Electronic Supplementary Information

Robust FeOOH/BiVO₄/Cu(In,Ga)Se₂ Tandem Structure for Solar-Powered Biocatalytic CO₂ Reduction

Jinhyun Kim[†], Yang Woo Lee[†], Eun-Gyu Choi, Passarut Boonmongkolras, Byoung Wook Jeon, Hojin Lee, Seung Tae Kim, Su Keun Kuk, Yong Hwan Kim, Byungha Shin, and Chan Beum Park*

Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), 335 Science Road, Daejeon 305-701, Republic of Korea; School of Energy and Chemical Engineering, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), 50 UNIST-gil, Ulsan, 44919, Republic of Korea

> [†]J. Kim and Y. W. Lee contributed equally to this work. *E-mail: parkcb@kaist.ac.kr

Experimental procedures

Chemicals

Potassium hydride, ethanol, bismuth(III) nitrate pentahydrate, potassium iodide, ethanol, nitric acid, *p*-benzoquinone, vanadyl acetylacetonate, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), indium tin oxide nanopowder, acetic acid, β -NAD⁺ hydrate (NAD⁺), and sodium formate were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). These chemicals were used without further purification. We used type 1 ultrapure water (18 M Ω cm) from a Direct-Q[®] 5 UV ultrapure water purification system (Millipore Corp., USA) for preparing a buffer solution. [Cp*Rh(bpy)H₂O]²⁺ and *Ts*FDH were produced according to the literature^{1, 2}.

Fabrication of photovoltaics

We synthesized a CIGS photovoltaic in a Mo/CIGS/CdS/i-ZnO/ZnO:Al/Al-grid architecture according to the literature procedure³ with a slight modification. We deposited a CIGS absorber layer on a Mo-coated soda-lime glass via co-evaporation of Cu, In, Ga, and Se from elemental effusion cells in a vacuum evaporator at a base pressure of 2.7×10^{-4} Pa. The

average [Cu]/([Ga]+[In]), [Ga]/([Ga]+[In]), and thickness of the CIGS layer were in the range of 0.80-0.90, 0.30-0.35, and 1.8-2.0 μ m, respectively. After the deposition, the CIGS film was immersed in a 0.15 M KCN solution for 1-min etching, rinsed with deionized water, and annealed in Se atmosphere at 473 K. To deposit a CdS buffer layer (40-50 nm) on the assynthesized CIGS film, we performed the chemical bath deposition process for 6 min using CdSO₄ as a Cd ion source, thiourea as a sulfur source, and NH₃ as a complexing agent. Then, we used radio frequency magnetron sputtering to deposit a bilayer, which consisted of i-ZnO layer (50 nm) and an Al-doped ZnO layer (ZnO:Al, 350 nm). Lastly, we deposited Al electrode via thermal evaporation of Al through an aperture mask. As a control group, a perovskite solar cell (PSC) with a light absorber containing triple cations (*i.e.*, Cs⁺, methylammonium, and formamidinium) was fabricated following a literature procedure⁴ reported previously. The structure of the PSC was FTO/SnO₂/perovskite/2,2',7,7'- tetrakis(N,N'-di-*p*-methoxyphenylamine)-9,9'-spirobifluorene/Au.

Characterization of solar cells

We used a K3000 Solar Simulator (McScience Inc., Korea) to measure J-V characteristics under one-sun illumination (AM 1.5G, 100 mW cm⁻²), which was calibrated with a silicon reference cell. The power conversion efficiency (PCE) was calculated using eqn (S1)

PCE (%) =
$$\frac{J_{sc} \times V_{oc} \times FF}{P}$$
 (S1)

where *J*sc is the short-circuit current density (mA cm⁻²), V_{oc} is the open-circuit voltage (V), FF is the fill factor, and *P* is the incident illumination power density (mW cm⁻²). An external quantum efficiency was obtained using a QEX7 solar cell spectral response/QE/IPCE measurement system (PV Measurement Inc., USA). The light absorption of a solar cell was investigated using a SolidSpec-3700 UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Corp., Japan).

