

## Supporting Information

### Highly efficient utilization of light and charge separation over hematite photoanode achieved through noncontact photonic crystal film for photoelectrochemical water splitting

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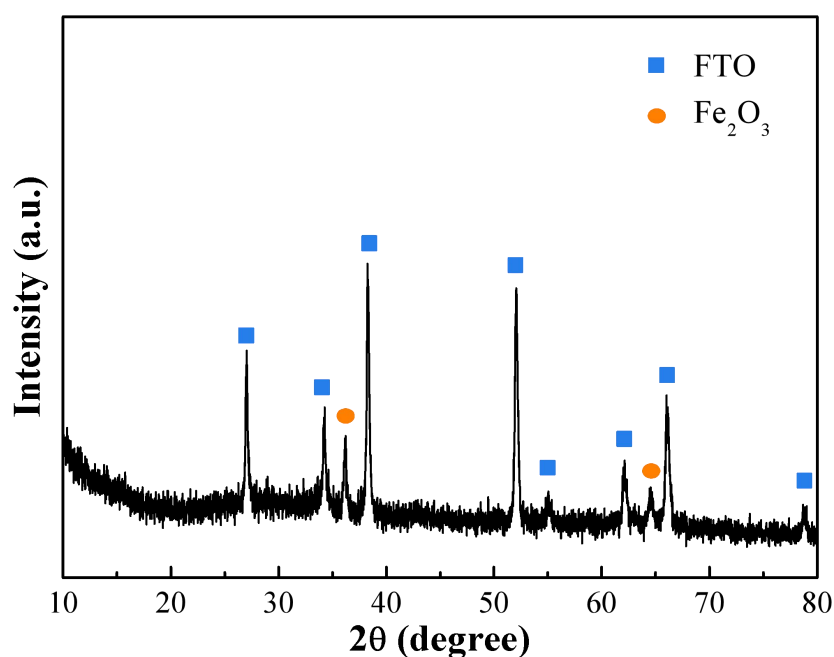
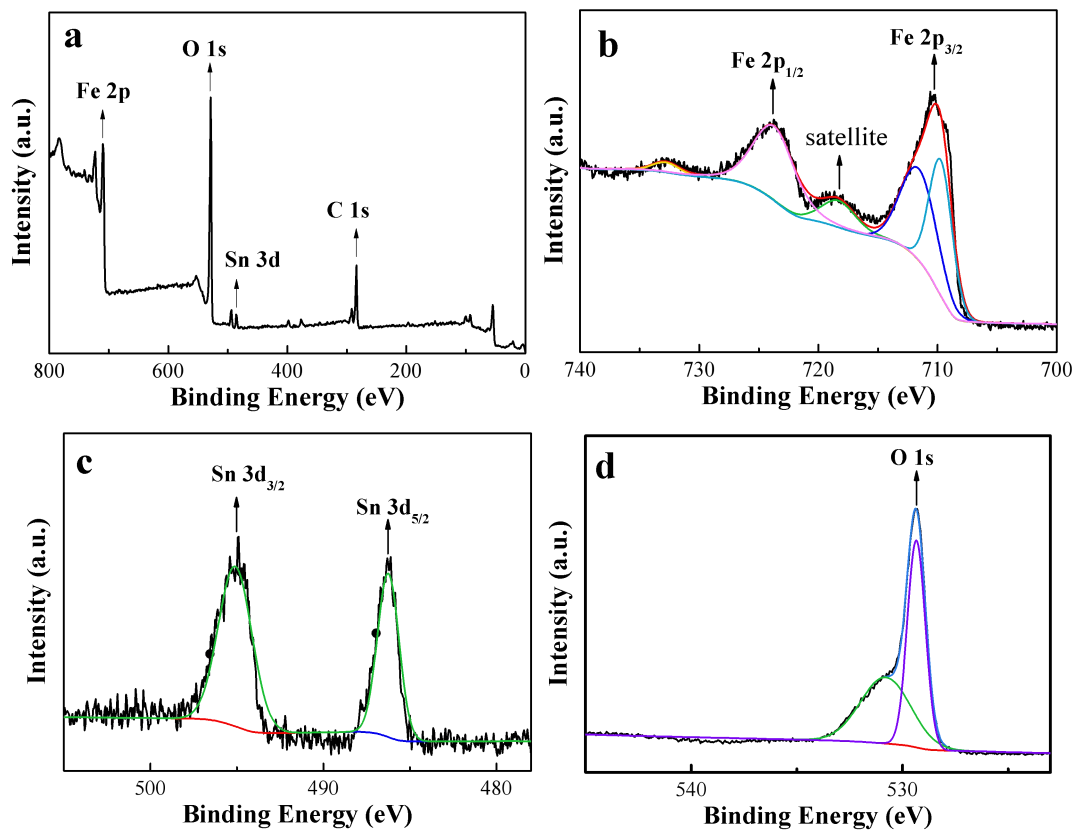
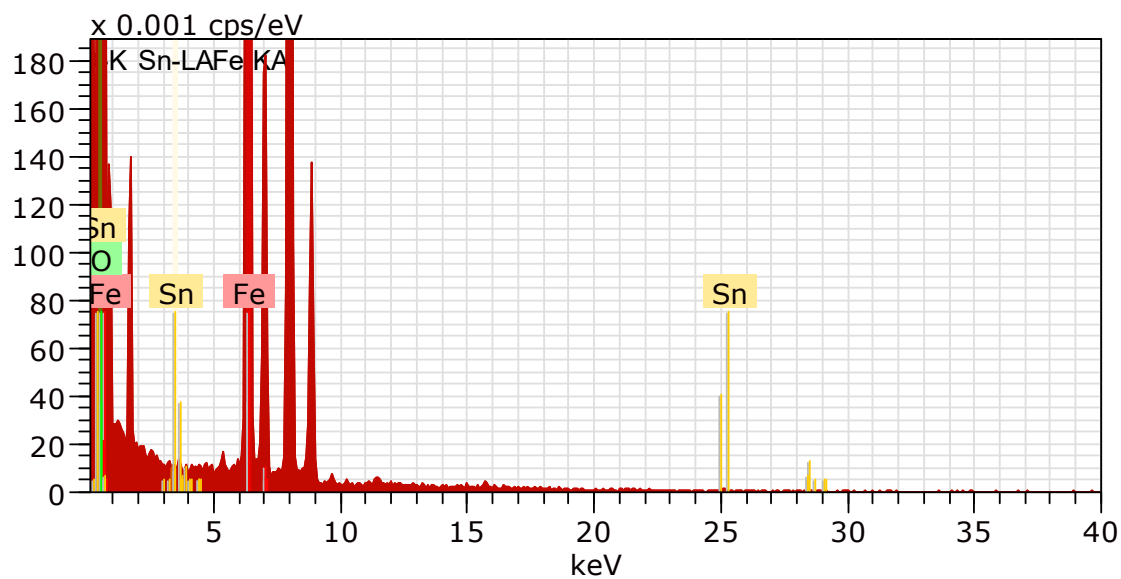


