

Strengthening links

Signing a new Memorandum of Understanding in the historic surroundings of the Ambassadors' Waiting Room at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, reflects NOC's long-established and mutually beneficial relationship with the Maritime Policy Unit.

The common thread to this existing relationship has been that of marine research, with both organisations being the UK lead in their respective areas of domain expertise. The FCO leads on legal and policy aspects, and NOC on science and technology. This resulting exchange of knowledge is to the mutual benefit of both.

The MoU will help maintain joint activities, encourage exchange of information and promote the publication of the mutual benefits of collaborative work. These efforts include projects such as defining the UK's continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the delimitation of these

areas, enabling access to data from UK Overseas Territories for use in marine governance and diplomatic clearance support allowing UK scientists access to foreign waters. Such activities, along with general advice on issues relating to marine scientific research, provides a framework which enables NOC to act as a conduit for access to other specialists in other institutes via either the NOC Association network or other professional relationships.



Ed Hill visits the FCO to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Maritime Policy Unit. (Back L-R) Alan Evans (MG Group, NOC), Chris Whomersely (Deputy Legal Advisor, FCO), Roland Rogers (NMFSS, NOC) (front L-R) Ed Hill (Director NOC) and Louise Savill (Head, Maritime Policy Unit, FCO).

For further information relating to access to and collaboration with the Maritime Policy Unit please contact **Alan Evans** or **Roland Rogers**.