

Your Friday Wrap #285 - January 30th, 2026
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

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Communications and Public Relations Office

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UM6P Hosted the Prime Minister of Senegal for Institutional Discussions

On the 28th of January, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic received a Senegalese delegation led by His Excellency Ousmane Sonko, Prime Minister of Senegal, for a visit focused on education and entrepreneurship.

The meeting provided an opportunity to present the University's ecosystem, including the StartGate innovation platform and the 1337 learning model, and explored opportunities for cooperation between Morocco and Senegal in education, innovation, and entrepreneurial development.

The visit concluded with an exchange with students, offering space for dialogue on academic pathways and entrepreneurship.



UM6P Took Part in the 3rd U7+ Presidential Delegates Meeting in Sendai

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, represented by Mr. Khalid Baddou, Chief of Staff and Director of Institutional Affairs, participated in the 3rd U7+ Presidential Delegates Meeting, held on the 26th and the 27th of January at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan.

The meeting brought together senior representatives from global universities to advance the U7+ Alliance's work on international issues, strengthen institutional collaboration, and prepare for the April 2026 Presidential Summit in Paris. Discussions addressed the geopolitical context, engagement with national governments, and universities' contribution to evidence-based public policy.

Mr. Baddou took part in the working group on the Social Role of Universities, where he underscored the responsibility of universities, particularly in the Global South, to serve as catalysts for inclusive development, social innovation, and knowledge transfer with tangible societal impact.

His intervention emphasized UM6P's vision of an engaged, solution-oriented university that connects research excellence with the public good, reinforcing the institution's commitment to science diplomacy and the U7+ Alliance's shared mission to tackle global challenges through higher education and research collaboration.

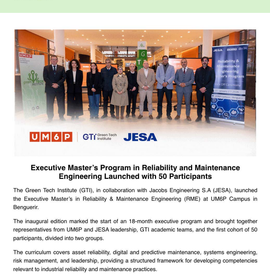


300 Participants from UM6P Joined the 36th Marrakech International Marathon

On the 25th of January, the Sports Department coordinated UM6P's participation in the 36th Edition of the Marrakech International Marathon.

The University was represented by 300 participants from its Campuses in Benguerir and Rabat, highlighting its commitment to initiatives that promote physical activity and collective engagement outside the academic environment.

All participants completed the race and received Finisher medals. During this edition, Mr. Othmane Malaiche recorded a time of 1 hour and 13 minutes, setting a new performance record since the University started participating in the event in 2017.



30 African Press Agency Directors Visited UM6P to Explore its Model and Pan-African Vision

On the 29th of January, a delegation of media professionals attending the 9th General Assembly of the Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) visited UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

On the sidelines of the FAAPA General Assembly in Marrakech, the visit provided an opportunity to present the University's mission, academic and research orientation. UM6P representatives introduced the delegation to the University's approach to teaching, research, and innovation, highlighting the University's pan-African vision and its engagement in addressing continental challenges through research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The delegation toured several academic and research facilities and discussed UM6P's work in sustainable development, agriculture, climate-related challenges, artificial intelligence, and innovation.



2nd Edition of CAES Science Days Examined Research on Agriculture, Sustainability, and Food Systems

From the 27th to the 29th of January, the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) held the second edition of its Science Days at UM6P Campus in Benguerir, gathering more than 200 participants.

The event brought together researchers, students, and partners to discuss recent scientific work on agriculture, environmental sustainability, and food systems. The program featured five panel discussions and four student-led sessions covering soil and water systems, climate resilience, biotechnologies, carbon pathways, artificial intelligence, and innovation in education.

The agenda also included recognition moments, such as the CAES Best Team of the Year 2024 Award, presented to the Cactus research team, represented by Professor Karim El Fakhouri, for its work on sustainable cactus protection.

Student-led sessions showcased applied research across four thematic areas, with awards given to the top presentations in each category, reflecting both scientific quality and clarity of communication.

Executive Master's Program in Reliability and Maintenance Engineering Launched with 50 Participants

The Green Tech Institute (GTI), in collaboration with Jacobs Engineering S.A (JESA), launched the Executive Master's in Reliability & Maintenance Engineering (RME) at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The inaugural edition marked the start of an 18-month executive program and brought together representatives from UM6P and JESA leadership, GTI academic teams, and the first cohort of 50 participants, divided into two groups.

The curriculum covers asset reliability, digital and predictive maintenance, systems engineering, risk management, and leadership, providing a structured framework for developing competencies relevant to industrial reliability and maintenance practices.

Open Day Introduced Academic Opportunities and Admission Pathways at UM6P

On the 24th of January, the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences (FGSES) held an Open Day at the University's Campus in Rabat.

