UM6P

2026 Bridge Africa Summit

2026 INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA



A Shared Vision for Africa

# Africa's Renaissance: Empowering a New Generation of Change Makers

**4th Edition · November 12th, 2026**

Ighil Room (Congress Center) | UM6P Benguerir Campus, Morocco

# AGENDA

## Thursday, November 12th, 2026

## Bridge Africa x International Campus of Excellence Africa

*Connections, Leadership and Excellence*

**10:00 AM**

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

**Dr. Amina Lahbabi,** Head of Communication & PR, UM6P

**OPENING REMARKS**

**Khalid Baddou,** Chair, International Campus of Excellence Africa
**Mustapha Achoubane,** Co-Chair, International Campus of Excellence

**10:30 AM**

**KEYNOTE**

### Road to Nobel Prize: A Journey to Excellence

**Professor Brian Schmidt,** Nobel Laureate

**Session Chair:**
**Khalid Baddou,** Chair, International Campus of Excellence Africa

**11:15 AM**

**LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND DIPLOMACY**

### Beyond the Horizon: Lessons in Leadership

This panel explores how visionary leadership, scientific innovation, and strategic diplomacy can unlock Africa's economic potential, foster transformative partnerships, and position the continent as a driving force in global scientific and economic progress.

**H.E. Ahmed Nehad Abdel Latif,** Ambassador of Egypt to Morocco
**H.E. Thomas Dougherty,** U.S. Ambassador (Ret)
**Professor Thomas Prefi,** Chairman, Charlemagne Prize
**Dr. Lex Paulson,** Executive Director, School of Collective Intelligence, UM6P

**Session Chair:**
**Dr. Ahmed Tayel,** Head of UM6P Language Center

**1:00 PM**

Lunch

**2:30 PM**

**PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS OPPORTUNITIES**

### Advancing Academic Excellence and Global Engagement

The panel explores how prestigious international fellowships and academic exchange programs cultivate exceptional talent, expand access to world-class research and educational opportunities, and strengthen Africa's participation in global networks of scientific excellence and leadership.

**Dr. Rebecca Geffner,** Executive Director of Fulbright Morocco
**Dr. Josephine Clark Kennedy,** Deputy Vice President, Amideast Morocco
**Dr. Ahmed Tayel,** Head of UM6P Language Center
**Intissar Rachdi,** Partnerships and International Relations Manager, Ibn Rochd Foundation (FIRSI), UM6P

**Session Chair:**
**Fatima Zahra Marfoq,** Senior Manager, PR, Communications & Global Projects, IAS UM6P

**3:30 PM**

Break & Networking Session

**4:00 PM**

**SCIENCE DIPLOMACY**

### Building Bridges Between Academia, Industry, and Policy

Drawing on perspectives from international education, scientific research, and institutional engagement, this panel examines how science diplomacy can connect knowledge, influence policy, and cultivate cross-sector partnerships to advance Africa's scientific ambitions.
*Hosted by Institute for Advanced Studies*

**Dr. Chris Shinn,** Country Director, Amideast
**Professor Zouheir Sekkat,** Scientific Director, IAS UM6P
**Dr. Amina Lahbabi,** Head of Communication & PR, UM6P
**Professor Aawatif Hayar,** Professor & Former Minister

**Session Chair:**
**Dr. Mahamadou Simpara,** Corporate Editorialist, UM6P

**5:15 PM**

**AFRICAN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (APLA)**

### Graduation Ceremony

## Bridge Africa x International Campus of Excellence Africa

*Moments from Previous Editions*




















University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

H&S GROUP

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Royal European Academy of Doctors
BARCELONA - 1914

Institute for Advanced Studies

Charlemagne Prize ACADEMY

Bridge Africa

FULBRIGHT Morocco
MOROCCAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE