## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

## Unsaturated metal sites-promoted approach to construct strongly coupled noble metal/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> nanosheets for efficiently thermo/photo-catalytic reduction

Lijuan Shen,<sup>ab</sup> Yuzhou Xia,<sup>a</sup> SenLin,<sup>a</sup> Shijing Liang<sup>\*ab</sup> and Ling Wu<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Photocatalysis on Energy and Environment, Fuzhou University, Fuzhou 350116 (P.R. China)

<sup>b</sup>National Engineering Research Center of Chemical Fertilizer Catalyst, Fuzhou University, Fuzhou 350002 (P.R. China)

\*Corresponding Author. Tel.: +86-591-22865835; E-mail: sjliang2011@gmail.com (S. L.); wuling@fzu.edu.cn (L. W.)



**Fig. S1** Digital photograph of the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> nanosheets dispersion under UV light irradiation. The obvious color change of the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> nanosheets dispersion indicates the generation of Nb<sup>4+</sup> metal sites on the surface of the nanosheets.



Fig. S2 XPS spectra for O 1s of the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS before and after light illumination.



Fig. S3 XRD pattern of bulk KNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.



Fig. S4 Additional SEM images of bulk HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.



Fig. S5 SEM images of bulk KNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.



**Fig. S6** Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX) analysis of HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS and hybrid Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS composite.



Fig. S7 XPS survey spectra of the as-synthesized Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS hybrid composite.



**Fig. S8** High-resolution XPS spectra for Pd 3d of the Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS and Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>-Bulk samples.



Fig. S9 Control experiments for catalytic hydrogenation of 4-nitroaniline (4-NA) over the Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS composite under room temperature: without the addition of HCOONH<sub>4</sub> (A); reaction without Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS (B); reaction with the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS (C), and the reaction with the addition of Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS and HCOONH<sub>4</sub> in inert atmosphere (D).



Fig. S10 High-resolution XPS spectra for Nb 3d (a) and O1s (b) of the blank  $HNb_3O_8$  NS and Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS samples.



Fig. S11 Typical TEM (a) and HRTEM image (b) of Pt/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS.



Fig. S12 Typical TEM (a) and HRTEM image (b) of Au/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS.