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Medgenome in pact to sequence genome of 1 lakh people in Asia The aim is to build an open genome data base accessible to researchers of public

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joined hands with South Korean biotech firm Macrogen Inc. and Singapore-based Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to sequence the whole genome of 1,00,000 people in Asia The aim is to build an open genome data base accessible to researchers of public institutions and pharmaceutical companies.

Medgenome will invest \$10 million as part of its

backed by venture capital firm Sequoia Capital, said it has

The consortium is in the process of raising the remaining funds through contributions from academic institutions, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies. The first stage of the project called 'GenomeAsia100K' aims to sequence 10,000 Asian individuals for ethnic

commitment in a project estimated to cost upwards of \$120

million. Macrogen and NTU will contribute \$10 million each.

This will be followed by sequencing an additional 90,000 individuals and combined with clinical and phenotype information to allow deeper analysis of diseased and

healthy individuals, Medgenome said.

As part of its contribution, Medgenome will generate India specific genomic data.

The sequencing will be done from populations of 14 Asian

countries in South Asia, South-East Asia and East Asia.

"The current genomic data available is largely of

Caucasians, though Asia represent 40% of the world's

population – they are significantly underrepresented in

current genomic studies and reference genome databases," said Sam Santhosh, chief executive officer at MedGenome. Santhosh said the unique genetic diversity prevalent in South and East Asia provides a valuable source of clinical insights to enable cures for all of mankind in rare and

The company on Monday announced that it has bought the next generation gene sequencing machine from Californiabased Illumina Inc. at an estimated cost of \$12 million. "The latest machine will help to sequence human genome

inherited diseases, as well as complex diseases such as

cancer, diabetes and neurological disorders.

at cost of \$1000," Santhosh said.

project.

MedGenome offers genomics-based diagnostic solutions to hospitals and doctors as well as genomic research services to pharmaceutical and biotech companies and academic

Medgenome plans to use the machine extensively in the

research institutions in India. The company raised \$20 million (around Rs127 crore) from Sequoia Capital as part of a second round of funding in June last year

Genomics, the study of genes and their functions, provides

doctors and patients with insights into the assessment and

management of different types of diseases.

MedGenome offers more than 100 tests currently across oncology, cardiology, ophthalmology, neurology and nephrology. The company also developed India's first non-

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