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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

Relationship between interlayer anions and photoluminescence of layered rare earth hydroxides

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**Fig. S1** Powder X-ray diffraction patterns of  $Gd_{1.80}RE_{0.20}(OH)_5X \cdot nH_2O$  (LGdH:RE) where RE = (a) Eu, (b) Tb, and (c) Ce and X = NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, OH<sup>-</sup>, ClO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, S<sup>2-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>. Dotted lines indicate the Bragg angle of (002) and (004) diffractions of corresponding X = NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> members.



**Fig. S2** Powder X-ray diffraction patterns of  $Gd_{1.80}RE_{0.20}(OH)_5X \cdot nH_2O$  (LGdH:RE) where RE = (a) Eu, (b) Tb, and (c) Ce and X = NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, terephthalate, 2-naphthoate, and dodecylsulfate.



**Fig. S3** FT-IR spectra of  $Gd_{1.80}Eu_{0.20}(OH)_5NO_3 \cdot nH_2O$  (LGdH:Eu) and its products obtained after exchange reaction between NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and (a) F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, OH<sup>-</sup>, ClO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, S<sup>2-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, and (b) terephthalate, 2-naphthoate, and dodecylsulfate. The disappearance or significant weakening of the band at ~1385 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is characteristic of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, confirmed the essentially complete exchange reaction.



**Fig. S4** UV-VIS absorption spectra of aqueous suspensions containing LGdH hosts (*i.e.* without any activator ion) with (a) NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, OH<sup>-</sup>, ClO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, S<sup>2<sup>-</sup></sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2<sup>-</sup></sup>, and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2<sup>-</sup></sup> anions and (b) dodecylsulfate (DS), terephthalate, and 2-naphthoate anions in the interlayer space.



**Fig. S5** XRD patterns measured as a function of reaction time during the exchange reaction of  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5NO_3 \cdot nH_2O$  with  $Cl^-$  (a) and inversely  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5Cl \cdot nH_2O$  with  $NO_3^-$  (b). The transformation from  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5NO_3 \cdot nH_2O$  to  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5Cl \cdot nH_2O$  requires the exchange reaction for at least 8 h whereas the inverse transformation from  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5Cl \cdot nH_2O$  to  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5Cl \cdot nH_2O$  to  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5Cl \cdot nH_2O$  to  $Gd_{1.80}Ce_{0.20}(OH)_5NO_3 \cdot nH_2O$  is complete even after 2 h reaction at room temperature.