

Supporting Information (SI)

High contrast off-on fluorescence photo-switching *via* copper ion recognition, *trans-cis* isomerization and ring closure of a thiosemicarbazide Schiff base

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Figure S1 (a) The UV-visible spectrum of photo stability for compound **Lo** in acetonitrile (under visible light); (b) The UV-visible spectroscopy of photo stability for compound **Lo** in tetrahydrofuran (under dark light).

Figure S2 (a) Fluorescence response of **Lo** (10 μ M) to 10 μ M of other metal ions (the blue bar portion) and to the mixture of other metal ions with 10 μ M of Cu^{2+} (the red bar portion) in CH_3CN at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475$ nm.

Figure S3 Job plot of **Lo** and Cu^{2+} in CH_3CN at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475$ nm. The total concentration of **Lo** and Cu^{2+} was 10 μ M.

Figure S4 The linear plot between amounts of Cu^{2+} ion and fluorescent intensity. F_0 and F are the emission intensities of **Lo** in the absence and presence of Cu^{2+} , respectively. (a) Benesi-

Hildebrand plot for the determination of stability constant of **Lo**-Cu²⁺ in CH₃CN solution at $\lambda_{ex} = 475$ nm; (b) calibration curve for the detection limit of **Lo**-Cu²⁺ in CH₃CN solution at $\lambda_{ex} = 475$ nm.

Figure S5 Fluorescence intensity of free **Lo** (10 μ M) at various different pH in the absence and presence of Cu²⁺ in CH₃CN at $\lambda_{ex} = 475$ nm.

Figure S6 Reversibility experiment from fluorescence spectra of **Lo** in the presence of Cu²⁺ (1.0 equiv.) or Na₂S (1.0 equiv.) in CH₃CN at $\lambda_{ex} = 475$ nm.

Figure S7 The changes in fluorescent spectrum of **Lo** (10 μ M) with the increasing time after the addition of Cu²⁺ (10 μ M) in CH₃CN at $\lambda_{ex} = 475$ nm.

Figure S8 MTT assay of **Lo** on HepG2 cell over 48 hours.

Figure S9 Photon-bleach experiment showed **Lo** (100 μ M) photostability over continued laser scanning.

Figure S10 Absorption (a) and Fluorescent (c) spectra of **Lo** in different solution before visible light irradiation for ten minutes; Absorption (b) and Fluorescent (d) spectra of **Lo** in different solution after visible light irradiation for ten minutes.

Figure S11 Mass spectrum of (a) **Lo** in THF solution (10 μ M) and (b) **Lo** under the visible light irradiation in THF solution (10 μ M)

Figure S12 Development of photoluminescence spectra of **Lo** in THF (10 μ M) with the increasing illumination time (0-10 minutes) by visible light irradiation.

Figure S13 The normalized fluorescence lifetime for **Lo** before (red) and after (blue) irradiation by visible light in THF solution.

Figure S14 Bar diagrams showing the cytotoxicity of the compound **Lo** in HeLa cells upon photo-irradiation with visible light (400–700 nm, 10 J cm⁻², red bars) and in dark (black bars) as determined from MTT assay.

Figure S15 The normalized fluorescence lifetime for **Lo-trans** and **Lo-cis** in solid state.

Figure S16 Changes in ¹³C NMR spectrum of **Lo** before and after the visible light irradiation in solid state

Figure S17 ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** (in DMSO-*d*₆)

Figure S18 ¹³C NMR spectrum of **2** (in DMSO-*d*₆)

Figure S19 Mass spectrum of **2**

Figure S20 ^1H NMR spectrum of **Lo** (in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$)

Figure S21 ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **Lo** (in CDCl_3-d_1)

Figure S22 Mass spectrum of **Lo**

Figure S23 FT-IR of **Lo** in KBr

Table S1 Photophysical data of **Lo** in nine different solvents.

Table S2 Quantum yields and fluorescence lifetimes of **Lo** in THF solvent.

Table S3 Quantum yields and fluorescence lifetimes of **Lo-trans** and **Lo-cis**.

Table S4 The corresponding DFT coordinates for the optimized structures of **Lo-trans**

Table S5 The corresponding DFT coordinates for the optimized structures of **Lo-cis**

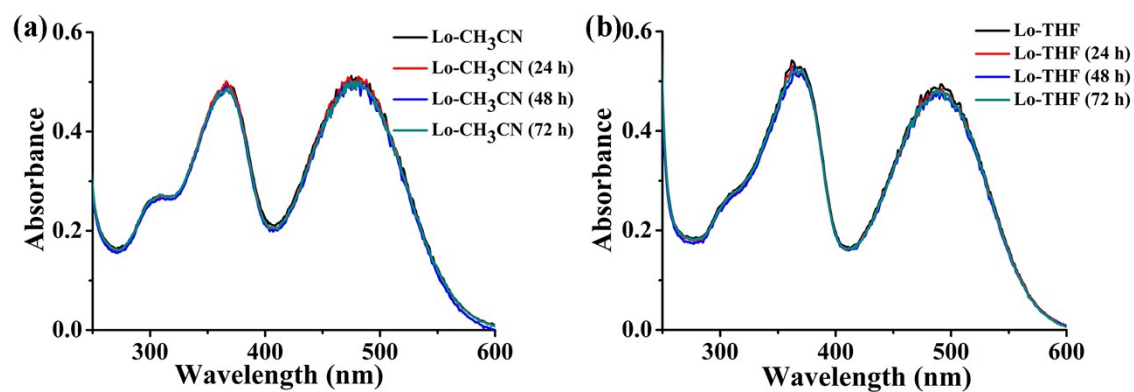


Figure S1 (a) The UV-visible spectrum of photo stability for compound **Lo** in acetonitrile (under visible light); (b) The UV-visible spectroscopy of photo stability for compound **Lo** in tetrahydrofuran (under dark light).

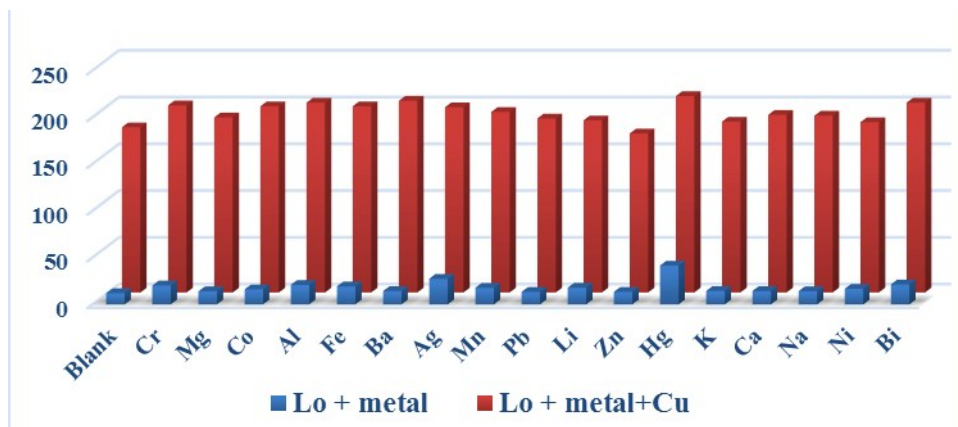


Figure S2 (a) Fluorescence response of **Lo** (10 μM) to 10 μM of other metal ions (the blue bar portion) and to the mixture of other metal ions with 10 μM of Cu^{2+} (the red bar portion) in CH_3CN at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475 \text{ nm}$.

