

NEWS RELEASE

September 26, 2018

South Island Prosperity Project returns from Shanghai with plans to make the region 'smarter'

Victoria, BC — The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) team recently returned to Victoria from Shanghai after being hosted at the 2018 World Artificial (AI) Intelligence Conference. Featuring speakers from China's leading technology giants—Baidu, Alibaba, and Tencent, China's "Google", "Amazon", and "Facebook"—the high-security conference is considered one of the world's most prestigious AI gatherings. A combination of plenaries, summits, special exhibitions and industry tours, Shanghai dazzled conference attendees with its deep technical know-how and its consumer-ready technologies, including self-driving cars, robots, data visualization tools, and voice and facial recognition software. The conference's mission was to bring together international AI thought-leaders across business, government, and academia to explore how AI will transform economies and societies by impacting the daily lives of people around the world.

SIPP CEO, Emilie de Rosenroll, was invited to be a speaker at an international summit exploring the relationship between smart cities and AI at the conference. The auditorium was full of industry experts, academics and senior elected officials, with an opening address by the Vice Mayor of Shanghai, Xu Kunlin. The session also featured presentations from Cho In Dong, Vice Mayor of Seoul, South Korea; James Noakes, Deputy Mayor of Liverpool, England; and Wu Zhiqiang, Vice President of Tongji University, Shanghai.

Emilie's presentation focused on how Greater Victoria is planning to create a more sustainable, convenient and affordable transportation network through the use of technologies, like single points of payment for different forms of transportation from bikes, to buses, to carshares. As one of the 20 national finalists in Canada's first-ever Smart City Challenge led by Infrastructure Canada, Greater Victoria is getting national and international recognition for its smart city work, and will have a chance to win \$10M in the Federal challenge to be announced in the summer of 2019. SIPP's winning initial proposal was selected by a national jury and was backed by SIPP's 10 municipal members, the Songhees Nation, as well as several other key stakeholders, post-secondary institutions, and nonprofits.

"New advances in technology will impact countless aspects of our lives including the new ways governments can deliver services to citizens—it encompasses everything from how we move around our cities and regions to how we improve health outcomes, how we work, and even the work we will do. This is why SIPP's work around smart mobility isn't just about planning for convenient ways of getting around in the short-term, it's about preparing our region for a different future."

SIPP's Director of Economic Development, Dallas Gislason, participated in a panel discussion alongside Dr. Raymond Tavares, United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Luis Gomez Fernandez,

Barcelona's Commissioner of Economy Promotion; and Cathy Skelly, Investment Manager, of Liverpool Vision. The panel discussed issues related to smart cities governance and the importance of international cooperation for creating ethical AI standards to guide industry and governments.

“China – with its 800 million internet users (of which 98% are on mobile devices), is leading the world on a number of fronts in AI and big data,” says Dallas Gislason. “Greater Victoria can bring an important perspective to the international smart city dialogue, particularly around how we excel at partnerships and collaboration between the private and public sectors.”

The Shanghai Pudong Smart City Research Institute hosted SIPP in Shanghai, as a result of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Shanghai Centre for Smart City Promotion last spring. Next year, SIPP will invite Shanghai companies and government officials to its bi-annual Prosperity Summit in Greater Victoria to showcase some of the opportunities for partnership and learning exchange related to AI and smart cities initiatives.

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ABOUT SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PROJECT

The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) is the economic development organization for Greater Victoria, B.C., comprised of 45 members, including 10 local governments, five First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, seven industry associations and non-profits, and 20 major employers, all working together to bolster our region’s economic and social prosperity. This will happen by catalyzing the creation of high-quality, household-sustaining jobs, so that more families can afford to live, work and build a life here.

SIPP’s mission is to facilitate and promote the development of a strong, regionally diversified economy on South Vancouver Island. www.southislandprosperity.ca