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Modern day hero gives keynote address at African Utility Week

The organisers of African Utility Week are pleased to announce that the keynote address at Africa's largest utility power and water conference and exhibition, will be given by Joseph C Wilson, CEO, JC Wilson Investment Ventures, United States and former United States Ambassador.

Joseph Chares Wilson is a modern day hero with years of experience in keeping the lights on in Africa and building up new infrastructure. He is particularly well known for his outspoken and unwavering belief in the truth and is an inspiration to all leaders across the globe.

A United States Foreign Service diplomat before retiring in 1998, Wilson was posted to African countries and to Iraq during the George H. W. Bush administration and had a well publicised response to Saddam Hussein's threat to 'execute anyone sheltering foreigners in Iraq'. He later served as Special Assistant to US President Bill Clinton and as Senior Director for African Affairs on the United States National Security Council.

Wilson became known to the general public as a result of his op-ed "What I Didn't Find in Africa", published in the New York Times four months after the 2003 invasion of Iraq. He concluded that the George W. Bush administration twisted intelligence to "exaggerate" the Iraqi threat.

The week after the article's publication, Robert Novak, in his syndicated Washington Post column, disclosed that Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, worked for the CIA as an undercover officer. Subsequently, former Ambassador Wilson and others alleged that the disclosure was part of the Bush administration's attempts to discredit his report about his investigations in Africa and the op-ed describing his findings because they did not support the government's rationale for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

A film about the events surrounding Valeria Plame and Joseph Wilson is due to be released by Warner Brothers in early 2010. Sean Penn will play the role of Joseph C Wilson.

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Event websites: www.african-utility-week.com; www.powerindaba.com

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