

**Youth Gathering La Via Campesina**  
**International Seminar on Role of Youth and in Developing Agriculture**  
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## **Youth Empowerment and Struggle for Food Sovereignty**

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### **About Assembly of the Poor (AOP) and struggling strategies** **Youth empowerment strategies**

#### **About Assembly of the Poor (AOP)**

- AOP established since 1995, at the present it has comprised of 6 networks which are Forest, Land, Dams, Fisher Folk, Alternative Agriculture and Sick people affected from work (labor)
- Main strategy is struggling for solving the problems from the impacts of government's policies

#### Struggling approaches

- 1) Struggling at policy level which is the policies that have been affected and have potential impacts in the future
- 2) Working at community level and networking among groups and organizations
- 3) Public campaign and build up alliance with different sectors such as NGOs, students, academics, media, artists etc.
- 4) Internal organization reform

#### **Youth Empowerment Strategies of AOP**

There are 3 strategies such as

- 1) Due to AOP comprised of different problem issues so it needs to have a learning process for the young people to understand about other issues more than what they are working on in their network only

Activities are such as

- Since last year, the forums on food sovereignty has been organized in several provinces on different issues such as fisher folk, community rights
- Joining with the young generation movement in Thailand by set up a curriculum about organizing skills since 2007. Those people are journalists, students, young NGOs workers, youth from community, academic, social activists and senior activists etc.

- 2) Youth capacity building within AOP. The learning process based on their interests and capacities with the participation of the youth in all level ( They think, make decision, implement, monitoring and gain the out come together)

Activities are such as

- Set up study groups in different areas such as movies club, reading club, making T-shirt for fund raising
- AOP youth camp
- Trainings such as Training of Trainers (TOT), Strategizing skills, organizing skills etc.

- 3) Support the work of AOP directly

- Joint working with the secretary team of AOP
- Work on networking with alliances and strengthening communities
- Work on public campaign in different levels such as ASEAN, FTA, World Stop Dam Day, International Human Rights Day etc.