Supporting Information

Rational Design of Tripartite Layered TiO₂ Photoelectrode: A Candidate for Enhanced Power Conversion Efficiency in Dye Sensitized Solar Cells

Javid Khan,^{a, #} Jiuwang Gu,^{b, #} Shiman He,^a Xiaohui Li,^a Gulzar Ahmed,^c Zhongwu Liu,^c

Muhammad Nadeem Akhtar,^d Wenjie Mai^{b,*} and Mingmei Wu^{a,*}

^a MOE Key Laboratory of Bioinorganic and Synthetic Chemistry, Key Laboratory of Environment and Energy Chemistry of Guangdong Higher Education Institutes, School of Chemistry, Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University, Guangzhou 510275, P. R. China

^b Siyuan Laboratory, Guangzhou Key Laboratory of Vacuum Coating Technologies and New Energy Materials, Department of Physics, Jinan University, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510632, P. R. China

^c School of Material Science and Engineering, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510640, P. R. China.

^d School of Chemistry, Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University, Guangzhou 510275, P. R. China

[#] These authors contributed equally.

*Email: - <u>ceswmm@mail.sysu.edu.cn</u> (M.M. Wu) and <u>wenjiemai@email.jnu.edu.cn (W.J. Mai)</u>



Fig. S1. Powder XRD patterns of films based on hydrothermally synthesized TiO_2 nanostructures.



Fig. S2. Cross-sectional FE-SEM images (a, c, e, g, i) and their related J–V characteristics (b, d, f, h, j) of tri-layered (HTNPs + SHTMSs + HTMSs) DSSCs with different layer thicknesses: (a, b) $10 + 3 + 7 \mu m$; (c, d) $10 + 4 + 6 \mu m$; (e, f) $10 + 5 + 5 \mu m$; (a, b) $10 + 6 + 4 \mu m$; (a, b) $10 + 7 + 3 \mu m$, respectively.



Fig. S3. Cross-sectional SEM images of the tri-layered DSSCs while changing the sequence of the layers: (a) 10 μ m HTMSs + 6 μ m SHTMSs + 4 μ m HTNPs, (c) 10 μ m HTMSs + 6 μ m HTNPs + 4 μ m SHTMSs, (e) 10 μ m SHTMSs + 6 μ m HTNPs + 4 μ m HTMSs (g) 10 μ m SHTMSs + 6 μ m HTMSs + 6 μ m HTMSs + 6 μ m HTMSs (g) 10 μ m SHTMSs + 6 μ m HTMSs + 6 μ m HTMSS

Table S1. Simulated values of resistance R_1 and R_2 from the EIS spectra of concentrationdependent TiO2 hollow nanoparticles.

Sample	$R_1(\Omega)$	$\mathrm{R}_{2}\left(\Omega ight)$
Film 1	3.36	66.50
Film 2	3.75	118.2
Film 3	3.94	146.8
Film 4	4.70	196.3