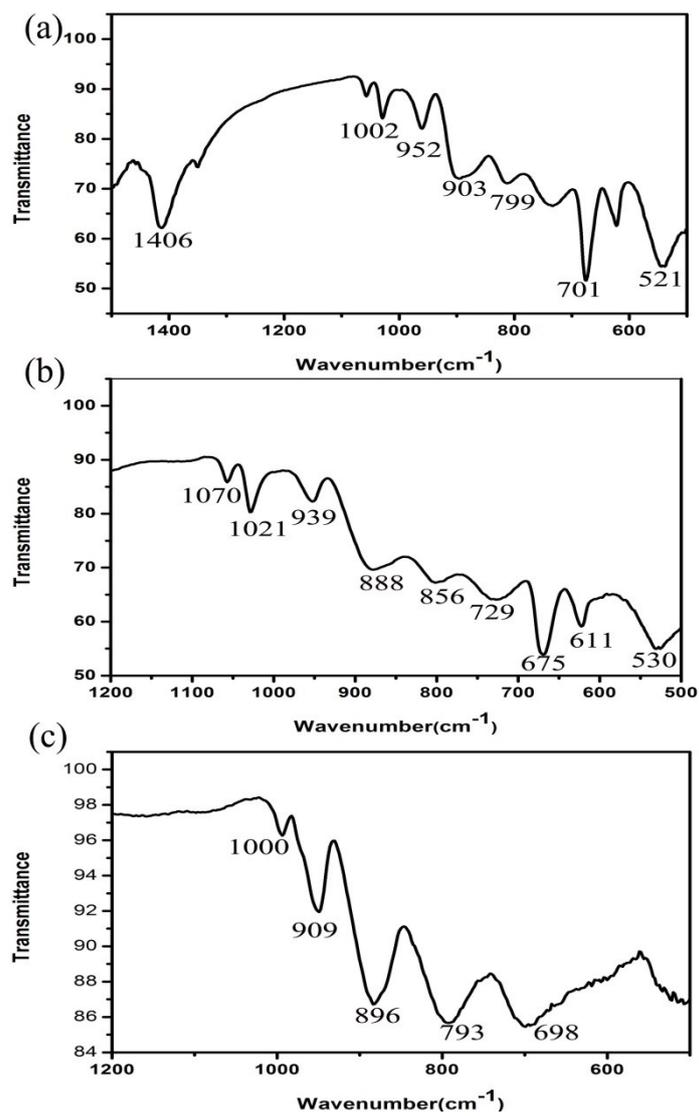


## Supporting Information

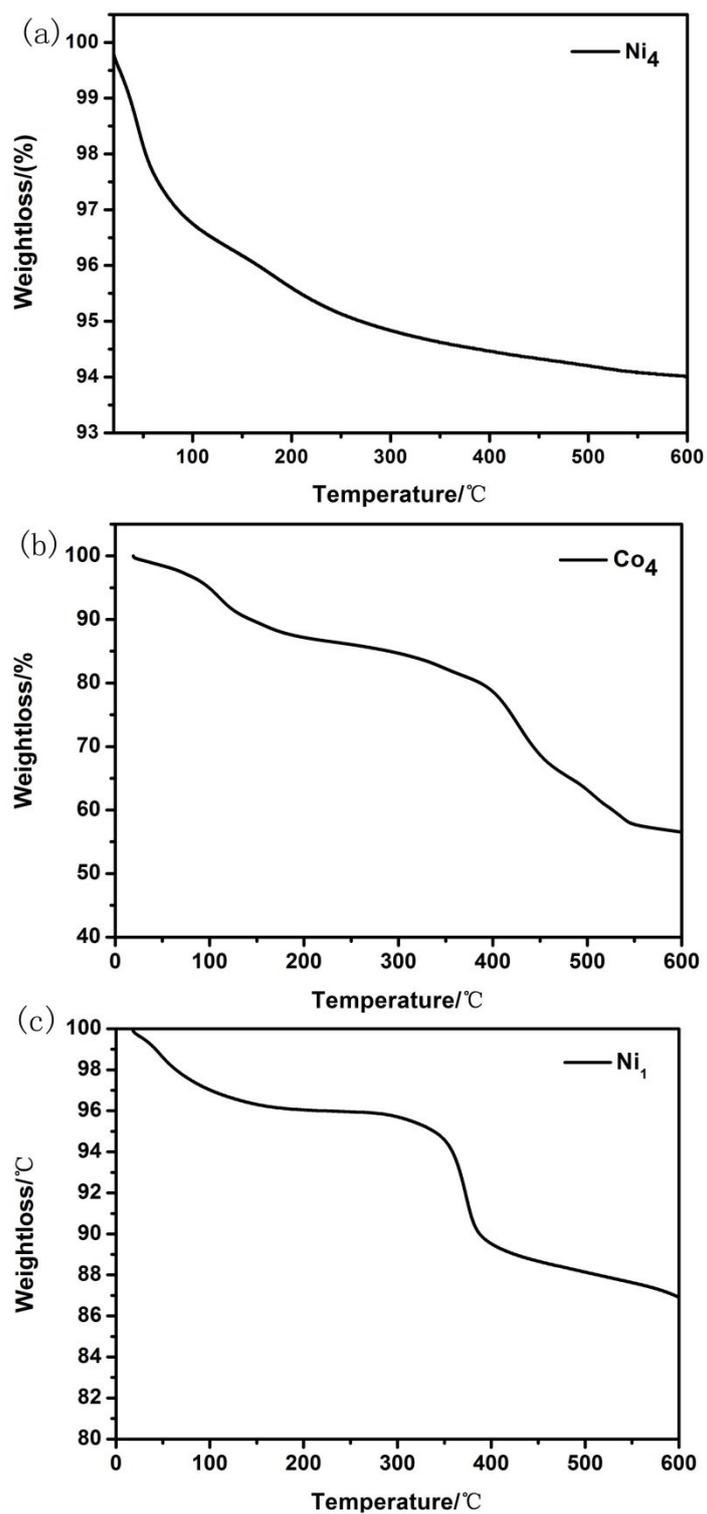
### **Sandwich-type silicotungstates modified TiO<sub>2</sub> microspheres for enhancing light harvesting and reducing electron recombination in Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells**

