

**Electronic Supplementary material (ESI)**

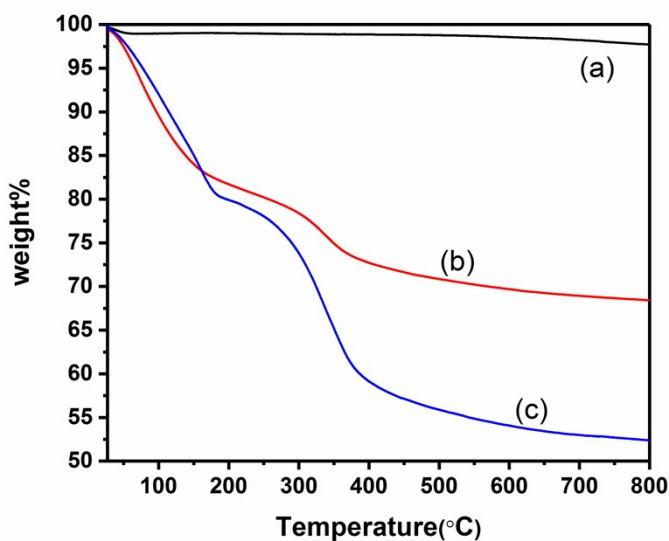
**Bifunctional acid-base mesoporous silica@aqueous miscible  
organic-layered double hydroxides**

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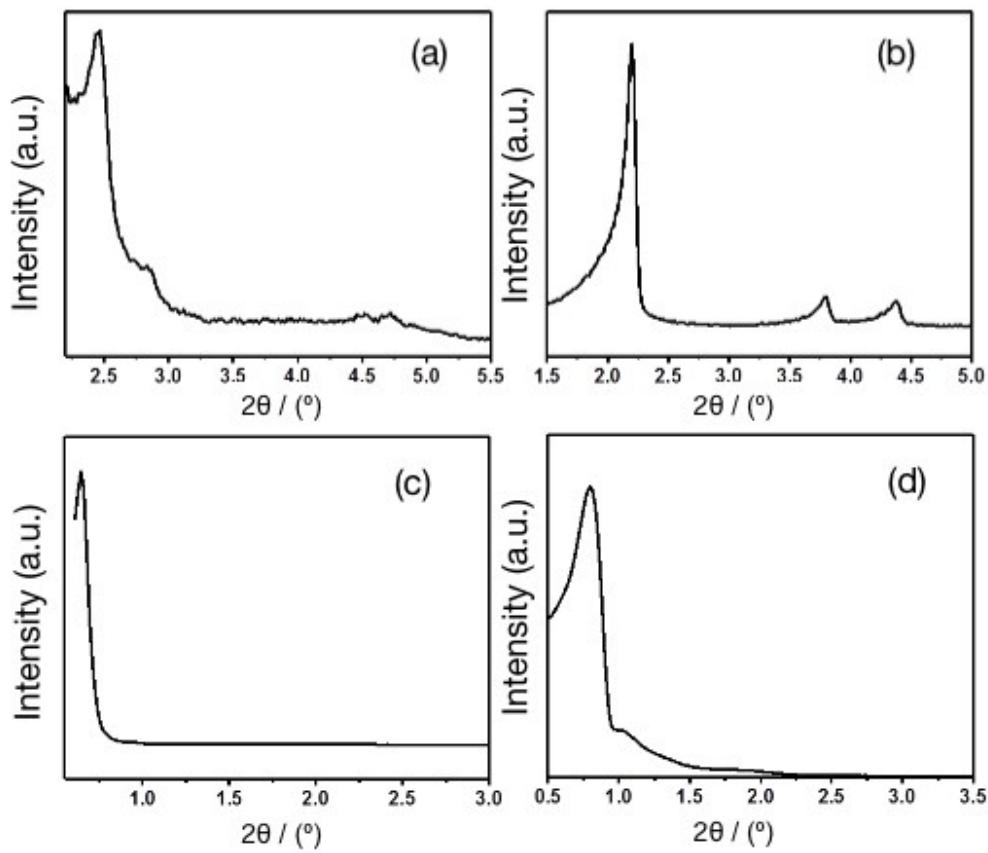
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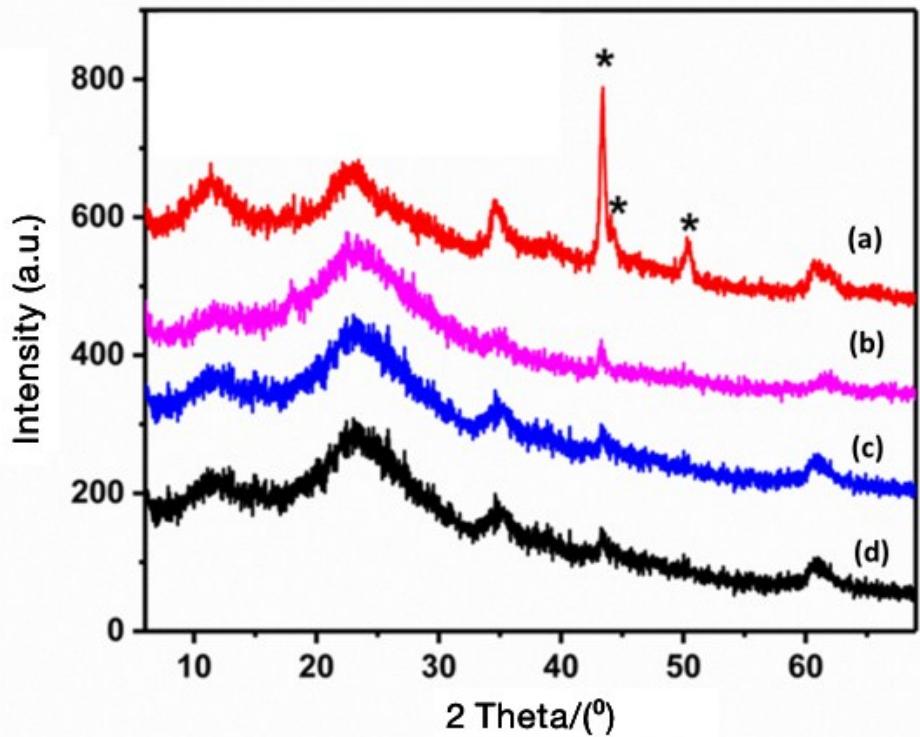
E-mail: Dermot.ohare@chem.ox.ac.uk



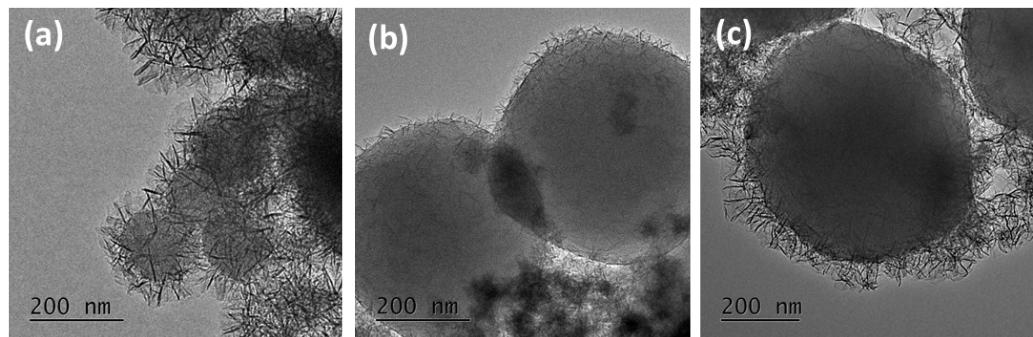
**Fig. S1.** TGA of (a) MCM-41, (b) MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH and (c) AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH (in the range of 30–800 °C).



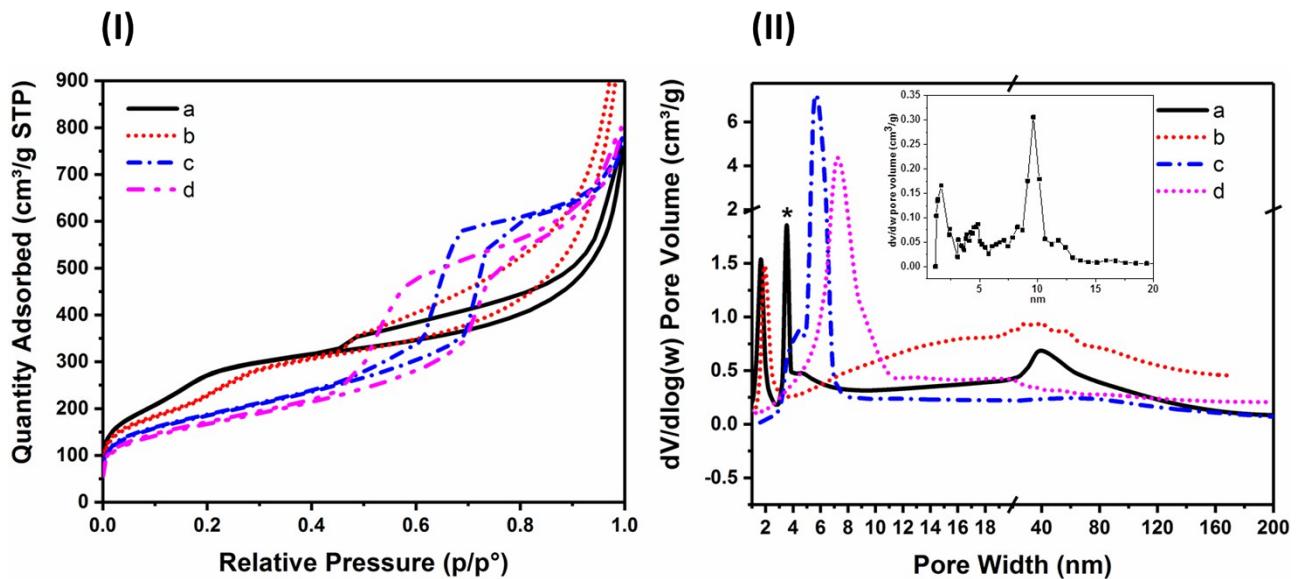
**Fig. S2.** Low angle XRD patterns for different MSN nanoparticles as the core materials: (a) MCM-48@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH, (b) MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH, (c) SBA-15@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH and (d) P-SBA-15@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH.



