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| **The MENA Chief Economist Office, MENA PREM and PREM Poverty on the occasion of the launch of SUBSIM 2.0**  **Present**  **Reforming Subsidies in Complex Environments**  ***- A Role Play with Live Simulations*** *-*  **Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014  Time: 12:30-2:00 pm**  **Room: MC4-301**  *Featuring:*  **Shantayanan Devarajan** as "Prime Minister"  **John Panzer** as "Minister of Finance"  **Hana Brixi** as "Minister of Social Protection"  **Ambar Narayan** as as "President of the Chamber of Commerce"  **Masami Kojima** as "President of the Consumers' Association"  **Paolo Verme and Abdelkrim Araar** as the "Subsidies Simulation Unit"  **Abstract.** Fuel subsidies accrue mainly to the rich, cost up to 7 percent of GDP and distort incentives in favor of capital-intensive industries. Yet, their reform has been elusive. This seminar will highlight the potential benefits and difficulties in reforming fuel subsidies through a role-playing exercise where a minister of finance, minister of social affairs, president of the chamber of commerce and head of the consumers' association debate the replacement of fuel subsidies with cash transfers in a hypothetical North African country. Real-time simulations with SUBSIM 2.0, a user-friendly tool for simulating the poverty and income distributional effects of changes in subsidies and cash transfers, will underpin the debate.  *Light lunch provided*<http://worldbankva.adobeconnect.com/govwidepmrs/> |