Prague Intro, April 19

1. Well, a romantic view, from the existential novel <The unbearable lightless of being> by Milan Kundera. Here is Chunyu Long.
2. **Prague,** historical pearl of Europe – is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Also nickname for “The golden city”,” The City of a Hundred Spires” or “A symphony of stone”.
3. **Location & Demographics**

* ***Location:*** capital and largest city of the Czech Republic. Situated in the north-west of the country on the Vltava River, at 50°05"N and 14°27"E. in the center of the Bohemian Basin.
* ***Demographics:*** as twin town of Shanghai, this city has nearly 1.3million people, nearly 5 percent of people in Shanghai.

1. **Main Sights**

* ***Old town Square***

Another name” Prague Square”, is a historic square in the Old Town quarter of Prague. Prague's Old Town Square is often bursting at the seams with tourists in the summer. Featuring various architectural styles including the gothic Týn Church and baroque St. Nicholas Church

* *Prague Astronomical Clock*

The clock was first installed in 1410, making it the third-oldest astronomical clock in the world and the oldest one still working. And the clock builds under the viewpoint that the earth is the center of universe.

**Astronomical dial** The astronomical dial has a background that represents the standing Earth and sky, and surrounding it operate four main moving components: the zodiacal ring, an outer rotating ring, an icon representing the Sun, and an icon representing the Moon.

**Animated figures:** There is a presentation of statues of the Apostles at the doorways above the clock, with all twelve presented every hour. The four figures flanking the clock are set in motion at the hour; these represent four things that were despised at the time of the clock's making. From left to right in the photographs, the first is Vanity, represented by a figure admiring him in a mirror. Next, the miser holding a bag of gold represents greed or usury. Across the clock stands Death, a skeleton that strikes the time upon the hour. Finally, the Turk tells pleasure and entertainment.

**Calendar:** The present-day calendar below the clock was added in 1870.

* Tyn Church(baroque) and St. Nicolas Church(gothic) etc.

The roof;a statue of religious reformer Jan Hus and other view.

* ***Visegrad***

Meaning the upper castle, is a historical fort built in the 10th century, on a hill over the Vltava River. It contains Prague’s oldest surviving building.

Local legend holds that Vysegrad was the location of the first settlement which later became Prague. The landmark is the Church of St. Peter and Paul

* ***Prague Castle***

Prague Castle is a castle in Prague where the Kings of Bohemia, Holy Roman Emperors and presidents of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic have had their offices. The Bohemian Crown Jewels are kept within a hidden room inside it.

According to Guinness Book of Records, Prague Castle is the largest ancient castle in the world. It occupies an area of almost 70 000 m², at about 570 meters in length and an average of about 130 meters wide.

* ***Charles Bridge***

The Charles Bridge is a famous historic bridge that crosses the Vltava river in Prague, Czech Republic. Its construction started in 1357 under the auspices of King Charles IV, and finished in the beginning of the 15th century. As the only means of crossing the river Vltava until 1841, the Charles Bridge was the most important connection between Prague Castle and the city's Old Town and adjacent areas. This "solid-land" connection made Prague important as a trade route between Eastern and Western Europe. The bridge was originally called the Stone Bridge or the Prague Bridge but has been the "Charles Bridge" since 1870.

* ***Lennon Wall***

The Lennon Wall or John Lennon Wall is a wall in Prague, Czech Republic. Once a normal wall, since the 1980s it has been filled with John Lennon-inspired graffiti and pieces of lyrics from Beatles songs.

In 1988, the wall was a source of irritation for the communist regime of Gustáv Husák. Young Czechs would write grievances on the wall and in a report of the time this led to a clash between hundreds of students and security police on the nearby Charles Bridge. The movement these students followed was described ironically as "Lennonism" and Czech authorities described these people variously as alcoholics, mentally deranged, sociopathic, and agents of Western capitalism.

The wall continuously undergoes change and the original portrait of Lennon is long lost under layers of new paint. Even when the wall was repainted by some authorities, on the second day it was again full of poems and flowers. Today, the wall represents a symbol of youth ideals such as love and peace.

* ***Charles University***

Founded: April 7, 1348, by the Czech and Roman king Charles IV

Rank: the upper 1.5 percent of the World’s best universities

* ***National Museum(Prague) etc.***

The National museum is a Czech museum institution intended to systematically establish, prepare and publicly exhibit natural scientific and historical collections. It was founded 1818 in Prague.

At present the National Museum houses almost 14 million items from the area of natural history, history, arts, music and librarianship, located in tens of buildings.

**Rudolfinum** is a music auditorium, on the bank of the river Vltava.

1. **Smetana & Prague Spring International Music Festival**

Is there anyone familiar with the rhythm? The composer of this song, Smetana is regarded as the father of Czech music, pioneered the development of a musical style which became closely identified with his country’s aspirations to independent state hood.

In memory him, Prague Spring International Music Festival held. This Festival is a permanent showcase for outstanding performing artists, symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles of the world. It started since 1946, May 12 every year. Today is April 19, just 23 days.

1. **Czech Beer Festival**

Another Festival approach is Czech Beer Festival, is the biggest beer festival in the Czech Republic, held for 17 days every year in May in Prague. The festival features around **120 different beers,** including 70 Czech brands and foreign brews from the United States or United Kingdom, with up to 10,000 seating capacity and service provide around **200 girls and boys dressed** in Czech traditional costumes

Czech Beer Festival Prague 2013 will held in May 16, 2013, next month.

1. **Food(Czech cuisine)**

Czech cuisine has both influenced and been influenced by the cuisine of surrounding countries. Contemporary Czech cuisine is more meat based.

* *Pork knee*

Pork is quite common, roast pork with dumplings and cabbage is often considered the most typical Czech dish

* *Knediky(Czech fruit dumpling) feel like bread*
* *Gulas(beef with potato) & hermelin(cheese)*

Well, Prague really is an attractive palace.