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This follow-on report by FIDIC is a hugely welcome compilation of the opportunities to address the global water crisis. The contribution of engineers is elegantly described and there is full acceptance that this contribution can only be effective when set in the context of the wider political, economic, social and environmental dimensions. There are three key recommendations.

First, there is call to respect the value of water by setting prices at appropriate levels to encourage conservation and management. Of course this needs to respect the needs of those who cannot pay and acknowledge that much of the water cycle is beyond the scope of revenue and integrated management is critical to ensuring the whole system is considered. Second, the report recommends wide involvement in decision making around water management, embracing communities at all levels in the process.

There is a recognition that decisions around water need to remain cognisant of the wider system within which a water system is set and this demands extensive consultation and engagement. Third, the report recommends renewed and redoubled efforts to tackle the persistent problem of inadequate water supply and sanitation to many of the world's poorest people. New approaches are emerging but progress is slower than it should be and very poor in respect of sanitation which lags behind water supply in provision.

The mnemonic of Respect, Renew, Rethink is helpful in encouraging all engineers to come to the global issues of water in all its manifestations with a fresh approach and redoubled effort.

FIDIC plays a key role in the engineering world globally and this report adds significantly to the wider understanding of the vital contribution engineers can make in delivering on the sustainable development goals.