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**Fig. S1** (a) FT-IR of Ni<sub>4</sub> (b) FT-IR of Ni<sub>1</sub> (c) FT-IR of Co<sub>4</sub>



**Fig. S2** (a) TGA curve of Ni<sub>4</sub>. (b) TGA curve of Co<sub>4</sub>. (c) TGA curve of Ni<sub>1</sub>.

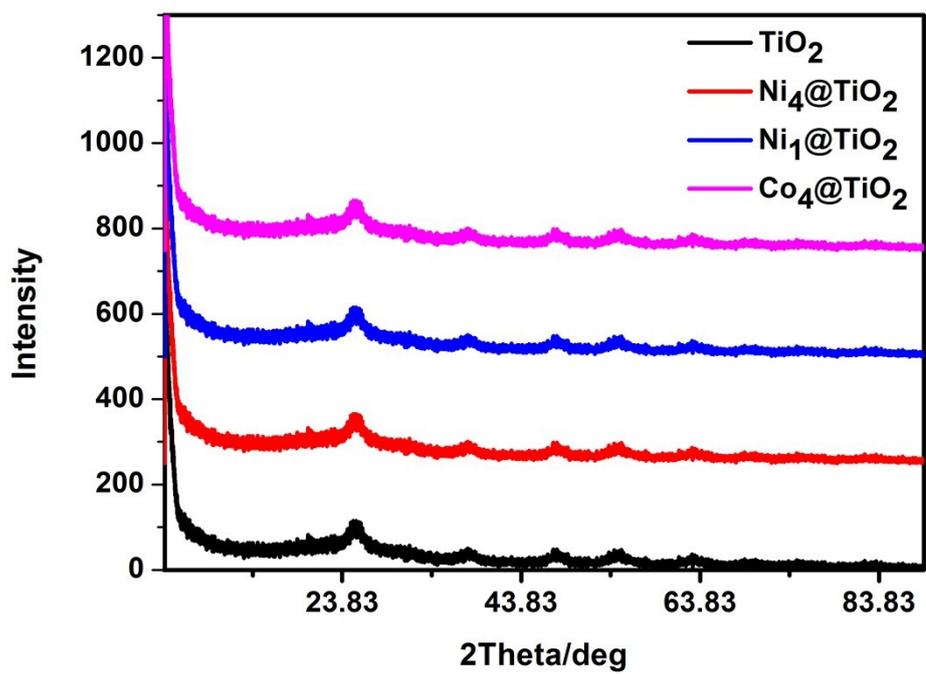
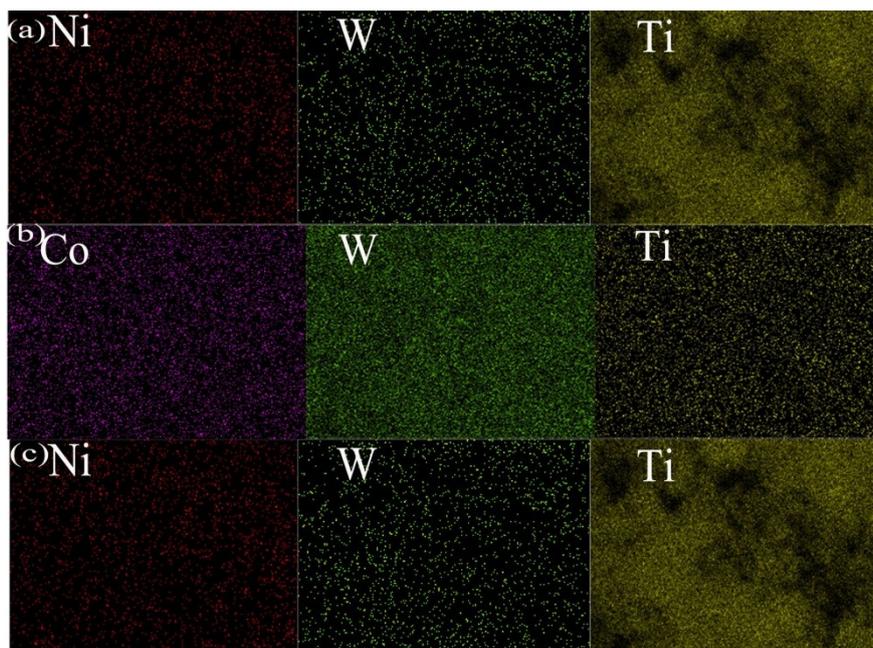
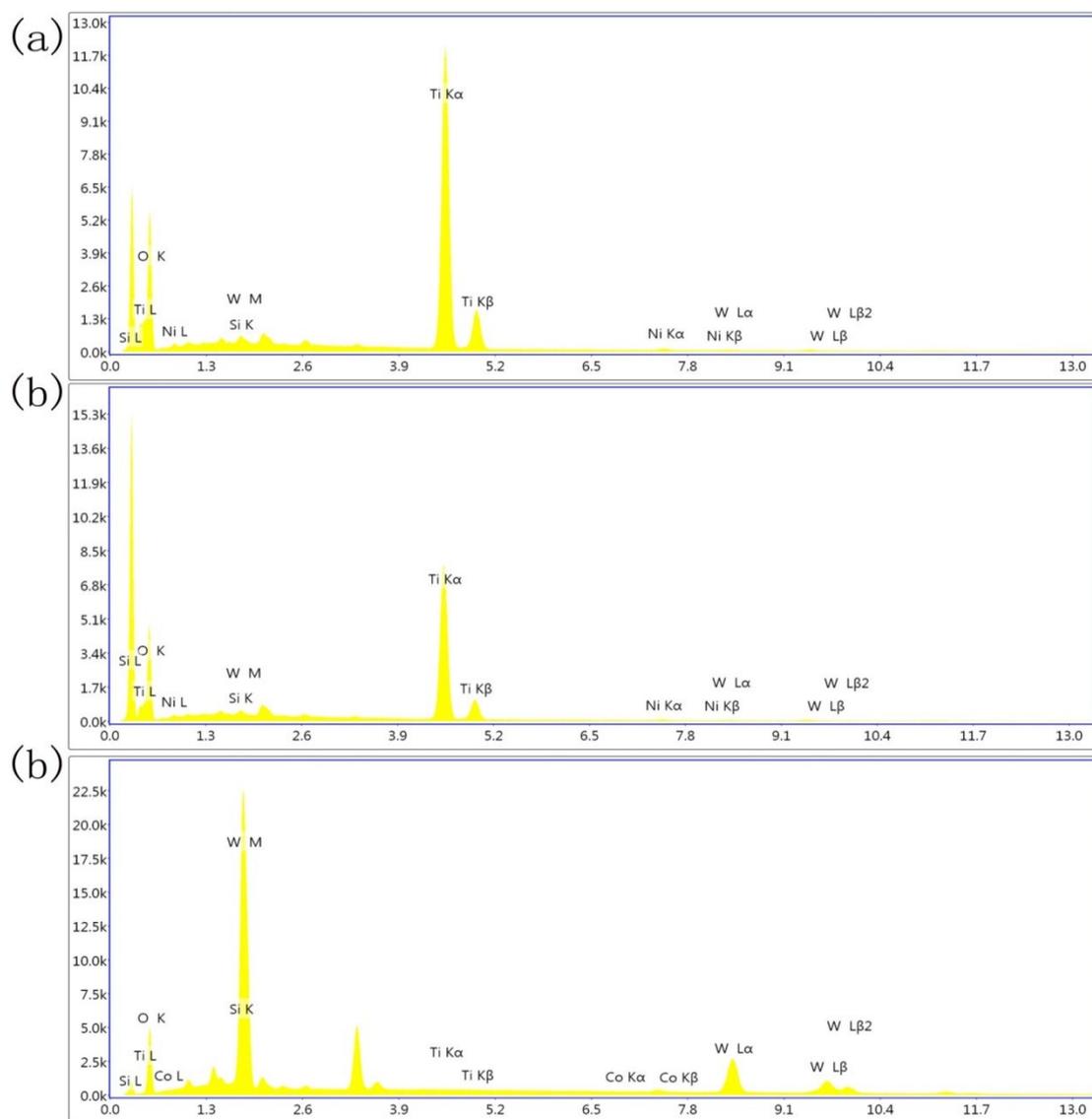


Fig. S3 XRD of TiO<sub>2</sub>, 0.8% Ni<sub>4</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub>, 0.8% Ni<sub>1</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub> and 0.8% Co<sub>4</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub>



**Fig. S4** (a) EDS mapping of Ni, W and Ti from  $\text{Ni}_4$ . (b) EDS mapping of Ni, W and Co from  $\text{Co}_4$ . (c) EDS mapping of Ni, W and Ti from  $\text{Ni}_1$ .



**Fig. S5** (a) EDS of 0.8% Ni<sub>4</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub>. (b) EDS of 0.8% Ni<sub>1</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub>. (c) EDS of 0.8% Co<sub>4</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub>