UMRP Fall Workshop 2022
Launch of Second Round Projects:
Promoting Sustainable Development for Africa

MIT Samberg Conference Center
6th Floor, Dining Room #5
October 14th, 2022  9 am.

9:00 am  Welcome & Program Overview
Elfatih A.B. Eltahir, Faculty Director, UMRP
Hicham El Habti, President, UM6P

9:15 am  Advanced Materials for Solar Photo-molecular Desalination
Gang Chen, James Zhang and Abimbola Oluwade, MIT
Mohamed Chaker and Motasem Abushaban, UM6P

9:35 am  Climate Responsive Seed Technology to Enhance Pulse Production in Water-Risk Hotspots
Benedetto Marelli and Zeina Barghouti, MIT
Manal Mhada and Lamfeddal Kouisi, UM6P

9:55 am  Climate Change Impact on Water Availability in Africa: Projections and Adaptation
Elfatih A.B. Eltahir, MIT
Nabil El Mocayd, UM6P

10:15 am  Greening the Phosphorus Cycle
Electrochemical Approaches to Valorizing Phosphates
Yogesh Surendranath and Andrew Licini, MIT
Hacking Phosphates
Rachid Benhida, Rachid Taakili, UM6P
New Routes from Phosphates to Chemicals
Christopher “Kit” Cummins & Tiansi Xin, MIT

10:55 am  Coffee Break

11:10 am  Announcement of UMRP + and Keynote Introduction
Elfatih A.B. Eltahir, Faculty Director, UMRP

11:20 am  Keynote Address: Food Security in Africa: The Imperative of Innovation
Mostafa Terrab, Chairman and CEO of OCP Group

12:00 pm  Adjourn

Keynote Speaker: Mostafa Terrab

Mostafa Terrab is Chairman and CEO of OCP Group, a global leader in crop nutrition solutions headquartered in Morocco. Transformed under his guidance since 2006, OCP today develops Morocco’s world-leading phosphorus reserves into an increasingly diverse range of products for farmers on five continents. In the process, he has realized substantial growth in the equity value and revenues of OCP to the great benefit of the government and people of Morocco.

At OCP, Terrab has overseen the founding of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), a world-class research and education institution based in Morocco that partners with some of the most prestigious universities in the world and aims to be a major driver of Africa’s economic development and diversification, and the strengthening of its human capital.

Mr. Terrab earned Masters and Ph.D. degrees in engineering and operations research from MIT following an engineering degree from the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris. Prior to OCP, he served at the World Bank, led the creation of Morocco’s telecom regulatory authority, and was an expert in the Cabinet of the late King Hassan II.

On the Board of Directors of the Peterson Institute for International Economics and the Global Board of Advisors of the Council on Foreign Relations, Terrab is also an Officer in the French Legion of Honor and has been awarded the Wissam Alaouite—a high honor from the Kingdom of Morocco.