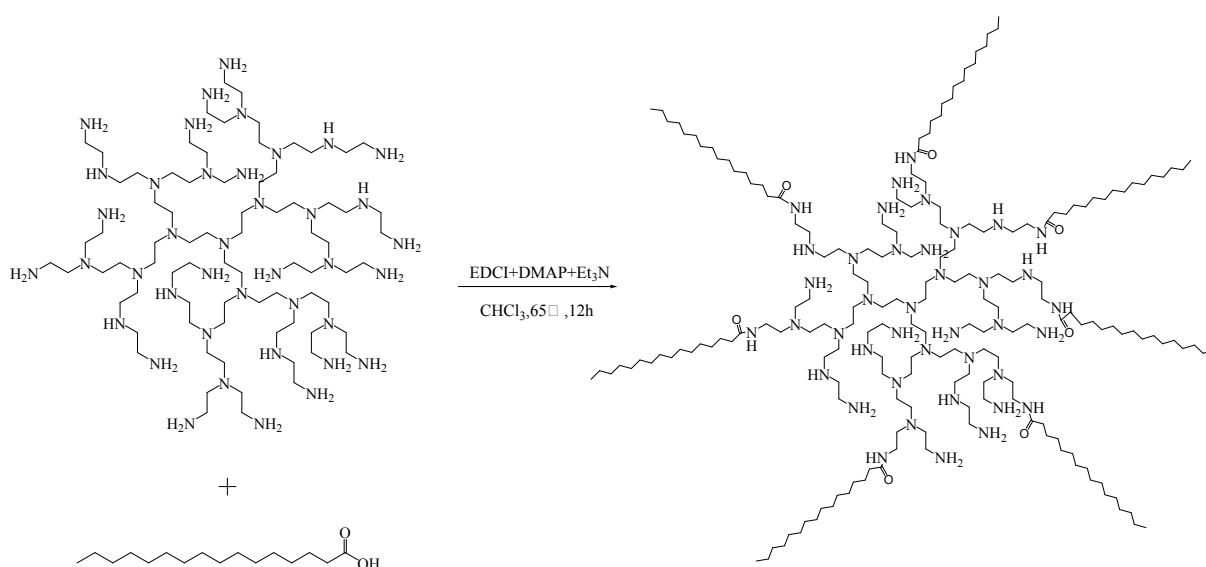


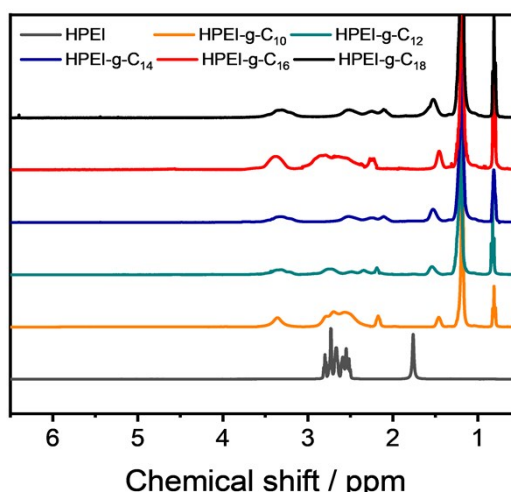
## Supporting Information

### Amphiphilic Hyperbranched Polyethyleneimine for Highly Efficient Oil-Water Separation

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**Scheme S1** Hyperbranched polyethyleneimine (HPEI) with palmitic acid to synthesize functional HPEI-g-C<sub>16</sub>.



**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of HPEI and HPEI-g-C<sub>n</sub>.

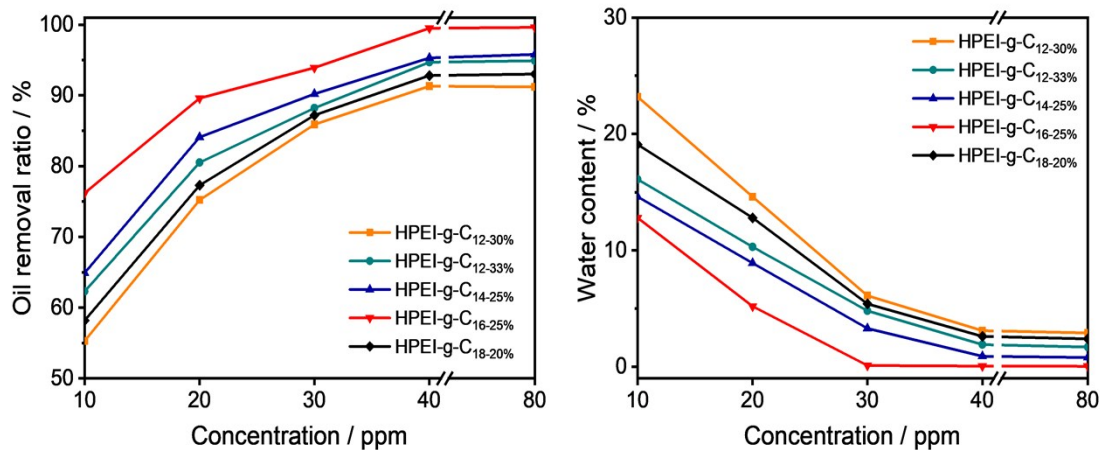


Fig. S2 Demulsification effect of HPEI-g-C<sub>n</sub> demulsifiers on emulsion containing 10 % oil after setting for 40 min at 60 °C.

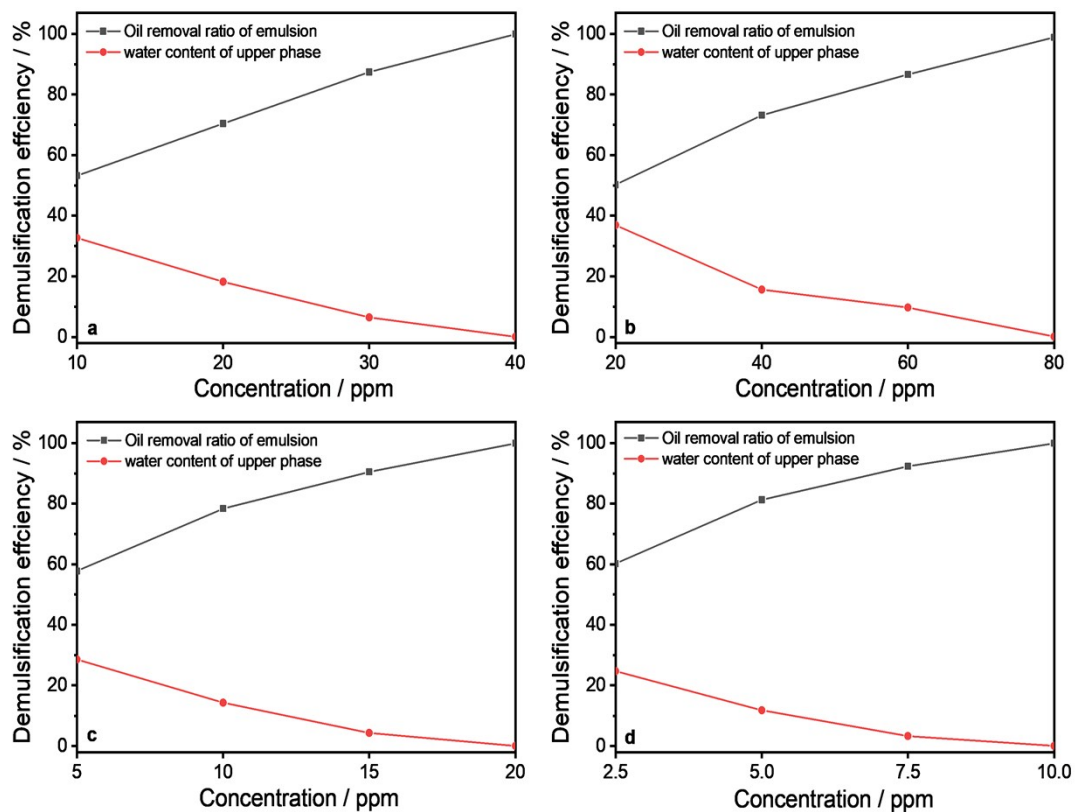
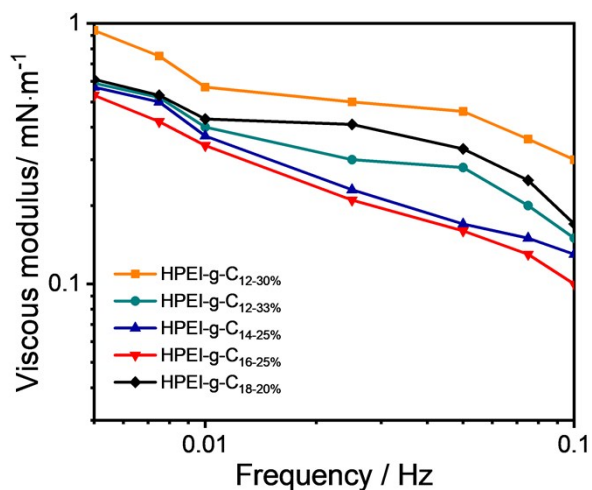


