

## Supporting Information for the manuscript

### Controlled Synthesis of Carbon-supported Co Catalysts from Single-site to Nanoparticles: Characterization of the Structural Transformation and Investigation of their Oxidation Catalysis

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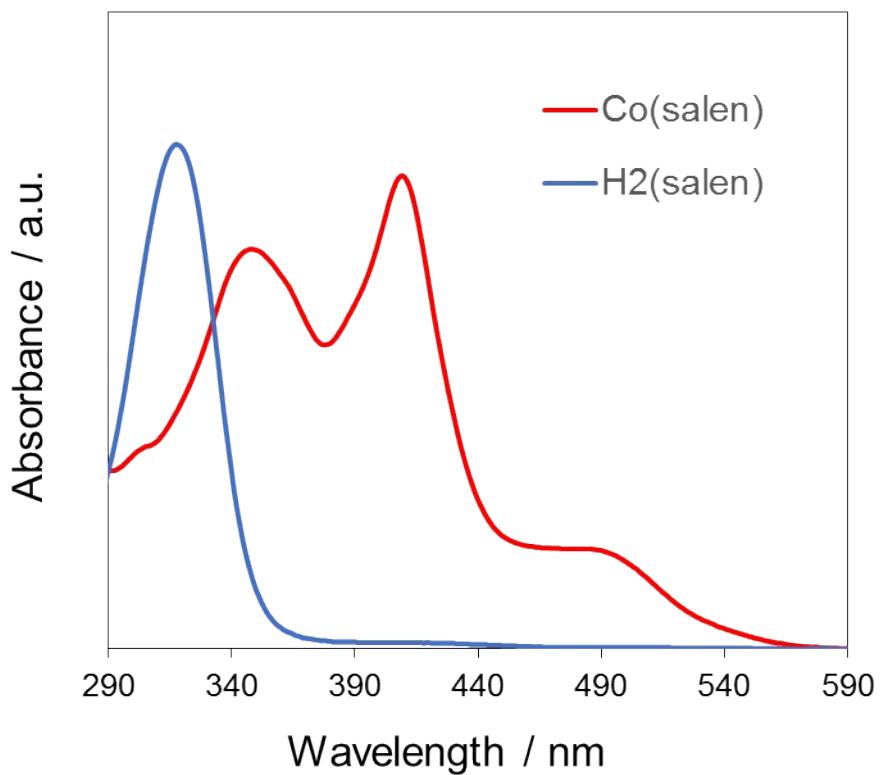


Fig. S1. (a) UV-vis spectra of  $\text{H}_2$  salen ligand and  $\text{Co}(\text{salen})$  complex in dichloromethane (0.1 mM).

