# **Supporting information**

## Hollow-ZIFs-Templated Formation of ZnO@C-N-Co Core-Shell

## Nanostructure for Highly Efficient Pollutant Photodegradation

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### **Figure Captions**

**Figure S1.** XRD patterns of the sample obtained by pyrolyzing the hollow Zn/Co-ZIF at 550 °C (denoted as Zn/Co-ZIF-550) and at 700 °C (denoted as Zn/Co-ZIF-700).

**Figure S2.** (a) Low- and (b) high-resolution TEM images, STEM image (c) and EDS mappings (d-h) of the sample prepared by pyrolyzing the hollow Zn/Co-ZIF at 550 °C.

**Figure S3.** (a) Low- and (b) high-resolution TEM images of the hollow carbon-cobaltbased structure obtained at 700 °C.

Figure S4. (a) and (b) TEM images of the as-prepared ZnO@C-N-Co.

**Figure S5.** (a) SEM image, (b) and (c) TEM images of ZIF-67. (d) SEM image, (e) and (f) TEM images of ZIF-67-600.

**Figure S6.** (a) SEM image, (b) and (c) TEM images of ZIF-8. (d) SEM image, (e) and (f) TEM images of ZIF-8-600.

Figure S7. (a) SEM image, (b) and (c) TEM images of ZnO.

**Figure S8.** TG curves of the as-sythesized ZIF-67, ZIF-8, and hollow Zn/Co-ZIF. **Figure S9.** XPS survey spectrums of ZIF-67, ZIF-8, hollow Zn/Co-ZIF, and commercial pure ZnO.

Figure S10. A magnified TEM image of Figure 5b.

**Figure S11.** UV-vis absorption spectras of the photocatalytic degradation of MO in the presence of (a) ZnO@C-N-Co, (b) ZnO, (c) ZIF-8-600, and (d) ZIF-67-600, respectively. Inset of (a) shows the molecular structural formula of MO.

**Figure S12.** UV-vis absorption spectras of the photocatalytic degradation of MO in the absence of catalyst (a) and without light (b).

**Figure S13.** UV-Vis spectra of the adsorption of MO using the ZIF-8-600, ZnO@C-N-Co, ZIF-67-600, and pure ZnO as adsorbent.

#### **Captions for Tables**

Table S1. Physicochemical properties of ZnO@C-N-Co, ZIF-8-600 and ZIF-67-600.

**Table S2.** Experiment of degradation of MO.



**Figure S1.** XRD patterns of the samples obtained by pyrolyzing the hollow Zn/Co-ZIF at 550 °C (denoted as Zn/Co-ZIF-550) and at 700 °C (denoted as Zn/Co-ZIF-700).



**Figure S2.** (a) Low- and (b) high-resolution TEM images, STEM image (c) and EDS mappings (d-h) of Zn/Co-ZIF-550.



Figure S3. (a) Low- and (b) high-resolution TEM images of Zn/Co-ZIF-700.



Figure S4. (a) and (b) TEM images of the as-prepared ZnO@C-N-Co.



**Figure S5.** (a) SEM image, (b) and (c) TEM images of ZIF-67. (d) SEM image, (e) and (f) TEM images of ZIF-67-600.



**Figure S6.** (a) SEM image, (b) and (c) TEM images of ZIF-8. (d) SEM image, (e) and (f) TEM images of ZIF-8-600.



Figure S7. (a) SEM image, (b) and (c) TEM images of ZnO.



Figure S8. TG curves of the as-sythesized ZIF-67, ZIF-8, and hollow Zn/Co-ZIF.



**Figure S9.** XPS survey spectra of ZIF-67, ZIF-8, hollow Zn/Co-ZIF, and commercial pure ZnO.



Figure S10. A magnified TEM image of Figure 5b.



**Figure S11.** UV-vis absorption spectra of the photocatalytic degradation of MO in the presence of (a) ZnO@C-N-Co, (b) ZnO, (c) ZIF-8-600, and (d) ZIF-67-600, respectively. Inset of (a) shows the molecular structural formula of MO.



**Figure S12.** UV-vis absorption spectra of the photocatalytic degradation of MO in the absence of catalyst (a) or without light (b).



**Figure S13.** UV-vis spectra of MO aqueous solution before and after adding various samples to compare their adsorption capability.

Catalyst	Co loading <sup>a</sup> (wt %)	Zn loading <sup>a</sup> (wt %)	$S_{BET}^{b}$ (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1)</sup>	Pore volume <sup>c</sup> (m <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	Mesopore volume <sup>d</sup> (m <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	Mesopore size <sup>e</sup> (nm)
ZnO@C-N-Co	10.9	25.7	188	0.36	0.34	10.5
ZIF-8-600	/	29.4	728	0.43	0.04	13.8
ZIF-67-600	37.8	/	316	0.23	/	/

Table S1. Physicochemical properties of ZnO@C-N-Co, ZIF-8-600 and ZIF-67-600.

<sup>a)</sup>Measured by AAS. <sup>b)</sup>S<sub>BET</sub> is calculated by the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller equation. <sup>c)</sup> Total pore volume is determined by using the adsorption branch of the N<sub>2</sub> isotherm at P/P<sub>0</sub>=0.99. <sup>d)</sup> Msopore volume is obtained from the BJH cumulative specific absorption volume of pore 1.70-300.00 nm diameter. <sup>e)</sup>Mesopore diameter is determined from the local maximum of the BJH distribution of pore diameters obtained in the adsorption branch of the N<sub>2</sub> isotherms.

Itama	$C/C_0^a$							
Items	t=0 h	t=0.5 h	t=1.0 h	t=1.5 h	t=2.0 h	t=2.5 h		
ZIF-67-600	1.000	0.885	0.821	0.781	0.734	0.706		
ZIF-8-600	1.000	0.822	0.720	0.658	0.606	0.581		
ZnO	1.000	0.715	0.607	0.505	0.442	0.398		
ZnO@C-N-Co	1.000	0.369	0.148	0.070	0.025	0.005		
Under light without catalyst	1.000	0.996	0.984	0.974	0.960	0.958		
No ligtht with ZnO@C-N-Co catalyst	1.000	0.961	0.952	0.945	0.937	0.928		

 $^{a)}C$  and  $C_0$  are the initial concentration after the equilibrium adsorption and the reaction concentration of methyl orange, respectively.