Groundtruth

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Groundtruth Receives Grand Challenges Explorations Grant
For Groundbreaking Research in Global Health and Development

Washington, DC – **Groundtruth** announced today that it is a Grand Challenges Explorations winner, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. **Ralph Lin, Principal** will pursue an innovative global health and development research project, titled **Multimodal satellite rainfall measurement for index insurance.**

Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) funds individuals worldwide to explore ideas that can break the mold in how we solve persistent global health and development challenges. **Ralph Lin**'s project is one of more than 40 Grand Challenges Explorations grants announced today by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

To receive funding, **Ralph Lin** and other Grand Challenges Explorations winners demonstrated in a two-page online application a bold idea in one of five critical global heath and development topic areas.

The foundation will be accepting applications for the next GCE round in September 2016.

The Groundtruth pilot funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will address challenges faced by the index insurance sector. Index insurance for the developing world insures farmers against seasonal crop loss based on seasonal rainfall estimates. If the season's cumulative rainfall lies below a certain value, the insurer pays out to the farmer--thereby reducing the need for traditional insurance assessors to investigate individual claims.

The problem is that these rainfall measurements often rely on sparsely located weather stations and noisy satellite imagery. A farmer's daily rainfall might be estimated from the color of a single pixel of satellite imagery. All around the world, this lack of good data on crop conditions results in low insurance participation, economic instability, and limitations on management of key resources like water. Groundtruth is working to combine satellite data with information gathered from ground sensors and mobile phones to provide more accurate data for insurance companies and other stakeholders.

Groundtruth co-founder, Ralph Lin, is named the principal investigator on this grant. Mr. Lin developed his background in hardware and software as an undergraduate at Caltech and a graduate student at the University of Washington where he built advanced brain-controlled prosthetics under Nest pioneer and Google X co-founder Yoky Matsuoka.

About Grand Challenges Explorations

Grand Challenges Explorations is a US$100 million initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Launched in 2008, over 1186 projects in more than 61 countries have received Grand Challenges Explorations grants. The grant program is open to anyone from any discipline and from any organization. The initiative uses an agile, accelerated grant-making process with short two-page online applications and no preliminary data required. Initial grants of US$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to US$1 million.

About Groundtruth

Groundtruth is a Washington, DC based startup developing remote sensing and crowdsourcing technologies as well as platforms for integrating them. Groundtruth's co-founders hold two Ph.D.s and combine expertise in development economics, hardware, software, and data science.