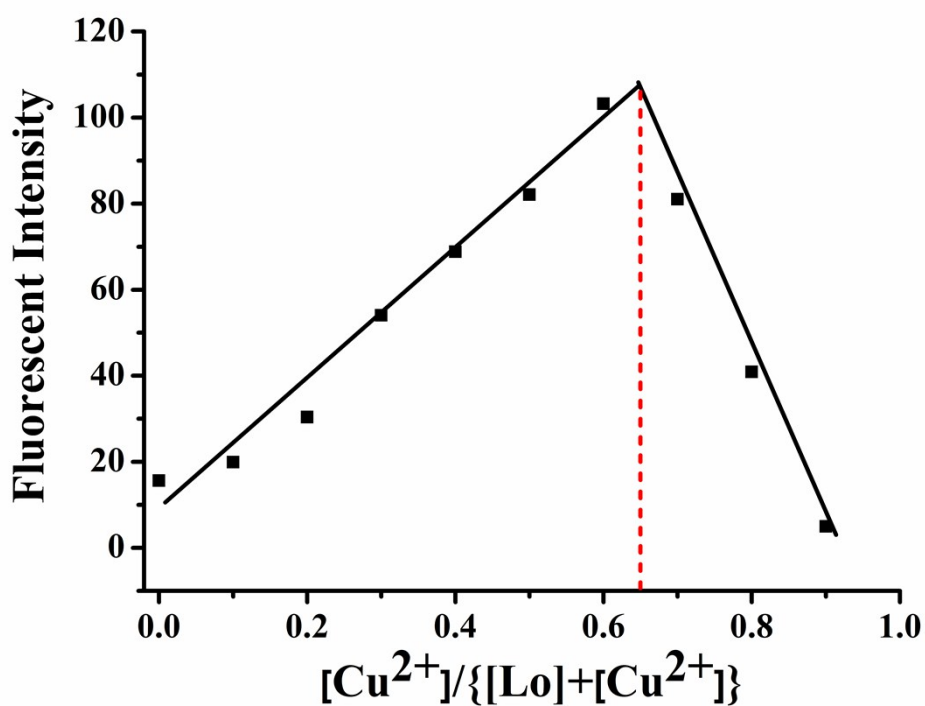


Figure S3 Job plot of **Lo** and Cu^{2+} in CH_3CN at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475 \text{ nm}$. The total concentration of **Lo** and Cu^{2+} was 10 μM .

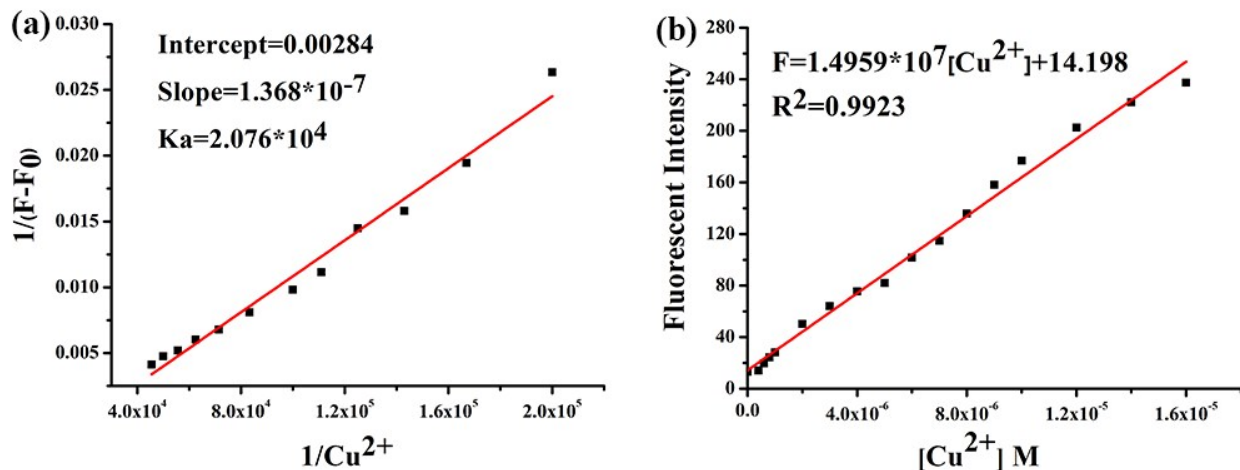


Figure S4 The linear plot between amounts of Cu^{2+} ion and fluorescent intensity. F_0 and F are the emission intensities of **Lo** in the absence and presence of Cu^{2+} , respectively. (a) Benesi-Hildebrand plot for the determination of stability constant of **Lo**- Cu^{2+} in CH_3CN solution at $\lambda_{ex} = 475$ nm; (b) calibration curve for the detection limit of **Lo**- Cu^{2+} in CH_3CN solution at $\lambda_{ex} = 475$ nm.

The detection limit (DL) of Cu^{2+} ions using probe **Lo** was determined from the following equation: $DL = K \times SD/S$, where $K = 3$; SD is the standard deviation of the blank solution; S is the slope of the calibration curve.

$$\text{Probe Lo for } Cu^{2+}: DL = K \times SD/S = 3 \times 2.132 / 1.4959 \times 10^7 = 4.275 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M.}$$

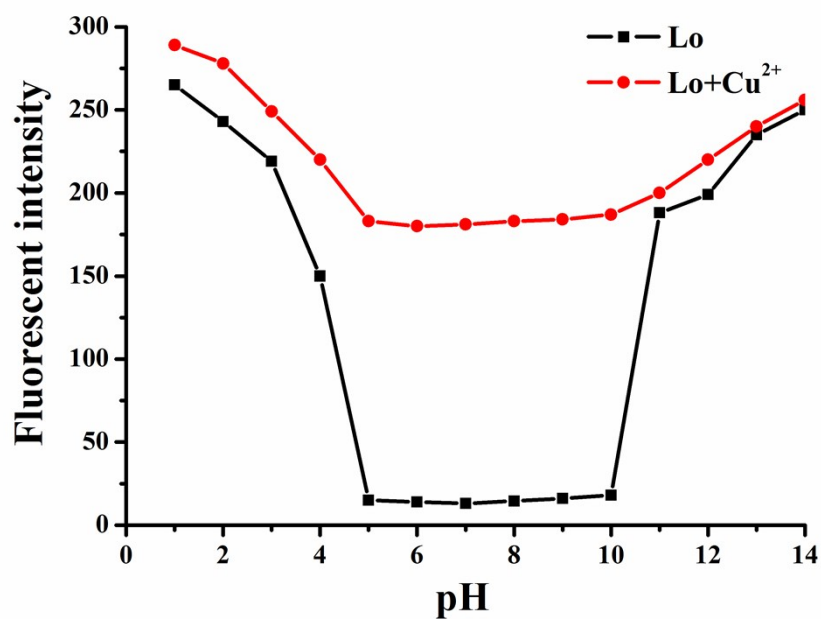


Figure S5 Fluorescence intensity of free **Lo** (10 μ M) at various different pH in the absence and presence of Cu^{2+} in CH_3CN at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475$ nm.

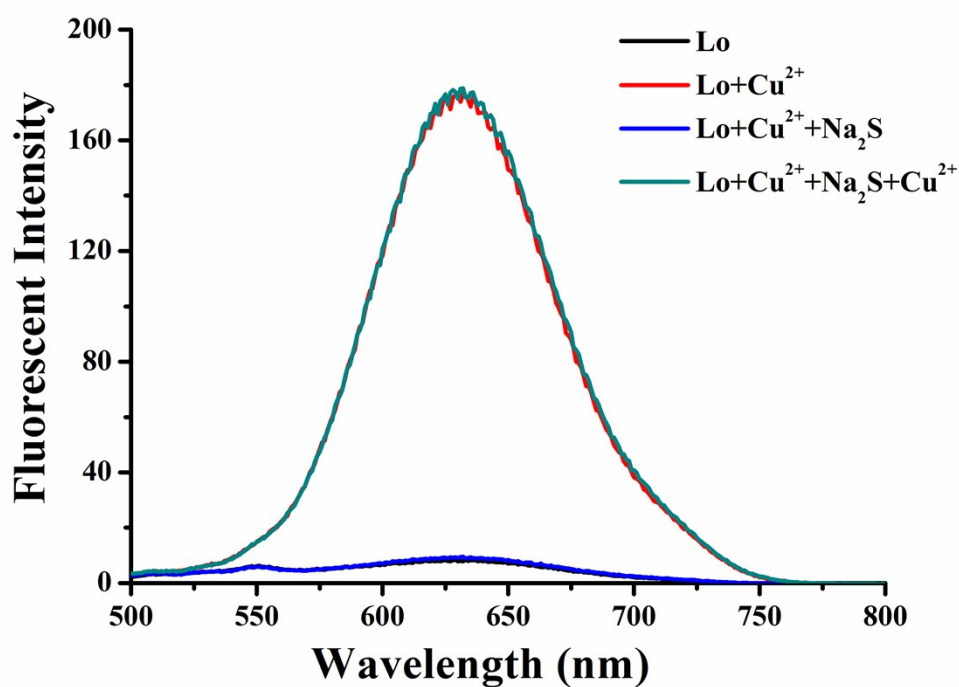


Figure S6 Reversibility experiment from fluorescence spectra of **Lo** in the presence of Cu^{2+} (1.0 equiv.) or Na_2S (1.0 equiv.) in CH_3CN at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475$ nm.

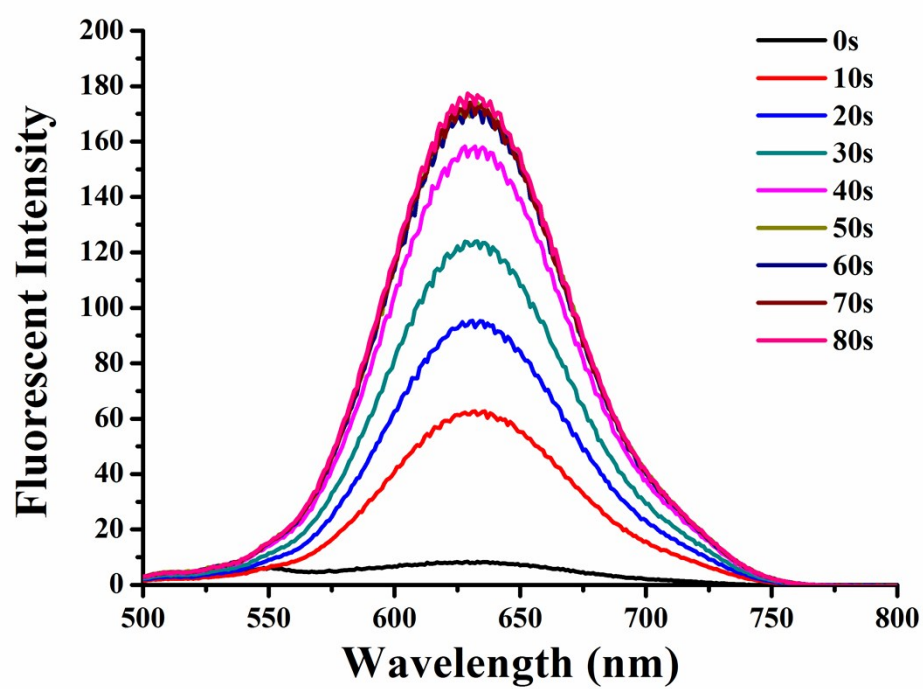


Figure S7 The changes in fluorescent spectrum of **Lo** (10 μM) with the increasing time after the addition of Cu^{2+} (10 μM) in CH_3CN at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475 \text{ nm}$.

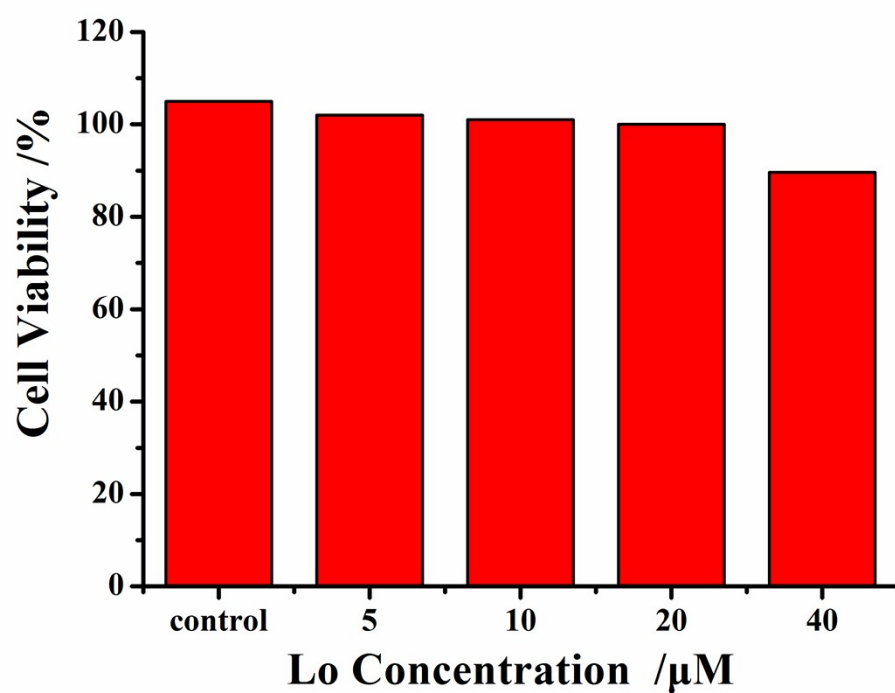


Figure S8 MTT assay of **Lo** on HepG2 cell over 24 hours.

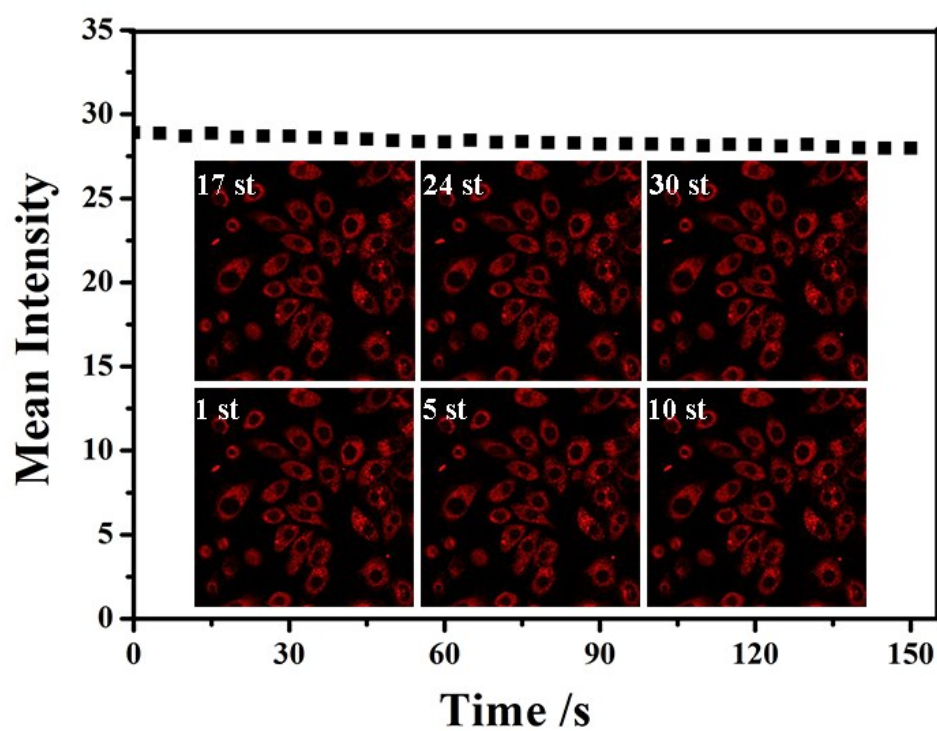


Figure S9 Photon-bleach experiment showed **Lo** (100 μM) photostability over continued laser scanning.

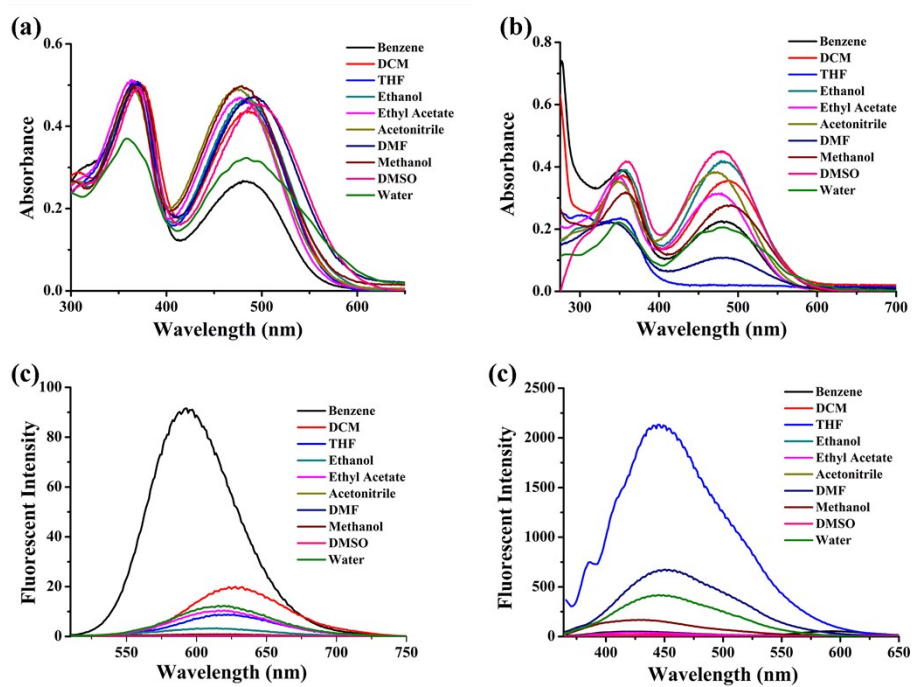


Figure S10 Absorption (a) and Fluorescent (c) spectra of **Lo** in different solution before visible light irradiation for ten minutes; Absorption (b) and Fluorescent (d) spectra of **Lo** in different solution after visible light irradiation for ten minutes.

