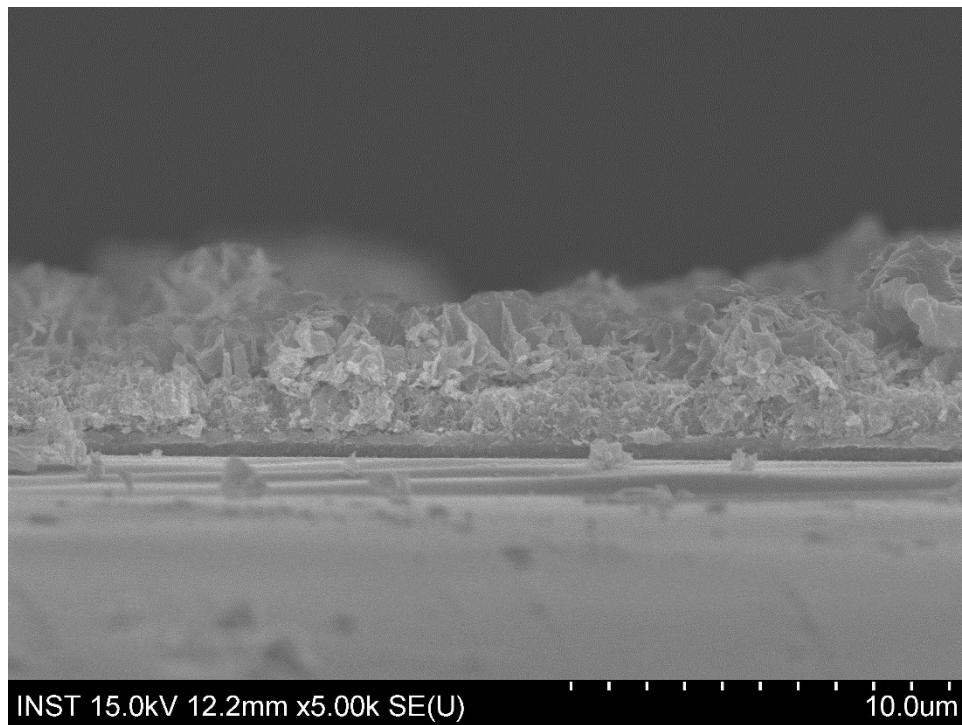


**Electronic Supplementary Information (EIS)**

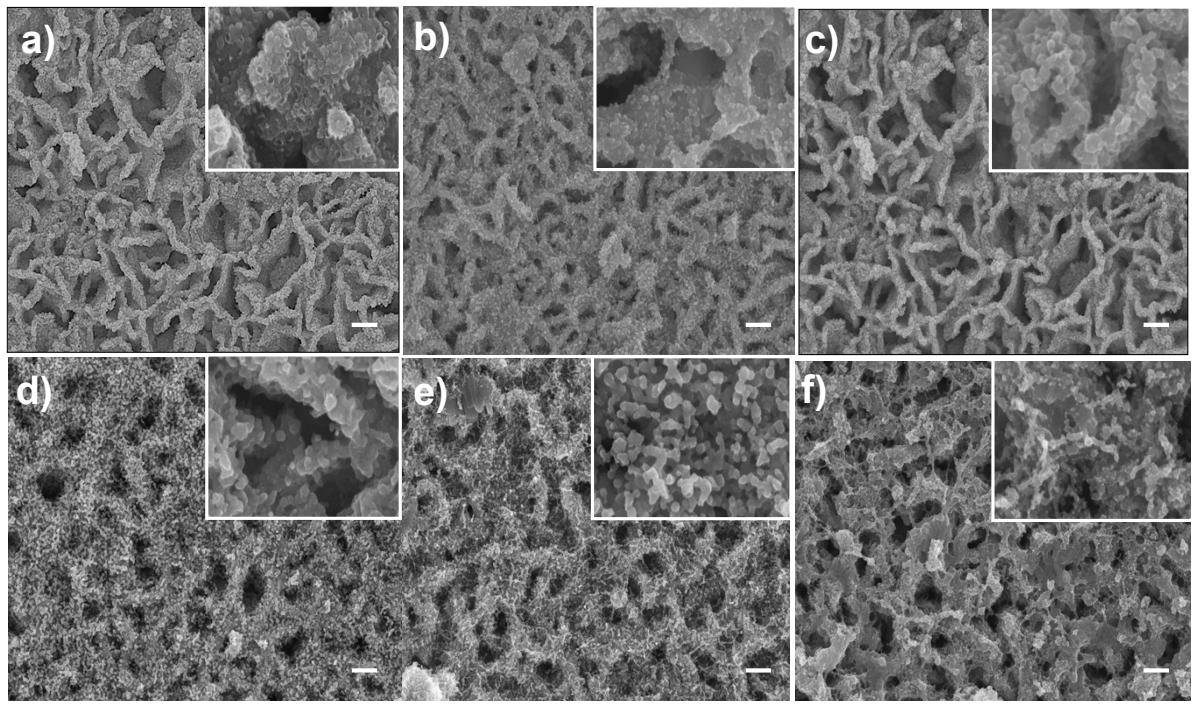
**High Current Density Cation-exchanged  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/ZnSe}$  and  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/SnSe}$  Quantum-dot Photoelectrochemical Cells**