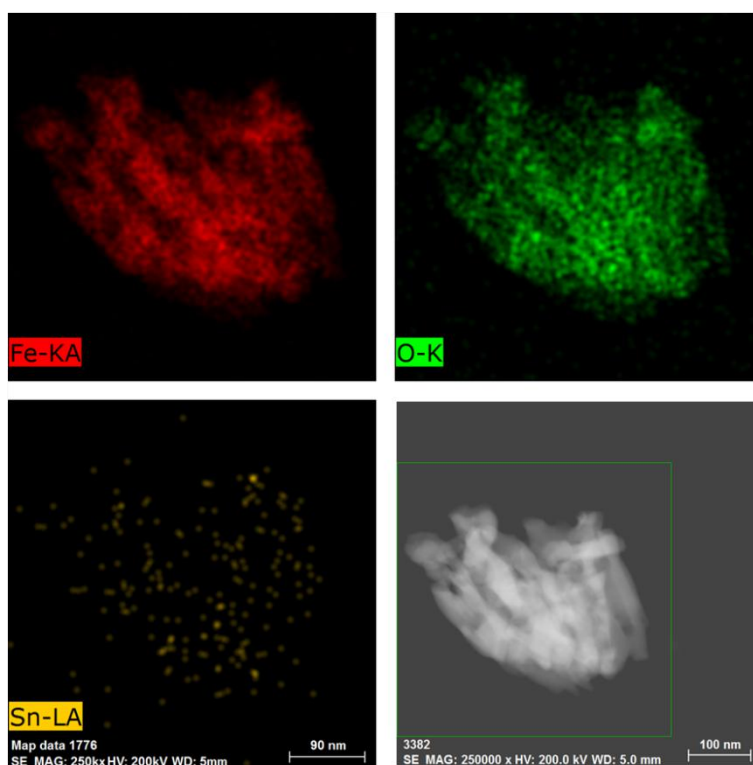
Fig. S1 XRD pattern of the as-prepared Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod array film grown on FTO glass.



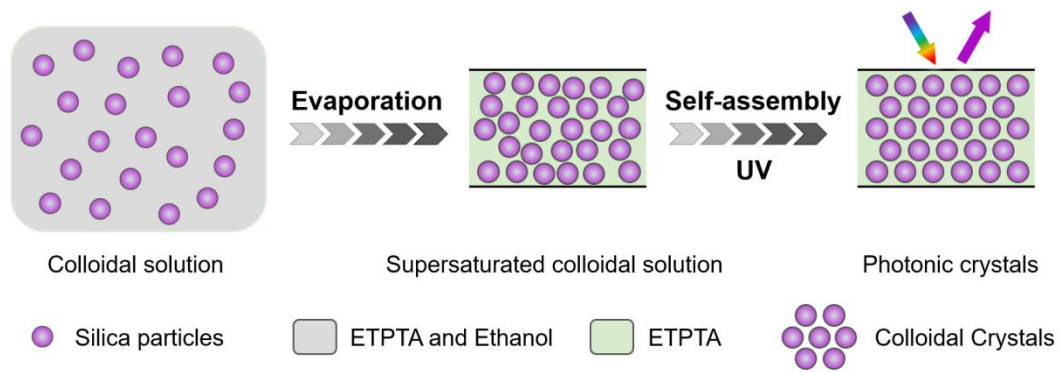
**Fig. S2** XPS survey spectrum of the as-obtained  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod array film and corresponding high-resolution XPS spectra of Fe 2p (b), Sn 3d (c), and O 1s (d).



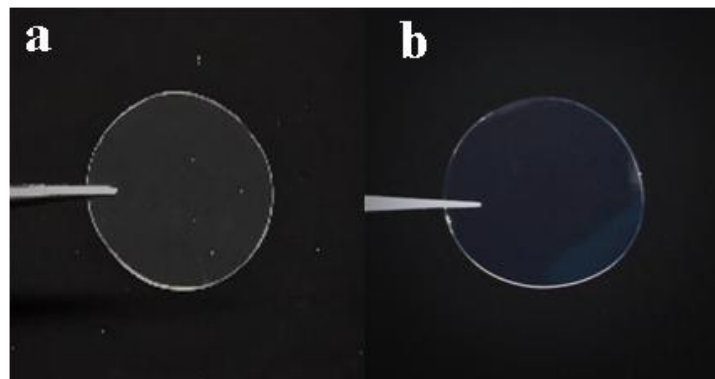
**Fig. S3** EDX spectrum of the as-obtained  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod array



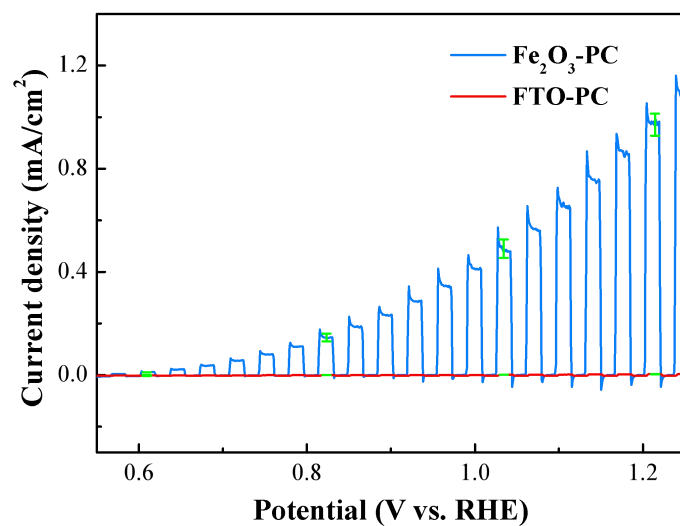
**Fig. S4** Elemental mapping of the as-obtained  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod array and corresponding scanning transmission electron microscopy image.



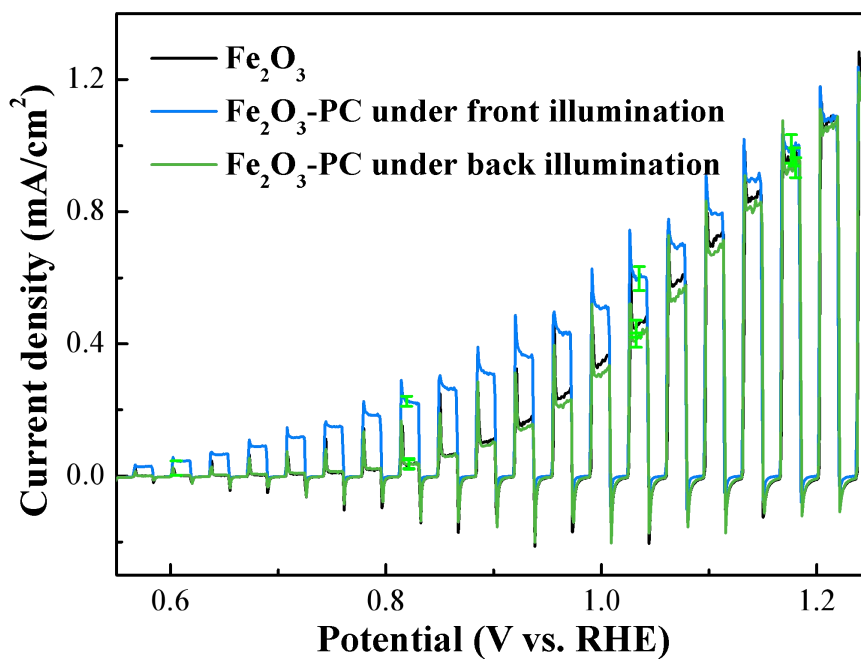
**Fig. S5** Scheme for the fabrication of polymeric photonic crystal film.



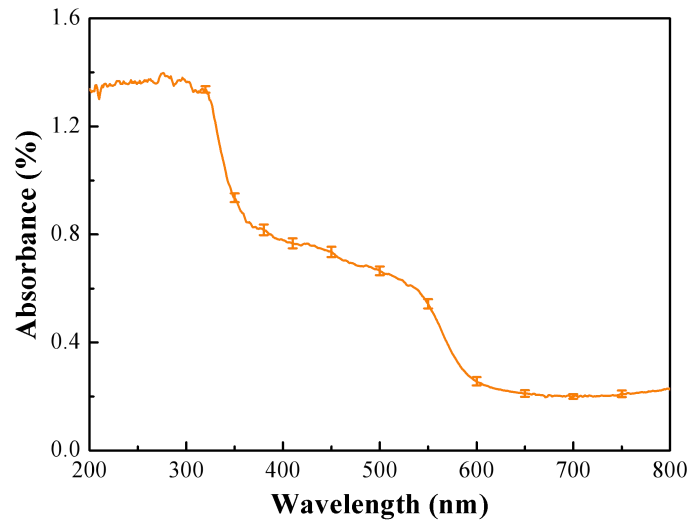
**Fig. S6** Digital photos of the as-prepared ETPTA resin film (a) and PC film (b).



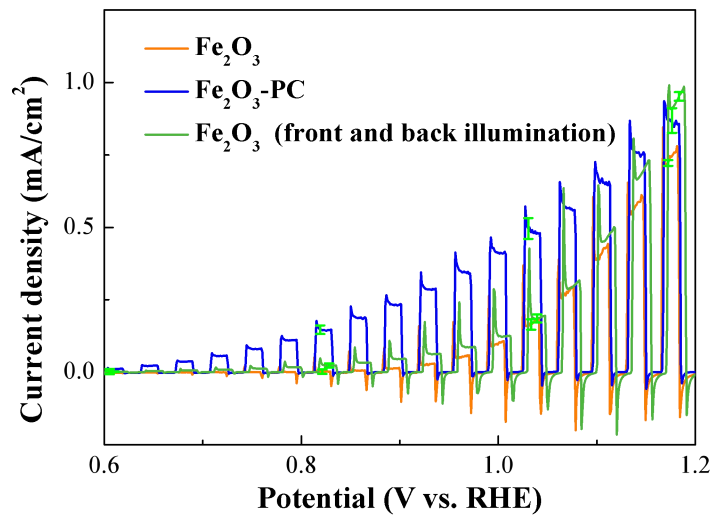
**Fig. S7** Photocurrent-potential curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-PC}$  and  $\text{FTO-PC}$  under chopped light (AM 1.5,  $100 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ ).



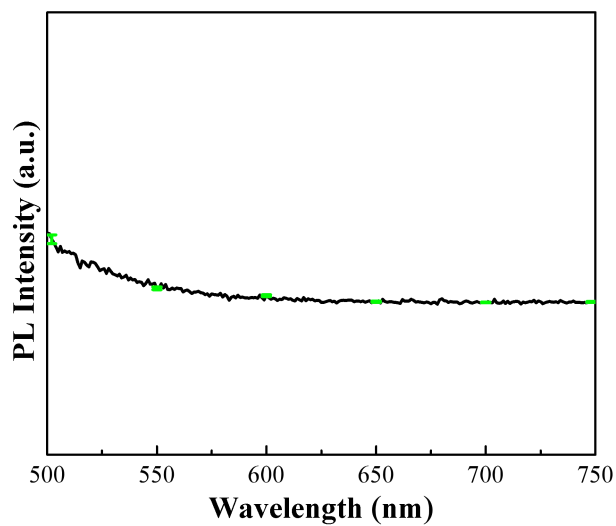
**Fig. S8** Photocurrent-potential curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-PC}$  film under different illumination modes.



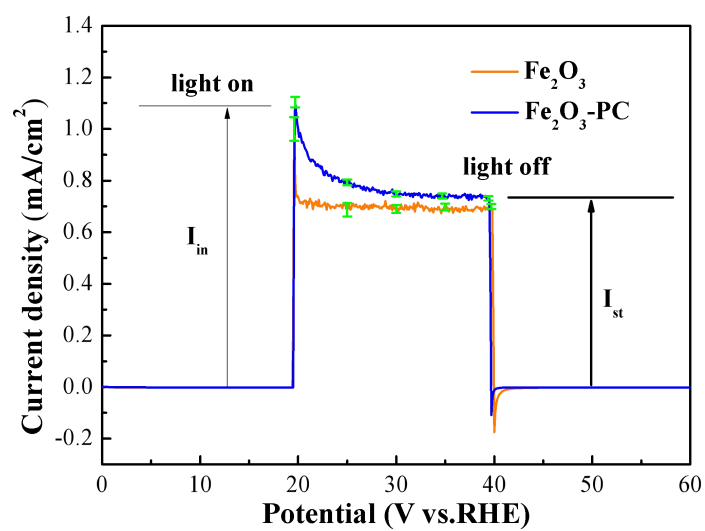
**Fig. S9** UV-visible absorption spectrum of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod array film.



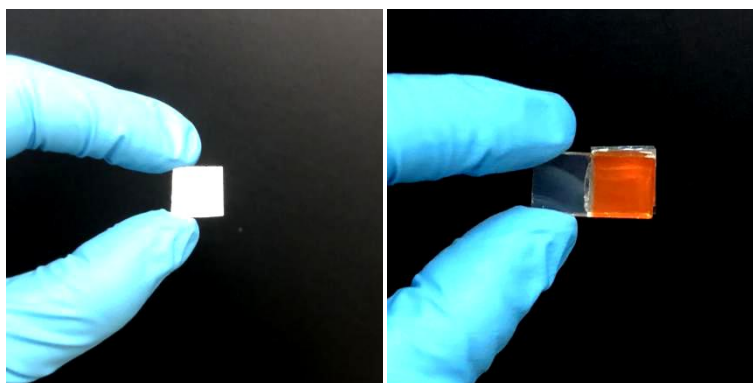
**Fig. S10** Photocurrent-potential curves of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-PC films under front illumination. (AM 1.5, 100 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> film under simultaneous front (AM 1.5, 100 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>)- and back (AM 1.5, 60 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>)-illumination, respectively.



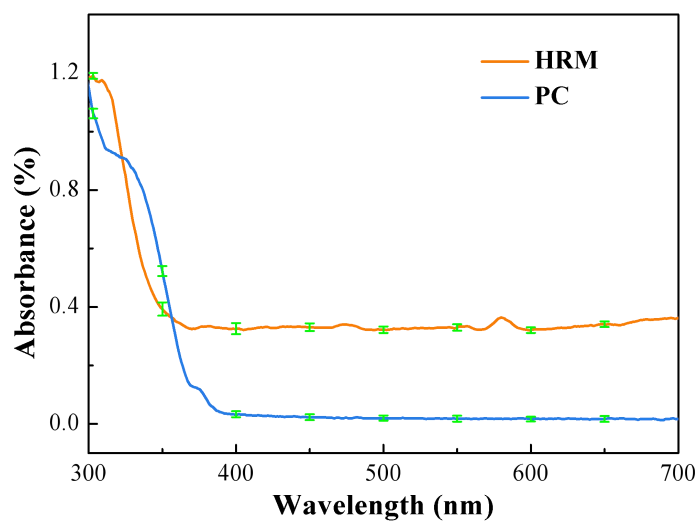
**Fig. S11** PL spectrum of PC film under excitation wavelength of 400 nm at room temperature.



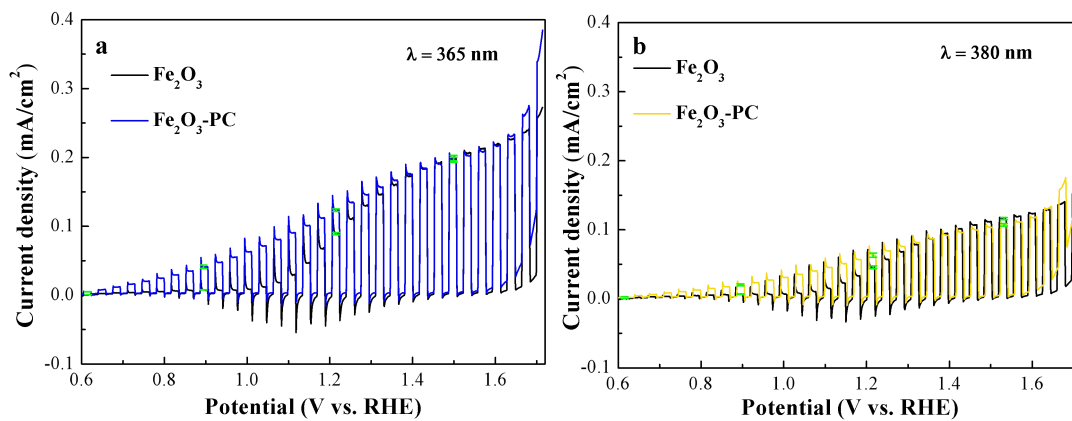
**Fig. S12** Photocurrent-time curves of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-PC films at an applied potential of 1.2 V vs. RHE. Taking the photocurrent current-time curve of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-PC as an example,  $I_{in}$  and  $I_{st}$  were labeled.



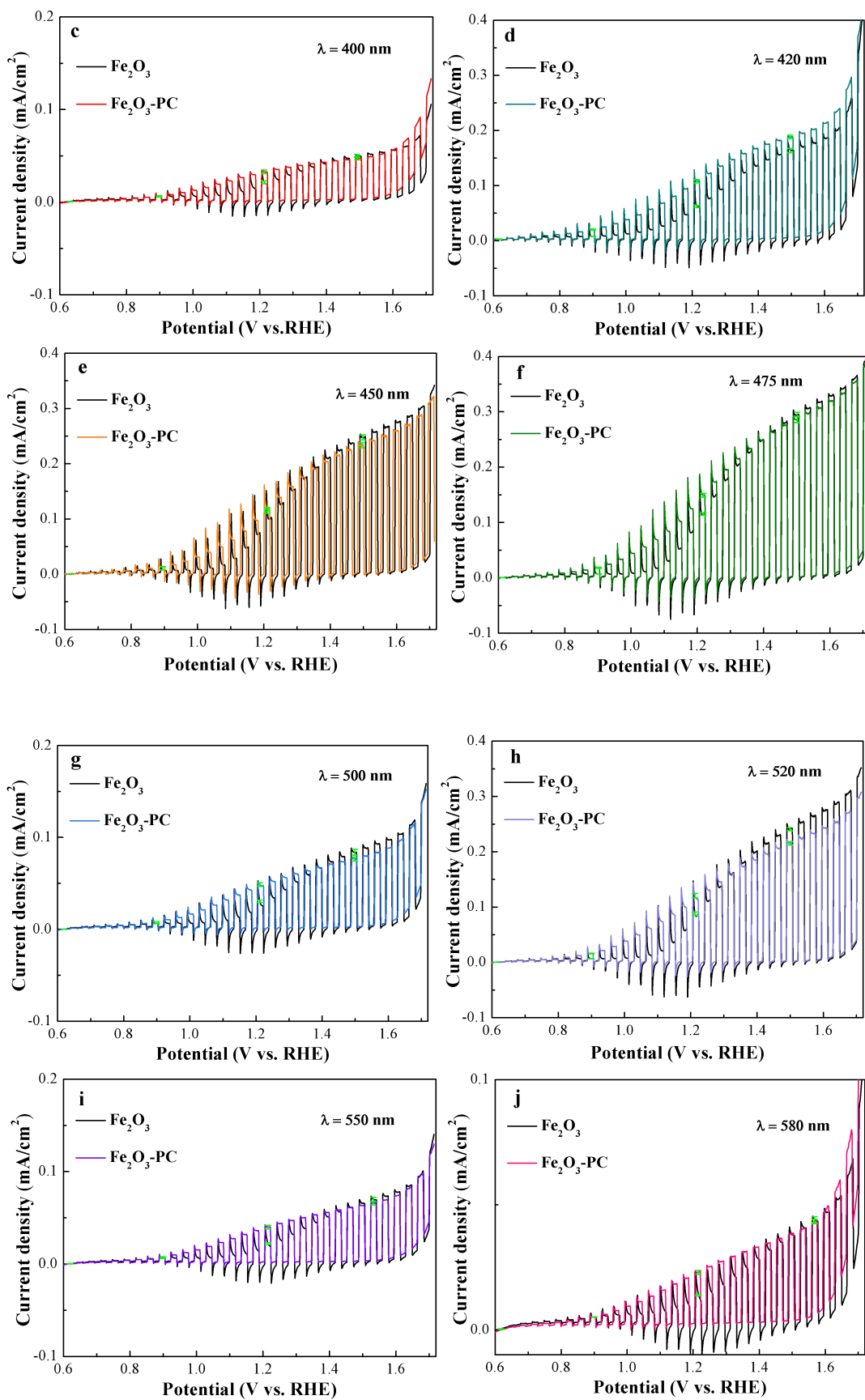
**Fig. S13** Digital photos of HRM used in this work and the as-fabricated  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-HRM photoelectrode.

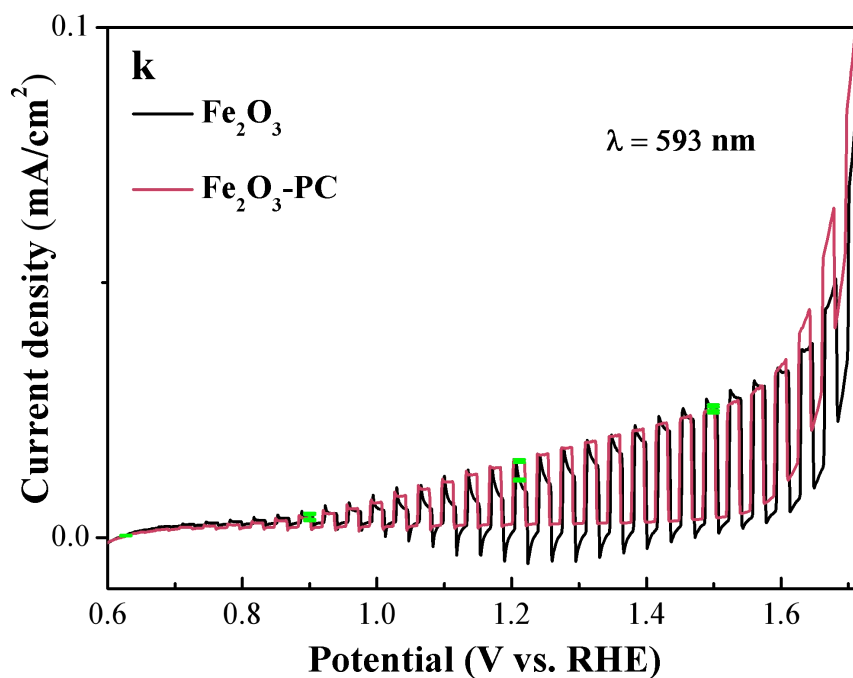


**Fig. S14** UV-Vis absorption spectra of PC films and HRM.

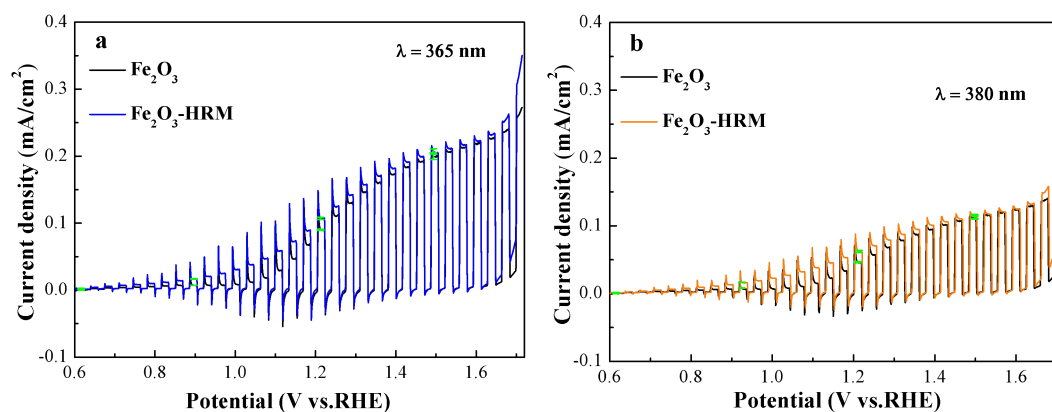


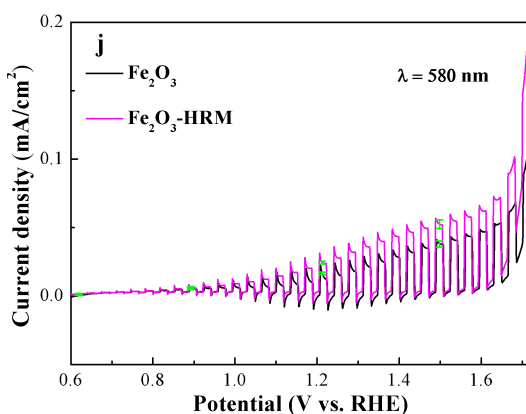
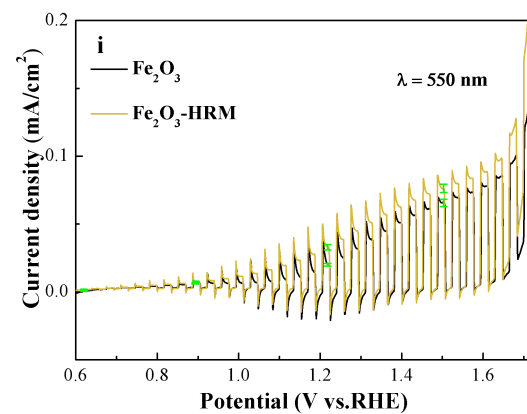
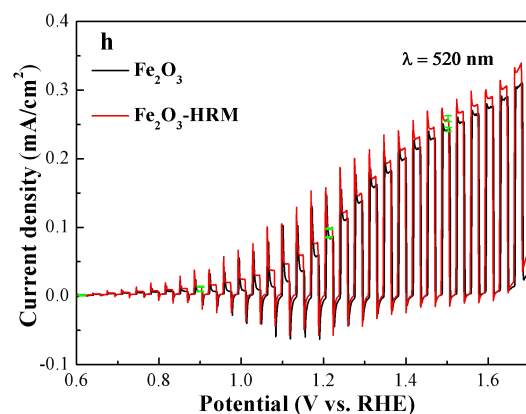
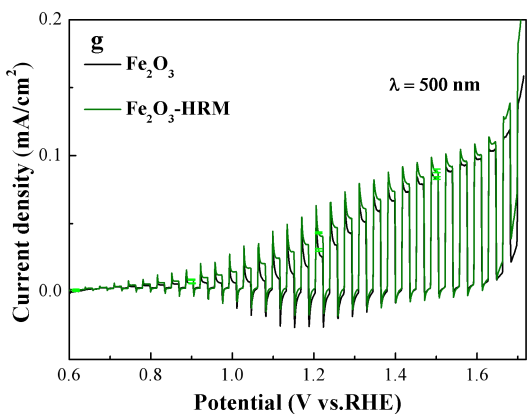
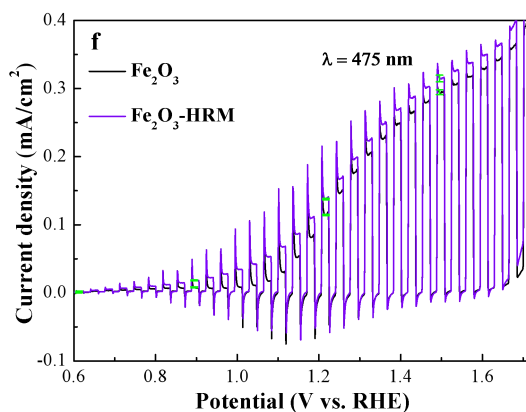
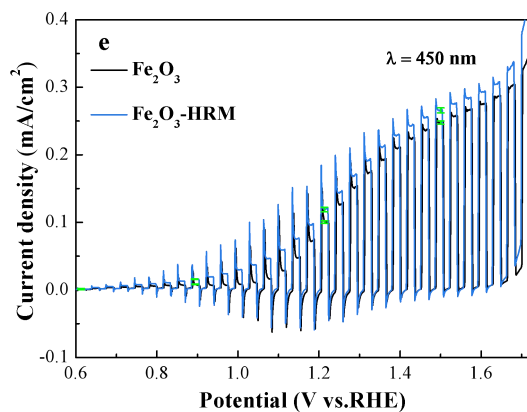
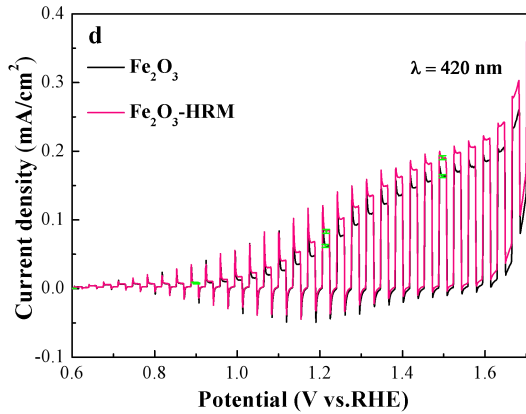
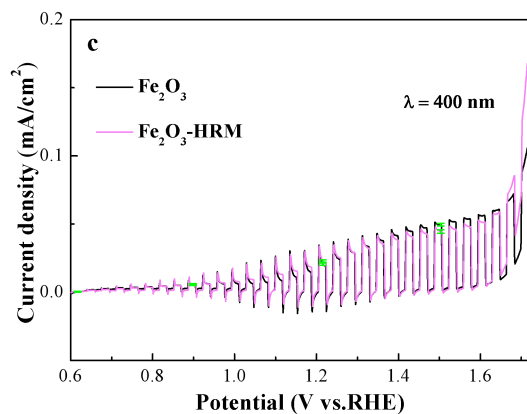


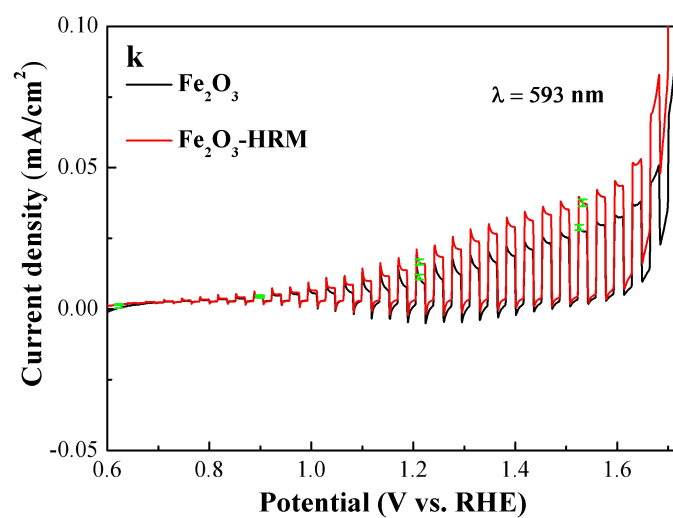




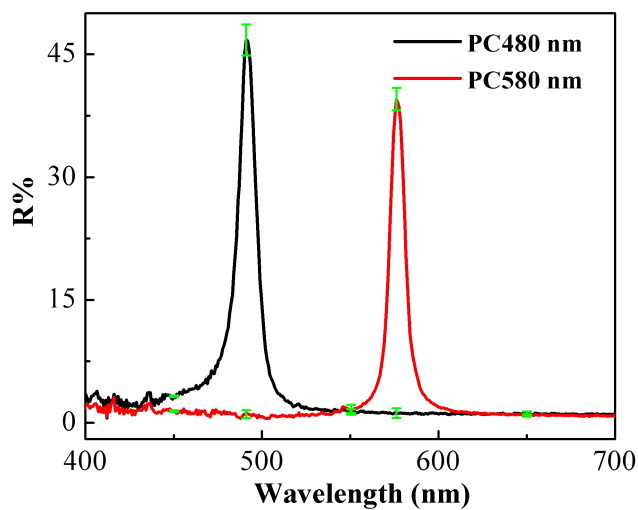
**Fig. S15** Photocurrent versus potential curves of  $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-PC}$  under different monochromatic light irradiation. Here the monochromatic light was obtained through bandpass filters with a certain width. The wavelength values used here corresponds to center wavelength of the filter.



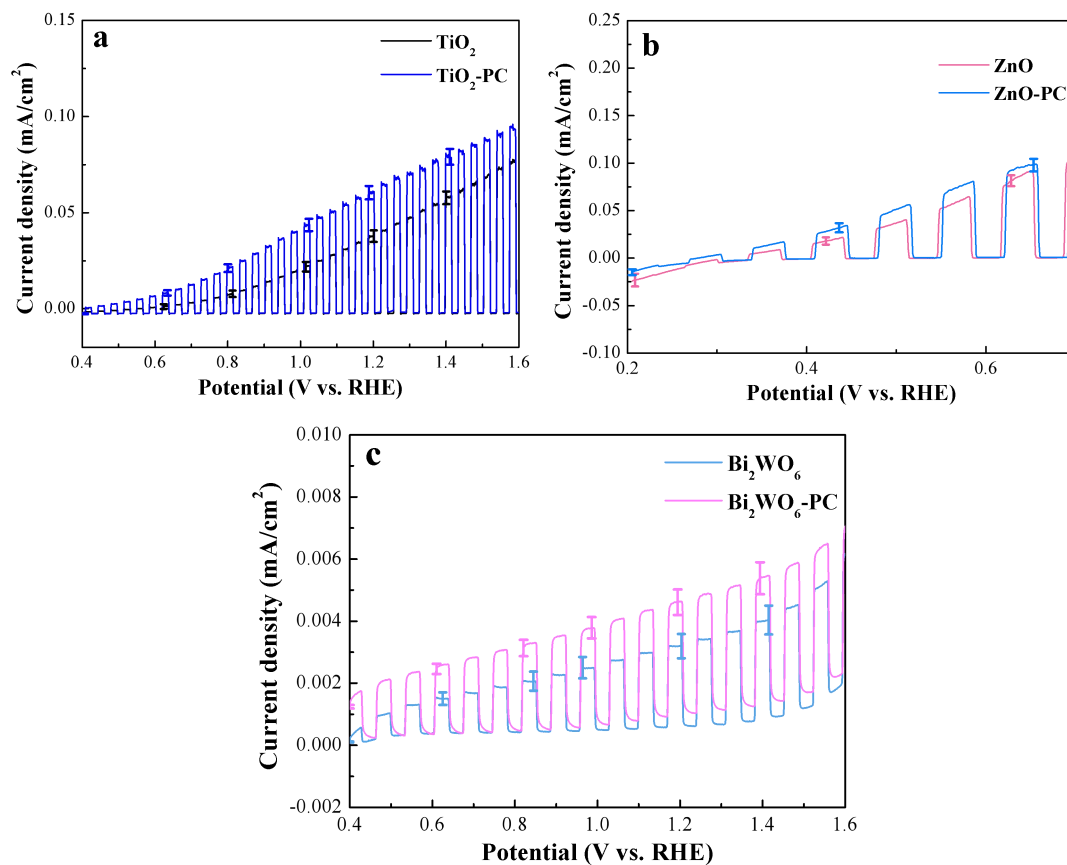




**Fig. S16** Photocurrent versus potential curves of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-HRM under different monochromatic light irradiation.



**Fig. S17** Reflectance spectra obtained through silica particles with sizes of 170 nm (black line) and 195 nm (red line), respectively.



**Fig. S18** Photocurrent-potential curves of TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, and Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> photoanodes under chopped light (AM 1.5G, 1 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) in the absence of PC film and in the presence of PC film.

**Table S1.** Photoelectrochemical activities of some typical  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanostructures photoanodes and modified  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> photoanodes with different strategies.

Materials	Reaction conditions	V <sub>on</sub> [V vs.RHE]	Photocurrent density at 1.0 V (vs.RHE) [mA/cm <sup>2</sup> ]	Reference
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> on Au nanohole array	1M NaOH (pH 13.6)	0.8	0.2	[1]
TiO <sub>2</sub> /Ti:Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> NRs	1M KOH (pH 13.6)	0.7	0.25	[2]
NiFeO <sub>x</sub> :Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1M NaOH (pH 13.6)	0.62	0.38	[3]
Sn:Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> NWs	1M KOH (pH 13.6)	0.6	0.59	[4]
FeOOH/Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1M NaOH (pH 13.6)	0.8	0.45	[5]
TiSi <sub>2</sub> /Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1M NaOH (pH 13.6)	0.85	0.25	[6]
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> containing oxygen vacancy	1M NaOH (pH 13.6)	0.75	0.58	[7]
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> champion nanostructures	1M NaOH (pH 13.6)	0.75	0.16	[8]
(110) facets orientated Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> /1M NaOH (pH 13.6)	0.6	0.37	[9]
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> of surface state removal	1M KOH (pH 13.6)	0.7	0.35	[10]
PC-Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1M KOH (pH 13.6)	0.55	0.41	This work

## References

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