Fig. S3 Demulsification effect of HPEI-g-C<sub>16-25%</sub> demulsifier on (a) crude oil emulsions with 50.2 % water after setting for 30 min, (b) WACO emulsions after setting for 40 min, (c) toluene/ water emulsions with 0.2 % asphaltene after setting for 3min and (d) simulative emulsions with 0.1 % commercial oil after setting for 5 min.



**Fig. S4** Effect of the oscillating frequency on viscous modulus of oil-water interface containing Span 80 and Tween 80 with 40 ppm HPEI-g- $C_n$  demulsifiers.

**Table S1** Characterization of synthesized HPEI and HPEI-g- $C_n$  samples.

Polymer	DS / % <sup>a</sup>	$T_m$ / °C <sup>b</sup>	$\Delta H_m$ / J·g <sup>-1</sup> <sup>c</sup>	Size / nm <sup>d</sup>
HPEI	—	—	—	5.92
HPEI-g- $C_{10-25\%}$	25.2	13.9	11.6	6.12
HPEI-g- $C_{12-25\%}$	25.4	19.8	15.4	6.31
HPEI-g- $C_{12-30\%}$	29.7	21.2	16.9	6.43
HPEI-g- $C_{12-33\%}$	32.6	24.9	17.2	6.57
HPEI-g- $C_{14-25\%}$	25.2	26.7	18.6	6.82
HPEI-g- $C_{16-5\%}$	5.4	31.7	13.2	6.55
HPEI-g- $C_{16-10\%}$	9.8	32.5	17.2	6.77
HPEI-g- $C_{16-15\%}$	15.3	33.5	21.7	6.93
HPEI-g- $C_{16-20\%}$	19.6	34.2	23.6	7.13
HPEI-g- $C_{16-25\%}$	24.7	36.8	25.7	7.21
HPEI-g- $C_{16-30\%}$	29.6	37.9	27.9	7.38
HPEI-g- $C_{16-33\%}$	33.4	39.7	34.8	7.59
HPEI-g- $C_{18-20\%}$	20.5	63.7	43.6	8.29
HPEI-g- $C_{18-25\%}$	25.2	64.3	46.3	8.73

<sup>a</sup> DS is the grafting ratio of alkyl chain determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR; <sup>b</sup>  $T_m$  and <sup>c</sup>  $\Delta H_m$  are conducted by DSC;

<sup>d</sup> Size is measured by DLS, Z-average size.

**Table S2** Characteristics of produced emulsions from two China oilfields

Parameter	value	Parameter	value
Jiangsu Oilfield			
Oil content	9.7 %	Salinity	5435.5 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
pH	9.2	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	8.6 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Density at 293 K	0.8817 g cm <sup>-3</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	36.4 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Viscosity at 329 K	58.3 mPa s	K <sup>+</sup> + Na <sup>+</sup>	2073.6 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Asphaltene	1.2 %	Cl <sup>-</sup>	1822.3 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Resin	14.83 %	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1725.5 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Liaohe Oilfield			
Oil content	13.4 %	Salinity	8608.2 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
pH	8.7	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	2.5 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Density at 293 K	0.9864 g cm <sup>-3</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	19.3 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Viscosity at 329 K	321 mPa s	K <sup>+</sup> + Na <sup>+</sup>	3621.2 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Asphaltene	3.2 %	Cl <sup>-</sup>	5520.7 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Resin	35.83 %	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1061.2 mg L <sup>-1</sup>