

UM6P
Communications and Public Relations Office

Your Friday Wrap #264 – July 25th, 2025
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

Empowering Minds.

UM6P

UM6P VISION 2030

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African universities convened at UM6P for the 16th General Conference of the Association of African Universities

From the 21st to the 25th of July, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic hosted the 16th General Conference of the Association of African Universities at its Campus in Rabat.

The event marked the return of the AAU to its founding city and brought together over 400 participants, including university leaders, policymakers, and representatives from continental and international organizations. Held under the theme "Shaping the Future of Higher Education for Innovation and Sustainable Development in Africa," the conference provided a space for dialogue on academic reform, curriculum modernization, digital transformation, and sustainable financing models.

Opening remarks were delivered by Minister Aziz Akhannouch, Chief Executive Officer of UM6P and Mohammed V University, who highlighted Morocco's role in fostering academic collaboration across the continent. The program featured high-level contributions from the African Union, UNESCO, the World Bank, and other partners.

At the conclusion of the conference, President Hicham El Habti was elected to the AAU Governing Board, representing universities in North Africa.



Young Moroccans engaged in climate action and governance at LCOY 2025

From the 23rd to the 25th of July, the Green Medina Student Club at the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences, in association with UNDRR/O - the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - organized the Local Conference of Youth Morocco 2025 at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

The three-day event brought together nearly 150 young Moroccans from diverse backgrounds to engage in roundtables, workshops, panel discussions, and simulations. Sessions focused on key climate-related issues including energy transition, water and food security, climate governance, green finance, and climate justice, with a strong emphasis on youth inclusion in public decision-making processes.

LCOY Morocco 2025 provided a platform for youth to develop and communicate climate priorities and contributed to preparing inputs for international youth climate platforms. The event also strengthened linkages between local climate actors and international frameworks connected to the UNFCCC process.

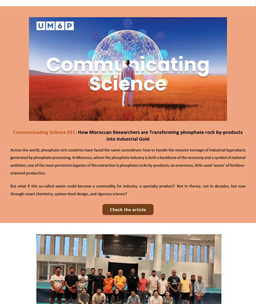


Digital Ecosystem Office explored data sovereignty and responsible AI during themed gathering

On the 17th of July, the Digital Ecosystem Office organized the event "Building the Future of a Sovereign AI in Morocco" at UM6P Campus in Benguerir, in collaboration with Nexus Core Systems and NVIDIA.

The event opened with a keynote by Jalal Charaf, Chief Digital & AI Officer at UM6P, and brought together digital actors including Atlas Cloud Services, CleanTalks, OCP Solutions, OCP Group, and IRMV. A central session featured the presentation of a planned 500 MW AI center powered by renewable energy. Led by Nexus Core Systems and Lingshi Capital, in collaboration with NVIDIA and UM6P, the project aims to deliver secure, sustainable, and sovereign computing capacity to support national innovation and infrastructure needs.

The program also included applied AI use cases presented by NVIDIA and discussions on data sovereignty, responsible innovation, and UM6P's role in advancing applied research and local talent development. The initiative contributes to positioning Morocco as a regional actor in green and sovereign AI.

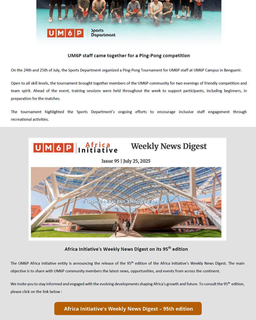


First quinoa harvest reflected research-to-field transfer in Laracha

On the 23rd of July, Al Moutmir marked the first quinoa harvest on a demonstration platform in the province of Laracha.

The activity is part of a three-year program led by OCP to promote quinoa as a climate-resilient crop. Initiated through laboratory research at UM6P, the program aims to transfer knowledge to farmers through demonstration platforms and integrated production methods adapted to climate variability.

More than 100 platforms were deployed across 12 provinces, combining seed production, technical support, and genotype-environment interaction research. The first results show promising yields and increasing farmer interest in quinoa as an adaptive strategy for future climatic conditions.

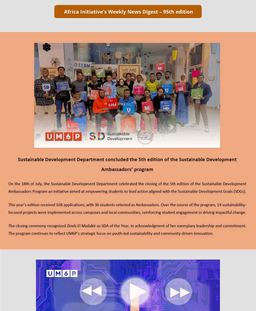


Communicating Science #21: **How Moroccan Researchers are Transforming phosphate rock by-products into Industrial Gold**

Across the world, phosphate-rich countries have faced the same conundrum: how to handle the massive tonnage of industrial byproducts generated by phosphate processing. In Morocco, where the phosphate industry is both a backbone of the economy and a symbol of national ambition, some of the most persistent legacies of this extraction is phosphate rocks by-products: an enormous, little-used 'waste' of fertilizer-oriented production.

