## **Supporting Information**

## Heterogeneous Growth Mechanism of ZnO Nanostructures and their Morphology Effect on Optical and Photocatalytic Properties

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Figure S1 SEM images of ZnO flowers hydrothermally prepared in the presence of DEA at 190 °C for (a) and (b) 15 min, (c) 30 min, and (d) 45 min.

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Figure S2 SEM images of ZnO flowers hydrothermally prepared in the presence of gluconic acid at 190 °C for (a), 15 min and (b)30 min.



Fig. S3. The adsorption and degradation efficiency of 4-CP (1 mg L-1, 50 mL, pH = 6.5) versus the exposure time under sunlight irradiation in the presence of 30 mg of ZFG2, TiO<sub>2</sub>-P25, and ZFD2.