For Immediate Release

Avid Learning in collaboration with the Consulate General of Turkey in Mumbai present a discussion on the Sufi poet Rumi's philosophical legacy with an emphasis on women in Sufism.

The title and description of the panel are as below:

Titled **Sufism: The Legacy of Rumi**, this talk will be held at Visitors' Center, CSMVS, Kala Ghoda. This special event will feature Esin Çelebi Bayru, Rumi's granddaughter (22 generations removed) and Vice President of the International Mevlana Foundation in conversation with Anupa Mehta, Author and Mevlevi Dervish Order Initiate. In the 13th century, Mevlana (Turkish name for Rumi) affected the world with his philosophy. From the earliest days onward, women have played an important role in the development of Sufism and continue to this day. This Women's Day, join us for the rarest of rare insights from Ms. Çelebi, his granddaughter and active member of the Mevlevi Order as she elucidates on the fascinating and inspiring role of women within the Mevlevi Order and in Sufism in a contemporary context. What makes her and her siblings different from all the other grandchildren of Mevlana is that they're descendants of Sultan Veled and Ulu Arif Çelebi – the real formative members of the Mevlevi Order, after their father Mevlana.

This is a remarkable opportunity for audiences in Mumbai to discover Rumi's life, ideologies and practices and gain insights into women's roles within the Sufi Order in a way that has never been presented before. Ms. Çelebi is a pivotal figure in contemporary Sufism today and globally proactive in promoting Rumi's teachings.
Gain insights into Rumi's legacy in the world today and how has it shaped philosophical thinking at large.

Investigate women's participation in the culture of Sufi through history and the manner in which this participation both complicates and sustains traditional conceptions of Islamic womanhood.

This will be the second Sufi event in Avid Learning's roster of programming. In 2013, we had held Sufi Tariqa - an evening of sharing and Sufi practices with Khadija Radin, a Sheikha of the Sufi Order and teacher of Dervish whirling and meditation. Join us this time, in case you missed the last program, for a mystical and insightful session which is sure to be a landmark event for Mumbai.

Where: Visitors' Center, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Kala Ghoda.
When: Wednesday, 8th March 2017; 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM - Registrations & Refreshments; 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM - Discussion
RSVP Email / Call: avidlearning@essar.com / +919769937710; prior registration required
Press Email / Call: Ayeshah Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com / +91 9820155297

Bios of the Panelists:

Esin Çelebi Bayru, the 22nd generation granddaughter of Mevlana was born in Aleppo on the 2nd of April, 1949. She completed her primary, secondary and high school education in Private Işık High School. Afterwards, she graduated from Arabic and Persian Philology Department at the Faculty of Letters in Istanbul University. She became the vice president of the International Mevlana Foundation which was founded in 1996. In cooperation with her colleagues she prepared two significant projects under the auspices of the Foundation and presented them to UNESCO. Thanks to their efforts "Sema and Mevlevi Music" was voted as "The oral cultural heritage masterpiece of humanity" and the year 2007 was declared as "International Rumi Year". The Foundation was

ACCREDITED by UNESCO thanks to their hard work. Esin who also served as a consultant at the Institution of Mevlana Studies in Selçuk University, edited three books titled respectively as “Drops from the Mevlana Ocean” encapsulating conference and symposium statements of her father Celaleddin Bakır Çelebi and “Mevlana and Mevlevi order throughout centuries” authored by scientists specialized on rules and conventions, sema and music as well as “Those who reach to Allah through Mevlana” discussing foreign Mevlevis living abroad. Some of her articles and interviews were also published in various journals. In addition to this, she is invited as a guest speaker to national and international TV shows and to the universities and schools both in Turkey and abroad. She is working towards explaining universal ideas, exemplary lifestyle of Hz. Mevlana besides Mevlevi Culture as his way of right conduct and good manners. She was awarded with honorary PhD Degree in the US by Berkeley California Star King School for The Ministry in May, 2011 for her contributions and efforts on “World Unity, Peace and Justice”.

Anupa Mehta is an author, an arts consultant and a personal storytelling coach. She has trained with the Jungian writer and world renowned storyteller, Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes. She is an initiate in the Mevlevi Dervish order, and she received her initiation from Effendi Jelaluddin Loras in Konya , and is a student of Sheikha Khadija Radin. She has a book of short stories, “Unseasonal Rain” (Estrade, 2014) and a novel, “The Waiting Room” (Penguin 2007) to her credit.

About Partners:

About Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 600 programs and connected with more than 55,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID’s multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.
Facebook : www.facebook.com/Avidlearning
Facebook event link: https://www.facebook.com/events/1543180862653408/
Twitter : www.twitter.com/Avidlearning
Instagram: @avidlearning

The Consulate General of Turkey in Mumbai: Turkey India has historical relations going back hundreds of years. However the current diplomatic relations between the two states have been established in 1948 and the Mumbai Consulate General has been inaugurated in 2010.bIn terms of Mumbai, an Honorary Consul had been appointed by the Ottoman Empire in 1848 and this was upgraded to full Consulate General in 1870‘s. Having closed in 1914 at the outset of WWI, the current Consulate General has opened in 2010. Apart from our Embassy in New Delhi, Turkey also has a second Consulate General in Hyderabad. The Turkish Consulate General is one of 423 foreign representations in India, and one of 92 foreign representations in Mumbai. The Turkish Consulate General in Mumbai is one of 299 Turkish diplomatic and consular representations abroad.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, is one of the premier art and history museum in India. Founded in the early 1900s, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya is one of the premier cultural institutions in the country. Today this building is listed as a Grade I Heritage Building and has been awarded the '2010 UNESCO Asia – Pacific Heritage Award' for Cultural Heritage Conservation. It has been awarded first place for Heritage Building Maintenance by the Indian Heritage Society. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) aims to create awareness and

sensitivity towards our rich heritage through a visitor-friendly museum for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment of the public. The Museum offers a perfect leisure day out for all its visitors where you can engage with a world-class art collection and participate in fun-n-learn activities.