

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Catalytic decomposition of N<sub>2</sub>O over Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts

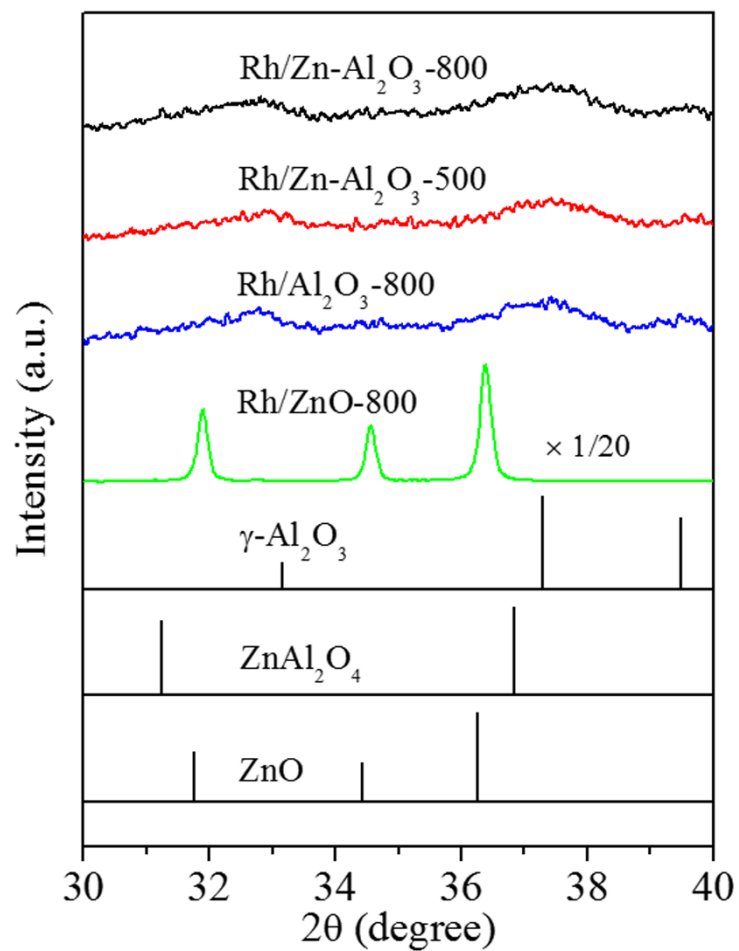
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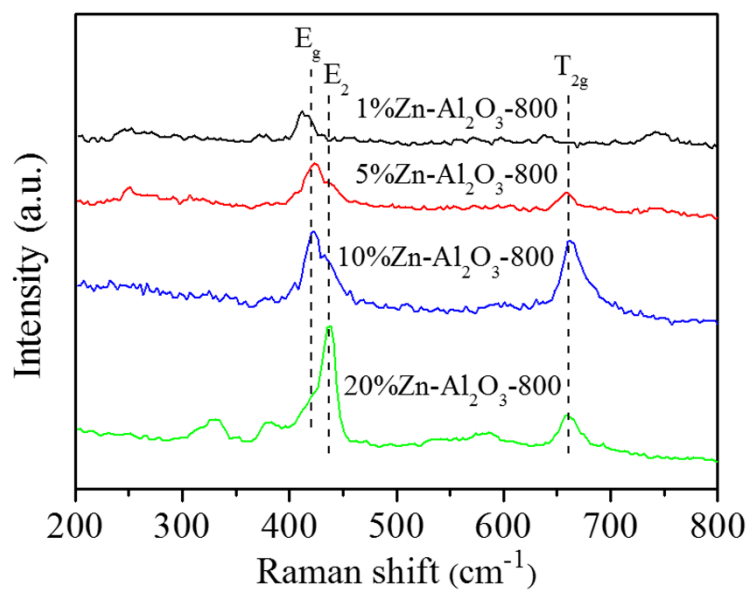
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**Fig. S1.** XRD patterns of the catalysts and standard patterns of  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (PDF#47-1308), ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (PDF#05-0699), and ZnO (PDF#36-1451) in the  $2\theta = 30\text{--}40^\circ$  region.



