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**Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI):** 

Incorporation of N-phenyl in poly(benzimidazole imide)s and improvement in H<sub>2</sub>O-

absorbtion and transparency

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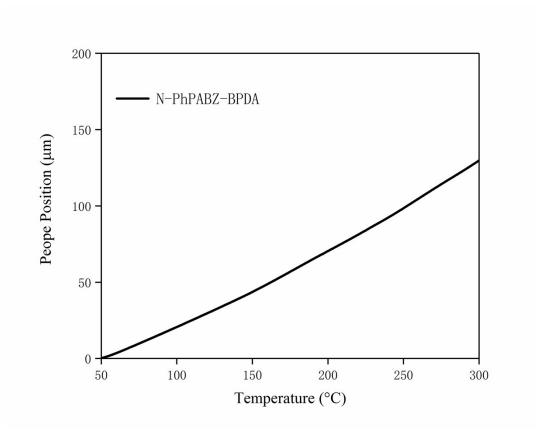


Fig. S1 TMA curves of N-PhPABZ-BPDA.

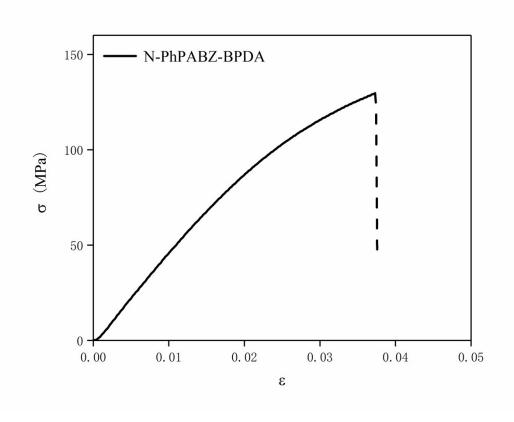


Fig. S2 Stress-strain curves of N-PhPABZ-BPDA.