Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics. This journal is © the Owner Societies 2021

## **Supplementary Data**

## First-principles study of two-dimensional NbSe<sub>2</sub>H/g-ZnO van der Waals heterostructures as a water splitting photocatalyst

K. H. Yeoh<sup>1, 2</sup>, K. -H. Chew<sup>3</sup>, T. L. Yoon<sup>4</sup>, Y.H.R. Chang<sup>5</sup> and D. S. Ong<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, 43000 Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia.

<sup>2</sup>Center for Photonics and Advanced Material Research, Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, 43000 Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia

<sup>3</sup>Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur 50603, Malaysia.

<sup>4</sup>School of Physics, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Penang, Malaysia

<sup>5</sup>Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Sarawak, 94300 Samarahan, Sarawak

<sup>6</sup>Faculty of Engineering, Multimedia University, Persiaran Multimedia, 63100 Cyberjaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

a) Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. Electronic mail: <a href="khyeoh@utar.edu.my">khyeoh@utar.edu.my</a>, keathoe.yeoh@gmail.com

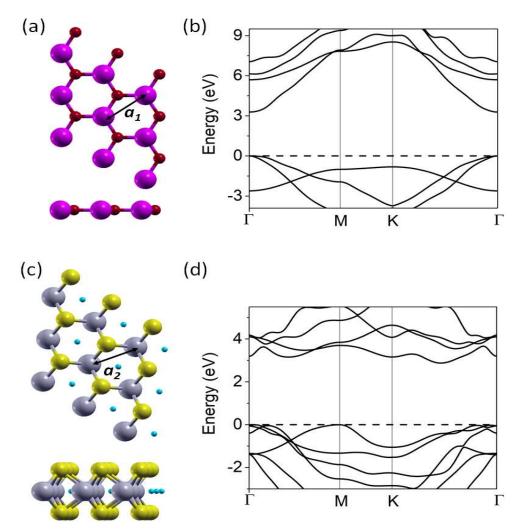


Fig. S1: Top and side views of the crystal structure for (a) g-ZnO and (c) 2D NbSe<sub>2</sub>H. The band structures for (b) g-ZnO and (d) 2D NbSe<sub>2</sub>H were calculated by using HSE06 functional. The lattice constant for the g-ZnO and 2D NbSe<sub>2</sub>H are denoted by  $\boldsymbol{a}_1$  and  $\boldsymbol{a}_2$ , respectively.

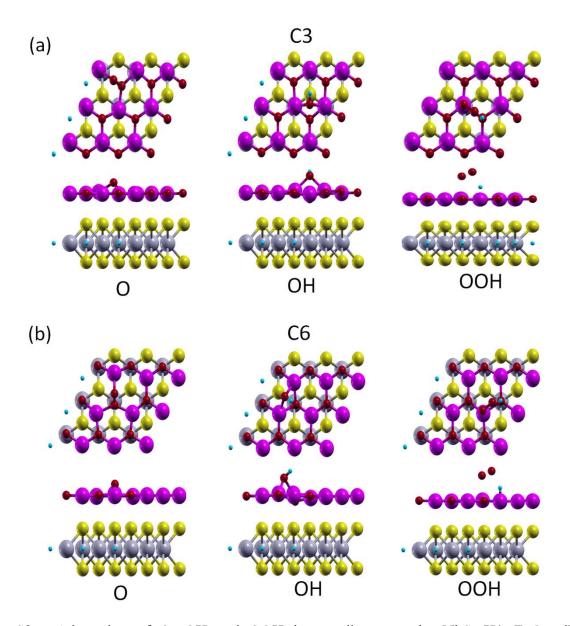


Fig. S2: Adsorption of O, OH and OOH intermediates on the NbSe<sub>2</sub>H/g-ZnO vdW heterostructures for (a) C3 and (b) C6 stackings. Yellow, grey, cyan, purple, and red balls denote Se, Nb, H, Zn and O atoms, respectively.

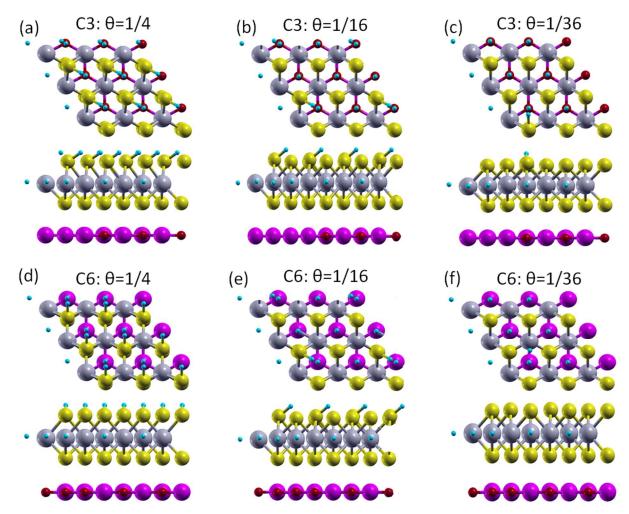


Fig. S3: Adsorption of H on the surface of 2D NbSe<sub>2</sub>H in the NbSe<sub>2</sub>H/g-ZnO vdW heterostructures. The coverage of the H atoms are  $\theta = 1/4$  for (a) C3 and (d) C6 stackings,  $\theta = 1/16$  for (b) C3 and (e) C6 stackings and  $\theta = 1/36$  for (c) C3 and (f) C6 stackings Yellow, grey, cyan, purple, and red balls denote Se, Nb, H, Zn and O atoms, respectively.