**Fig. S2.** Raman spectra for Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 with different Zn content.

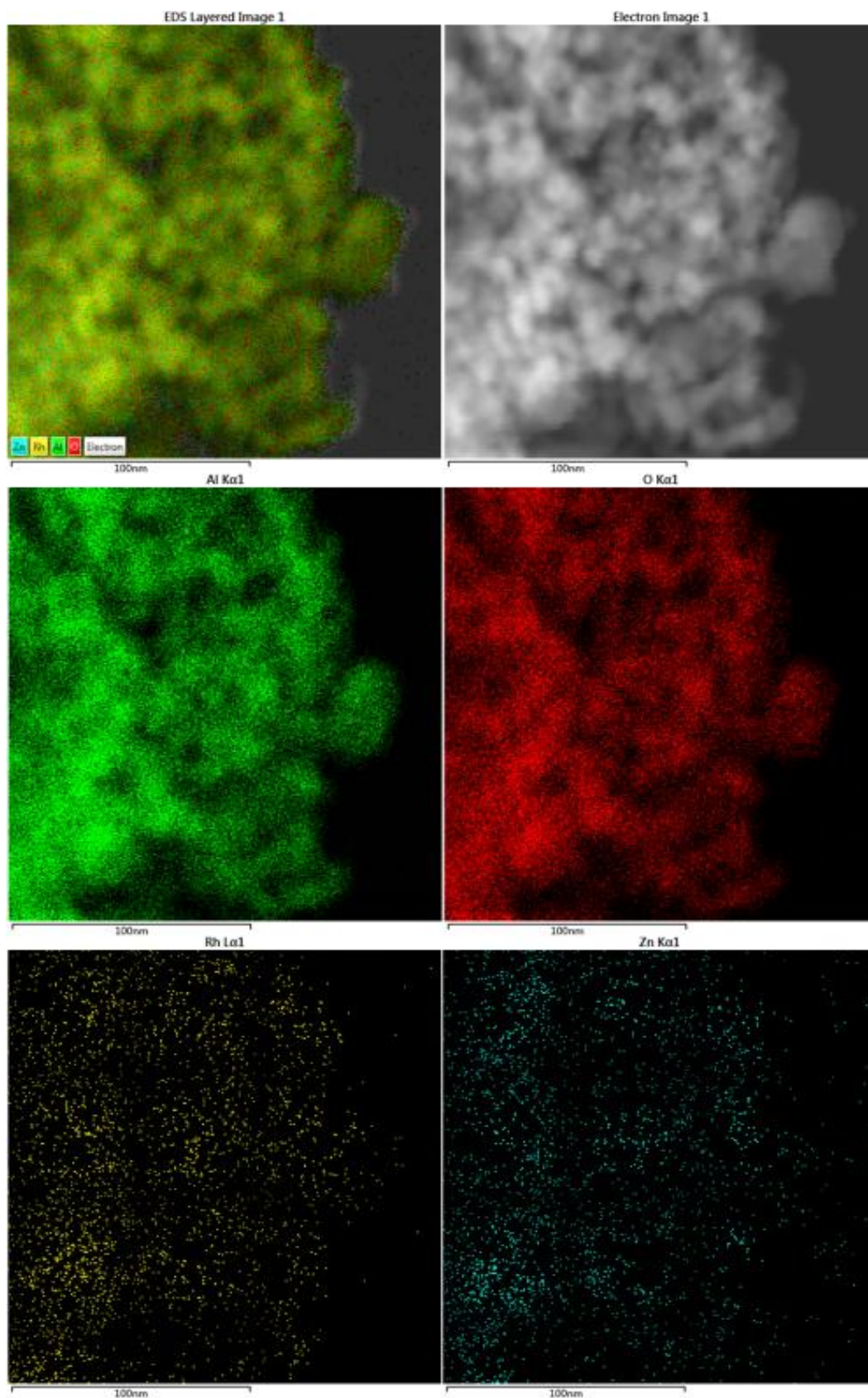