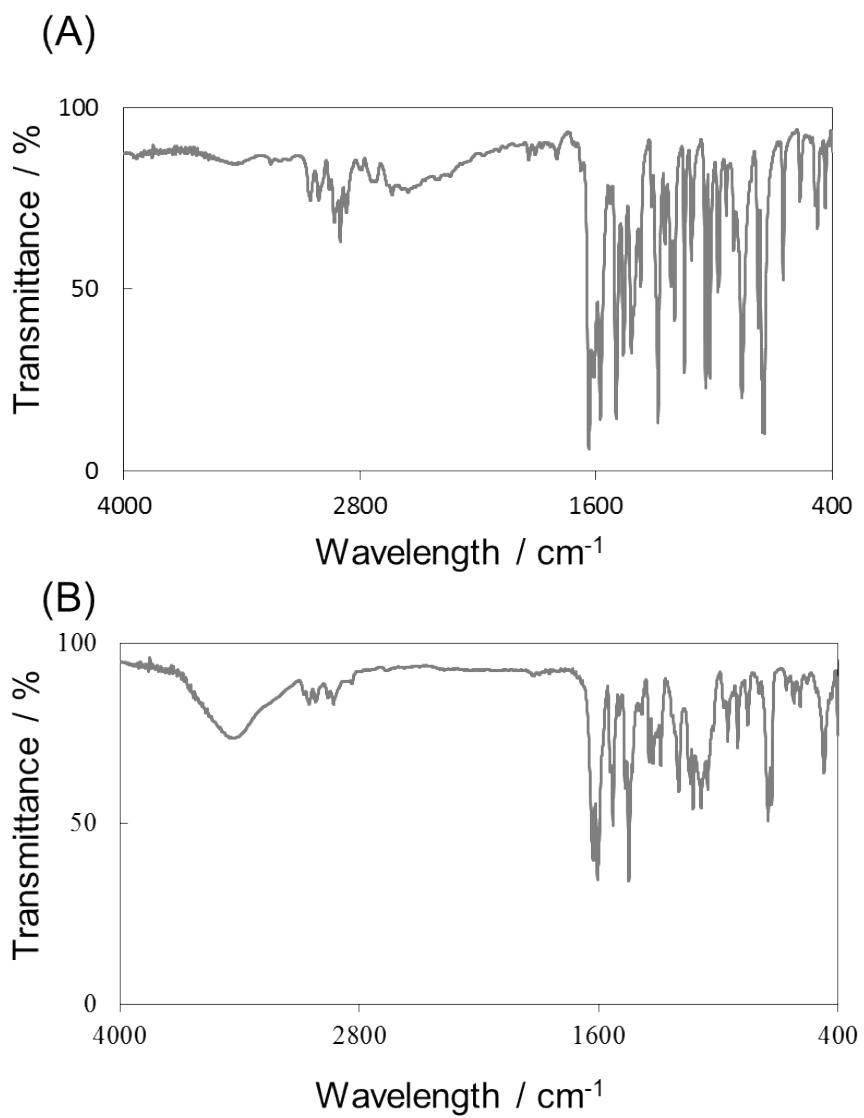


Fig. S2. (a) FT-IR spectra of (A) salen ligand and (B) Co(salen) complex.

