Supplementary Information

Effect of Alumina Hydroxylation on Glycerol Hydrogenolysis to 1,2-propanediol over Cu/Al₂O₃: Combined Experiment and DFT Investigation

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Fig. S1. The structures of (a) Cu(111), (b) Cu(100), (c) γ-Al₂O₃(110), (d) Cu₄/non-hydroxylated γ-Al₂O₃(110), and (e) Cu/hydroxylated γ-Al₂O₃(110). Green atoms are O from hydroxylation.
Fig. S2. Typical TEM images of (a) Al$_2$O$_3$, (b) Cu, and (c) Cu/Al$_2$O$_3$ samples. Alumina is in the form of thin sheet and less crystallinity with particle size range of 10 to 30 nm. Bare Cu is a dense particle with sphere-like shape, and its size is in the range of 20-40 nm. The fringe in the inset confirmed the crystal structure of metallic copper. For Cu/Al$_2$O$_3$, the particle of copper is in the range of 2-10 nm which is smaller than that found in the unsupported one. The images were obtained by a transmission electron microscopy (TEM; JEM-2100 JEOL, Japan) with an accelerating voltage of 200 kV.
Fig. S3. Ammonia temperature-programmed desorption (NH\textsubscript{3}-TPD) profiles of Al\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3} and Cu/Al\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}. NH\textsubscript{3}-TPD was carried on a Multitrack TPD equipment (BELCAT B, Japan). Before the measurement, the samples were treated in a He flow at 350 °C for 2 h, and then in a H\textsubscript{2} flow at 300 °C for 3 h. NH\textsubscript{3} was adsorbed at 80 °C till saturation and then the sample was purged with a He flow at 100 °C for 2 h. NH\textsubscript{3}-desorption profiles were recorded in the range of 100-800 °C at a rate of 10 °C/min.
(a) terminated O-H cleavage on Cu(111)

(b) central O-H cleavage on Cu(111)

(c) terminated O-H cleavage on Cu(100)

(d) central O-H cleavage on Cu(100)

Fig. S4. Initial, transition and final structures of glycerol (a) terminated O-H cleavage on Cu(111) (barrier energy = 1.29 eV), (b) central O-H cleavage on Cu(111) (barrier energy = 1.01 eV), (c) terminated O-H cleavage on Cu(100) (barrier energy = 0.84 eV), (b) central O-H cleavage on Cu(100) (barrier energy = 0.87 eV).
Fig. S5. Initial, transition and final structures of glycerol terminated O-H cleavage at (a) Cu site (barrier energy = 1.47 eV) and (b) Al site (barrier energy = 0.65 eV) on Cu₄/hydroxylated γ-Al₂O₃(110).