On 8 February IAIN Secretary General Simon Gaskin signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM), led by Frances Baskerville, Secretary General. (See illustration of signing at HQ, 202 Lambeth Road). At the same time we welcomed CIRM as a Corresponding Member of IAIN and send good wishes for a long and fruitful association.

Established in 1928 CIRM exists to promote the application of electronic technology for the safety of life and efficient conduct of vessels at sea. Furthermore, the organisation strives to foster relations between all organisations concerned with electronic aids to marine navigation, communications and information systems.

The organisation, with its origins in Spain in 1928, was first formed by eight companies engaged in the application of radio to sea transport. It was reconstituted in Belgium in 1947 and subsequently moved to London where it is now based at 202 Lambeth Road, SE 1 within the same building as the Nautical Institute and not far from IMO where it has consultative status.

Today it is now the principal international association for companies engaged in maritime electronics, with a current membership of some 100 companies from 29 nations.

CIRM is a Sector Member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-R and ITU-T), and is a Liaison Member both of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

CIRM also enjoys mutual observer status with all the other relevant international and regional organisations, including the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and the US Radiotechnical Commission for Maritime (RTCM).