

Supporting information for

**Water-assisted single-step catalytic
hydrodeoxygenation of polyethylene
terephthalate into gasoline- and jet fuel-range
cycloalkanes over supported Ru catalysts in a
biphasic system**

Vishnu Murali^a, Jung Rae Kim^a, Young-Kwon Park^b, Jeong-Myeong Ha^c, Jungho

Jae^{a,*}

^aSchool of Chemical Engineering, Pusan National University, Busan 46241, Republic of
Korea

^bSchool of Environmental Engineering, University of Seoul, Seoul 02504, Republic of Korea

^cClean Energy Research Center, Korea Institute of Science and Technology, Seoul 02792,
Republic of Korea

*Corresponding author: Tel.: +82-51-510-2989; E-mail: jh.jae@pusan.ac.kr (J. Jae).

1. Catalyst synthesis

All the Ru-based nano catalysts were prepared by IWI method with an appropriate amount of aqueous solution of $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The obtained samples were dried at 100 °C for 12 h.

Table S1 Conditions used for the synthesis of Ru/S, (S=Support) catalyst

No	Catalyst Type	Drying condition	Calcination condition	Reduction condition
1	Ru/TiO ₂	100 °C, 12 h	-	400 °C, 4 h
2	Ru/HZSM-5	100 °C, 12 h	500 °C, 5 h	250 °C, 2 h
3	Ru/C	80 °C, 12 h	-	400 °C, 4 h
4	Ru/HY(30)	100 °C, 12 h	500 °C, 4 h	400 °C, 4 h
5	Ru/ZrO ₂	100 °C, 12 h	500 °C, 5 h	450 °C, 4 h

2. Calculation methods for the conversion of PET and selectivity of different products in PET HDO reaction.

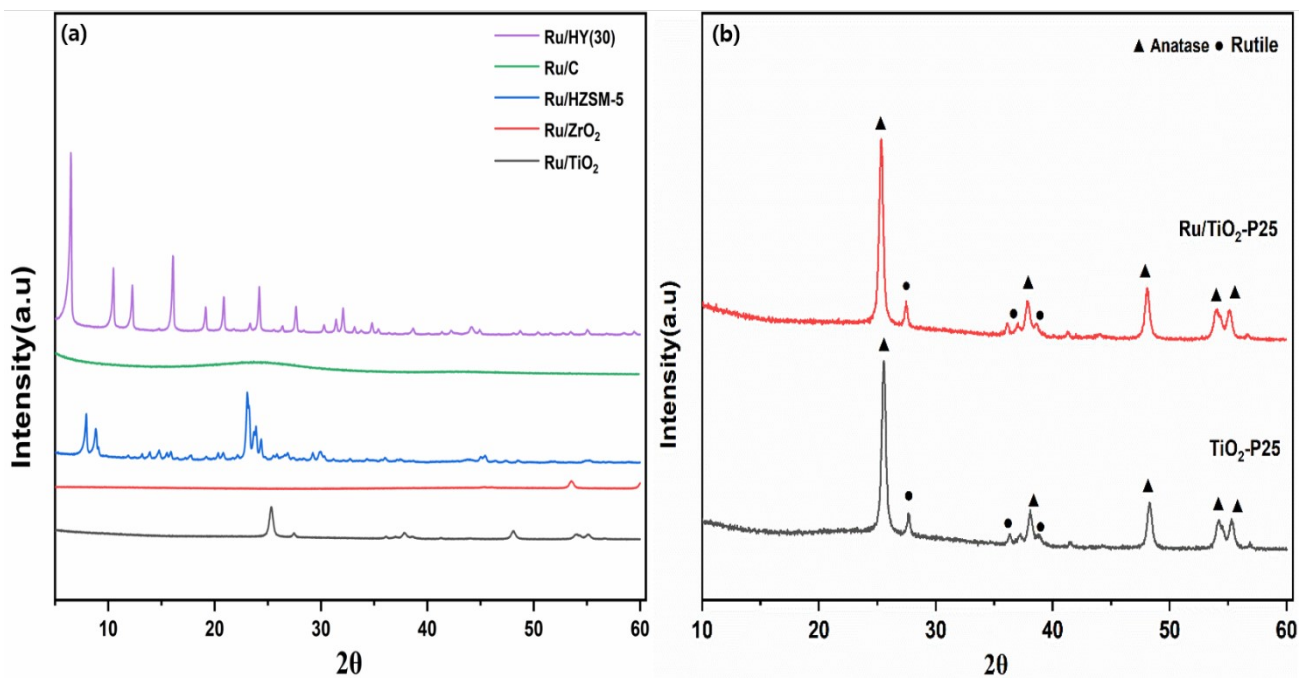
The PET conversion and selectivity of products were calculated according to the following equations.

