

ELECTRONIC SUPPORTING INFORMATION (ESI) FOR:

## Fluorescent sensor for selective detection of cyanide using mesoporous graphitic carbon(IV) nitride

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### Experimental

#### 10 *Synthesis of 3D cubic mesoporous silica, KIT-6*

P123 (6 g) was dissolved in 0.5 M HCl aqueous solution (228 g). And then, 1-butnaol (6 g) was added and stirred for 1 hr at 35 °C. TEOS (tetraethyl orthosilicate; 12.9 g) was added and stirred for 1 day. The mixture was heated for 1 day at 130 °C and the resulting white precipitate was calcined for 4 hr at 550 °C in air.

#### 15 *Synthesis of 3D cubic mesoporous g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>*

Silica template (1 g) was impregnated in 7 mM cyanamide aqueous solution, and the mixture was stirred for 1 hr. Subsequently, the mixture was centrifuged, dried, and calcined under nitrogen for 4 hr at 550 °C.

#### *Synthesis of Cu<sup>2+</sup>-c-mpg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>*

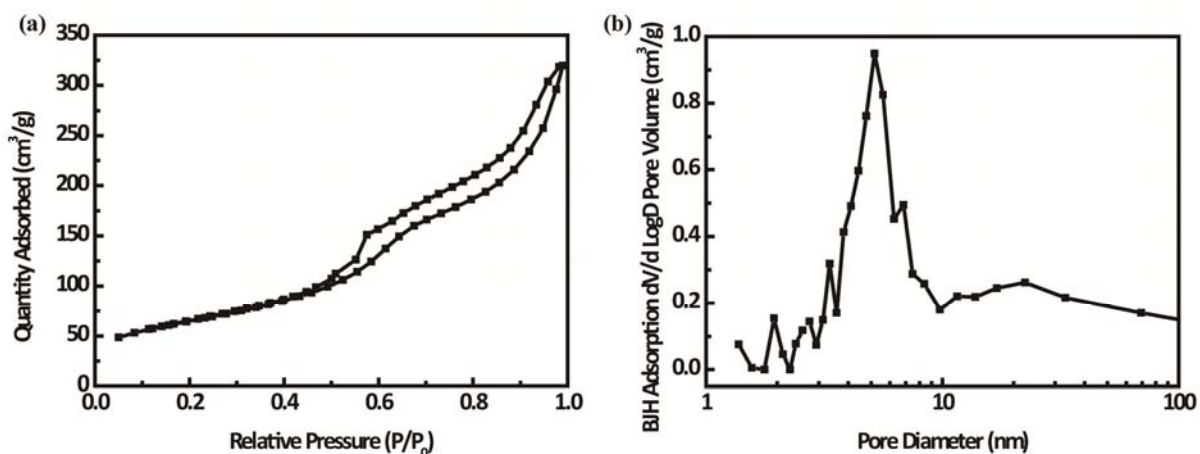
20 1 mM Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (10 ml) in 10 mM tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4) was mixed with c-mpg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (10 mg). The mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature and then centrifuged for 10 min at 4000 rpm. After removal of supernatant, Cu<sup>2+</sup>-c-mpg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> was rinsed with 10 mM tris-HCl buffer to remove excessive Cu<sup>2+</sup>.

#### *Characterization of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>*

25 TEM image was taken with JEOL FB-2100F (HR) at acceleration voltage of 200 kV. Characterization by XRD was carried out in reflection mode (CuK $\alpha$  radiation) on a Rigaku D/MAX-2500 diffractometer. Elemental analysis was conducted three times on different batches of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>s using a Vario EL 3 elemental analyzer manufactured by Elementar. The standard deviation of the atomic weight percentage was lower than 0.36% for carbon, 0.7% for nitrogen, and 0.08% for hydrogen. The adsorption/desorption isotherms of nitrogen at -196 °C  
30 were measured using a Micromeritics ASAP 2020. The Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) equation was used to calculate the apparent surface area from adsorption data obtained at P/P<sub>0</sub> between 0.05 and 0.2. The total volume of the micro- and mesopores was calculated from the amount of nitrogen adsorbed at P/P<sub>0</sub>=0.99, assuming that adsorption on the external surface was negligible relative to adsorption in the pores. The pore size distribution was evaluated by BJH method using the adsorption branch.

#### 35 *Measuring photoluminescence of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>*

CN<sup>-</sup> solution (10 ml) in 10 mM tri-HCl buffer at pH 7.4 with various concentrations was added to Cu<sup>2+</sup>-c-mpg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (10 mg) in a glass vial. The mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature. And then, the suspension (0.2 ml) was sampled and PL spectrum was measured. All PL spectra were obtained by microplate spectropho-  
40 tometer (Gemini EM-Molecular Devices, USA). Fluorescence images were recorded using confocal microscopy (LSM 5 PASCAL, Carl Zeiss, USA).



**Fig. S1** Nitrogen sorption isotherm and pore size distribution calculated from the adsorption branch by BJH method.

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**Table S1** Textural properties of c-mpg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.

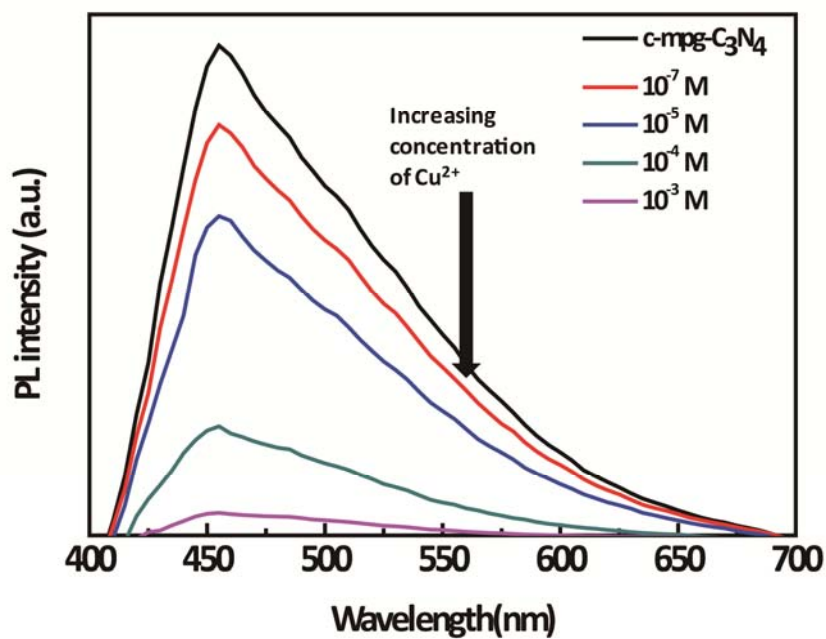
Material	Surface area $S_{bet}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Pore volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /g)	Pore size <sup>[a]</sup> (nm)	$a$ <sup>[b]</sup> [nm]	Wall thickness <sup>[c]</sup> (nm)
c-mpg-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	234	0.5	5.2	22.6	8.6

[a] Pore size is calculated from the adsorption branch of nitrogen sorption isotherm by the BJH method.

[b] XRD unit cell parameter,  $a$ , is calculated from the equation;  $a=6^{1/2}d_{211}$ .

[c] Wall thickness is estimated from TEM images.

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**Fig. S2** PL spectra of c-mpg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> with increasing concentration of Cu<sup>2+</sup> from 10<sup>-7</sup> to 10<sup>-3</sup> M.

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**Table S 2** PL response ( $I/I_0$ ) of Cu<sup>2+</sup>-c-mpg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> by adding various concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> in buffer solution and in serum, respectively.

Concentration of CN <sup>-</sup>	10 <sup>-6</sup> M	10 <sup>-5</sup> M	10 <sup>-4</sup> M	10 <sup>-3</sup> M
In buffer	6.542	9.645	13.037	17.569
In serum	5.983	9.328	12.968	17.193