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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.