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**Fig. S1.** Raman spectra of different materials. Rutile NB has three bands at 253, 443 and 607 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which are typically observed for rutile TiO<sub>2</sub>. The band at 443 cm<sup>-1</sup>, assignable to the  $E_g$  vibrational mode, broadens and blue-shifts with the increase of the embedded amount of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. This might be attributed to the variation of the stoichiometry of TiO<sub>2</sub> (*e.g.*, oxygen deficiency, Ti-O-Fe).



**Fig. S2.** XPS spectrum of Fe 2p for 5%Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/R sample. Peaks at 711.1 eV and 724.8 eV are ascribed to 3+ oxidation states of iron. The peak centered around 715 eV is identified as the surface peak of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Ref. 31-33 in the main text).