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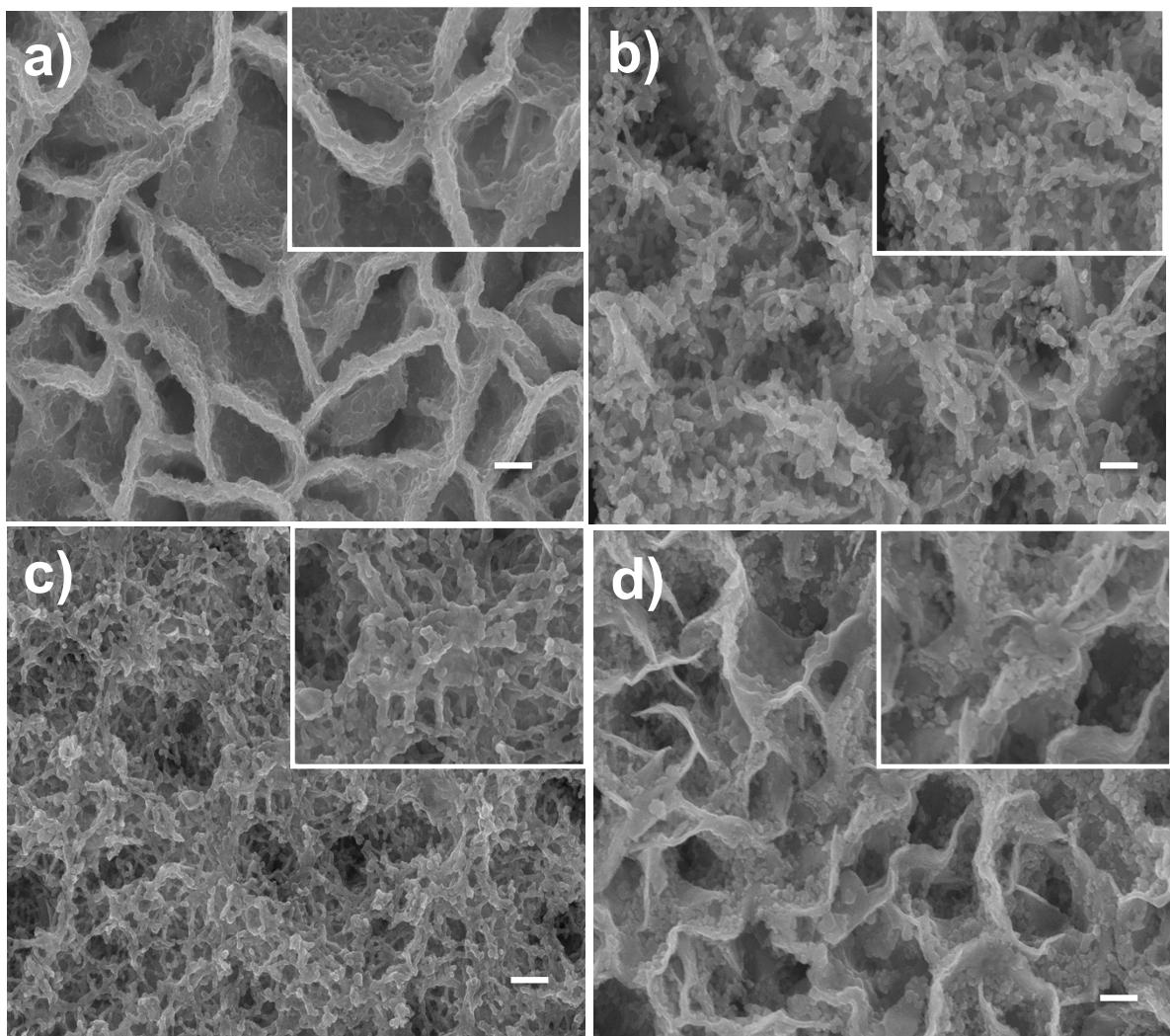
<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Bld#5, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, <sup>b</sup>School of Physical Sciences, SRTM University, Nanded, India, <sup>c</sup>King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology Riyadh Saudi Arabia.



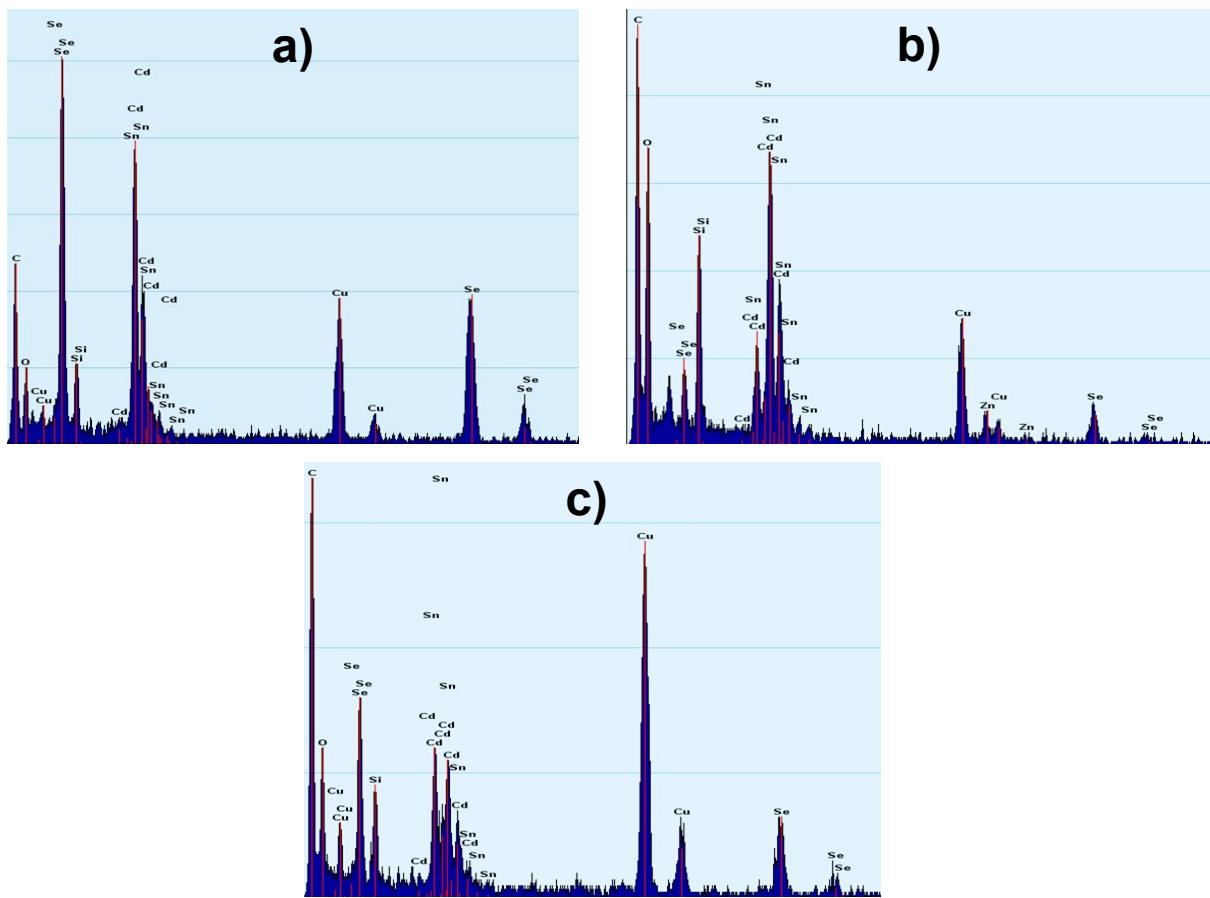
**Fig. S1** FE-SEM plane-view cross-section images of  $\text{SnO}_2$ .



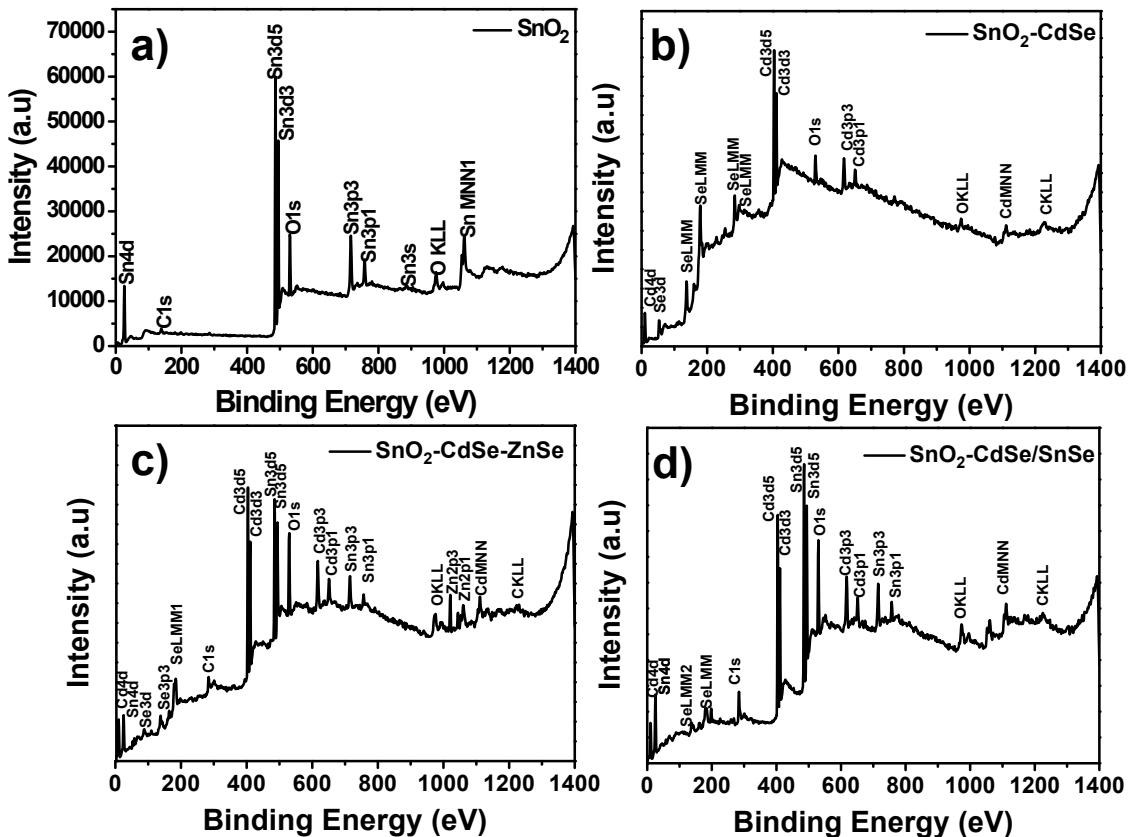
**Fig. S2** FE-SEM plane-view images of a) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (10 min), b) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (30 min), c) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (60min), d) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (90 min), e) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (120 min), f) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (150min), (scale bar= 1  $\mu$ m). Inset shown high resolution 300 nm FE-SEM photo image.