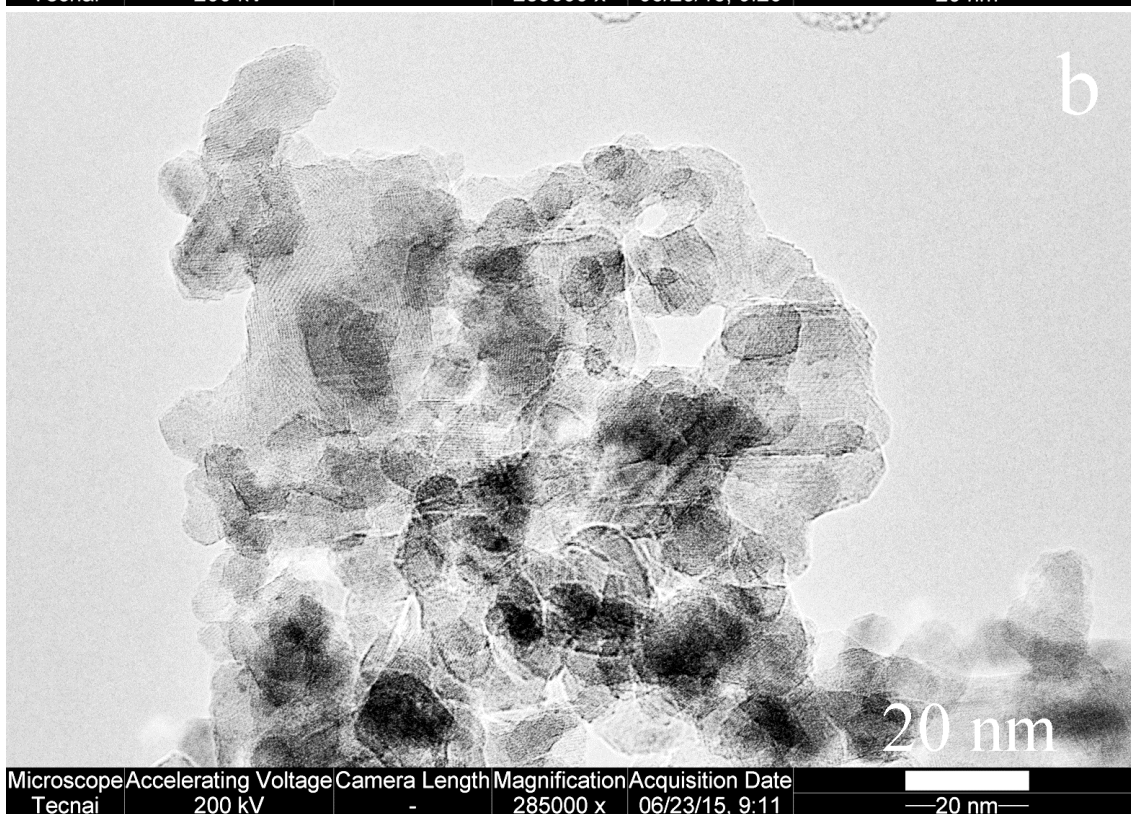
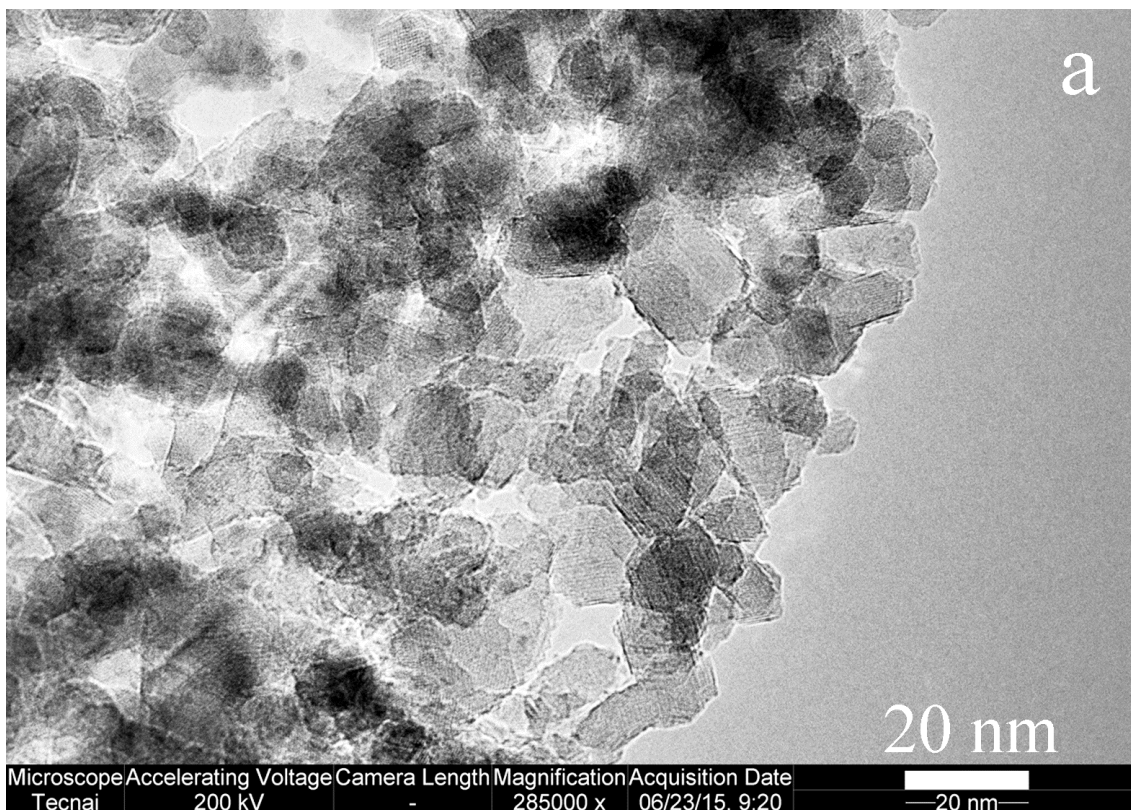
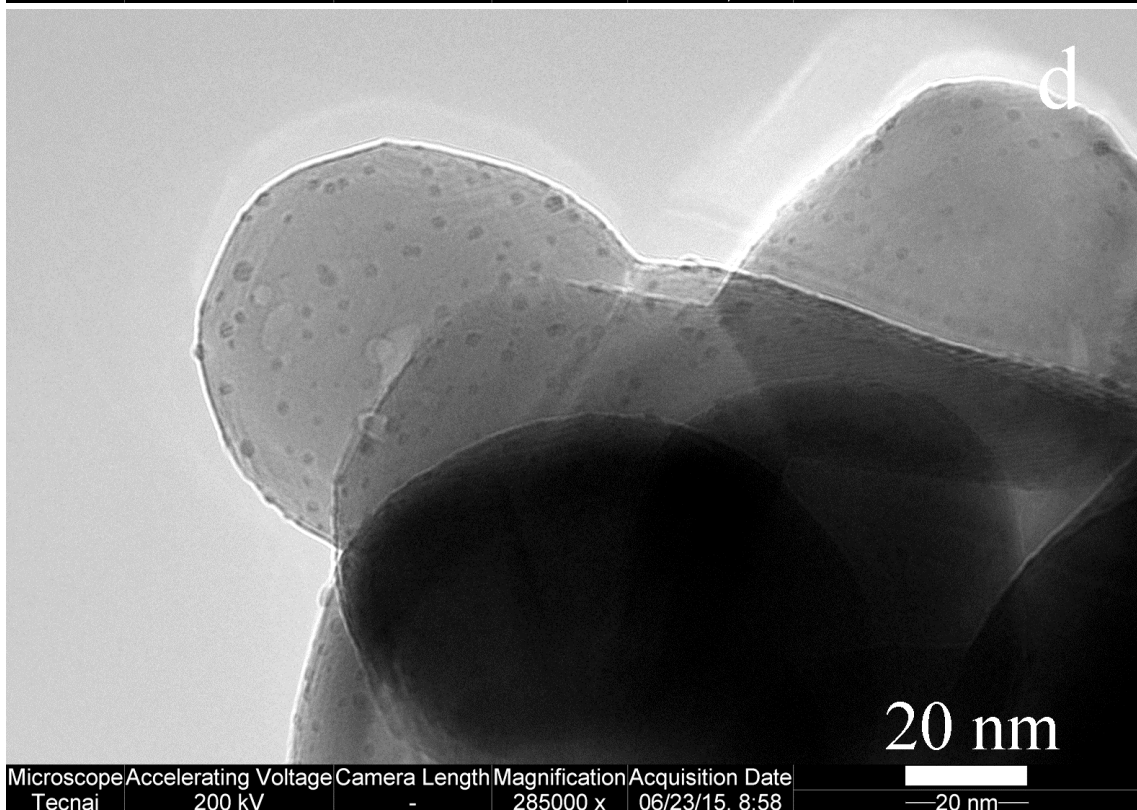
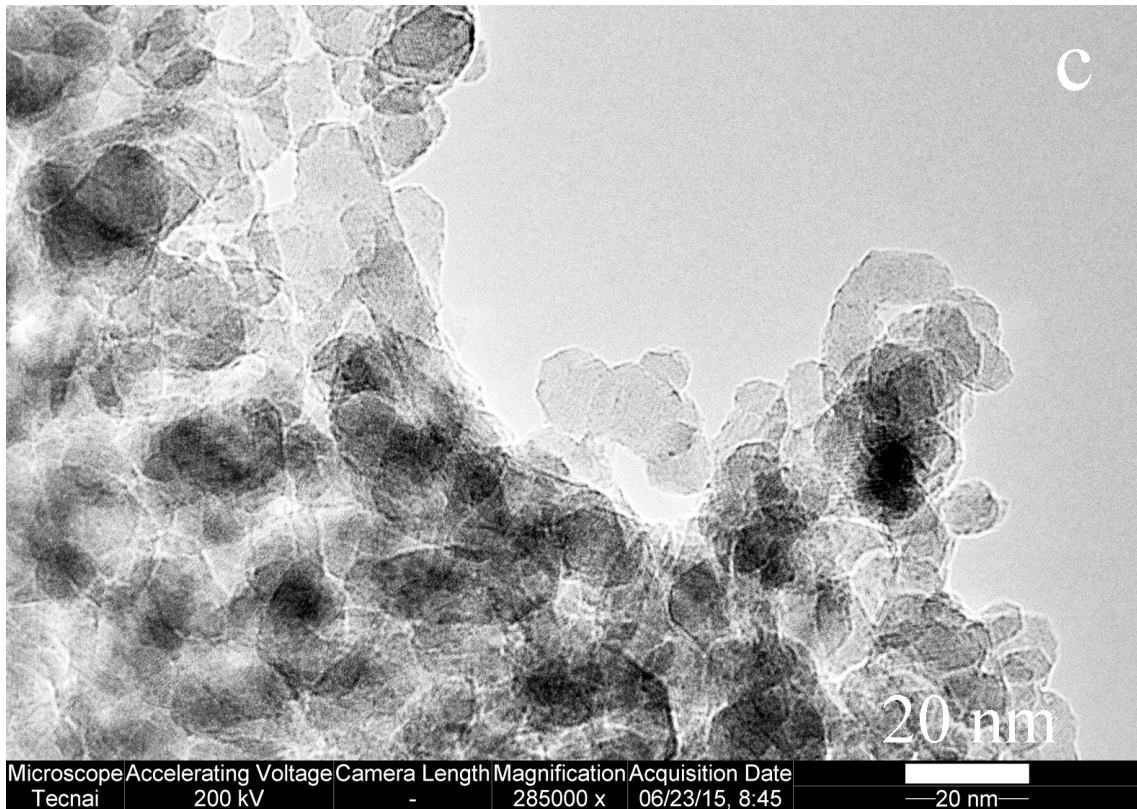


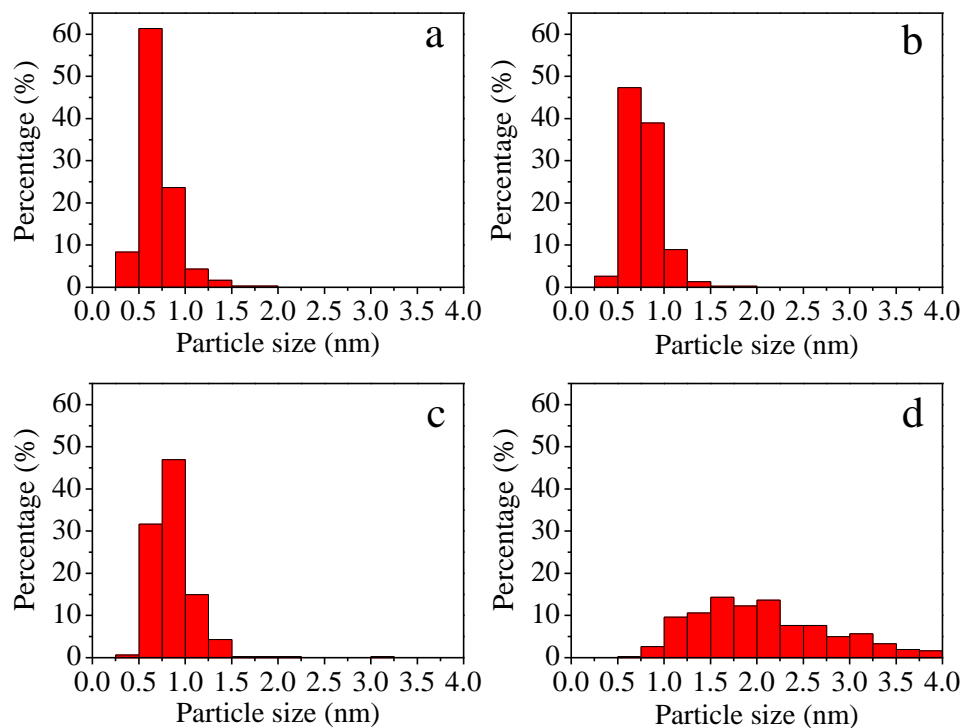
Fig. S3. EDX elemental mapping for Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800.