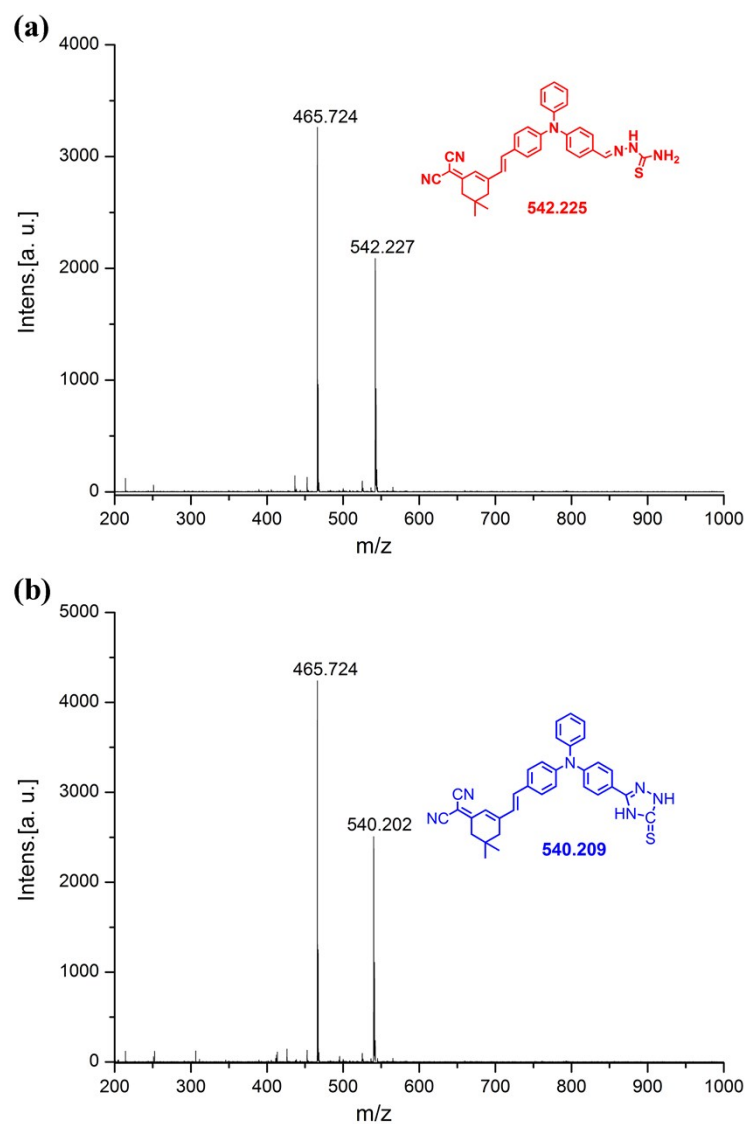


Figure S11 Mass spectrum of (a) **Lo** in THF solution (10 μ M) and (b) **Lo** under the visible light irradiation in THF solution (10 μ M)

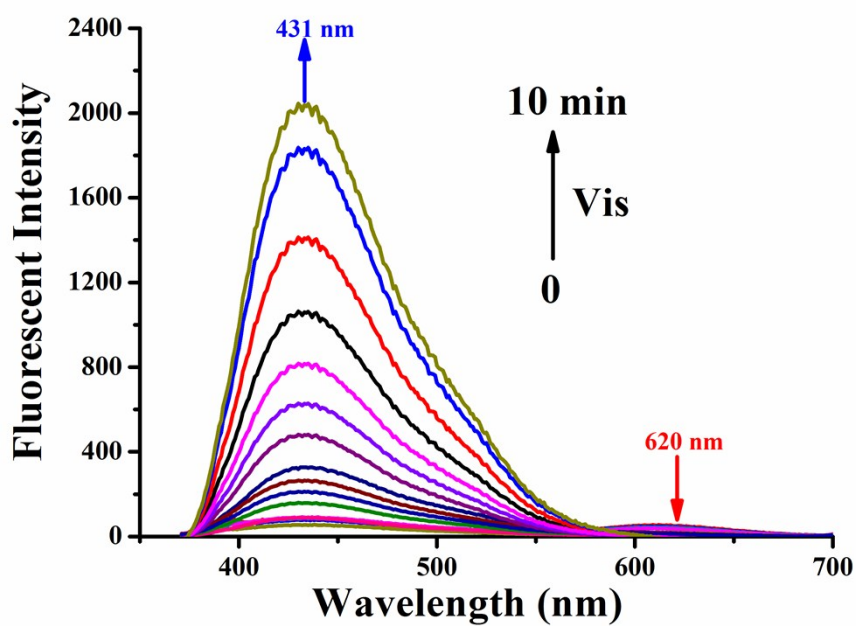


Figure S12 Development of photoluminescence spectra of **Lo** in THF (10 μ M) with the increasing illumination time (0-10 minutes) by visible light irradiation.

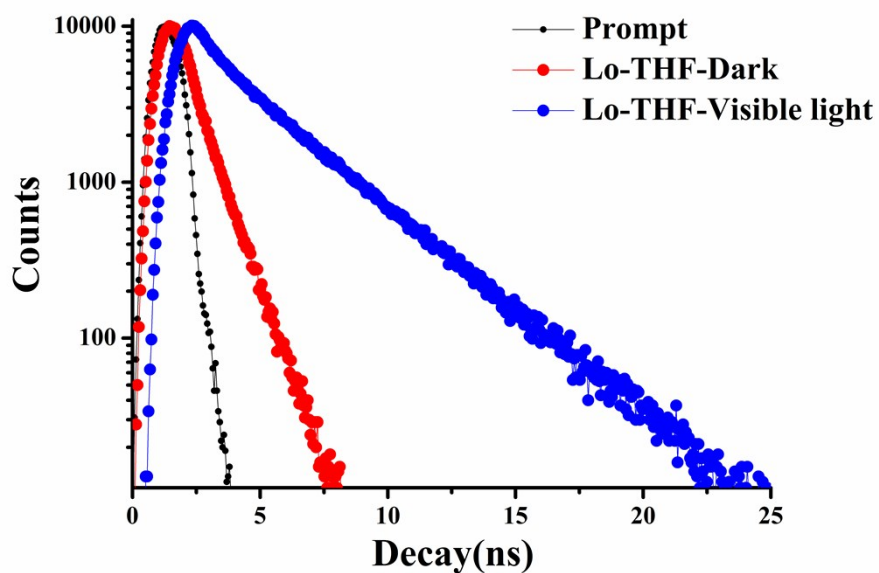


Figure S13 The normalized fluorescence lifetime for **Lo** before (red) and after (blue) irradiation by visible light in THF solution.

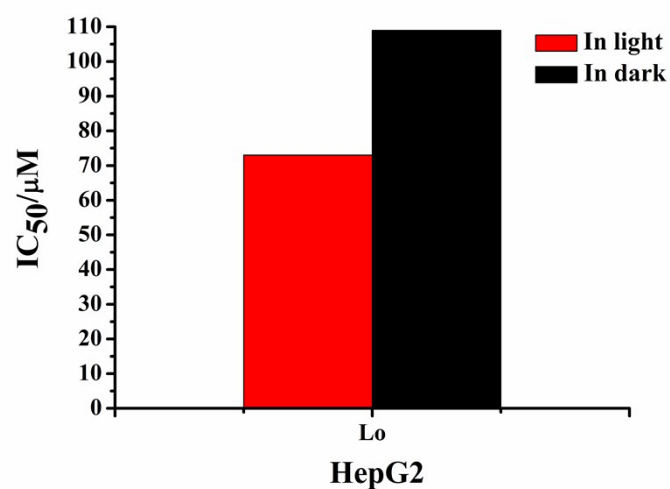


Figure S14 Bar diagrams showing the cytotoxicity of the compound **Lo** in HepG2 cells upon photo-irradiation with visible light (400–700 nm, 10 J cm⁻², red bars) and in dark (black bars) as determined from MTT assay.