$$\text{Conversion of PET waste (\%)} = \frac{\text{Initial weight of PET waste} - \text{The Weight of unreacted PET}}{\text{Initial weight of PET waste}} * 100 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{The weight of unreacted PET} = \text{The weight of residual solid (g)} - \text{Introduced catalyst amount (g)} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Selectivity [\% C]} = \frac{\text{Amount of each products [mol - C]}}{\Sigma \text{Amount of products [mol - C]}} * 100 \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Yield [\% C]} = \frac{\text{Conversion} * \text{Selectivity}}{100} \quad (4)$$



3. Catalyst characterization

Fig. S1 The XRD pattern a) Ru/S (support) b) Ru/TiO₂ and TiO₂-P25.

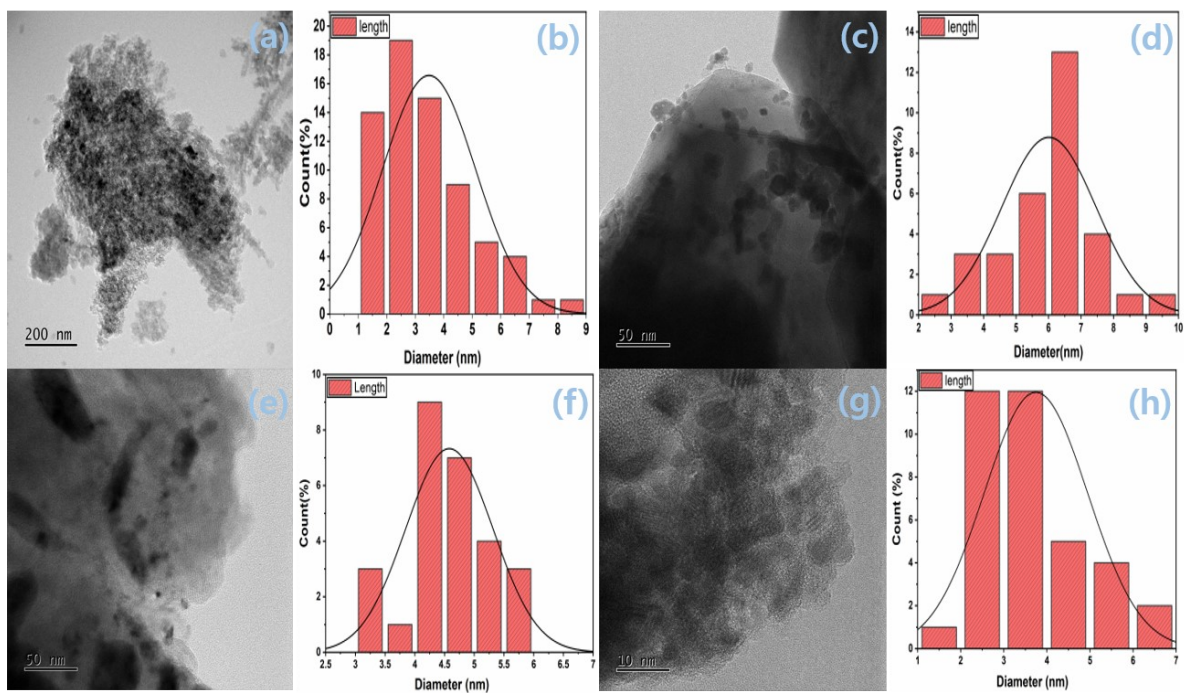


Fig. S2 TEM micrograph image and histogram of different catalysts: (a,b) Ru/C , (c,d) Ru/ZrO₂, (e,f) Ru/HY(30), (g,h) Ru/HZSM-5