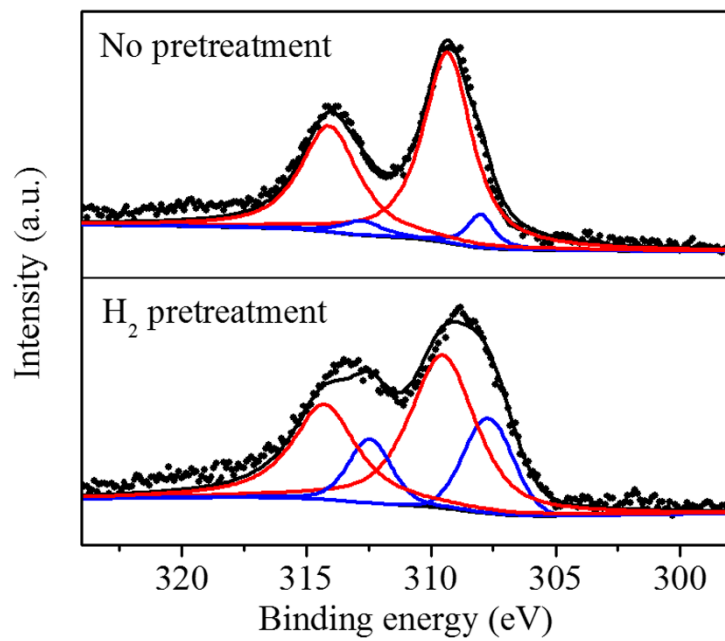




**Fig. S4.** TEM graphs with larger size for (a) Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800, (b) Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-500, (c) Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800, and (d) Rh/ZnO-800.

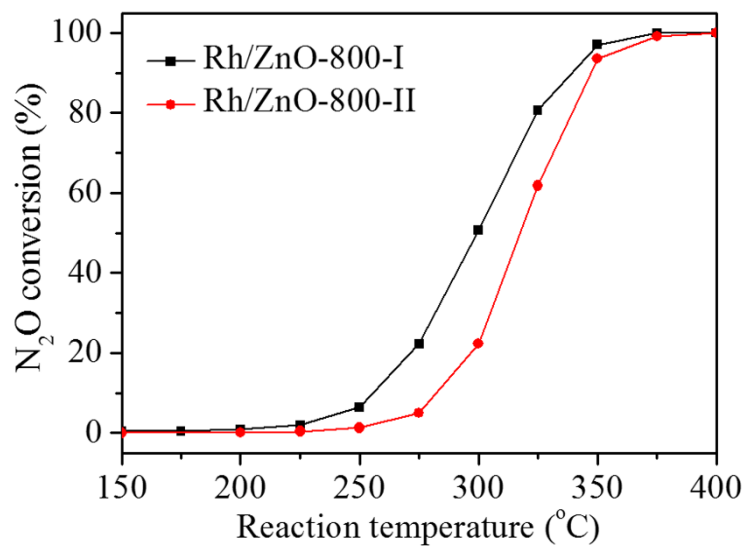


**Fig. S5.** Distribution of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{O}_3$  particle sizes for (a) Rh/Zn- $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -800, (b) Rh/Zn- $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -500, (c) Rh/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -800, and (d) Rh/ZnO-800.