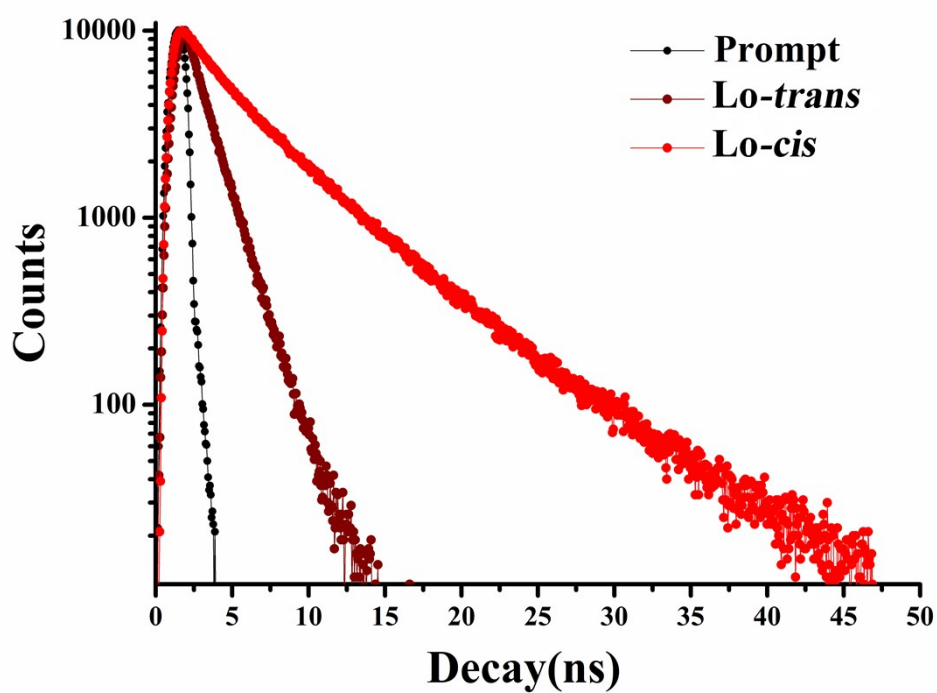


Figure S15 The normalized fluorescence lifetime for **Lo-trans** and **Lo-cis** in solid state.

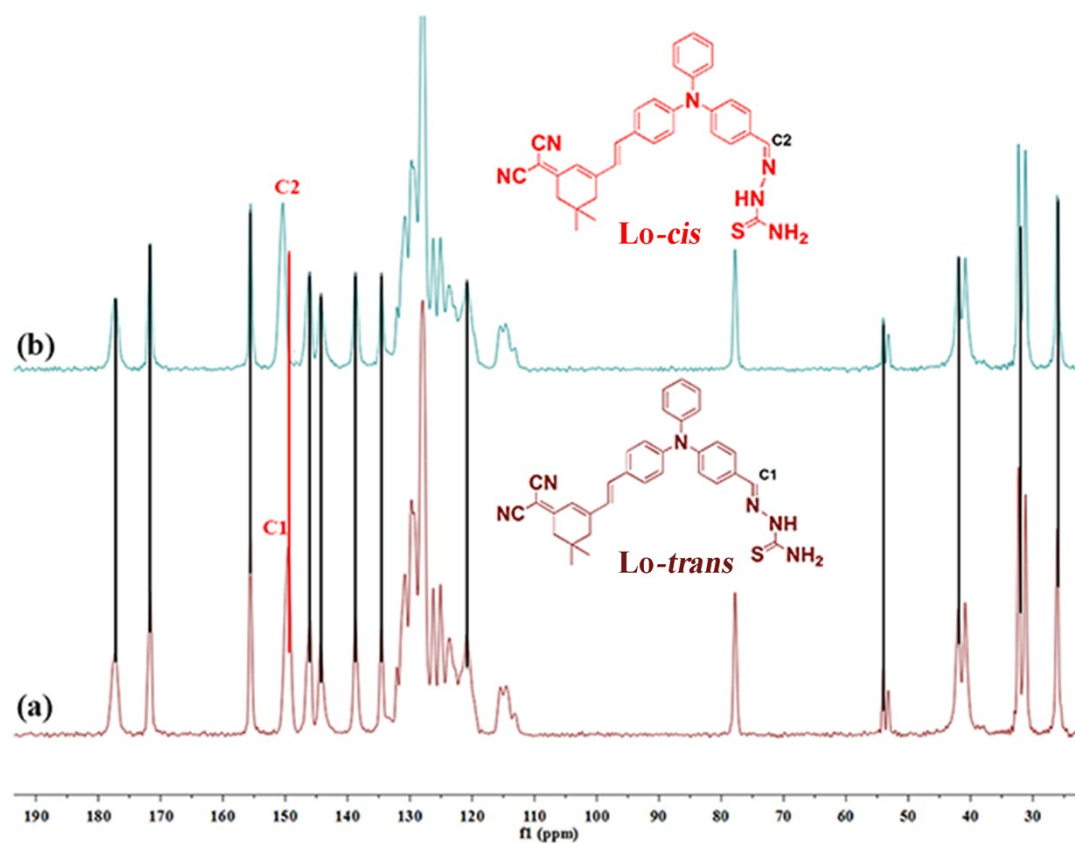


Figure S16 Changes in ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **Lo** before and after the visible light irradiation in solid state

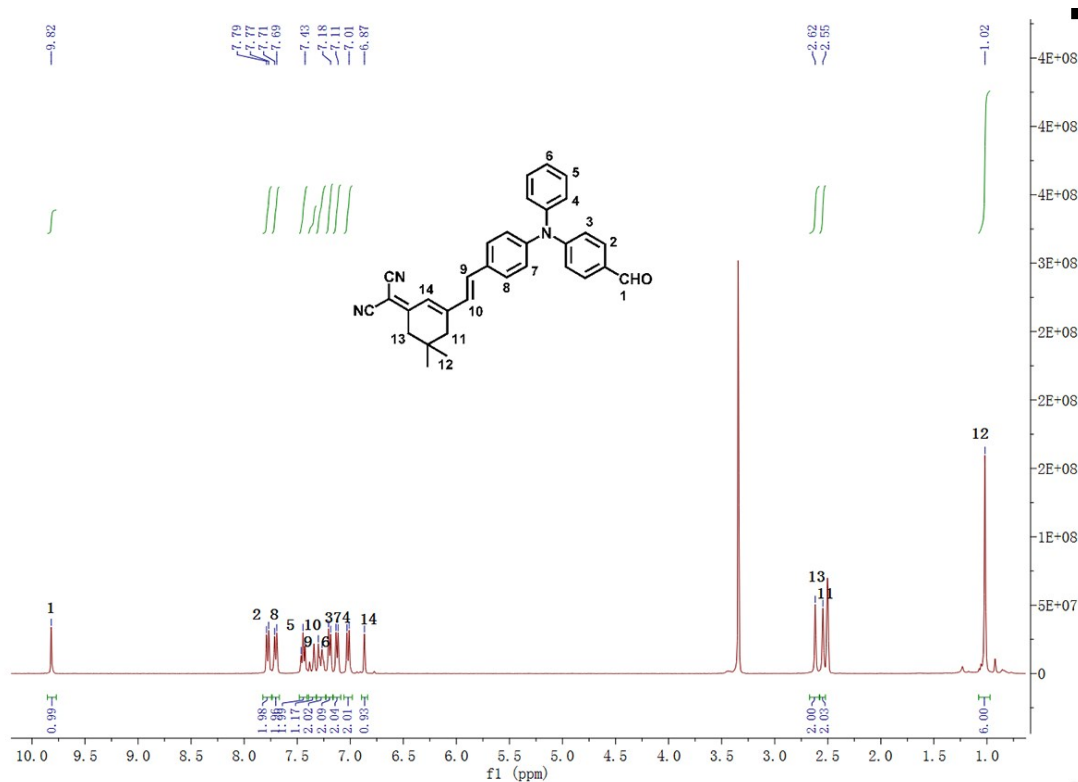


Figure S17 ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** (in DMSO-*d*₆)