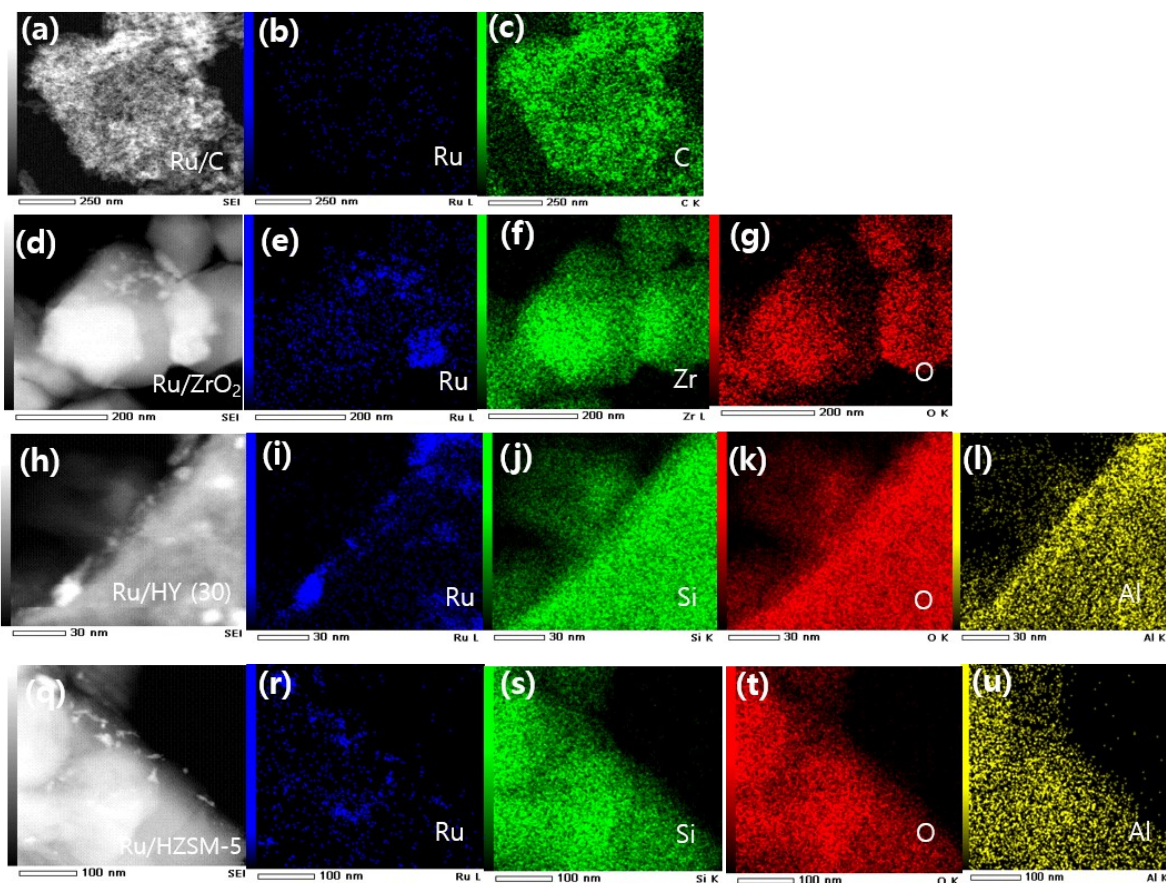


Fig. S3 TEM-EDS mapping of prepared catalysts: (a-c) Ru/C, (d-g) Ru/ZrO₂, (h-l) Ru/HY (30), (q-u) Ru/HZSM-5.

Table S2 Ru (wt%) content in metal supported catalysts based on the EDS mapping data.

Catalyst	Ru wt(%)
Ru-TiO ₂	1.89
Ru-C	1.58
Ru-ZrO ₂	1.88

Ru-HZSM-5	1.8
Ru-HY(30)	1.66

4. Contact angle measurements

To investigate the wettability of Ru-supported catalysts, here we chose Ru/C, Ru/TiO₂ and Ru/HZSM-5 (neutral, medium and strong acidic supports) as the reference samples. The contact angle of water on the surface of the catalyst was measured and the results were shown in (Fig. S3). From the study the Ru/TiO₂ catalyst has a contact angle of 45.4 °, indicating a very hydrophilic character. Whereas the catalyst Ru/HZSM-5 assigned the contact angle of 89.9 ° indicating an amphiphilic behavior and the Ru/C showed a contact angle > 90 ° signifying high hydrophobic behavior.

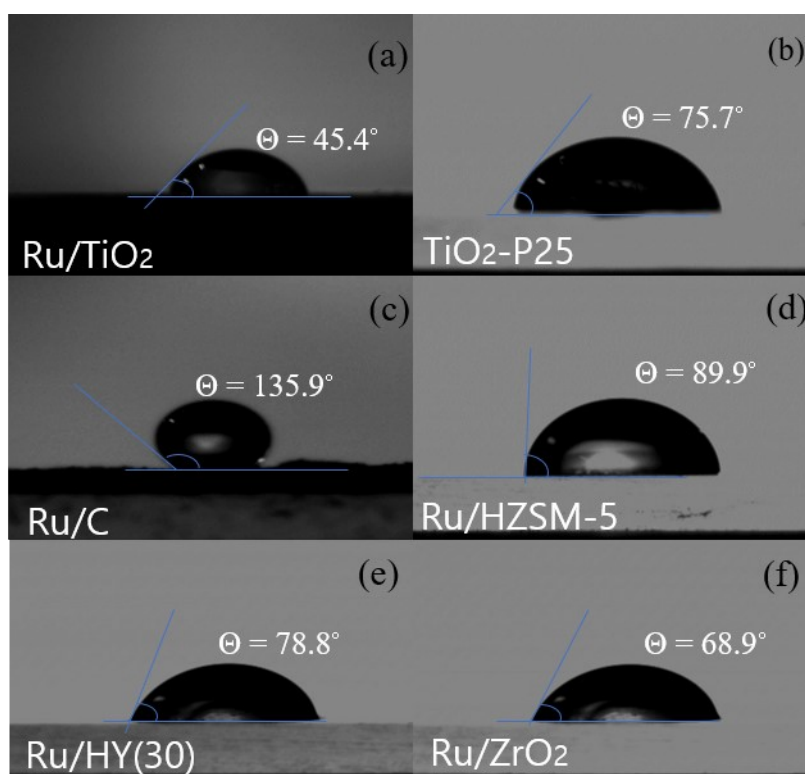


Fig. S4 Contact angle of different catalyst support a) Ru/TiO₂, b) TiO₂-P25, c) Ru/C, d) Ru/HZSM-5, e) Ru/HY(30), f) Ru/ZrO₂

Table S3 The contact angle of different catalyst supports

Catalyst	Contact angle (θ)
Ru/TiO ₂	45.4 °
TiO ₂ -P25	75.7 °
Ru/HZSM-5	89.9 °
Ru/C	135.9 °
Ru/ZrO ₂	68.9 °
Ru/HY(30)	78.8°

5. PET hydrogenolysis results

Table S4 Product distribution for PET hydrogenolysis over monophasic and biphasic systems. (Reaction condition: 0.5 g catalyst + 0.5 g PET water (monophasic and biphasic (water: n-dodecane (1:1) system), 220 °C, 50 bar H₂, 12 h)

Entry	Catalyst	0-Os HCs C mol (%)	Aromatics C mol (%)	1-Os HCs C mol (%)	2-4-Os HCs C mol (%)	Conversion (%)
1	Ru/TiO ₂ - monophasic	2.11	0.8	97.1	0	85.3
2	Ru/TiO ₂ - biphasic	96.8	0	3.2	0	86.16
3	Ru/C -monophasic	13.1	0	86.87	0	82.11
4	Ru/C - biphasic	43.54	0	20.59	35.58	46.06
5	Ru/ZrO ₂ - monophasic	16.64	11.58	14.43	57.32	35.22
6	Ru/ZrO ₂ -biphasic	73.76	0	26.24	0	14.06
7	Ru/HZSM-5 - monophasic	2.03	0.58	74.58	22.12	89.26
8	Ru/HZSM-5 - biphasic	41.87	0	1.38	53.9	95.08
9	Ru/HY(30) - monophasic	1.91	0.29	4.88	92.87	92.89
10	Ru/HY(30) - biphasic	13.58	12.01	0	74.39	94.18
11	Ru/TiO ₂ +HZSM-5 - monophasic	3.96	0	56.42	38.7	84.3
12	Ru/TiO ₂ +HZSM-5 - biphasic	74.39	0.44	8.69	16.48	77.96

