# **Electronic Supplementary Information** *for*

Multiwavelength-Controlled Multicolor Photochromism and Fluorescence Switch Based on an Efficient Photocyclization Reaction by Introducing Two Photoactive Subunits into AIEgens

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#### 1. Experimental Section

Synthesis of ((Z)-(1,2-diphenyl-)-(Z)-di(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl) )ethene (DPDBE). A mixture of tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)platinum (Pt(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>) (0.18 g, 1 mol%), bis(pinacolato)diboron (7.20 g, 27.77 mmol) and 1,4-diphenylacetylene (2.47 g, 13.9 mmol) were added in DMF (70 mL) under the protection of N<sub>2</sub>, and the mixture was heated at 90 °C for 24 h. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was poured into water and extracted three times with dichloromethane, and then the organic layer was dried by MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. DPDBE (2.5 g) was obtained by washing several times with ethanol as a white solid with a yield of 42%. Molecular formula:  $C_{26}H_{34}B_2O_4$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.08-7.01 (m, 6H), 6.95-6.94 (d, J = 6 Hz, 4H), 1.32 (s, 24H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 141.37, 129.43, 127.55, 125.91, 84.20, 25.01. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 433.2735 (calcd. 432.2643).

Synthesis of (Z)-1,2-diphenyl-1,2-di(thiophen-3-yl)ethene (DPDTE). A mixture of (Z)-1,2-diphenyl-1,2-bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)ethane (DPDBE) (4.32 g, 10 mmol), 3-bromothiophene (3.26 g, 20 mmol) and 2M potassium carbonate (10 mL), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (17.33 mg, 0.015 mmol) were added in a mixed solvent containing THF (20 mL) and toluene (10 mL) under the protection of N<sub>2</sub>, and then the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 8 h. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was poured into water and extracted three times with dichloromethane, and then the organic layer was dried by MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and purified by silica gel column chromatography. The final crude product was recrystallized in ethanol to produce a white solid with a yield of 50.8%. Molecular formula:  $C_{22}H_{16}S_2$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.11-7.08 (m, 8H), 7.05-7.03 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, J = 3.0, 2H), 6.69 (d, J = 5.0, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  144.46, 143.26, 135.45, 131.18, 129.91, 127.73, 126.62, 125.64, 124.17; MS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup>, 344.0 (calcd. for  $C_{22}H_{16}S_2$ , 344.0).

Synthesis of (Z)-1,2-diphenyl-1,2-di(2-formylthiophen-4-yl)ethene (DPDFTE).

The synthesis of DPDFTE followed the procedure of DPDTE by replacing 3-bromothiophene with 4-bromothiophene-2-carboxaldehyde. The crude product was finally acquired by recrystallization in ethanol to give a white solid with a yield of 58.4%. Molecular formula:  $C_{24}H_{16}O_2S_2$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.76 (s, 2H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.33 (s, 2H),7.15-7.13 (m, 6H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  183.95, 145.05, 143.52, 141.65, 138.44, 135.38, 135.27, 130.90, 128.23, 127.54; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 401.0666 (calcd. for  $C_{24}H_{16}O_2S_2$ , 400.0592).

Synthesis of (Z)-1,2-diphenyl-1,2-di(5-((Z)-2-cyano-2-phenylvinyl)- thiophen-4-yl)ethene (DPDPTE). A certain amounts of (Z)-4,4'-(1,2-diphenylethene-1,2-diyl)bis(thiophene-2-carbaldehyde) (DPDFTE) (1.79 g, 3.0 mmol), phenylacetonitrile (0.53 g, 4.5 mmol) and sodium ethoxide (5 mL, 20% W/W) were dissolved in ethanol (30 mL), and the mixture was refluxed for 4 h. After removing the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using petroleum ether and dichloromethane (10:1 v/v) as eluent to obtain crude product, and then the crude product was recrystallized with ethanol to obtain the final product as light-yellow solid (yield 54.8%). Molecular formula:  $C_{40}H_{26}N_2S_2$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.59 (m, 4H), 7.50 (s, 2H), 7.40 (t, 4H), 7.34 (t, 2H), 7.24 (s, 2H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 7.14-7.13 (m, 6H), 7.07-7.05 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  144.53, 142.14, 137.42, 135.38, 135.30, 134.33, 133.93, 131.02, 130.53, 129.19, 129.10, 128.05, 127.23, 125.82, 118.08, 108.45; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]+, 599.1595 (calcd. for C40H26N2S2, 598.1537).

Characterization of UV-Visible and Fluorescence Properties of All Samples. UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded using an Agilent Cary 5000 UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer. Steady PL spectra of all samples were performed on an Edinburgh Instruments model FLS980 fluorescence spectrophotometer equipped with a xenon arc lamp using a front face sample holder. Time-resolved fluorescence measurements were conducted with EPL-series lasers. The absolute PL quantum yields of all samples were

determined using an integrating sphere equipped in FLS980 spectrophotometer for at least three times.

### 2. Computational Details

All the calculations were performed with density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) implemented in Gaussian 09 program package. The ground state equilibrium geometries and the normal modes of vibration of the single-molecules of DPDTE, DPDFTE, DPDPTE and their cyclized forms were computed using density functional theory (DFT) with the hybrid M062X functional at 6-311+G(d,p) level. Excitation energies and absorption maxima of all the molecules and their cyclized products were calculated using M062X functional with 6-311+G(d,p) level based on the optimized structure in THF with SCRF.

## 3. Supplementary Schemes, Figures and Tables

Scheme S1. Synthesis routes of DPDBE (a), DPDTE (b), DPDFTE (c) and DPDPTE (d).

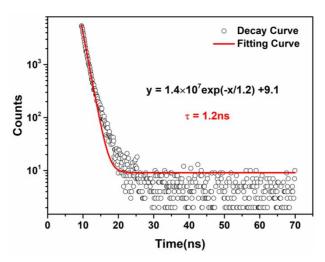
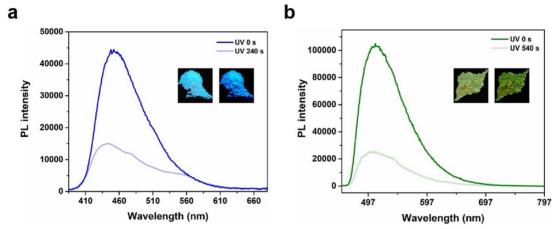


Figure S1. Time-resolved PL decay curve of DPDTE in solid state.



**Figure S2**. PL spectra and images of DPDTE (a), DPDPTE (b) in solid state before and after UV irradiation.

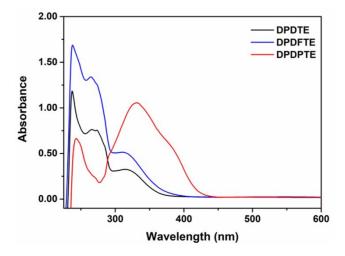
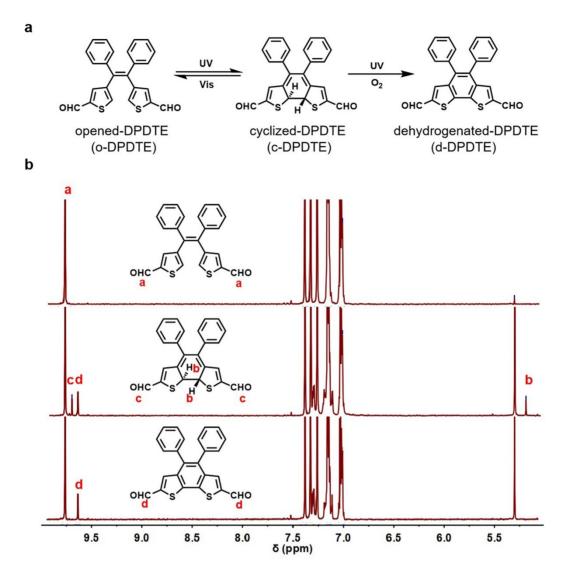
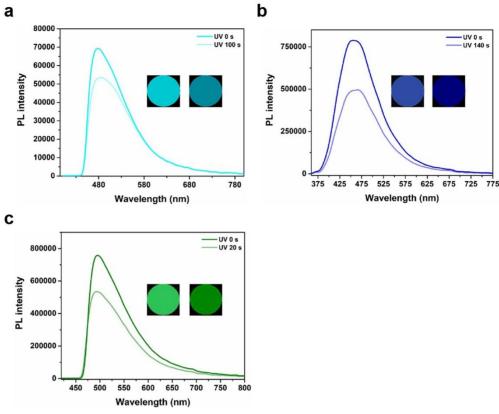


Figure S3. UV-visible spectra of DPDTE, DPDFTE and DPDPTE in THF at 25.0 μM.



**Figure S4.** (a) Schematic illustration of photo-controlled cyclization, cycloreversion and dehydrogenation reactions of DPDFTE. (b) Comparison of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of DPDFTE (10 mM) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> before and after UV irradiation.