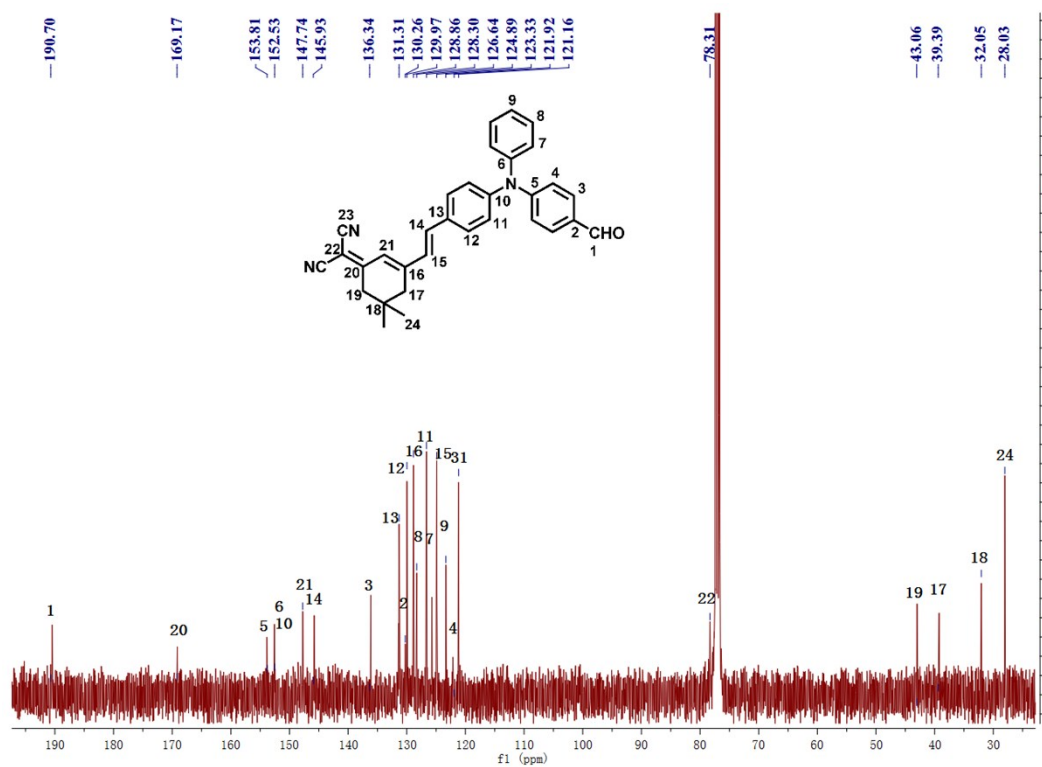


Figure S18 ¹³C NMR spectrum of **2** (in DMSO-*d*₆)

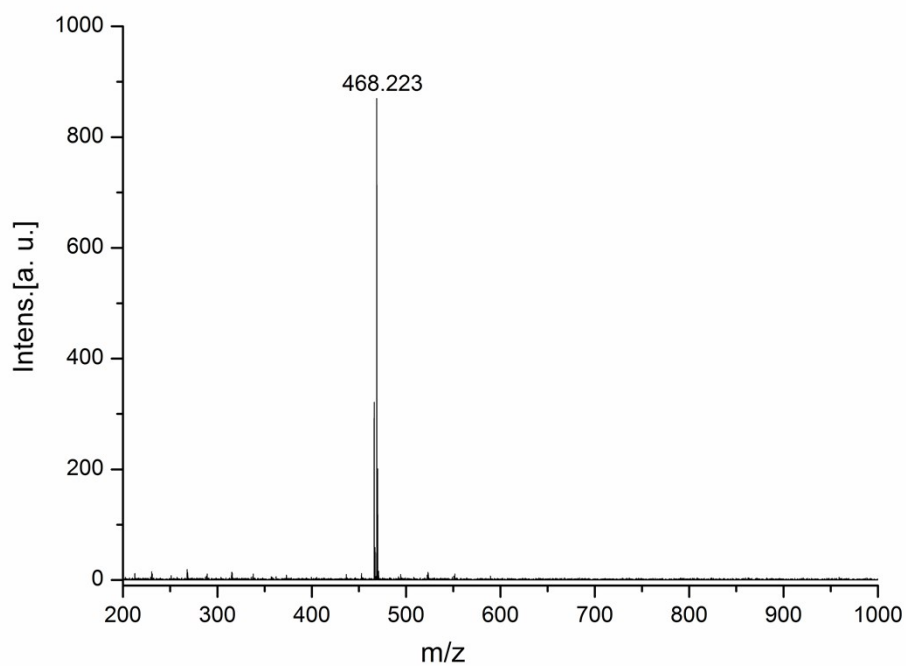


Figure S19 Mass spectrum of 2

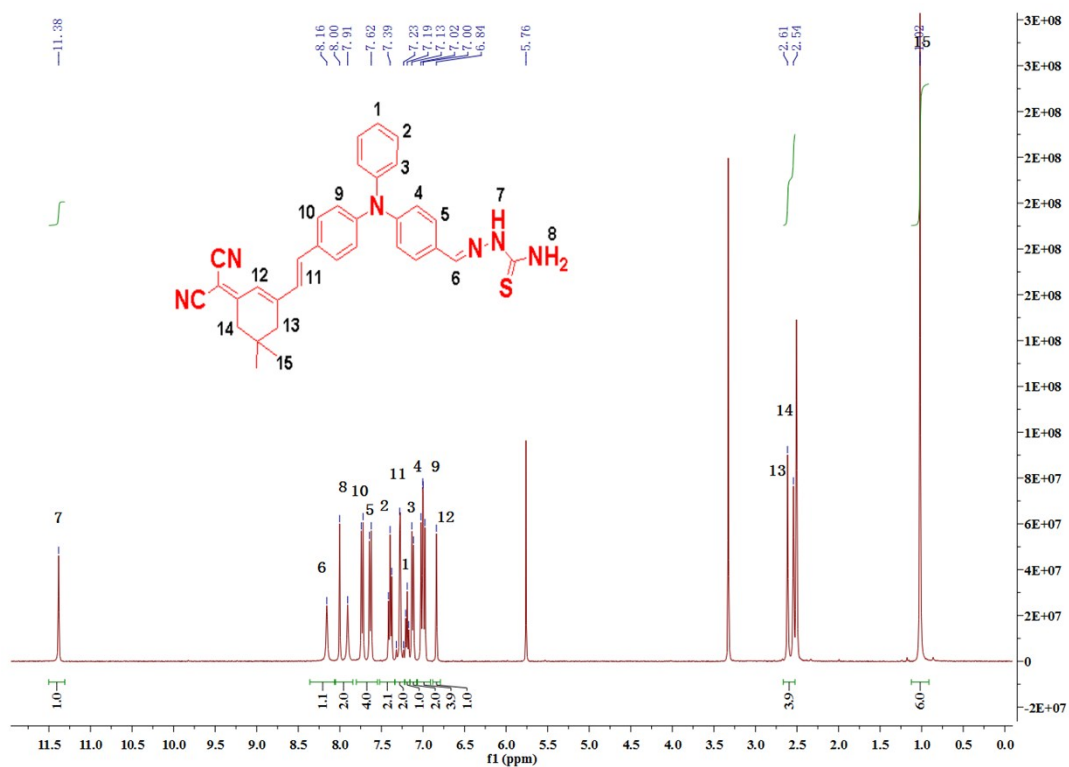


Figure S20 ¹H NMR spectrum of Lo (in DMSO-*d*₆)

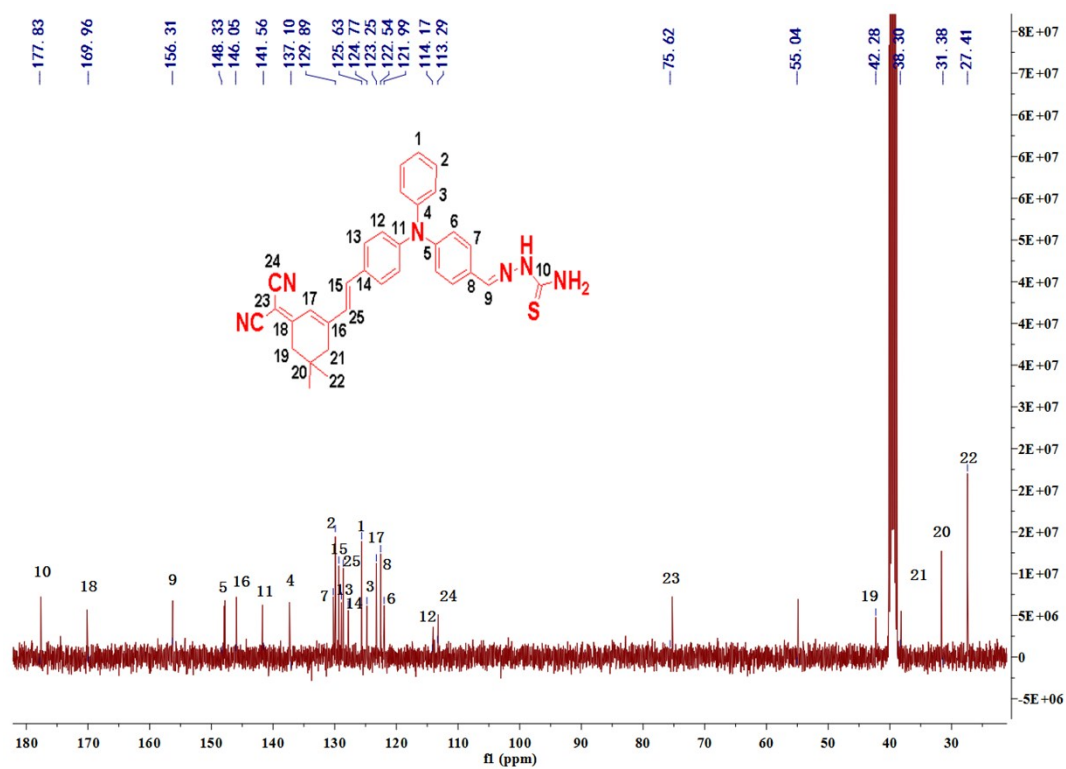


Figure S21 ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **Lo** (in CDCl_3-d_1)

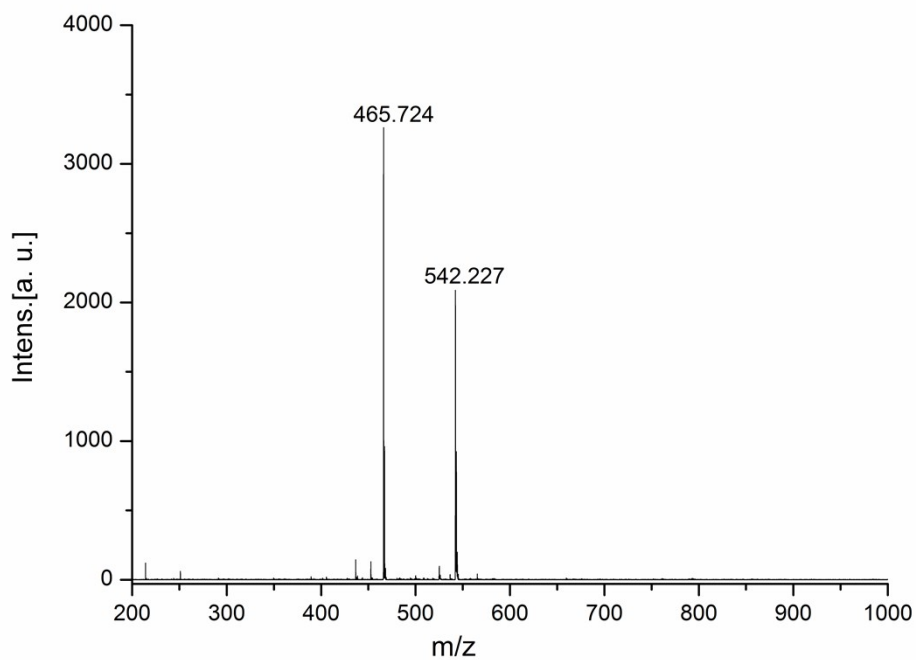


Figure S22 Mass spectrum of **Lo**

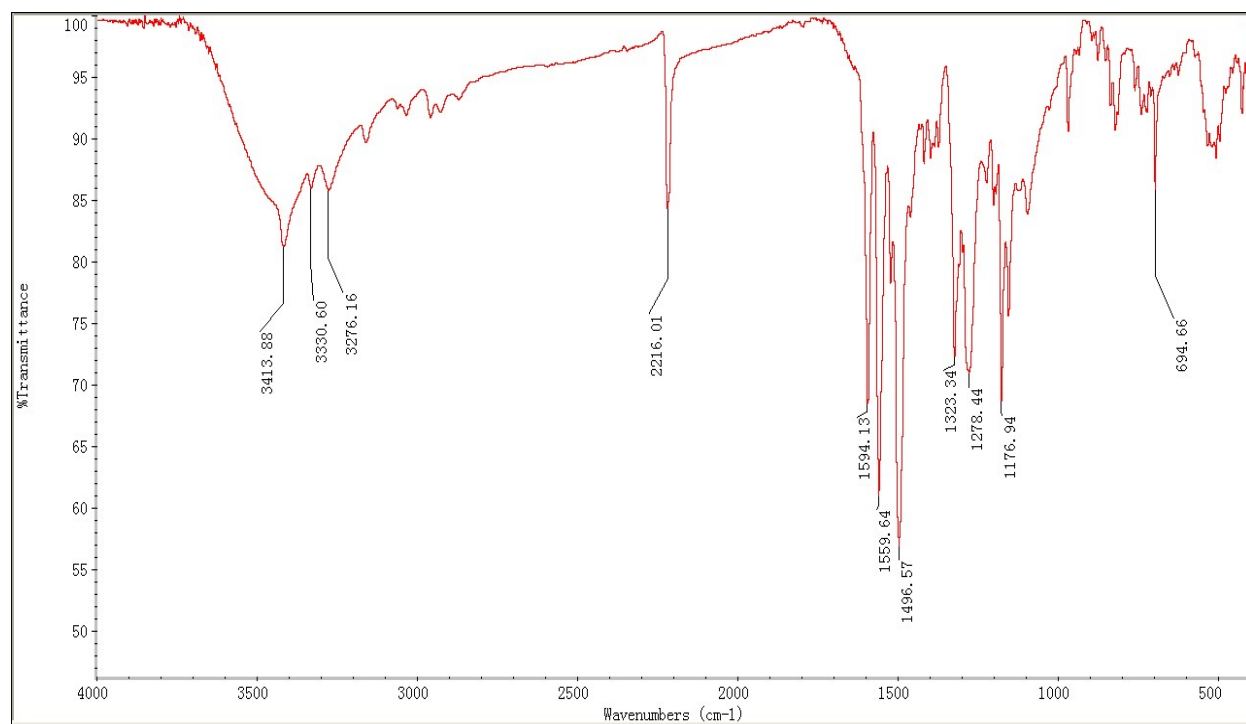


Figure S23 FT-IR of Lo in KBr

Table S1 Photophysical data of **Lo** in nine different solvents.

Table 1. Photophysical data of Lo in nine different solvents.					
Compound	Solvents	$\lambda_{\max}^{[a]}$	$\lambda_{\max}^{[b]}$	$\lambda_{\max}^{[c]}$	$\lambda_{\max}^{[d]}$
Lo	Benzene	368, 483	593	352, 483	422, 594
	DCM	370, 485	623	352, 484	436, 619
	THF	368, 484	624	353	444
	Ethanol	365, 484	611	356, 481	430, 619
	Ethyl acetate	363, 477	620	349, 476	424, 608
	Acetonitrile	366, 476	616	346, 472	424, 620
	DMF	369, 493	616	345, 484	452
	Methanol	364, 478	614	357, 488	425
	DMSO	372, 498	621	360, 488	397
	Water	359, 485	618	349, 484	440

^[a] Absorption peak position in nm ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ mol L⁻¹), ^[b] Peak position of SPEF in nm ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ mol L⁻¹), excited at the absorption maximum, ^[c] Absorption peak position in nm ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ mol L⁻¹) after vis irradiation, ^[d] Peak position of SPEF in nm ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ mol L⁻¹) after vis irradiation, excited at the absorption maximum,

Table S2 Quantum yields and fluorescence lifetimes of **Lo** in THF solvent.

Table S2. Quantum yields and fluorescence lifetimes of Lo in THF solvent.					
Compound	Solvents	$\Phi^{[a]}$ (%)	$\langle\tau\rangle^{[b]}$ (ns)	$\Phi^{[c]}$ (%)	$\langle\tau\rangle^{[d]}$ (ns)
Lo	THF	--	0.21	13.9	7.7

^[a] Quantum yields before vis irradiation, ^[b] Weighted mean lifetime before vis irradiation, ^[c] Quantum yields after vis irradiation, ^[d] Weighted mean lifetime after vis irradiation.