Fabrication of photoanode

A commercial FTO glass (TEC-7, Pilkington) was thoroughly rinsed with 1.0 M KOH aqueous solution, deionized water, and ethanol. The electrodeposition of a BiOI film on the FTO were performed using potentiostat/galvanostat (WMPG 1000, WonATech Co., Korea); the FTO substrate was immersed in a BiOI precursor solution and applied an external bias of -0.1 V (vs. Ag/AgCl) to the substrate. The three-electrode configuration consisted of a working electrode, a reference electrode (Ag/AgCl, 3 M NaCl), and the counter electrode (stainless steel). The precursor solution was prepared by dissolving Bi(NO₃)₃·5H₂O (40 mM), HNO₃ (3 µl ml⁻¹), and KI (40 M) in deionized water (100 ml) and adding a 40-ml ethanolic solution containing *p*-benzoquinone (115.6 mM). To transform BiOI into BiVO₄, we dropped a V-containing solution on the BiOI electrode and heated it in a Lindberg/Blue M muffle furnace (Fisher Scientific Corp., USA) at 723 K for 2 h with a ramping rate of 1 K min⁻¹. The precursor solution was prepared by dissolving VO(acac)₂ (51.2 mg) in anhydrous DMSO (1 ml). After the reaction, we eliminated brownish V₂O₅ crusts on the surface of a BiVO₄ by soaking it in a NaOH solution (1 M) with gentle stirring. For photo-assisted electrodeposition of FeOOH cocatalyst on a BiVO₄ electrode, we immersed the BiVO₄ in a FeSO₄ aqueous solution (100 mM) with vigorous stirring and applied it at 0.3 V (vs. Ag/AgCl) under irradiation with white LED light (2 mW cm⁻²). We prepared a FeOOH electrode as a control group; a FTO substrate was immersed in a FeSO₄ solution (100 mM) and applied at 1.42 V (vs. Ag/AgCl) for 10 min to pass a total charge of ca. 43 mC cm⁻². We used a SolidSpec-3700 UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Corp., Japan) to obtain the absorption spectrum of the FeOOH/BiVO₄ electrode.

Fabrication of photoanode/photovoltaic tandem cells

A FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS tandem cell was prepared through wiring a FeOOH/BiVO₄ photoanode to a CIGS solar cell. The CIGS solar cell was covered with transparent, waterproof epoxy. Then, we covered the Al grid with a Ag paste and attached a Cu tape on the side for further wiring to a cathode. On the other hand, we stuck a Cu tape on the Mo side of the CIGS, which was connected to the FTO side of the FeOOH/BiVO₄. Finally, we used an opaque epoxy resin to cover the other sides of FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS device (except the Cu tape on Ag paste and the front side of FeOOH/BiVO₄) for blocking out an incident light and avoiding direct contact between an electrolyte solution and a conductive part of the tandem cell. When we assembled a FeOOH/BiVO₄/Perovskite tandem device, we stuck a Cu tape on the Au contact of the PSC (hole collector), which was wired to the FTO side of the PSC (electron collector) for further wiring to a cathode. The other sides of the PSC was covered with an epoxy resin to protect the solar cell from environment.

Preparation of mesoITO electrode

We modified the method to synthesize a *meso*ITO electrode according to the literature.⁵ We prepared a ITO suspension—40 mg of ITO nanoparticles (< 50 nm in diameter) in a 193 μ l of acetic acid/ethanol (300:748 v/v) mixture—ultrasonicated it at least 60 min, and homogenized it for 30 min. Then, the ITO suspension (20 μ l) was drop-cast onto a FTO substrate (geometrical surface area: 1 cm²). The electrode was annealed at 673 K for 1 h with a rate of 4 K min⁻¹. We covered an epoxy resin with the other area that was not covered by ITO nanoparticles. As a control group, a planar ITO glass was purchased from Taewon Scientific Corp. (Korea).

(Photo)electrochemical measurements

The (photo)electrochemistry experiments were controlled using a potentiostat/galvanostat (WMPG 1000, WonATech Co., Korea). In a three-electrode configuration, the working electrode, the reference electrode (Ag/AgCl, 3 M NaCl), and the counter electrode (stainless steel) were located in the same compartment. The electrolyte solution consisted of a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0). When we conducted controlled potential photoelectrolysis, the light source was a xenon lamp ($\lambda > 400$ nm, *P*: 100 mW cm⁻²). All potentials have been quoted vs. RHE according to the following equation (eqn (S2))

$$E_{\rm RHE} (V) = E_{\rm Ag/AgCl} (V) + 0.209 + (0.059 \times \rm pH)$$
(S2)