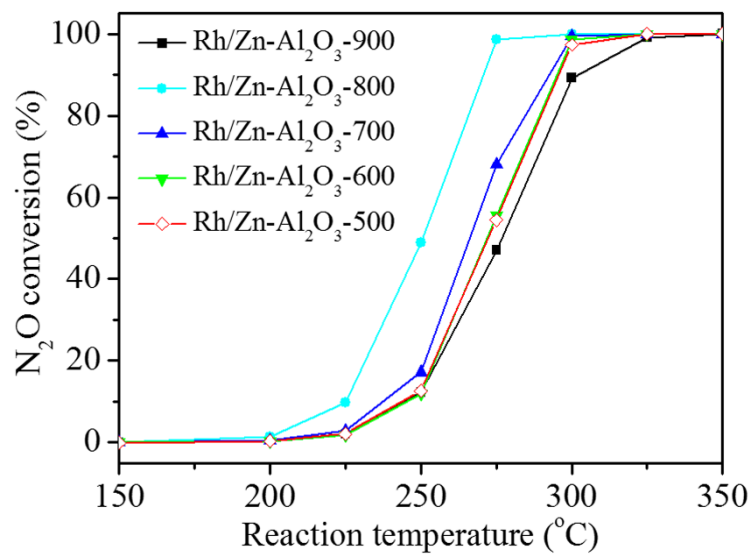


**Fig. S6.** Rh 3d XPS spectra of Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 without being pretreated or after being pretreated in 4% H<sub>2</sub> (balance He) at 400 °C for 2 h.

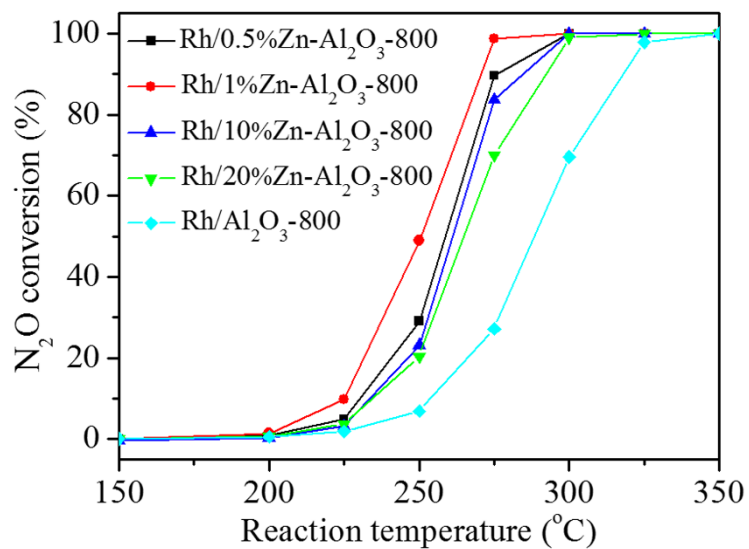




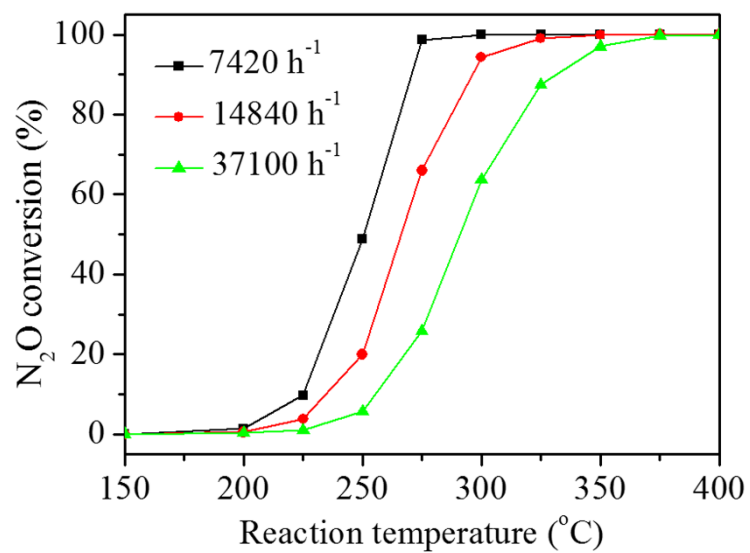
**Fig. S7.** Conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O on Rh/ZnO-800 catalysts prepared using ZnO supports prepared differently. I: ZnO support was prepared by precipitation. II: ZnO support was prepared by calcining Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O at 800 °C for 4 h.