Table S3 Quantum yields and fluorescence lifetimes of **Lo-trans** and **Lo-cis**.

Table S3. Quantum yields and fluorescence lifetimes of Lo-trans and Lo-cis .		
Compound	Φ (%)	$\langle\tau\rangle$ (ns)
Lo-trans	--	0.32
Lo-cis	15.2	9.1

Table S4 The corresponding DFT coordinates for the optimized structures of **Lo-trans**

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	7	0	-2.367178	-2.482343	-0.100625
2	6	0	-1.099187	-2.691047	-0.279890
3	6	0	-3.194796	-3.476945	-0.011331
4	6	0	-2.802434	-1.263974	0.003255
5	6	0	-4.057727	-0.888185	-0.336229
6	6	0	-4.512637	0.372850	-0.253599
7	6	0	-3.731838	1.371320	0.190417
8	6	0	-2.484947	1.033281	0.555327
9	6	0	-2.051049	-0.233724	0.459566
10	6	0	-0.448396	-3.825872	0.067591
11	6	0	0.871557	-4.019131	-0.094864
12	6	0	1.669824	-3.050433	-0.574550
13	6	0	1.038081	-1.956598	-1.025105
14	6	0	-0.283688	-1.789485	-0.873830
15	6	0	-4.354188	-3.411371	0.687464
16	6	0	-5.219194	-4.431621	0.803374
17	6	0	-4.966192	-5.601249	0.204906
18	6	0	-3.836584	-5.716657	-0.503001
19	6	0	-2.987383	-4.680660	-0.596968
20	6	0	-4.187464	2.636882	0.251917
21	7	0	-3.527792	3.640350	0.647400
22	7	0	-4.061665	4.883466	0.622307
23	6	0	3.000811	-3.227240	-0.680105
24	6	0	3.997788	-2.326507	-0.784254
25	6	0	4.071548	-1.038456	-0.371384
26	6	0	2.993502	-0.370262	0.459471
27	6	0	5.213088	-0.351301	-0.596035

28	6	0	5.480525	0.885880	-0.125549
29	6	0	4.471912	1.576400	0.774516
30	6	0	3.579327	0.572365	1.522240
31	6	0	6.638102	1.512068	-0.429154
32	6	0	2.435012	1.315177	2.244522
33	6	0	4.388795	-0.218745	2.570976
34	6	0	-4.001427	5.675268	-0.499062
35	16	0	-4.579791	7.142210	-0.498280
36	7	0	-3.423546	5.138826	-1.621982
37	6	0	7.570477	0.980170	-1.195834
38	7	0	8.394108	0.518769	-1.868330
39	6	0	6.893554	2.722725	0.028183
40	7	0	7.114026	3.786282	0.432565
41	1	0	-4.770006	-1.597644	-0.792314
42	1	0	-5.543011	0.581908	-0.591456
43	1	0	-1.789667	1.790558	0.957144
44	1	0	-1.031600	-0.389487	0.854988
45	1	0	-0.956971	-4.645271	0.603591
46	1	0	1.309769	-4.967246	0.264463
47	1	0	1.593893	-1.190756	-1.589647
48	1	0	-0.677989	-0.871080	-1.343228
49	1	0	-4.626179	-2.523239	1.283726
50	1	0	-6.132687	-4.320382	1.412405
51	1	0	-5.668814	-6.445869	0.293008
52	1	0	-3.618608	-6.664329	-1.024491
53	1	0	-2.126926	-4.862228	-1.263448
54	1	0	-5.220215	2.852087	-0.075554
55	1	0	-4.510355	5.258834	1.446545
56	1	0	3.334676	-4.283175	-0.709889
57	1	0	4.946704	-2.769253	-1.146502
58	1	0	2.347709	0.245258	-0.208168
59	1	0	2.369880	-1.116549	1.001289
60	1	0	5.986793	-0.846869	-1.206968
61	1	0	4.967669	2.216324	1.539975
62	1	0	3.851231	2.244846	0.132321
63	1	0	1.810409	1.902162	1.533851
64	1	0	1.757885	0.602642	2.768249
65	1	0	2.831337	2.024774	3.005462
66	1	0	3.748333	-0.964846	3.093630
67	1	0	4.812189	0.458633	3.346357
68	1	0	5.240415	-0.775145	2.121734
69	1	0	-3.349768	5.684726	-2.470850
70	1	0	-3.073722	4.188264	-1.600975

Table S5 The corresponding DFT coordinates for the optimized structures of **Lo-cis**

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	7	0	-3.224789	-1.922790	-0.102158
2	6	0	-1.975081	-2.468174	-0.056809
3	6	0	-4.338317	-2.716356	-0.070382
4	6	0	-3.322537	-0.561244	-0.158877
5	6	0	-4.366963	0.111406	-0.775956
6	6	0	-4.431666	1.480949	-0.833916
7	6	0	-3.454005	2.276824	-0.270598
8	6	0	-2.409651	1.626000	0.358893
9	6	0	-2.352469	0.258637	0.406328
10	6	0	-1.664485	-3.645915	0.607576
11	6	0	-0.382727	-4.128403	0.686608
12	6	0	0.692717	-3.461084	0.121227
13	6	0	0.370609	-2.352274	-0.642403
14	6	0	-0.906162	-1.866405	-0.709482
15	6	0	-5.545003	-2.292875	0.469011
16	6	0	-6.664125	-3.089436	0.501850
17	6	0	-6.630015	-4.363283	-0.010646
18	6	0	-5.451516	-4.815431	-0.552289
19	6	0	-4.339841	-4.008516	-0.577417
20	6	0	-3.518759	3.673962	-0.346444
21	7	0	-2.636487	4.451291	0.170217
22	7	0	-2.777617	5.801378	0.041061
23	6	0	1.996589	-3.948118	0.276116
24	6	0	3.221711	-3.369058	0.100975
25	6	0	3.641496	-2.038370	-0.011034
26	6	0	2.708573	-0.850715	0.143210
27	6	0	4.978036	-1.787790	-0.192590
28	6	0	5.550716	-0.522445	-0.241918
29	6	0	4.660820	0.694205	-0.067748
30	6	0	3.392770	0.392842	0.763227
31	6	0	6.903156	-0.355138	-0.452733
32	6	0	2.427553	1.594145	0.685230
33	6	0	3.755608	0.141404	2.242330
34	6	0	-1.702652	6.664433	0.011665
35	7	0	-2.052536	7.991387	0.018965

36	16	0	-0.130752	6.189798	-0.045258
37	6	0	7.465799	0.899224	-0.508487
38	7	0	7.943393	1.968513	-0.558979
39	6	0	7.761285	-1.415948	-0.629438
40	7	0	8.497175	-2.315925	-0.777883
41	1	0	-5.154479	-0.433846	-1.302227
42	1	0	-5.273223	1.941709	-1.361681
43	1	0	-1.612994	2.198505	0.840730
44	1	0	-1.512505	-0.160355	0.967657
45	1	0	-2.425589	-4.193979	1.168751
46	1	0	-0.211146	-5.037525	1.272289
47	1	0	1.135919	-1.867396	-1.249285
48	1	0	-1.062010	-0.997120	-1.355615
49	1	0	-5.640814	-1.317688	0.952587
50	1	0	-7.584476	-2.711364	0.956073
51	1	0	-7.517452	-5.000941	0.012858
52	1	0	-5.401087	-5.819867	-0.982160
53	1	0	-3.461169	-4.422775	-1.078431
54	1	0	-4.371897	4.135609	-0.871242
55	1	0	-3.713845	6.194191	0.013388
56	1	0	2.049334	-5.000897	0.590291
57	1	0	4.042224	-4.099677	0.142737
58	1	0	2.349872	-0.551261	-0.860311
59	1	0	1.839528	-1.113981	0.769930
60	1	0	5.645711	-2.649143	-0.301050
61	1	0	5.208124	1.525635	0.410407
62	1	0	4.368564	1.043404	-1.078246
63	1	0	2.133887	1.816053	-0.356767
64	1	0	1.501747	1.398245	1.255607
65	1	0	2.892307	2.505647	1.100784
66	1	0	2.850554	-0.076970	2.837151
67	1	0	4.239021	1.030214	2.685729
68	1	0	4.447661	-0.708646	2.366632
69	1	0	-1.324736	8.688033	-0.010385
70	1	0	-3.017763	8.290105	0.058900