But what if this so-called waste could become a commodity for industry, a specialty product? Not in theory, not in decades, but now through smart chemistry, system-level design, and rigorous science?

Check the article

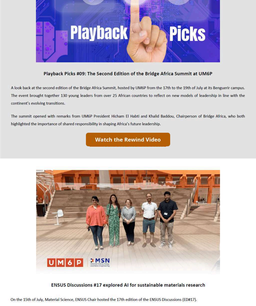


UM6P staff came together for a Ping-Pong competition

On the 24th and 25th of July, the Sports Department organized a Ping-Pong Tournament for UM6P staff at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

Open to all skill levels, the tournament brought together members of the UM6P community for two evenings of friendly competition and team spirit. Ahead of the event, training sessions were held throughout the week to support participants, including beginners, in preparation for the matches.

The tournament highlighted the Sports Department's ongoing efforts to encourage inclusive staff engagement through recreational activities.

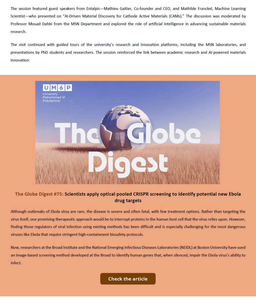


Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest on its 95th edition

The UM6P Africa Initiative entity is announcing the release of the 95th 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 95th edition, please click on the link below :

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 95th edition

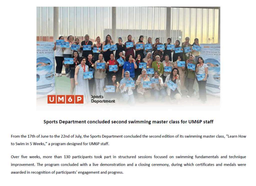


Sustainable Development Department concluded the 5th edition of the Sustainable Development Ambassadors' program

On the 18th of July, the Sustainable Development Department celebrated the closing of the 5th edition of the Sustainable Development Ambassadors Program an initiative aimed at empowering students to lead action aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year's edition received 108 applications, with 36 students selected as Ambassadors. Over the course of the program, 14 sustainability-focused projects were implemented across campuses and local communities, reinforcing student engagement in driving impactful change.

The closing ceremony recognized Zineb El Maddahi as SDA of the Year, in acknowledgment of her exemplary leadership and commitment. The program continues to reflect UM6P's strategic focus on youth-led sustainability and community-driven innovation.



Playback Picks #09: The Second Edition of the Bridge Africa Summit at UM6P

A look back at the second edition of the Bridge Africa Summit, hosted by UM6P from the 17th to the 19th of July at its Benguerir campus. The event brought together 130 young leaders from over 25 African countries to reflect on new models of leadership in line with the continent's evolving transitions.

The summit opened with remarks from UM6P President Hicham El Habti and Khalid Bakhou, Chairperson of Bridge Africa, who both highlighted the importance of shared responsibility in shaping Africa's future leadership.

Watch the Rewind Video

ENSUS Discussions #17 explored AI for sustainable materials research

On the 15th of July, Material Science, ENSUS Chair hosted the 17th edition of the ENSUS Discussions (ESDC17).

The session featured guest speakers from Entalpia – Mathieu Gallice, Co-founder and CEO, and Mathilde Franckel, Machine Learning Scientist—who presented on "AI-Driven Material Discovery for Cathode Active Materials (CAMs)." The discussion was moderated by Professor Mouad Dahbi from the MSN Department and explored the role of artificial intelligence in advancing sustainable materials research.

The visit continued with guided tours of the university's research and innovation platforms, including the MSN laboratories, and presentations by PhD students and researchers. The session reinforced the link between academic research and AI-powered materials innovation.

The Globe Digest #75: Scientists apply optical pooled CRISPR screening to identify potential new Ebola drug targets

Although outbreaks of Ebola virus are rare, the disease is severe and often fatal, with few treatment options. Rather than targeting the virus itself, one promising therapeutic approach would be to interrupt proteins in the human host cell that the virus relies upon. However, finding those regulators of viral infection using existing methods has been difficult and is especially challenging for the most dangerous viruses like Ebola that require stringent high-containment biosafety protocols.

Now, researchers at the Broad Institute and the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL) at Boston University have used an image-based screening method developed at the Broad to identify human genes that, when silenced, impair the Ebola virus's ability to infect.

Check the article

Sports Department concluded second swimming master class for UM6P staff

From the 17th of June to the 22nd of July, the Sports Department concluded the second edition of its swimming master class, "Learn How to Swim in 5 Weeks," a program designed for UM6P staff.

Over five weeks, more than 120 participants took part in structured sessions focused on swimming fundamentals and technique improvement. The program concluded with a live demonstration and a closing ceremony, during which certificates and medals were awarded in recognition of participants' engagement and progress.

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LET US HEAR YOU OUT



SPEAK UP

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