## [Supporting Information]

## Synthesis and photoluminescence properties of the novel core-shell-shell SiO<sub>2</sub>@CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb@SiO<sub>2</sub>submicro-spheres

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Fig. S1 XRD pattern of SiO<sub>2</sub>@CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb@SiO<sub>2</sub>



Fig. S2 EDX spectrum of SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb.



Fig. S3 EDX spectrum of SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-Ce:Tb.



Fig. S4 IR spectra of (a) SiO<sub>2</sub>, (b) MABA-Si, (c) SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-Ce:Tb, (d) SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb, (e) SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb@SiO<sub>2</sub>, (f) SiO<sub>2</sub>@CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb@SiO<sub>2</sub>.



Fig. S5 TEM images of SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-CePO₄:Tb prepared with different amount of MABA-Si: (a,b) 2.0mmol, (c,d) 1.0mmol.



**Fig. S6** TEM images of SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb prepared with different amount of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, (a,b) 0.25 mmol, (c,d),0.20 mmol, (e,f) 0.15 mmol.



Fig. S7 Excitation spectra of (a) SiO<sub>2</sub>@MABA-Si-CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb, (b) SiO<sub>2</sub>@CePO<sub>4</sub>:Tb@SiO<sub>2</sub>.



Fig. S8 The photoluminescence decaycurve of  $SiO_2@CePO_4$ :Tb@SiO<sub>2</sub>.