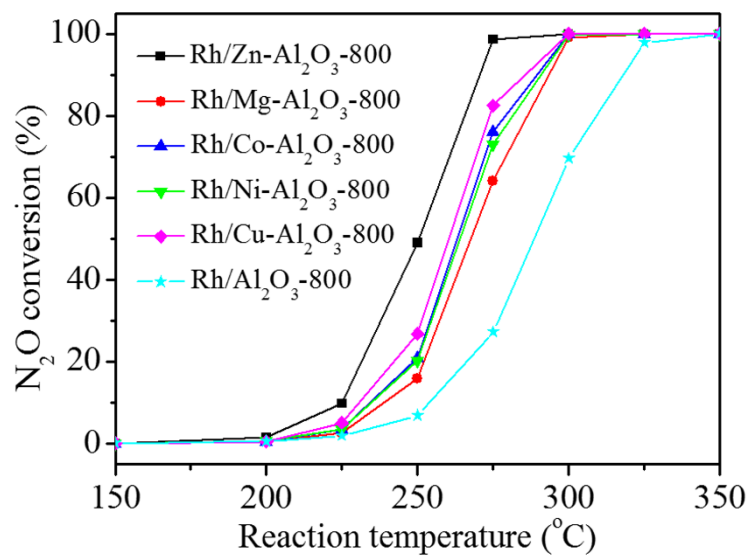
**Fig. S8.** Conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O on Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts prepared by using Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> supports calcined at different temperatures. The loading of Zn is 1 wt%.



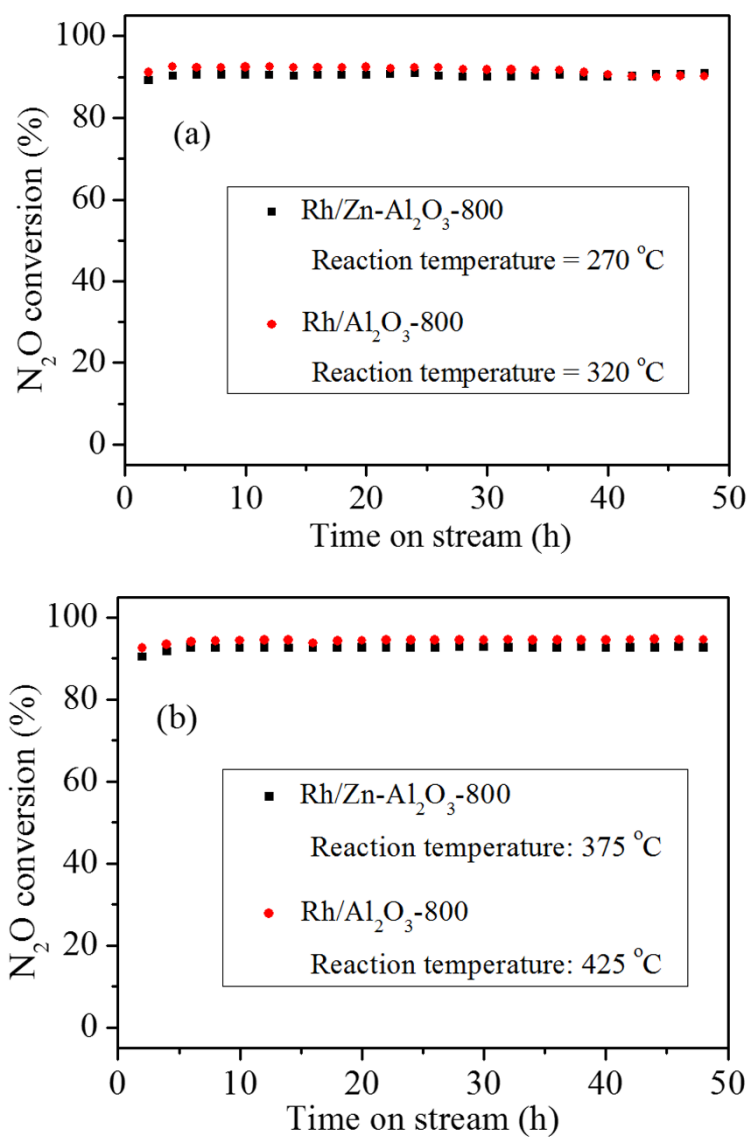
**Fig. S9.** Conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O on Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 catalysts with different Zn loadings.



**Fig. S10.** Conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O on Rh/1%Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 at different GHSVs.

