

Peng Choo is a pioneering leader in STEM education, known for co-founding the STEMSEL Foundation in 2014 with Miroslav Kostecki in Adelaide, South Australia. The foundation's mission is to empower youth through innovative education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The foundation's flagship platform, runlinc, is an intuitive tool that integrates Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into a user-friendly coding environment. By enabling users to code with a WiFi chip, runlinc simplifies complex concepts, making learning accessible and engaging. Industry leaders like Dr. Victor Lawrence have praised its transformative impact on STEM education. The STEMSEL Foundation also offers workshops in robotics, coding, and electronics, providing hands-on learning experiences that inspire young innovators.

Choo's contributions have earned him accolades, including the 2021 World CleanTech Educator of the Year Award. Recently, he led a project connecting runlinc Hakka Technology with the \$6.5 million Kanyini IoT satellite, funded by the South Australian Premier. This initiative aims to "Democratize Space" by enabling students to make Satellite IoT projects in areas without internet or mobile networks.

Two notable successes from this initiative include:

Valar Rajesh, a 13-year-old has won the 2024 Royal Adelaide Show RAS24 First Prize for her runlinc Hakka Technology Myriota satellite IoT beehives bushfire early warning system.

Alex Farmer, a 17-year-old who excelled in the RAS22 and RAS23 competitions and the 2023 and 2024 ITEX World Young Inventors competitions in Malaysia. He developed a runlinc Hakka Technology Myriota satellite IoT system for monitoring water pipe leakage on large, remote farms.

The Dr. Yunus Young Ambassadors (DYA) movement, supported by runlinc Hakka Technology, encourages young people to create inventions for social good, targeting zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions. DYAs, mentored by STEMSEL university interns, establish social businesses that fund scholarships for disadvantaged children.

Choo's role extends to international collaboration. The Chia Funkuin Foundation (CFF) has authorized him to appoint members to its UN ECOSOC accredited NGO, focusing on social responsibility initiatives. Appointees are Hakkas from across the world, emphasizing the foundation's commitment to empowering diverse communities.

Choo's efforts have also attracted international students to Adelaide, supported by leaders like George Chin and the late Bill Spurr AO. A key initiative brought 100 students from a Beijing school to Adelaide, injecting \$20 million into the local economy. The strategy, dubbed "runlinc increase customers to any business," trains interns to help international students develop smart projects, enhancing their employability.

One example is Huw Grano, who began his STEMSEL Industry Placement (SIP) internship in 2013. He received a \$67,000 New Colombo Plan Scholarship and secured two job offers before graduating in 2017, attributing his success to SIP.

Through his leadership, Peng Choo continues to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders and drive community development.

References:

[Hakka Technology Blog](#)

[Innovations of the World](#)