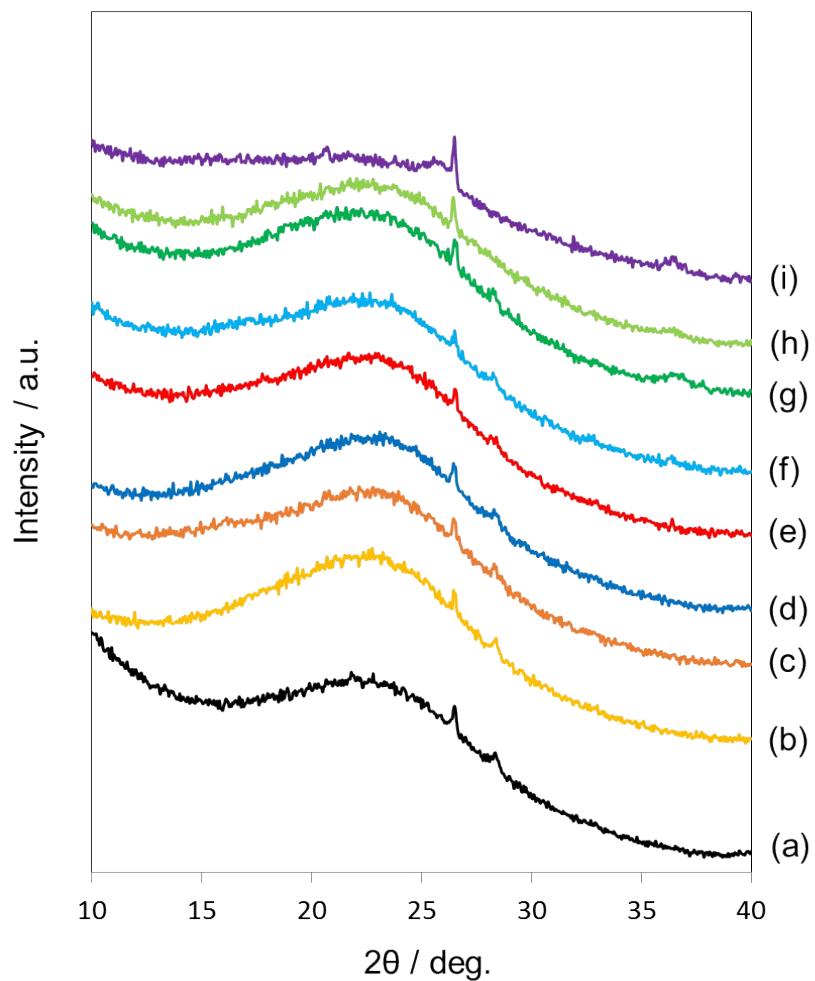


Fig. S3 XRD patterns of Co/AC-salen-T. Calcination temperature T : (a) AC, (b) untreated, (c) 200 °C, (d) 300 °C, (e) 400 °C, (f) 500 °C, (g) 600 °C, (h) 800 °C and (i) 1000 °C.

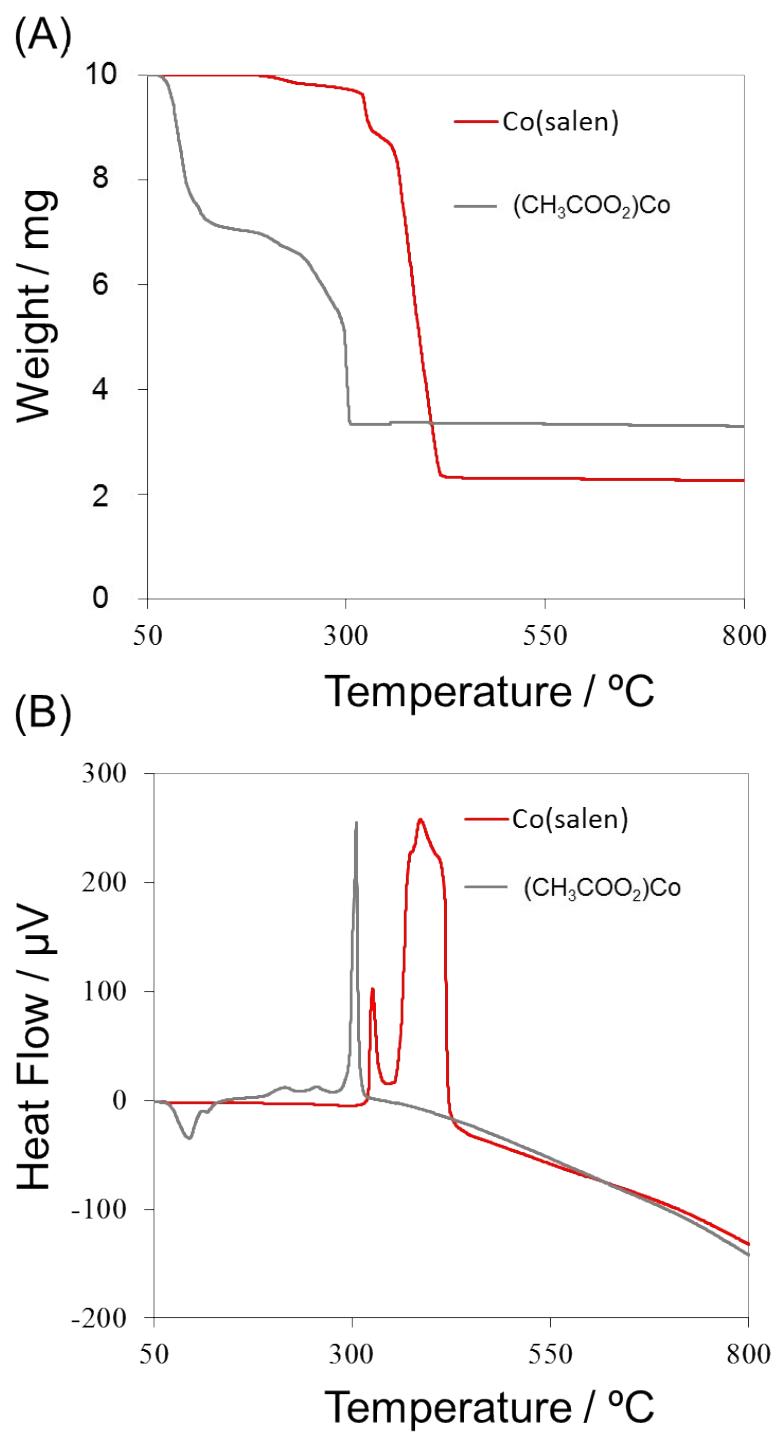


Fig. S4. (A) TG spectra and (B) DTA spectra of Co(salen) and  $(\text{CH}_3\text{COO}_2)\text{Co}$ .