The event brought together over 1,000 participants, giving prospective students and visitors a chance to learn about the faculty's academic programs, training paths, and campus environment. Throughout the days, attendees met with faculty members, administrative teams, and students, who provided information on learning approaches, classroom formats, and available academic support.

They also received guidance on admission procedures, selection criteria, and application timelines. Exchanges with current students offered insights into student life, extracurricular activities, and the resources available to support academic and personal development.

Students Planted 40 Trees During the Third Edition of the Plant It Forward Initiative

From the 26th to the 28th of January, the Sustainable Development Office, in collaboration with the Agricultural Innovation and Technology Transfer Center (AITTC), held the third edition of the Plant It Forward initiative.

This edition brought together students from the School of Hospitality Business and Management (SHBM) and the College of Computing to plant 40 trees. The activity was part of broader efforts to promote environmental responsibility and advance sustainable campus development.

Through hands-on reforestation work, participants supported the expansion of green spaces on campus and reinforced environmentally responsible practices. The initiative showed how student involvement supports long-term sustainability goals and promotes a culture of environmental responsibility across the university community.



Institutional Cooperation Discussed During the Niger Delegation Visit to UM6P

On the 28th of January, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic Campus in Benguerir hosted a delegation from the Republic of Niger for a working visit focused on institutional dialogue and African cooperation.

The delegation was led by Ms. Fatouma Soumana, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Nigeriens Abroad, accompanied by Mr. Amadou Tcheko, Ambassador and Acting Director General of the Nigerien Institute of Diplomatic and other Nigerien representatives.

Discussions explored potential collaboration in capacity building, academic diplomacy, and the contribution of higher education institutions to Africa's strategic transitions. Exchanges highlighted shared interest in structured South–South cooperation grounded in knowledge sharing and long-term engagement.



Masterclass Explored Plastic Waste Reuse Through Origami Techniques

On the 24th of January, the Elysian Student Club, in collaboration with Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement (SOLE), organized a masterclass titled "Waste to Worth" with Mr. Niko Jerook.

During the interactive session, participants learned how to transform plastic waste into origami bracelets through a step-by-step process, using everyday plastic sachets, such as biscuit packaging. Students made their own bracelets while exploring practical ways to reuse materials and promote sustainability.

The masterclass combined creative practice with environmental awareness and skill-building, demonstrating how artistic approaches can support more sustainable habits.

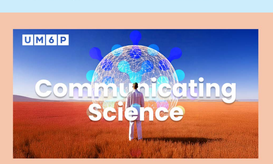


Discussion Explored Historical Perspectives on Morocco-Belgium Relations

The Institute for Advanced Studies, through the Chair of Transitions, in collaboration with the Learning Center, organized a presentation of the book "Entre-deux rives: Mano-Belgique, histoires parallèles, destins croisés" with Professor Hassan Bousetta, Associate Professor at the University of Liège, on the 27th of January.

The book explores the parallel histories of Morocco and Belgium through a chronological and geographical lens across the Mediterranean, combining long-term historical analysis with recent developments in Moroccan-Belgian relations.

The presentation, moderated by Professor Montassir Sakhi, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, offered an opportunity to exchange views on the historical, cultural, and human dimensions that have shaped these interconnected trajectories.



A Book Discussion Examined Fieldwork Practices in Restrictive Political Environments

On the 27th of January, the Skills Cluster for Agile Learning in Economics and Social Sciences (SCALES) held a session of the Book Presentation Series at UM6P Campus in Rabat.

Professor Kira Jumet presented her book "Doing Research as a Native: A Guide for Fieldwork in Illiberal and Repressive States." The session explored methodological, ethical, and practical considerations involved in conducting fieldwork in restrictive political settings, with attention to the challenges researchers may encounter in these contexts.

The exchange provided perspectives for students and researchers interested in qualitative methods, fieldwork design, and political research in constrained environments.



Communicating Science #42: How B2B Firms Can Transform Strategy Through Customer Insight, Organizational Alignment, and Leadership Commitment

In an era marked by intensifying competition, rapid digital transformation, and increasingly demanding customers, B2B organizations are under growing pressure to rethink how they create and deliver value. Moving from product-centric logics to customer-centric strategies is no longer a rhetorical aspiration—it is becoming a strategic necessity.

In this interview, Dr. Nouha Berrada, Professor of Marketing & Strategy, and Dr. Kofi Osei-Frimpong, Associate Professor of Marketing, both at UM6P's ABS, discuss insights from their research on how B2B organizations can successfully embed customer centricity.

Check the article



Plenary Session Focused on Health and Safety Practices at TotalEnergies Morocco

The Career Center, in collaboration with Total Associates Professors and TotalEnergies Morocco, organized a plenary session titled "Health and Safety: Measures Implemented by TotalEnergies Morocco" for students studying nursing and medicine on the 28th of January, at UM6P Campus in Benguerir.