Note that platinum is not recommended as a counter electrode during the investigation of a cathodic behavior of a working electrode⁶; as the potential of the Pt becomes positive, the metal undergoes the oxidation and dissolution according to its Pourbaix diagram⁷. Furthermore, the dissolved Pt ions can be deposited on the surface of the working electrode, which influences the electrochemical behavior of the working electrode.⁶

Biocatalytic photoelectrochemical reactions

Cofactor regeneration reaction and water oxidation reaction were fulfilled in two separate reactors connected by a salt bridge. We immersed a FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS tandem cell in a phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0) and a *meso*ITO cathode in a phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2.5 ml) containing 0.5 mM **M** and 1 mM NAD⁺; the cathode was connected (through a potentiostat) to the tandem cell in two-electrode configuration. The geometrical surface areas of CIGS, FeOOH/BiVO₄, and *meso*ITO were 0.45, 4, and 1 cm², respectively. When a CIGS solar cell was replaced with a PSC (geometrical surface area: 0.45 cm²), we placed the PSC outside a reaction chamber to avoid its direct contact with an aqueous solution. The

photoanode was immersed in the solution at a distance of ca. 3 cm from the PSC. The *meso*ITO cathode was also connected to the tandem cell through a potentiostat. These tandem absorbers were irradiated by a xenon lamp (Newport Co., USA; $\lambda > 400$ nm; *P*: 100 mW cm⁻²), not the *meso*ITO cathode. We monitored the NADH concentration using a V-650 UV-Vis absorption spectrophotometer (JASCO Inc., Japan); the absorption peak position and the molar extinction coefficient of NADH were 340 nm and 6220 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹, respectively.⁸ For biocatalytic conversion of CO₂ to formate, we prepared a phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2.5 ml) containing 0.5 mM M, 0.5 mM NAD⁺, 10 U ml⁻¹ *Ts*FDH, and CO₂; the phosphate buffer was purged with CO₂ gas (99.999%) before and during the redox reaction. We quantified formate using a LC-20A prominence (Shimadzu Corp., Japan). The machine was equipped with a refractive index detector and an Aminex HPX-87H ion exclusion column (Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc., USA). The TOF_{NAD+} and TTN_{NAD+} were calculated according to the following equations (eqn (S3) and (S4))

$$TOF_{NAD^{+}}(h^{-1}) = \frac{Concentration of product at the given time}{Initial concentration of NAD^{+} \times Time}$$
(S3)

$$TTN_{NAD^{+}} = \frac{Maximum concentration of product}{Initial concentration of NAD^{+}}$$
(S4)

The solar-to-formate (STF) energy conversion efficiency was estimated according to eqn (S5)

STF efficiency (%) =
$$\frac{r \;(\text{mmol s}^{-1}) \times \Delta G^{\circ} \;(\text{J mol}^{-1})}{P \;(\text{mW cm}^{-2}) \times \text{Area}\;(\text{cm}^{2})} \times 100$$
(S5)

where *r* is the rate of formate production, *P* is the power density of incident light, and ΔG° is the Gibbs free energy for reduction of gaseous CO₂ to liquid formic acid (270140 J mol⁻¹) based on the chemical reaction: CO₂ (g) + H₂O (l) \rightarrow HCOOH (l) + 0.5 O₂ (g). The *Ts*FDH's $k_{\rm red}/K_{\rm M}$ for CO₂ reduction (eqn (S6)) is 3.2-fold lower than that for formate oxidation (eqn (S7)).²

$$TsFDH + CO_2 + NADH \rightarrow TsFDH + HCOO^- + NAD^+$$
 (S6)

$$T_{s}FDH + HCOO^{-} + NAD^{+} \rightarrow T_{s}FDH + CO_{2} + NADH$$
 (S7)

The k_{red}/K_M for eqn (S6) was estimated using NaHCO₃ (CO₂ supplier) and NADH without HCOO⁻ and NAD⁺.² In the same manner, that for eqn (S7) was calculated using HCOO⁻ and NAD⁺ in the absence of CO₂ and NADH. Although the k_{red}/K_M for CO₂ reduction is lower than that for formate oxidation, these kinetic parameters cannot solely determine whether CO₂ reduction is faster than formate oxidation because the concentrations of substrates also affect the enzyme kinetics. According to the Michaelis-Menten kinetics, the rate of CO₂ reduction is higher than that of formate oxidation if NADH concentration is much higher than NAD⁺ concentration. Thus, NADH-regenerating systems⁹⁻¹¹—including our tandem cell—promoted *Ts*FDH-driven conversion of CO₂ to formate by keeping NADH/NAD⁺ ratio higher.