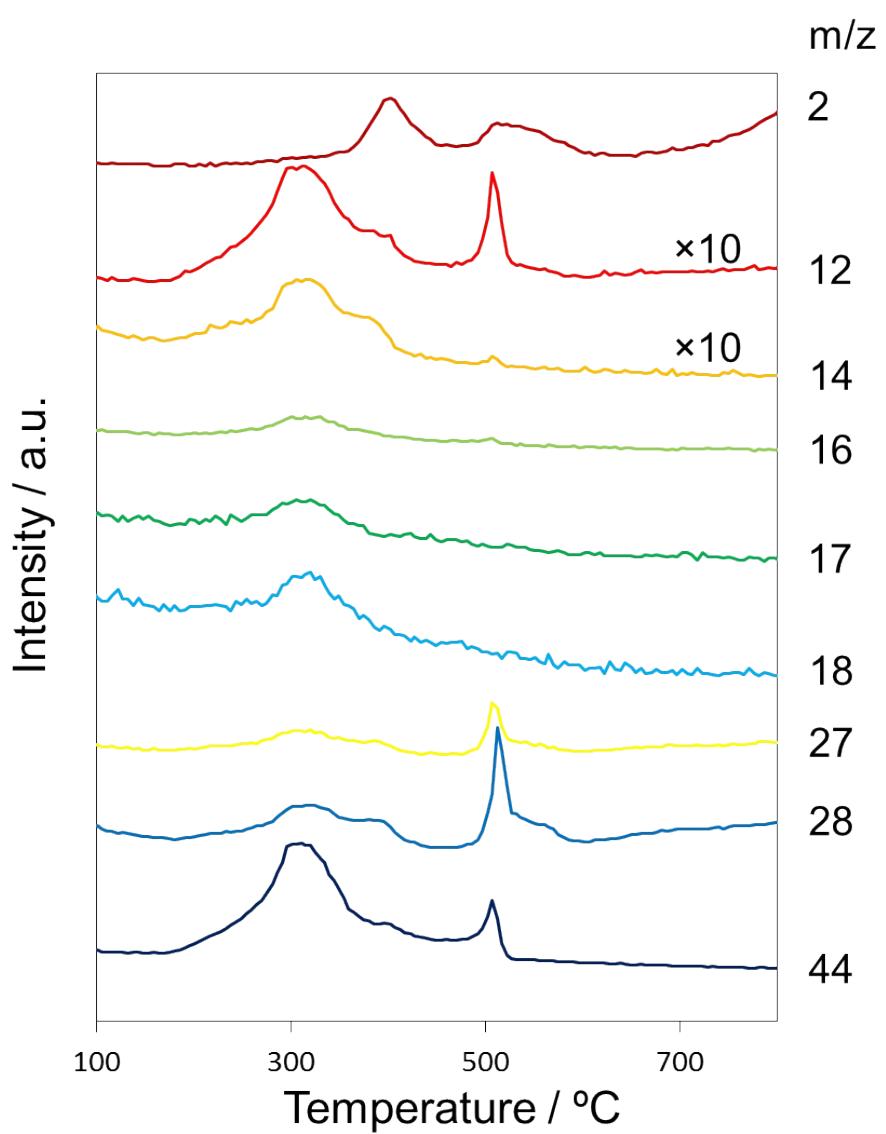


Fig. S5. TPD-MS profile of Co/AC-acetate.

