## **Electronic Supporting Information (ESI)**

## Comparative advantages of Zn-Cu-In-S alloy QDs in the construction of quantum dot-sensitized solar cells

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Fig. S1 *J-V* curves of five cells in parallel for ZCIS QDSCs synthesized with a molar ratio (Zn/Cu-In = 0).

**Table S1** Photovoltaic parameters of CIS QDSCs under the illumination of 1 full sun intensity (AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>).

$V_{oc}\left(\mathrm{V} ight)$	$J_{oc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF	PCE (%)
0.528	22.62	0.545	6.51
0.535	22.56	0.550	6.64
0.530	22.58	0.553	6.62
0.536	22.37	0.555	6.65
0.526	22.56	0.545	6.47



Fig. S2 *J-V* curves of five cells in parallel for ZCIS QDSCs synthesized with a molar ratio (Zn/Cu-In = 0.2).

**Table S2** Photovoltaic parameters of ZCIS QDSCs synthetized with a molar ratio (Zn/Cu-In = 0.2) under the illumination of 1 full sun intensity (AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>).

Zn amount	$V_{oc}\left(\mathbf{V}\right)$	$J_{oc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF	PCE (%)
0.2	0.572	23.55	0.582	7.84
	0.575	23.63	0.585	7.95
	0.576	22.87	0.583	7.68
	0.575	23.56	0.578	7.83
	0.578	23.61	0.579	7.90



Fig. S3 *J-V* curves of five cells in parallel for ZCIS QDSCs synthesized with a molar ratio (Zn/Cu-In = 0.4).

**Table S3** Photovoltaic parameters of ZCIS QDSCs synthetized with a molar ratio (Zn/Cu-In = 0.4) under the illumination of 1 full sun intensity (AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>).

Zn amount	$V_{oc}\left(\mathrm{V} ight)$	$J_{oc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF	PCE (%)
0.4	0.611	22.74	0.606	8.42
	0.610	22.72	0.608	8.43
	0.602	22.68	0.620	8.48
	0.612	22.75	0.605	8.43
	0.600	22.59	0.620	8.39



**Fig. S4** *J-V* curves of five cells in parallel for ZCIS QDSCs synthesized with a molar ratio (Zn/Cu-In = 0.6).

**Table S4** Photovoltaic parameters of ZCIS QDSCs synthetized with a molar ratio (Zn/Cu-In = 0.6) under the illumination of 1 full sun intensity (AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>).

Zn amount	$V_{oc}\left(\mathrm{V} ight)$	$J_{oc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF	PCE (%)
0.6	0.605	21.86	0.611	8.08
	0.604	21.93	0.595	7.88
	0.605	22.00	0.604	8.04
	0.606	21.98	0.602	8.02
	0.606	21.48	0.613	7.98



Fig. S5 Cross section SEM image of the TiO<sub>2</sub> photoanode film.



Fig. S6 UV-vis absorption spectra of CIS, CIS/ZnS and ZCIS QDs deposited on  $TiO_2$  mesoporous film.



**Fig. S7** *J-V* curves of five cells in parallel for individual CIS, CIS/ZnS and ZCIS QDSCs based on Cu<sub>2</sub>S counter electrodes.

Samples	$V_{oc}\left(\mathrm{V} ight)$	$J_{sc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF	PCE (%)
	0.566	15.30	0.526	4.56
	0.563	15.55	0.541	4.73
CIS	0.569	15.52	0.527	4.65
	0.565	15.41	0.531	4.62
	0.563	15.62	0.540	4.74
Average	$0.565\pm0.003$	$15.48\pm0.13$	$0.533\pm0.007$	$4.66\pm0.08$
	0.599	19.58	0.586	6.87
	0.603	19.72	0.589	7.00
CIS/ZnS	0.600	19.78	0.597	7.09
	0.602	19.83	0.596	7.12
	0.601	19.73	0.564	6.68
Average	$0.601\pm0.02$	$19.73\pm0.09$	$0.586\pm0.01$	$6.95\pm0.18$
	0.612	22.75	0.605	8.43
	0.614	22.41	0.615	8.47
ZCIS	0.611	22.75	0.606	8.42
	0.612	22.70	0.615	8.55
	0.616	22.50	0.611	8.48
Average	$0.613\pm0.002$	$22.62\pm0.14$	$0.610\pm0.005$	$8.47\pm0.05$

**Table S5** Individual and average photovoltaic parameters of CIS, CIS/ZnS and ZCIS based QDSCs under the illumination of 1 full sun intensity (AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>).



Fig. S8 Nyquist curves for CIS (a); CIS/ZnS (b) and ZCIS (c) based QDSCs at different forward bias.