



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

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