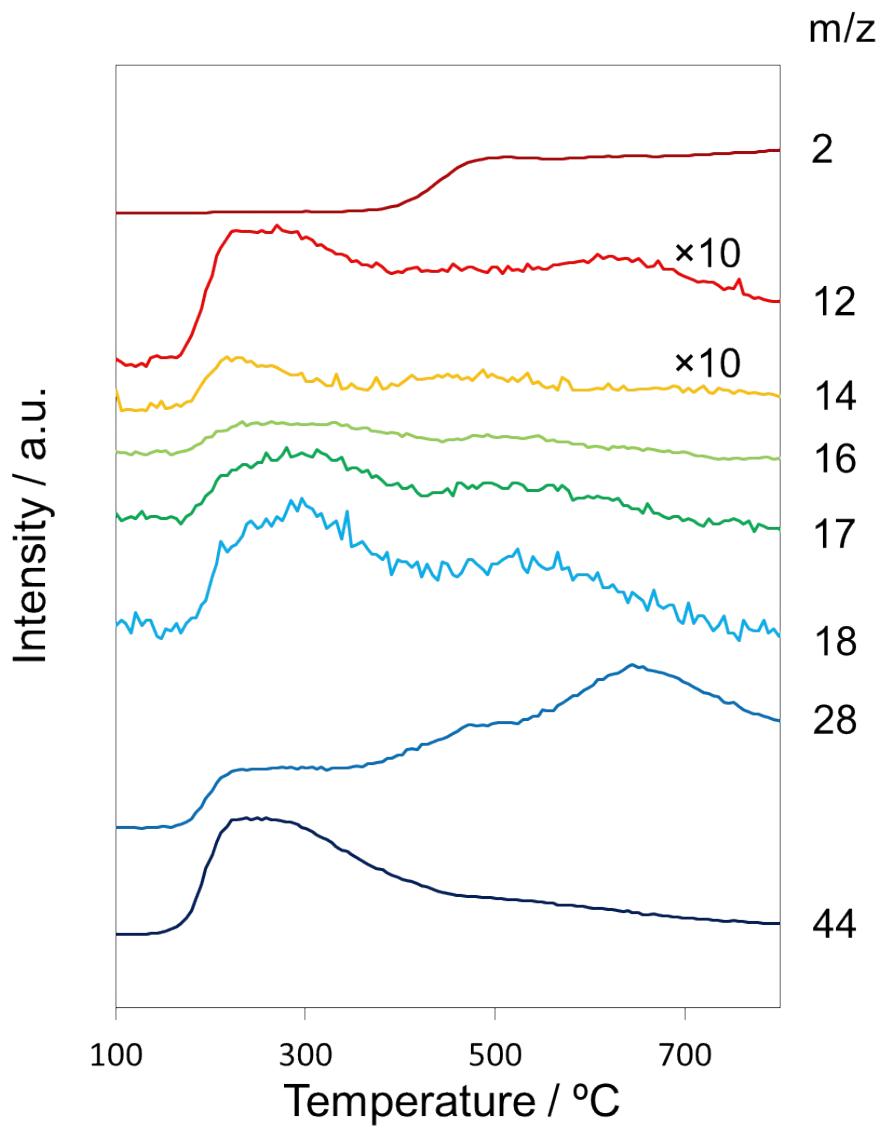
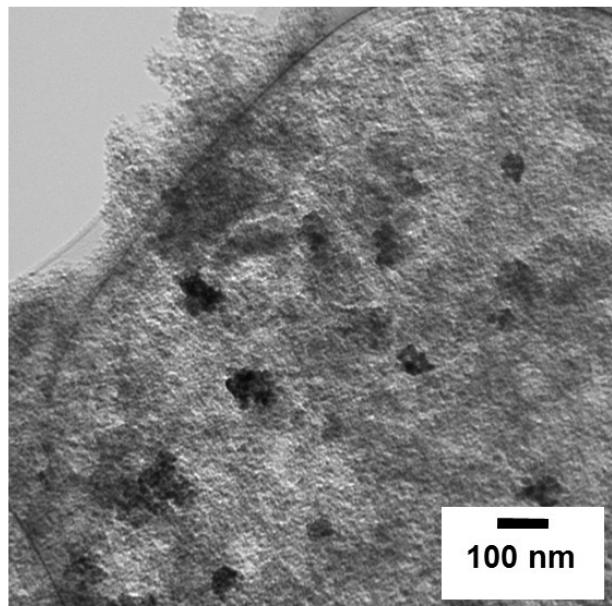


Fig. S6. TPD-MS profile of Co/AC-salen.

(A)



(B)

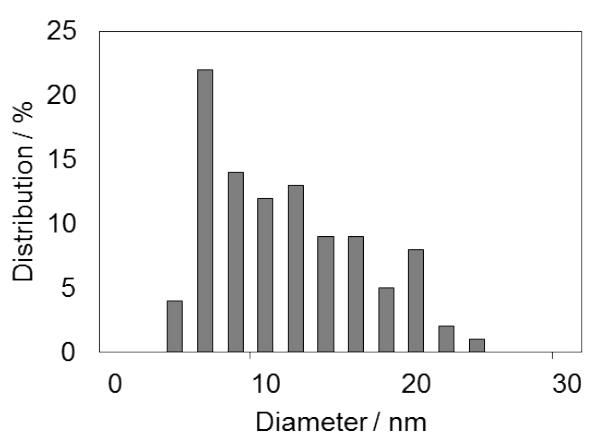


Fig. S7. TEM image (A) and size distribution (B) of Co/AC-acetate-400.

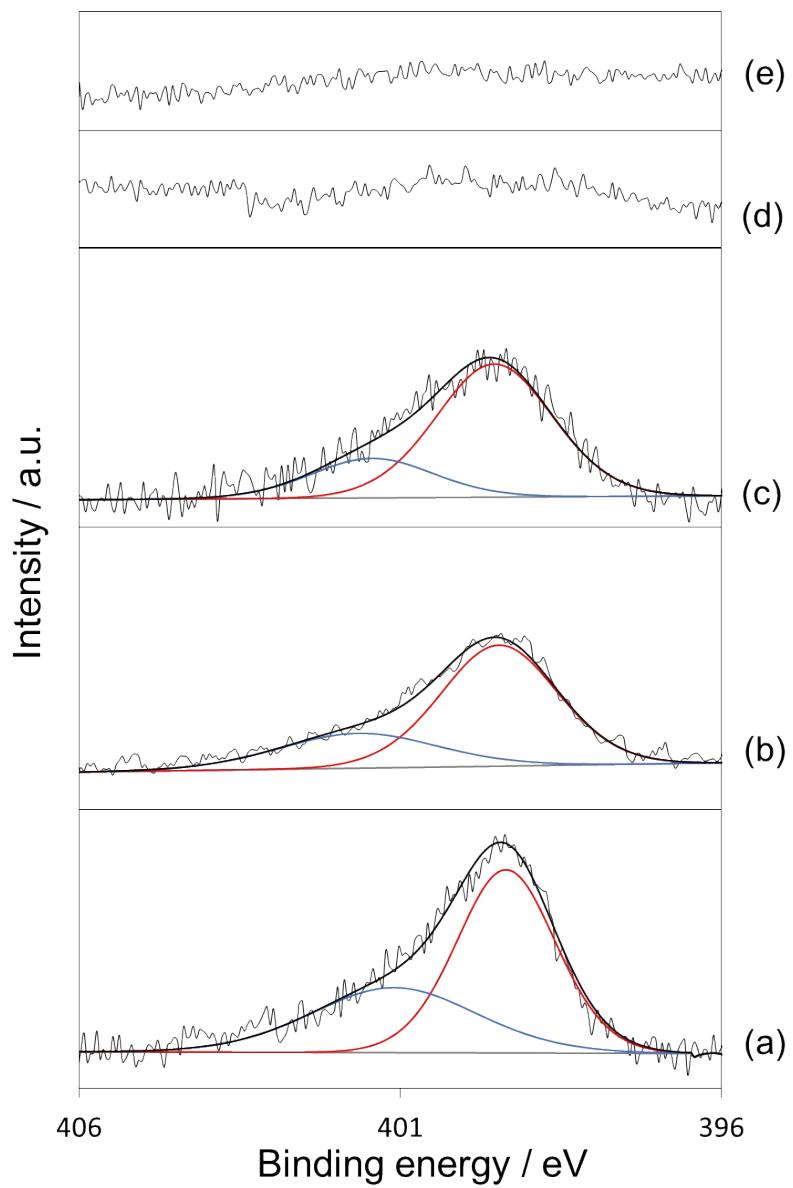


Fig. S8. N 1s XPS spectra of Co/AC-salen-T. T: (a) untreated, (b) 200 °C, (c) 400 °C, (d) 600 °C, and (e) 800 °C.

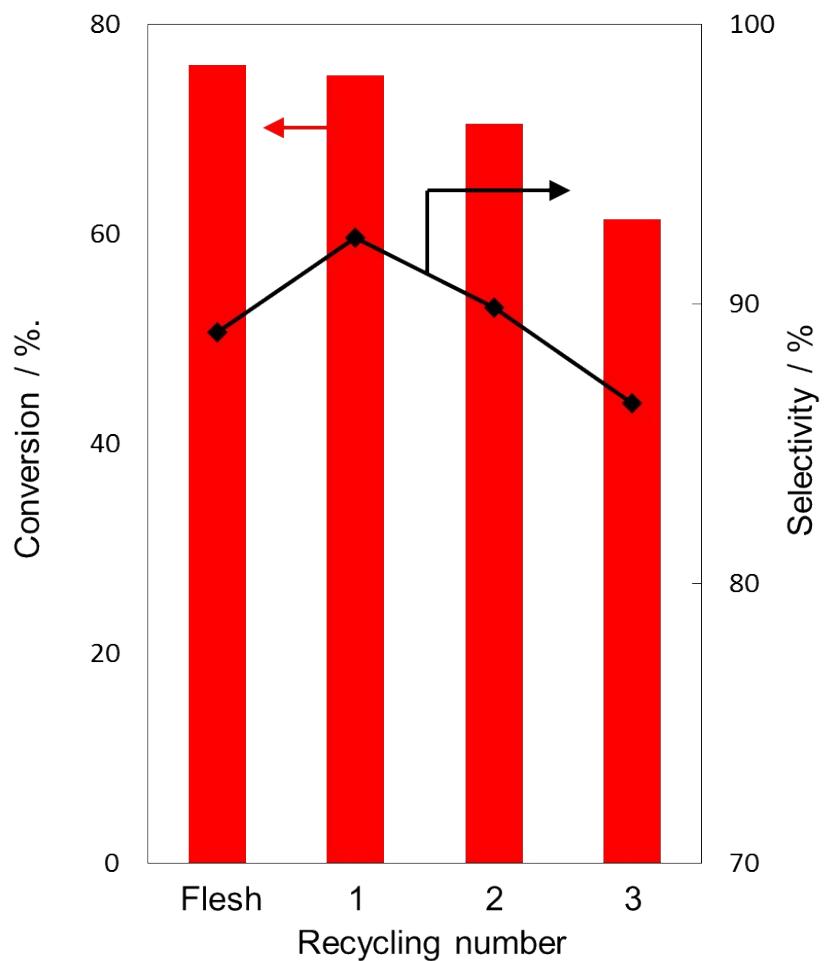
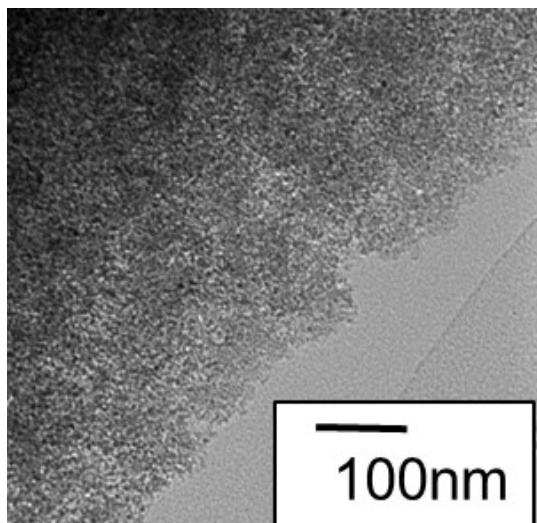


Fig. S9. Conversion of ethylbenzene and selectivity of acetophenone in the recycling test after 24 h

over Co/AC-salen-400.