Fig. S1 Box-and-whisker plots of photovoltaic parameters (*e.g.*, J_{sc} , V_{oc} , FF, and PCE) for twenty 0.45-cm² CIGS solar cells.



Fig. S2 External quantum efficiency and integrated photocurrent density of CIGS photovoltaic. Applied bias: 0 V.



Fig. S3 Effect of BiOI deposition time on the photocurrent of BiVO₄ for 500 mM Na₂SO₃ oxidation under front illumination. We optimized the photoanodic current by changing the thickness of BiOI film. As we increased the deposition time of the BiOI, the photocurrent of the BiVO₄ decreased (**Fig. S3**) and the thickness of the BiVO₄ increased (**Fig. S4(a) and S4(b)**). However, the BiVO₄'s nanostructural morphology and crystallinity remained unchanged (**Fig. S4(c), S4(d), and S5**). These results indicate that a small thickness of the BiVO₄ photoanode is beneficial for increasing its photoanodic current (under front illumination) because of a shorter migratory route of photoexcited electrons from the BiVO₄ to FTO.



Fig. S4 Plan-view and cross-sectional scanning electron microscopic (SEM) images of $BiVO_4$ electrode. Deposition time of BiOI of (a) and (c): 1 min. Deposition time of BiOI of (b) and (d): 3 min. Scale bars of (a), (b), (c) and, (d): 2000, 2000, 800, and 800 nm, respectively.



Fig. S5 X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of $BiVO_4$ with 1- and 3-min deposition time. For comparison, the standard diffraction pattern of JCPDS #01-083-1699 is given. Asterisks denote the XRD peaks of FTO.



Fig. S6 Absorption spectra of FeOOH/BiVO₄, CIGS, and FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS. Note that we changed the substrate of the CIGS from an opaque Mo-coated soda-lime glass to a transparent soda-lime glass; the transmitted light through the CIGS film cannot penerate through the Mo layer and thus a spectrophotometer cannot analyze the absorption property of the CIGS film.



Fig. S7 Overlap of *I-V* profiles of FeOOH/BiVO₄, CIGS photovoltaic, and PSC. The y-value of the intersection indicates an estimated photocurrent of a tandem device (*i.e.*, FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS and FeOOH/BiVO₄/Perovskite). Geometrical surface areas of FeOOH/BiVO₄, CIGS, and perovskite: 4, 0.45, and 0.45 cm², respectively.



Fig. S8 Transient photocurrent responses of two different tandem devices in a two-electrode configuration at 0 V. Counter electrode: stainless steel. Electrolyte solution: sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0).



Fig. S9 Cross-sectional SEM image of mesoITO. Scale bar: 10 µm.



Fig. S10 XRD pattern of *meso*ITO. Below is the corresponding XRD peaks of ITO standard card (JCPDS #01-083-3350).



Fig. S11 Linear sweep voltammograms of *meso*ITO electrode (geometrical surface area: 1 cm²) in the absence and presence of NAD⁺. Scan rate: 20 mV s⁻¹. Counter electrode: stainless steel. Solvent: sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0).



Fig. S12 Chronoamperograms of *meso*ITO and planar ITO electrodes for **M** reduction. Geometrical surface area: 1 cm². Applied bias: -0.28 V vs. RHE. Note that the unit of the antilogarithm of y-axis is the ampere. Counter electrode: stainless steel. Reaction conditions: 0.25 mM **M** in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0) with stirring.



Fig. S13 Overlap of |I|-V plots of FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS device and *meso*ITO electrode for H₂O oxidation and NADH regeneration, respectively. Note that the |I|-V curve of the *meso*ITO was obtained as follows: we obtained (i) a |I|-V curve of *meso*ITO without **M** and NAD⁺ and (ii) that with 0.5 mM **M** and 1 mM NAD⁺ under stirring. Then, we subtracted the former curve from the latter curve to obtain the faradaic current by **M** reduction reaction in the presence of NAD⁺. Geometrical surface areas of FeOOH/BiVO₄, CIGS, and *meso*ITO: 4, 0.45, and 1 cm², respectively. Light source: xenon lamp ($\lambda > 400$ nm, *P*: 100 mW cm⁻²).



Fig. S14 Effect of NAD⁺ concentration on NADH regeneration rate and NADH concentration. The regeneration rates were determined at 1-h reaction. Reaction condition: 0.5 mM **M** and NAD⁺ dissolved in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2.5 ml). Working electrode: FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS. Counter electrode: *meso*ITO. Applied bias: 0 V. Light source: xenon lamp (*P*: 100 mW cm⁻², $\lambda > 400$ nm).



Fig. S15 Control experiments for unbiased photobiocatalytic CO₂-to-formate conversion in the absence of (a) light, CIGS, FeOOH, or BiVO₄ and (b) M, NAD⁺, CO₂, or *Ts*FDH. Reaction condition of the experimental group: 0.5 mM M, 0.5 mM NAD⁺, and 10 U ml⁻¹ *Ts*FDH in a CO₂-purged phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2.5 ml). Working electrode: FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS. Counter electrode: *meso*ITO. Light source: xenon lamp (*P*: 100 mW cm⁻², $\lambda > 400$ nm). Applied bias: 0 V. Reaction time: 4 h. ND: not detected.



Fig. S16 Dependency of the rate of formate production on (**a**) *Ts*FDH concentration and (**b**) NAD⁺ concentration. Reaction conditions of (**a**): 0.5 mM **M**, 0.5 mM NAD⁺, and *Ts*FDH in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2 ml). Reaction condition of (**b**): 0.5 mM **M**, NAD⁺, and 10 U ml⁻¹ *Ts*FDH in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2.5 ml). Gaseous CO₂ (99.999%) was continuously purged before and during the experiment. Working electrode: FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS. Counter electrode: *meso*ITO. Applied bias: 0 V. Light source: xenon lamp ($\lambda > 400$ nm, *P*: 100 mW cm⁻²).



Fig. S17 Long-term biocatalytic conversion of CO₂ to formate using CIGS-based full tandem system. Reaction condition: 0.5 mM M, 0.5 mM NAD⁺, and 10 U ml⁻¹ *Ts*FDH in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2.5 ml). Working electrode: FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS. Counter electrode: *meso*ITO. Light source: xenon lamp ($\lambda > 400$ nm, *P*: 100 mW cm⁻²). External bias: 0 V.



Fig. S18 (a) Bias-free controlled potential photoelectrolysis (CPPE) of CIGS-based full tandem device in the first and second cycle. (b) Formate concentration at 12-h biocatalytic PEC reaction of the first and second cycles. After the first cycle (72 h), we replaced the reaction solution and conducted the second CPPE. Reaction condition: 0.5 mM M, 0.5 mM NAD⁺, and 10 U ml⁻¹ *Ts*FDH in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0, 2.5 ml). Working electrode: FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS. Counter electrode: *meso*ITO. Light source: xenon lamp ($\lambda > 400$ nm, *P*: 100 mW cm⁻²).



Fig. S19 (a) J-V curves of 0.45- and 4-cm² CIGS solar cells under illumination with/without FeOOH/BiVO₄-filtered light. (b) Photovoltaic parameters of 0.45- and 4-cm² CIGS solar cells. (c) Overlap of I-V profiles of FeOOH/BiVO₄, 0.45-cm² CIGS photovoltaic, and 4-cm² CIGS photovoltaic. Scan rate: 50 mV s⁻¹. The y-value of the intersection indicates an estimated photocurrent of a photoanode/photovoltaic tandem device. (d) Bias-free CPPE of FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS tandem devices in a two-electrode configuration. Counter electrode: stainless steel. Electrolyte solution of (c) and (d): sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0). The upscaling of the CIGS's active area from 0.45 to 4 cm² decreased four photovoltaic parameters, such as J_{sc} (35.68 to 25.70 mA cm⁻²), V_{oc} (0.64 to 0.58 V), FF (65 to 42 %), and PCE (15.01 to 6.32 %) (Fig. S19(a) and S19(b)). We attribute it to the compositional inhomogeneities in CIGS layer during CIGS deposition to large areas^{12, 13}, which is a wellknown issue in the PV community. Under the FeOOH/BiVO₄-filtered light, the V_{oc} of the 4cm² CIGS was lower than that of the 0.45-cm² CIGS (Fig. S19(a)). As a consequence, the estimated operation current of the FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS became lower by ca. 0.25 mA according to the intersection of the J-V curves of of the CIGS photovoltaic and the FeOOH/BiVO₄ photoanode (Fig. S19(c)). This is consistent with the decline in the actual photocurrent of the tandem device (Fig. S19(d)).