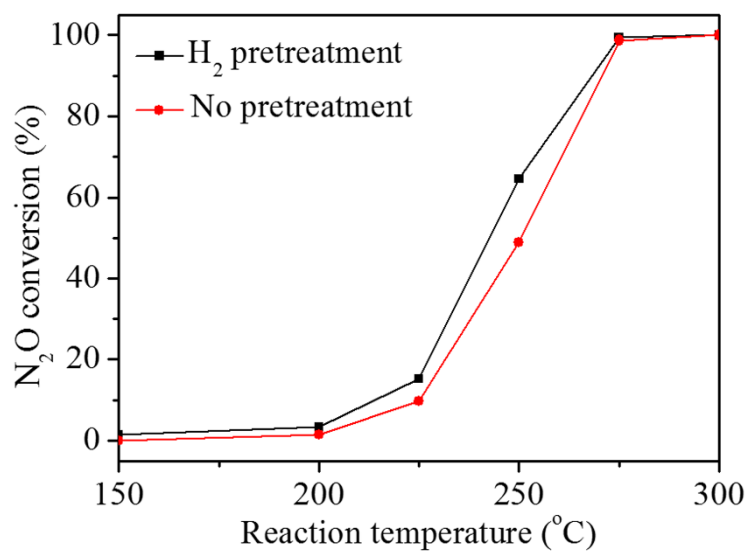


**Fig. S11.** Conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O on different Rh/M-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 catalysts as a function of reaction temperature.

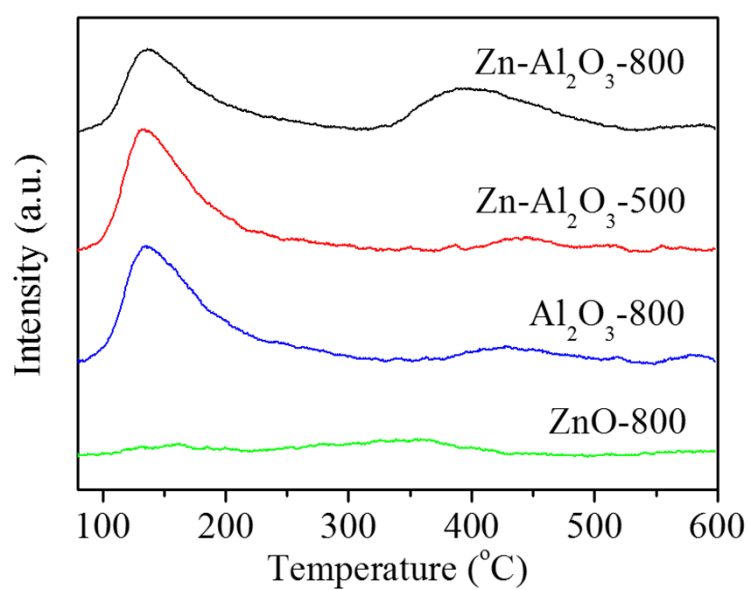


**Fig. S12.** Conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O on Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 and Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 as a function of reaction time in the flow of (a) 0.5% N<sub>2</sub>O/He and (b) 0.5% N<sub>2</sub>O + 2% H<sub>2</sub>O + 5% O<sub>2</sub>/He.





**Fig. S13.** Conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O on Rh/Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800 catalyst with and without H<sub>2</sub> pretreatment (400 °C for 2 h).



**Fig. S14.** CO<sub>2</sub>-TPD profiles of Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800, Zn-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-500, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-800, and ZnO-800.

**Table S1** Activities of some catalysts for N<sub>2</sub>O decomposition in reported literature

Catalyst	Mass of catalyst (g)	Active element content (wt%)	Flow rate (cm <sup>3</sup> min <sup>-1</sup> )	Gas composition	T <sub>50</sub> (°C)	T <sub>90</sub> (°C)	Reference
Rh/Zn-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -800	0.5	1.1	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	251	271	this work
Rh/Zn-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -800	0.5	1.1	60	0.5%N <sub>2</sub> O + 5%O <sub>2</sub> + 2%H <sub>2</sub> O	333	371	this work
Rh/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.5	1.0	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	289	318	this work
Rh/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.5	1.0	60	0.5%N <sub>2</sub> O + 5%O <sub>2</sub> + 2%H <sub>2</sub> O	388	421	this work
Rh/TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.5	1.0	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	310	340	[24]
Rh/SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.5	1.0	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	324	360	[24]
Rh/CeO <sub>2</sub>	0.5	1.0	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	223	250	[26]
Rh/HAP-PEG-200	0.5	0.97	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	223	245	[26]
Rh/HAP-PEG-200	0.5	0.97	60	0.5%N <sub>2</sub> O + 5%O <sub>2</sub> + 2%H <sub>2</sub> O	344	386	[26]
Rh/USY	0.05	2.0	50	0.095% N <sub>2</sub> O	237	258	[21]
Cu-ZSM-11	0.2	3.06	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	348	373	[46]
Fe-ZSM-11	0.2	3.90	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	435	465	[5]
Co-ZSM-11	0.2	3.59	60	0.5% N <sub>2</sub> O	387	435	[51]
Pd/CeO <sub>2</sub>	0.1	0.5	100	0.1% N <sub>2</sub> O	470	– <sup>a</sup>	[57]
Pt/CeO <sub>2</sub>	0.1	0.5	100	0.1% N <sub>2</sub> O	462	– <sup>a</sup>	[57]
Ir/CeO <sub>2</sub> -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.1	0.5	150	0.1% N <sub>2</sub> O	474	535	[58]

<sup>a</sup> Conversion did not reach 90% under the reaction condition.