(A)



(B)

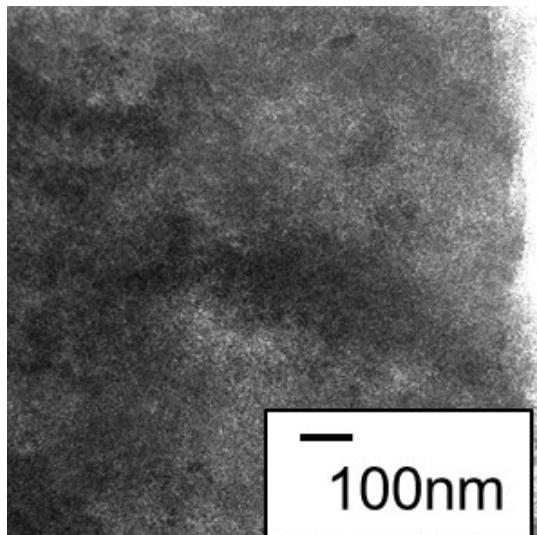


Fig. S10. TEM images of Co/AC-salen-400: (A) fresh catalyst and (B) after recycling test.

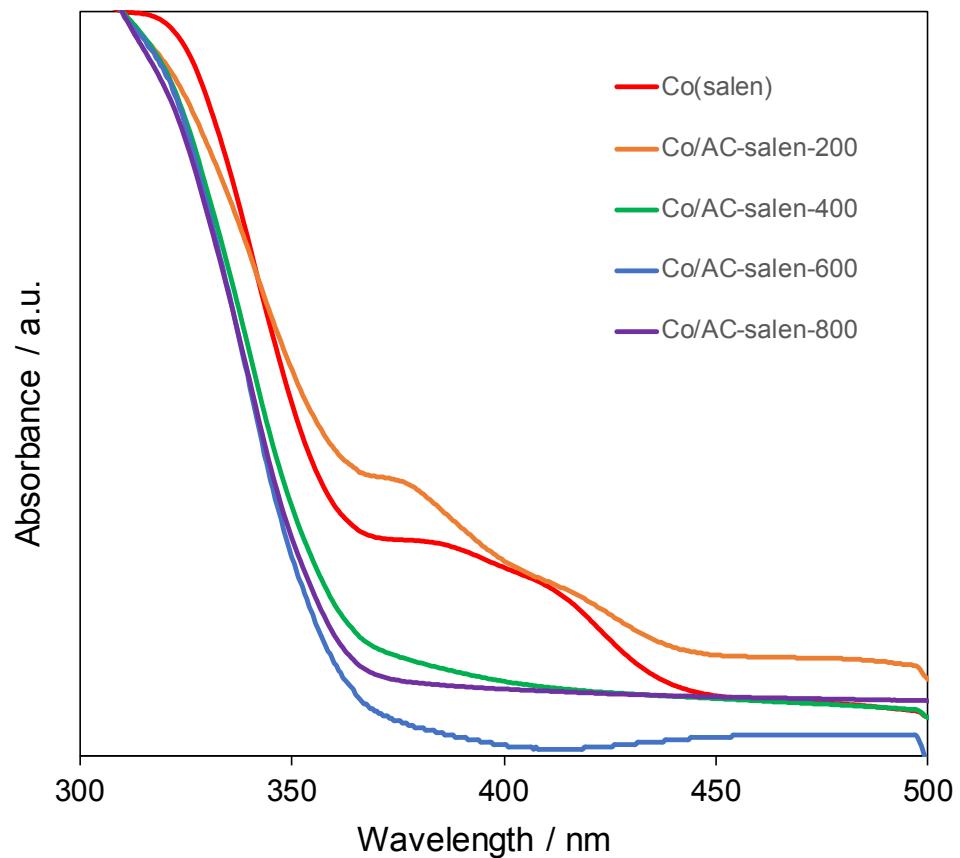


Fig. S11. UV-vis spectra of reaction solution after 24 h of reaction in the oxidation of ethylbenzene over Co(salen) and Co/AC-salen-T (T: 200 °C, 400 °C, 600 °C and 800 °C).