

# **Chairman's Report 2019**

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to share that 2019 was another year of positive developments and continued forward progress within the Association. The Board, Secretariat and ANNA Managing Director continue to ensure we have the right strategy, the right governance framework and level of market visibility whilst maintaining a membership that remains committed to delivering quality, timely identifiers and classifiers to the global financial industry we serve.

During the course of 2019, as is our usual protocol, the Association held two General Meetings. The June meeting being hosted in Frankfurt, Germany and the November meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay. The hosting of General Meetings twice per annum are key milestones in the ANNA calendar as it allows the Board and membership delegates to interact, discuss strategic projects and plan our future roadmap.

## **ISO Standards**

ANNA delegates continue to be active within ISO and our parent committees - TC68 and SC8. The ISO 6166 (ISIN standard) started into its periodic 5-year review and a number of ANNA members were active in this expert Working Group, contributing to the next version of the standard. The ISO 10962 (CFI standard) has been enhanced to include coverage of OTC Derivatives, adopt an electronic format and to introduce a Maintenance Agency oversight assessment.

ANNA and its' members participate in a wide variety of ISO committees, advisory groups and working groups to ensure the views of the ANNA membership and the markets they represent are factored into these discussions.

## **ANNA Matters**

The Board have also been monitoring developments with the new Belgian Company Code which will have an impact on our legal classification as a Belgian Association. In the coming months, ANNA will need to choose which of the new legal structures best suits our Association and proceed with the migration to new legal form. We have also made a substantial move into the use of advanced technology in the conducting of our General Meetings – we have now trialled the use of electronic voting and as a contingency process, our Managing Director (who was not able to be physically present for one General Meeting) was able to present various agenda items to the Membership, using video technology. We are committed to continuing to explore use of new technology in the future.

The Board further increased attention to data quality matters focusing on: availability, completeness, accuracy, timeliness and consistency. These elements will remain a reoccurring theme within ANNA going forward; as data quality continues to be assessed by the user community and regulators alike.

ANNA Working Group 2 continued their efforts to review and amend the ISIN Guidelines documentation to ensure these guidelines continue to evolve with the markets' needs and requirements. A considerable amount of time and effort goes into this discussions – and we thanks this group for their efforts.

ANNA also has two Task Forces, one focusing on identification and classification rules for Benchmark Indices. A second Task Force was created during 2019 to focus on technology developments in the capital markets; which included some analysis of the role of ISIN in the evolving area of Digital Tokens.

Another important initiative that continued through 2019 was the cooperation agreement ANNA entered into with the Global LEI Foundation (GLEIF); to contribute to an ISIN-LEI mapping database. This is a voluntary initiative for the members and we continue to see positive progress as more legal jurisdictions globally adopt the LEI standard into regulation and market practice. We will continue to promote this important partnership through the course of 2020 – to continue raising awareness of the benefits of the LEI standard.

A further important point regarding our further development, the Board also continued their efforts towards the hiring of a second ANNA Managing Director to ensure we have the necessary experience, knowledge and available resources to meet our future objectives and committed deliverables going forward. We plan to have this role fully functional in early 2020.

#### ANNA Service Bureau

Our global database of ISINs and related financial instrument attributes, also achieved further milestones. At the end of 2019, we surpassed 62 million ISINs in the database - the ASB is the only true global source of ISIN related data and instrument classification information for the global capital markets.

Significant efforts were made during 2019 as the ANNA Board and our ASB partners continued a redesign of the ASB product offering to ensure it is 'fit for purpose' and continues to meet the needs of its customers going forward. Work continued through 2019 to finalise the design of the 'Future State' model and our efforts in the second half of 2019 focused on documenting the necessary legal framework and governance aspects. Our target is to have the new ASB go into production in late 2021.

#### Derivative Service Bureau

The OTC Derivative Bureau which ANNA and its partners continue to oversee, had another successful year – in all aspects of the phrase. We saw continued adoption and use of ISIN in the OTC Derivative space and the DSB Management team continued to ensure product stability and evolution moved in synch with market changes and needs. The success of 2019 was further reinforced through various awards the team won for their efforts and commitment to the OTC Derivative industry. This industry recognition was topped off with the selection by the Financial Stability Board of the Derivatives Service Bureau to be the Unique Product Identifier (UPI) Service Provider. We are very proud of this recognition and are fully committed to fulfilling this role with the same dedication and service quality that is synonymous with the Derivatives Service Bureau product offering today.

In closing, I would like to once again welcome our new full members from Uzbekistan, Eswatini, Mongolia, Seychelles, Tajikistan and Uganda, as well as our new partner member from Papua New Guinea. The composition of the Association at 2019 year-end stood at 97 full members and 19 partners representing +120 countries/jurisdictions worldwide. The continued growth of the Association is a great indicator of the continued value ANNA and its membership bring to the arena of ISO financial standards and the global Capital Markets we serve.

During the latter part of 2019, we had a change of composition within the Board, in respect of the elected UK delegate. A special mention to Ms. Kristina Sutton on her departure from the Board and for all her valuable contributions during her time within ANNA and a welcome to her successor Ms. Laura Stanley.

I would also like to recognized the Numbering Agencies from Germany and the UK who were successfully reappointed for a further 3-year term as members of the ANNA Board - we welcome their continued commitment.

Allow me to close by expressing my sincere appreciation to my fellow Board members, our ANNA Managing Director and the ANNA Secretariat for their time, energy and dedication and for the insights and expertise they each bring to managing ANNA's activities. I wish to warmly acknowledge and thank each of them (as well as a special mention to the staff at ETrading Software for their dedication to the day to day running of the Derivative Service Bureau) for their contributions throughout the year. I am surrounded by a really inspiring team– who display the energy and drive to continue achieving our Associations goals.

...and remember, ISIN does Number the World!

Yours sincerely

P Daniel Kuhnel  
ANNA Chairman