



The Royal Academy  
of Engineering

## Natural Resources in the Global Economy - Debate 3

**This House believes that when water is in short supply, engineers should prioritise human needs over environmental concerns**



Tuesday 17 January 2012

6pm for 6.30pm

**Venue:**

The British Academy  
10-11 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5DG

### **Natural Resources in the Global Economy - Debate 3.**

In this series of debates, The Royal Academy of Engineering is tackling some of the most pressing challenges that the world currently faces in relation to the demand and supply of natural resources. The series brings together engineers, industry leaders, economists and policy makers to debate the various aspects of these challenges and to explore the possible solutions on a global scale. The debates also provide participants with an opportunity to influence policy: key messages emerging from the series will be captured in a report to policy makers and will form the basis of future Academy work in this area.

The motion to be addressed in this third debate is:

**This House believes that when water is in short supply, engineers should prioritise human needs over environmental concerns.**

In 2010, the United Nations declared access to clean, safe drinking water a human right. For numerous governments and NGOs in drought-stricken regions, meeting the basic water needs of human populations is the number one priority. However, meeting those needs can cause serious damage to biodiversity and ecosystem services that can in turn affect global water security. Should engineering solutions in areas under water stress focus on providing water to human beings, or should the environmental effects of their interventions be given equal prominence?

#### **Chair:**

Professor Sir William Wakeham FREng, Senior Vice-President and Honorary International Secretary of the Royal Academy of Engineering

#### **Speakers:**

Chris Binnie FREng, Independent Consultant and water specialist

Trevor Bishop, Head of Water Resources at the Environment Agency

Dr Sue Cavill, Associate of the Water, Engineering and Development Centre

Dr Jean Venables CBE FREng, Director of Crane Environmental

#### **Programme:**

6:00pm	Registration and refreshments
6:30pm	Debate
8:00pm	Drinks Reception
9:00pm	Close

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London SW1Y 5AH

**RSVP:**

To reserve a place at this debate please contact Holly Wright on [international@raeng.org.uk](mailto:international@raeng.org.uk) or 020 7766 0612

*There is no charge for attendance but please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.*

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3 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DG  
Tel: 020 7766 0600  
Fax: 020 7930 1549

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