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Abstinence is the best way to avoid AIDS

KLANG, Fri. - Abstinence before marriage and staying with a single partner - this is the best prevention for AIDS that the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control has come up with after more than 15 years of trial and evaluation.

An expert on AIDS said any form of cure was only expected in another 10 or more years and all known vaccines at this time could only slow down the spread of the virus.

Prof Dr Farzin Davachi, who is the medical adviser and consultant to the United Nation's World Health Organisation and World Bank, said the AIDS epidemic has continued for several decades and was increasing at a rate of 16,000 new cases daily.

"The WHO estimates that eight to 20 per cent of the world's population may die of AIDS in the near future despite vigorous efforts by many governments to curb its spread," he said.

He was speaking after presenting a lecture on AIDS at the Andalas Medical Centre today.

Malaysia is the 15th country Prof Dr Farzin has visited to advise governments, heads of State and religious leaders that teaching moral values at an early age is at present the only solution the world can offer on AIDS prevention.

He said he had met with Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir yesterday and discussed the issue of moral education.

"I am happy to note that moral education is part of the country's education system," he said.

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