**Fig. S3.** High angle XRD patterns for different MSN nanoparticles as the core materials: (a) MCM-48@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH, (b) MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH, (c) SBA-15@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH and (d) P-SBA-15@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH (\* is the signal of sample holder).



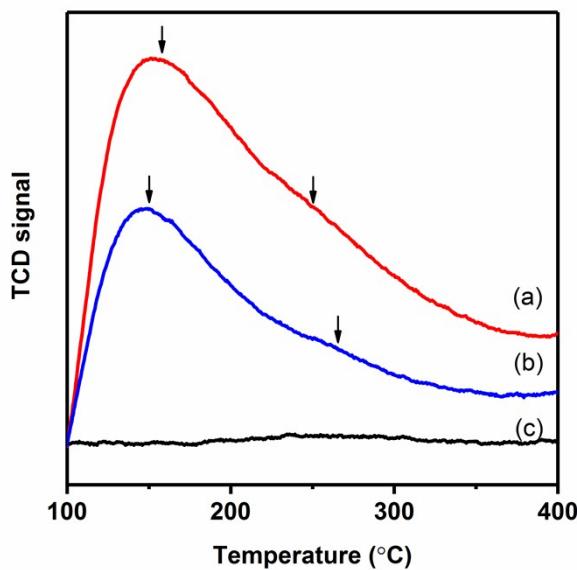
**Fig. S4.** TEM image of MSN@AMO-MgAl-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH with different diameter core and different Mg/Al (a) 150 nm-MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH (70% AMO-LDH), (b) 600 nm-MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH (54% AMO-LDH) and (c) 600 nm-MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH (63% AMO-LDH). The weight percentage of AMO-LDH was calculated from TGA data.



**Fig. S5.** (I) N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherm and (II) BJH pore size distribution of MSN@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH by using different MSN nanoparticles as the core materials: (a) MCM-48@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH, (b) MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH, (c) SBA-15@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH and (d) P-SBA-15@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH. The insert picture is the pore size distributions of SBA-15-PVA@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-LDH obtained by NLDFT method and the \* is the tensile strength effect.

**Table S1.** Silicon environment in MCM-41 and MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH determined by <sup>29</sup>Si solid state NMR spectroscopy.

MCM-41	$\delta$ (ppm)	Assignment	Percentage (%)
1	-101	Q3 (SiO)3SiOH	68
2	-110	Q4 (SiO)4Si	32
MCM41@AMO-Mg <sub>3</sub> Al-CO <sub>3</sub> -LDH	$\delta$ (ppm)	Assignment	Percentage (%)
1	-77.5	Q2 (SiO)2Si(OH)2,	11.8
2	-85	Q3(SiO)2(AlO)SiOH,	6.2
3	-91	Q4Si(3Al), Q4Si(2Al), Q4Si(1Al)	6.5
4	-100	Q3 (SiO)3SiOH	32
5	-108	Q4 (SiO)4Si	23
6	-113.8	Cristobalite	18.5
7	-117.8	Cristobalite	1.3



**Fig S6.** NH<sub>3</sub> TPD of (a) MCM-41, (b) MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH and (c) CO<sub>2</sub> TPD of MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH (in the range of 100 – 400 °C).

**Table S2.** Acidity / basicity quantitative evaluation of MCM-41, AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH and composite MCM-41@AMO-Mg<sub>3</sub>Al-CO<sub>3</sub>-LDH by CO<sub>2</sub>/NH<sub>3</sub>-Temperature programmed desorption (TPD) measurement.

Acidity	Acid site	Amount (mmol/g)
MCM-41	weak	0.0184
AMO-Mg <sub>3</sub> Al-CO <sub>3</sub> -LDH (Mg/Al=3:1)	-	0.00 (after calibration)
MCM-41@AMO-Mg <sub>3</sub> Al-CO <sub>3</sub> -LDH	weak+moderate	0.3380 (after calibration)
Alkalinity	Basic site	Amount (mmol/g)
MCM-41	-	0.006(after calibration)
AMO-Mg <sub>3</sub> Al-CO <sub>3</sub> -LDH (Mg/Al=3:1)	weak+moderate	0.4993 (after calibration)
MCM-41@AMO-Mg <sub>3</sub> Al-CO <sub>3</sub> -LDH	weak+moderate	0.2875 (after calibration)