Fig. S20 (a) *I-V* curves of 4-cm² FeOOH/BiVO₄ and FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS with different active areas under light irradiation. (b) *I-V* curves of 1- and 4-cm² mesoITO electrodes for NADH regeneration. These plots were obtained as follows: we obtained (i) a |I|-V curve of mesoITO without **M** and NAD⁺ and (ii) that with 0.5 mM **M** and 0.5 mM NAD⁺ under stirring. Then, we subtracted the former curve from the latter curve to obtain the faradaic current by **M** reduction reaction in the presence of NAD⁺. (**c**, **d**) Overlap of |I|-V plots of FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS device and mesoITO electrode with different active areas for unbiased coupling of H₂O oxidation with NADH regeneration. We assembled a 4-cm² full tandem device consisting of the FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS photoanode/photovoltaic and a mesoITO cathode. Although the 4-cm² CIGS shifted the *J-V* profile of the FeOOH/BiVO₄/CIGS less cathodically than the 0.45-cm² CIGS (**Fig. S20(a**)), the magnitude of the cathodic current of the mesoITO (for NADH regeneration) increased upon quadrupling of the mesoITO's geometrical surface area (**Fig. S20(b**)). As a result, the estimated operation current became higher for unbiased coupling of NADH regeneration with H₂O oxidation (**Fig. S20(c)** and **S20(d**)).



Fig. S21 (a) Influence of NAD⁺ concentration on unbiased NADH regeneration rate at 1-h reaction. Reaction condition: 0.5 mM M and NAD⁺ dissolved in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0). (b) Concentrations and amounts of formate for 72-h biocatalytic photoelectrochemical reactions. Reaction condition: 0.5 mM M, 0.5 mM NAD⁺, and 10 U ml⁻¹ *Ts*FDH in a sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.0). Gaseous CO₂ (99.999%) was continuously purged before and during the experiment. Note that we increased an electrolyte volume in the cathodic compartment from 2.5 to 5.0 mL because we enlarged the *meso*ITO's surface area from 1 to 4 cm².

Supplementary references

- 1. J. Ryu, D. H. Nam, S. H. Lee and C. B. Park, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 12020-12025.
- 2. H. Choe, J. C. Joo, D. H. Cho, M. H. Kim, S. H. Lee, K. D. Jung and Y. H. Kim, *PLoS One*, 2014, **9**, e103111.
- 3. S. T. Kim, L. Larina, J. H. Yun, B. Shin and B. T. Ahn, Sustain. Energ. Fuels, 2019, 3, 709-716.
- 4. P. Boonmongkolras, D. Kim, Esra M. Alhabshi, I. Gereige and B. Shin, *RSC Adv.*, 2018, **8**, 21551-21557.
- 5. J. Odrobina, J. Scholz, A. Pannwitz, L. Francàs, S. Dechert, A. Llobet, C. Jooss and F. Meyer, *ACS Catal.*, 2017, 7, 2116-2125.
- R. Chen, C. Yang, W. Cai, H.-Y. Wang, J. Miao, L. Zhang, S. Chen and B. Liu, ACS Energy Lett., 2017, 2, 1070-1075.
- 7. S. Cherevko, N. Kulyk and K. J. J. Mayrhofer, Nano Energy, 2016, 29, 275-298.
- J. Kim, S. H. Lee, F. Tieves, D. S. Choi, F. Hollmann, C. E. Paul and C. B. Park, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2018, 57, 13825-13828.
- D. H. Nam, S. K. Kuk, H. Choe, S. Lee, J. W. Ko, E. J. Son, E.-G. Choi, Y. H. Kim and C. B. Park, *Green Chem.*, 2016, 18, 5989-5993.
- 10. E. J. Son, J. W. Ko, S. K. Kuk, H. Choe, S. Lee, J. H. Kim, D. H. Nam, G. M. Ryu, Y. H. Kim and C. B. Park, *Chem. Commun.*, 2016, **52**, 9723-9726.
- 11. H. Song, C. Ma, P. Liu, C. You, J. Lin and Z. Zhu, J. CO₂ Util., 2019, 34, 568-575.
- 12. V. Bermudez and A. Perez-Rodriguez, Nat. Energy, 2018, 3, 466-475.
- 13. J. Ramanujam and U. P. Singh, Energ. Environ. Sci., 2017, 10, 1306-1319.