



The Royal Academy  
of Engineering

## Natural Resources in the Global Economy - Debate 2

**This House believes that there is no need for concern about the future global supply of strategic minerals.**



Tuesday 1st November 2011

6pm for 6.30pm

**Venue:**

The Royal College of Physicians

11 St Andrews Place

Regent's Park

London NW1 4LE

## **Natural Resources in the Global Economy - Debate 2.**

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 second debate is:

**This House believes that there is no need for concern about the future global supply of strategic minerals.**

Strategic minerals are those that are essential for the functioning of society. They are crucial to manufacturing, energy production, communication and defence. These include widely used minerals, whose price and supply have come under pressure as the growth of emerging economies accelerates, as well as the rare earth metals which underlie new developments in ICT and sustainable technologies.

In recent years, countries across the world have raised concerns about the security of their supplies of strategic minerals. Some critically important minerals are currently only accessible in a handful of countries worldwide, and many can only be mined at a significant cost to the local environment. Global supply chains are threatened as governments restrict international access to mineral sources for strategic economic or geo-political gain.

However, plentiful deposits exist of many minerals currently considered rare - they just require the development of suitable extraction technologies. The re-use and recycling of strategic minerals is improving the efficiency of industry across the globe and reducing reliance on traditional supply chains. But can technology and new business practices really allay the risk of future global shocks in the supply of strategic minerals?

### **Chair:**

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

**Panel:**

- Edward Bickham, Former Executive Vice President/Group Head External Relations, Anglo American plc
- Andrew Bloodworth, Head of Science for Minerals and Waste, British Geological Survey
- Professor Jan Cilliers FREng, Chair in Mineral Processing and Head of Department of Earth Sciences and Engineering, Imperial College London
- Jan Lewis, President, Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

**Programme:**

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

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Regent's Park  
London NW1 4LE

**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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