**Figure S5**. PL spectra and images of DPDTE (a), DPDFTE (b) DPDPTE (c) in sucrose octaacetate film (1:50 in mass ratio) before and after UV irradiation.

**Table S1.** Experimental and computational data for  $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$  absorption maxima and absorption coefficient of DPDTE, DPDFTE and DPDPTE and their cyclized products.

Compounds	$\lambda_{ab}^{a}$ (nm)	$\varepsilon_{ab}{}^a (L \cdot mol^{-1} \cdot cm^{-1})$	$\lambda_{ab}{}^b(nm)$	$\mathbf{f}^b$
Opened-DPDTE	314	6964	320	0.3479
Closed-DPDTE	450	-	427	0.1316
Opened-DPDFTE	310	10280	329	0.4907
Closed-DPDFTE	550	-	536	0.2509
Opened-DPDPTE	370	14587	356	0.7742
Closed-DPDPTE	650	-	613	0.6877

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a)</sup> The experimental data in THF with a concentration of 750.0 μM. <sup>b)</sup> The calculated values in acetonitrile with M062X functional.  $\lambda_{ab}$ ,  $\epsilon_{ab}$  and f represent absorption maximum, molar absorption coefficient and oscillator strength respectively.

# 4. NMR and HRMS Spectra of Compounds

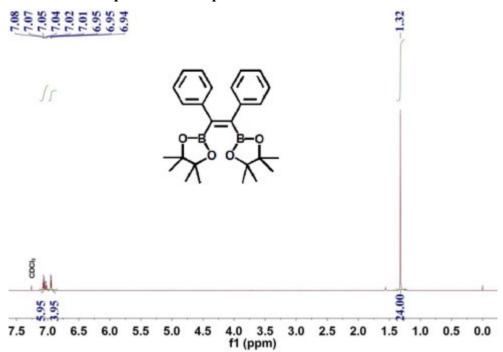


Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of DPDBE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

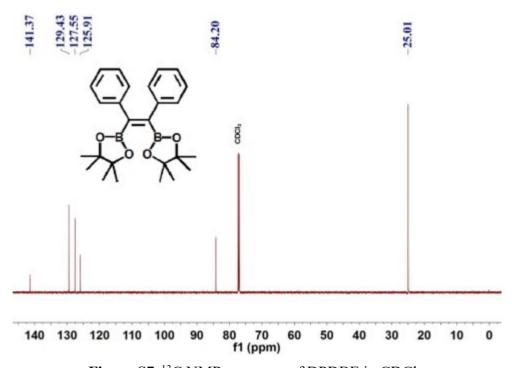


Figure S7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of DPDBE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

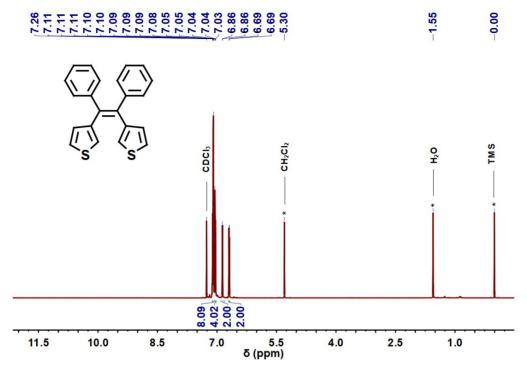


Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of DPDTE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

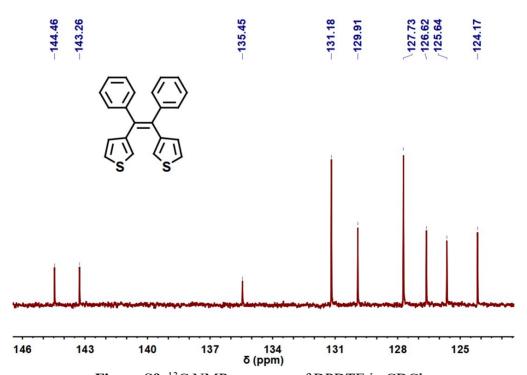


Figure S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of DPDTE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

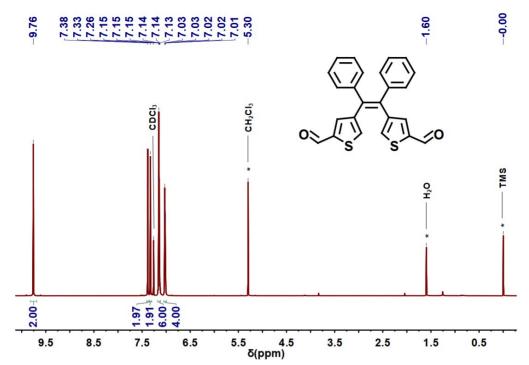


Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of DPDFTE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