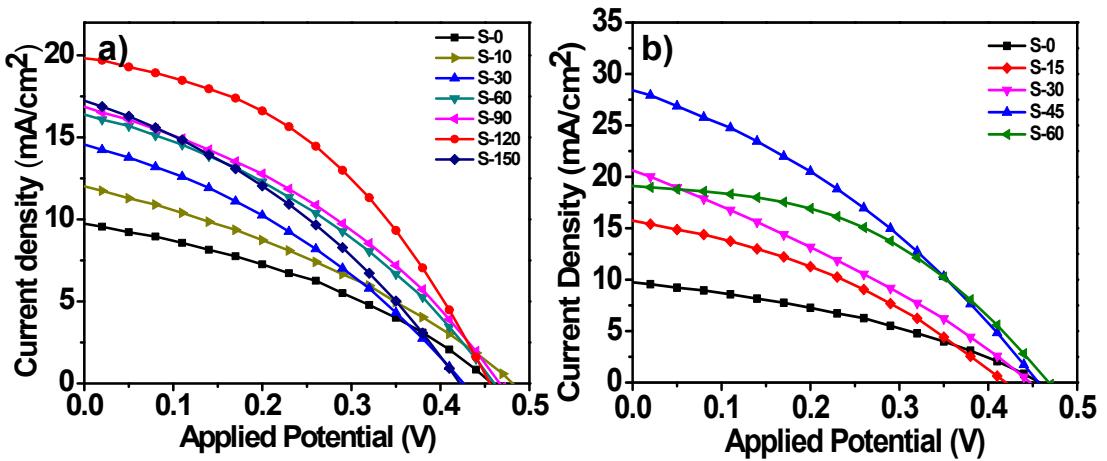
**Fig. S3** FE-SEM plane-view images of a)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/SnSe}$  (15 min), b)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/SnSe}$  (30 min), c)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/SnSe}$  (45min),and d)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/SnSe}$  (60 min), (scale bar= 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Inset shown high resolution 300 nm FE-SEM photo image.



**Fig. S4** EDX analysis of HR-Tem image of a) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe, b) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe, and c) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/SnSe on copper grid substrate.



**Fig. S5** Binding energy survey spectra of a)  $\text{SnO}_2$ , b)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe}$ , c)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/ZnSe}$ , and d)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/SnSe}$  photoanode.



**Fig. S6** JV curve data collected in the reverse (0.4-0V) scan direction at various ion-exchange interface modification time a)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/ZnSe}$  (10-150 min), and b)  $\text{SnO}_2\text{-CdSe/SnSe}$  (15-60 min) photoanode.

**Table S1** Summary of photovoltaic performances of the SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (10-150 min), and b) SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/SnSe (15-60 min) devices fabricated at various ion-exchange interface modification time periods.

Photoanode	<i>J<sub>sc</sub></i> (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	<i>V<sub>oc</sub></i> (V)	<i>ff</i> (%)	PCE (%)
SnO <sub>2</sub>	<b>9.74</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>1.63</b>
<b>SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (10min)</b>	<b>12.02</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>1.94</b>
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/ZnSe (30min)	14.57	0.43	0.35	2.13
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/ZnSe (60min)	16.46	0.46	0.35	2.67
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/ZnSe (90min)	16.87	0.47	0.36	2.84
<b>SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/ZnSe (120min)</b>	<b>19.82</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>3.78</b>
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/ZnSe (150min)	17.24	0.42	0.35	2.52
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/SnSe (15min)	15.74	0.42	0.35	2.37
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/SnSe (30min)	20.62	0.47	0.40	3.20
<b>SnO<sub>2</sub>-CdSe/SnSe (45min)</b>	<b>28.40</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>4.41</b>
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/SnSe (60min)	19.11	0.47	0.45	3.99

**Table S2** EIS analysis and various parameters calculated from EIS measurements.

Photoanodes	R <sub>ct</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe	2.52	21.9	110.1
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/ZnSe	1.62	19.1	81.3
SnO <sub>2</sub> -CdSe/SnSe	1.58	16.0	68.2