The session centered on Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) practices, providing insights into the professional standards used in the energy industry. Discussions emphasized practical experiences from TotalEnergies Morocco, allowing students to engage with real-world methods for workplace health and safety.

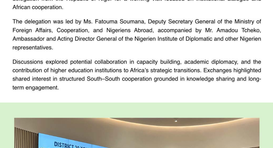
The exchange included contributions from Ms. Malika Iareben, HSSE Director at TotalEnergies Morocco; Mr. Loukili Aissaoui, Human Resources Director at TotalEnergies Morocco; and Mr. Gerald Steerman, former Chief Medical Director at TotalEnergies and member of the International Medical Department and TPA Professors. Their insights fostered informed discussion on HSSE practices and professional responsibilities in health-related fields.

Discovery Learning Program Participants Examined Cultural Narratives and Social Change in Rabat

This week, as part of the third phase of the Discovery 2026 Learning Program, INSPIRE participants visited Rabat for a series of cultural exchanges and site visits, guided by cultural journalist Chama Tahiri.

The Discovery Program is designed to encourage engagement with Morocco's cultural spaces through hands-on exploration and conversation. The journey encourages critical thinking and will guide participants to create a collective cultural magazine based on their experiences and encounters.

During the visit, participants toured several cultural sites, including the Abu Bakr Kadiri Foundation, the Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, the Tenor Foundation, and the Rabat Museum of Photography.



Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 120th edition

UM6P Africa Initiative entity announces the release of the 120th 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 120th edition, please click on the link below:

Africa Initiative's Weekly News Digest – 120th edition

Seminar Discussed Philosophical Views on Place and Memory in Africa

On the 29th of January, the Center for African Studies held the third session of The World Seen from Africa seminar series, titled "Crossings and the Production of Places: Challenges by/with Utopias and Dystopias in Africa," led by Professor Jean Godefroy Bidima, philosopher and Yvonne Arnould Chaifrobster in French and Francophone Studies at Tulane University.

Drawing on continental philosophy, African philosophies, Francophone literatures and arts, juridical anthropology, and medical ethics, Professor Bidima examined interpretations of utopia and dystopia in Africa. The session addressed themes related to place and non-place, memory in the digital age, heritage, and contemporary understandings of dwelling.



Lecture Addressed Photography as a Tool for Documenting Forgotten Heritage in Morocco

On the 28th of January, the Institute for Advanced Studies hosted a lecture titled “The Lens as Archive: Identifying and Documenting Forgotten Heritage in Morocco” led by François Beaurain, Resident Artist at IAS.

Drawing on research conducted since 2016, the lecture focused on documenting often-overlooked built heritage, including cinemas, workers’ housing estates, industrial and mining sites, infrastructure, and former military sites.

The discussion examined photographic techniques for identifying and documenting sites and raised questions about future developments amid increasing pressures and changes. Conversations with students, researchers, and members of the University community highlighted the role of photography in research, memory, and heritage preservation.



IAAS Morocco National Meeting Brought Together Students and Professionals in Agriculture

From the 24th to the 25th of January, the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences (IAAS), in collaboration with Student Organizations, Leadership and Engagement (SOLE), AgriEdge, and Africa Business School hosted the IAAS Morocco National Meet at the University’s Campus in Rabat.

The meeting brought together local committees from across Morocco, along with professionals and partners active in agriculture, food systems, and sustainability. It provided a platform for exchange among students from different universities, IAAS chapters, and practitioners working in the sector.

Through panel discussions, practical workshops, and networking activities, participants addressed topics related to innovation, leadership, and current challenges in agriculture and sustainability. The sessions also supported inter-university collaboration and dialogue across disciplines.



The Globe Digest #95: Researchers Investigate Genetic Interactions Linked to Heart Disease

If you’ve been told you have your mother’s chin or your father’s eyes, you can thank your genes – the biological instruction manual passed down from each parent.

But tiny “typos,” or genetic mutations, can sneak into segments of DNA. Many of these are harmless, but some can cause health problems. Geneticists search for these single blemishes to understand how diseases are inherited.

Check the article



Sustainable Development Makers Promoted Sustainability Through Peer Collaboration

On the 27th and 28th of January, Sustainable Development Makers (SDMs) continued their efforts to promote sustainable development within the University ecosystem.

By sharing experiences, collaborating, and exchanging knowledge, SDMs increased awareness of sustainability issues and encouraged responsible practices among students and staff. These interactions supported the integration of sustainable development principles into everyday activities across campus.

This collective engagement highlighted the importance of peer-to-peer learning in addressing sustainability challenges and fostering a shared sustainability culture within the university community.



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