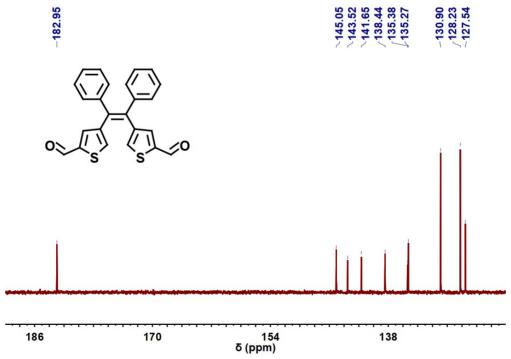


Figure S11. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of DPDFTE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

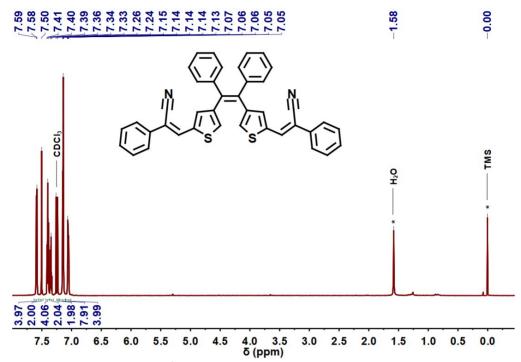


Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of DPDPTE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

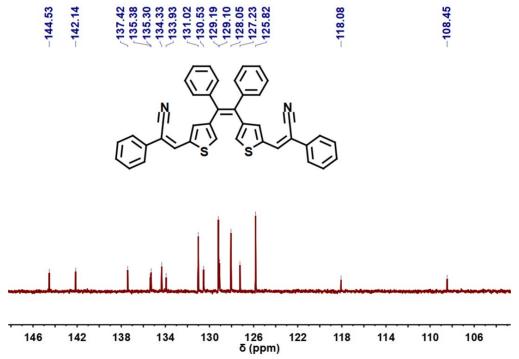


Figure S13. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of DPDPTE in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

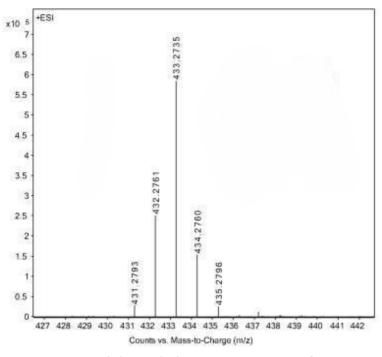


Figure S14. High-resolution mass spectrum of DPDBE.

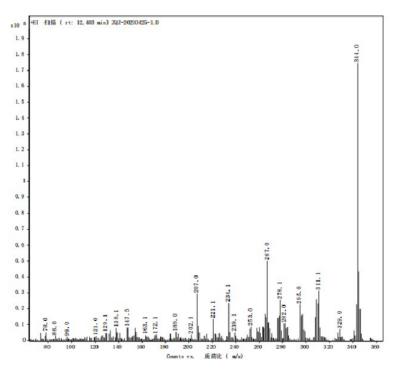


Figure S15. High-resolution mass spectrum of DPDTE.

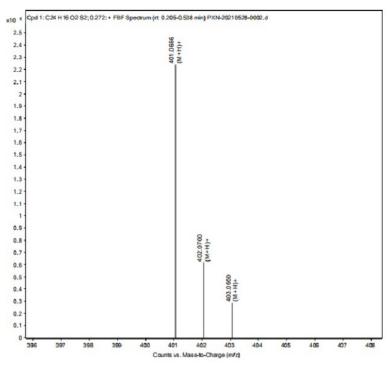


Figure S16. High-resolution mass spectrum of DPDFTE.

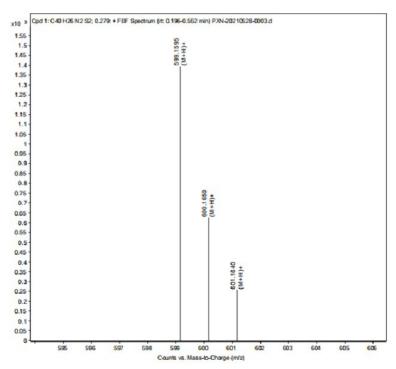


Figure S17. High-resolution mass spectrum of DPDPTE.

#### 5. Reference

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