# Insights into inorganic buffer layer-assisted *in situ* fabrication of MOF films with controlled microstructures

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## **Supporting Information**



## SI-1 EDXS pattern of prepared Co-Al-CO<sub>3</sub> HTlc buffer layer

**Fig. S1** EDXS pattern of prepared Co-Al-CO<sub>3</sub> HTlc buffer layer. a) The SEM image; element mappings of b) Co and c) Al; d) elemental composition analysis.

### SI-2 EDXS analysis of prepared Co-Al HTlc powders



**Fig. S2** EDXS pattern of collected Co-Al-CO<sub>3</sub> HTlc powder samples. a) The SEM image; element mappings of b) Co and c) Al; d) elemental composition analysis.

## SI-3 XRD pattern of collected Co-Al HTlc powders



**Fig. S3** XRD pattern of collected Co-Al HTlc powders. Synthetic conditions were identical to those of Co-Al HTlc buffer layers.

## SI-4 FT-IR spectra of Co-Al HTlc powders



Fig. S4 The FT-IR pattern of collected Co-Al HTlc powders.

## SI-5 Characterization of ZIF-7 nanocrystals synthesized with ZnI<sub>2</sub> as the zinc source



Fig. S5 The a) SEM image and b) XRD pattern of ZIF-7 nanocrystals synthesized with  $ZnI_2$  as the zinc source.

#### SI-6 Characterization of ZIF-7 films synthesized with different zinc sources



Fig. S6 XRD patterns of ZIF-7 films prepared with a) ZnCl<sub>2</sub>, b) ZnBr<sub>2</sub> and c) ZnI<sub>2</sub> as zinc sources.

#### SI-7 Characterization of collected Mg-Al HTlc powders



Fig. S7 a) SEM, b) XRD and c) EDXS pattern of collected Mg-Al-CO<sub>3</sub> HTlc powder samples.

SI-8 HKUST films in situ synthesized on Zn-Al HTlc-modified  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> substrates



Fig. S8 SEM images of HKUST-1 films grown on a) bare and b) Zn-Al HTlc-modified porous  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> substrates.