

# HIV/AIDS Talk: An Eye Opener

On 30<sup>th</sup> November, the Students Affairs Office (SAO) of UCSI held an AIDS/HIV talk-cum-workshop, in conjunction with the World AIDS Day celebration. The talk was attended by a number of students and staff as well. Members of **AIESEC**, formally known as a French acronym for "**Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales**" were invited by SAO as guest speakers of the event. Officially, they no longer use this acronym, as their membership has grown to encompass a much wider range of disciplines than only economics and commerce.



*AIESEC's team member explaining a game that simulates the HIV virus to the human body*

**AIESEC** is a global, non-political, independent, not-for-profit organization run by students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education. Its members are interested in world issues, leadership and management. The members from AIESEC that conducted the talk cum workshop were from different countries comprising India, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The event kicked off with a video presentation of the AIDS/HIV epidemic in Africa. The montage was well executed, featuring statistics of children being orphaned and dying of AIDS/HIV. Soon after, one of the members of AIESEC gave a very brief history of the AIDS/HIV epidemic, on how and when it was first discovered and various researches had been conducted to help victims cope with the disease. Next up was a short skit to illustrate how AIDS/HIV is transmitted, and what takes place in the body when the virus is found in the human body.

The talk on how AIDS/HIV disease is transmitted to the human body was enlightening to students. The next member of the team explained in detail on how to prevent the virus from spreading. She explained the methods in an acronym, that is: **A**= abstain from sex, **B**= be faithful to one partner, **C**= condomise or practise safe sex consistently and correctly. She also explained the uses of male and female contraceptives, including use of male and female condoms, in practising safe sex.



*Members from AIESEC acting out a skit*

After a short break, the workshop continued with the team members explaining some scary statistics within the Asian context, as they talked about how AIDS is spreading more rampantly in Asia. Many countries in this part of the world are becoming developed nations and the influence of the media is hard to be contained; a result of which social illnesses such as AIDS becomes hard to be

contained. It was also mentioned that education on AIDS/HIV in most of these countries is not well implemented to contain the epidemic.

Some of the speakers also pointed out issues that are facing the young generation, which affect their lifestyle. They also pointed out that HIV/AIDS is not to be taken lightly and the proper education must be provided in order to make it necessary information for youths today. The talks ended with members from AIESEC with students and staff gaining new insights into the AIDS epidemic.