village of Armed, including an exchange with a local walnut cooperative. In the afternoon, a robotics workshop introduced 25 local children to basic robotics and STEM concepts.

The initiative fostered cross-cultural dialogue and encouraged youth participation in community-centered innovation and civic engagement.

Al Moutmir initiated regional dialogue series with farmers across Morocco

This week, as part of its farmer-centric strategy, Al Moutmir has launched *Al Moutmir Connect*, a national series of exchange meetings with supported farmers across agricultural regions.

This initiative reinforces Al Moutmir's commitment to proximity, co-development, and field-driven innovation. By fostering direct engagement with farmers and ecosystem stakeholders, the program aims to better understand local challenges, share agronomic advancements, and tailor region-specific solutions.

The Globe Digest #75: Five things to know about ultra-processed food

Most nutrition scientists agree that occasionally eating ultra-processed food, also called highly processed food, is no big deal. But, statistics show, that occasional part is no easy trick.

Such food now accounts for nearly 60% of U.S. adults' calorie consumption. Among American children, that portion is close to 70%. In other words, ultra-processed food is starting to overwhelm the American diet.

Check the article

Executive education delivered AI strategy session for CAT assurance leadership

This week, Executive Education welcomed members of the Management Committee of CAT Assurance and Reassurance for a dedicated executive learning session focused on the strategic applications of Artificial Intelligence in the insurance sector, as part of the *AI Essentials for Executives* program.

Delivered by Professors Lamiae Azizi, Imad Kissami, and Adnane Saoud from the College of Computing, the program offered an intensive and pragmatic overview of AI capabilities, explored sector-relevant use cases, and facilitated strategic dialogue around data-driven transformation.

This initiative underscores Executive Education STH's ongoing commitment to supporting business leaders in navigating technological disruption and aligning innovation with organizational priorities.

SkillPros session explored intellectual property as a strategic asset

On the 10th of July, StartGate held a new edition of the SkillPros program, focusing on the role of intellectual property (IP) in innovation-driven environments.

El Battoul El Kadiri, Technology Transfer Officer at UM6P, led the session, which convened DeepTech founders, researchers, and startup teams to examine how IP strategies can enhance the protection, positioning, and commercial potential of research-based innovations. The session reinforced the importance of IP as a critical enabler for scaling innovation within competitive markets.

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LET US HEAR YOU OUT



SPEAK UP

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