BMW Centers for Excellence in mathematics science and technology

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This project involves the deployment of interventions in schools that have been identified in the Gauteng province as being exemplary in terms of management and staff. These schools have been transformed into BMW Centers for Excellence in Mathematics Science and Technology. These centers will also serve as professional development resources for the in-service teacher training needs of surrounding schools.

This intervention was initiated by a generous grant from the Government of Japan and is a highly researched intervention that involved researchers from Columbia University in New York as well as educators and education officials in South Africa. It was precipitated by a study conducted in South Africa through the Global Foundation for Research and Scholarship. Assessment, monitoring and evaluation will be done through Boston University, USA.

The project aims to provide much needed science, mathematics and technology resources to high schools (grades 8-12) as well as the following:

1. Apparatus which has been especially designed to serve learners who are being instructed in a language that is different from their mother tongues.
2. Special corresponding hands-on activities allow learners to engage and participate in the scientific process through investigation, data collection, analysis and conclusions.
3. It is also designed to encourage parents and communities to take ownership of children’s education by visible demonstrations of the value of education and science education in particular, in a manner that is relevant to their lives.
4. The centers serve as professional development centers to other schools in the area/region.

The intervention fosters the idea of both horizontal and vertical empowerment.