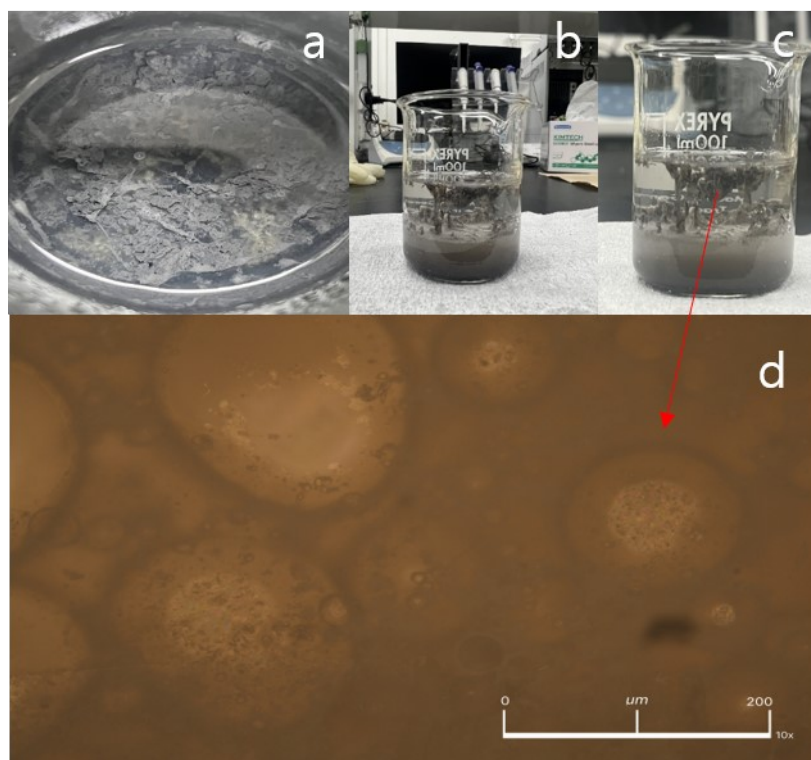


Fig. S5 Photograph a-c) Photo of Pickering emulsion (O/W) system of Ru-TiO₂ Catalyst, d) optical microscope image of O/W emulsion of Ru/TiO₂ catalyst.

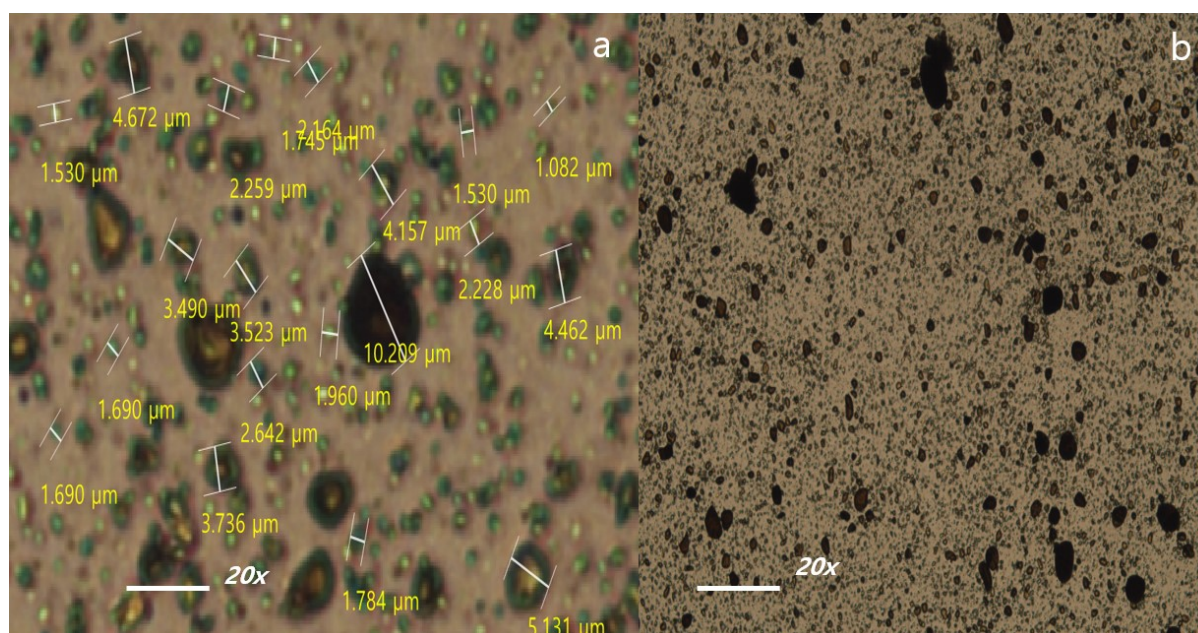


Fig. S6 (a-b) Optical microscopy images of W/O emulsion droplets stabilized over Ru/TiO₂ Catalyst in 4:1 (water: n-dodecane) biphasic system.

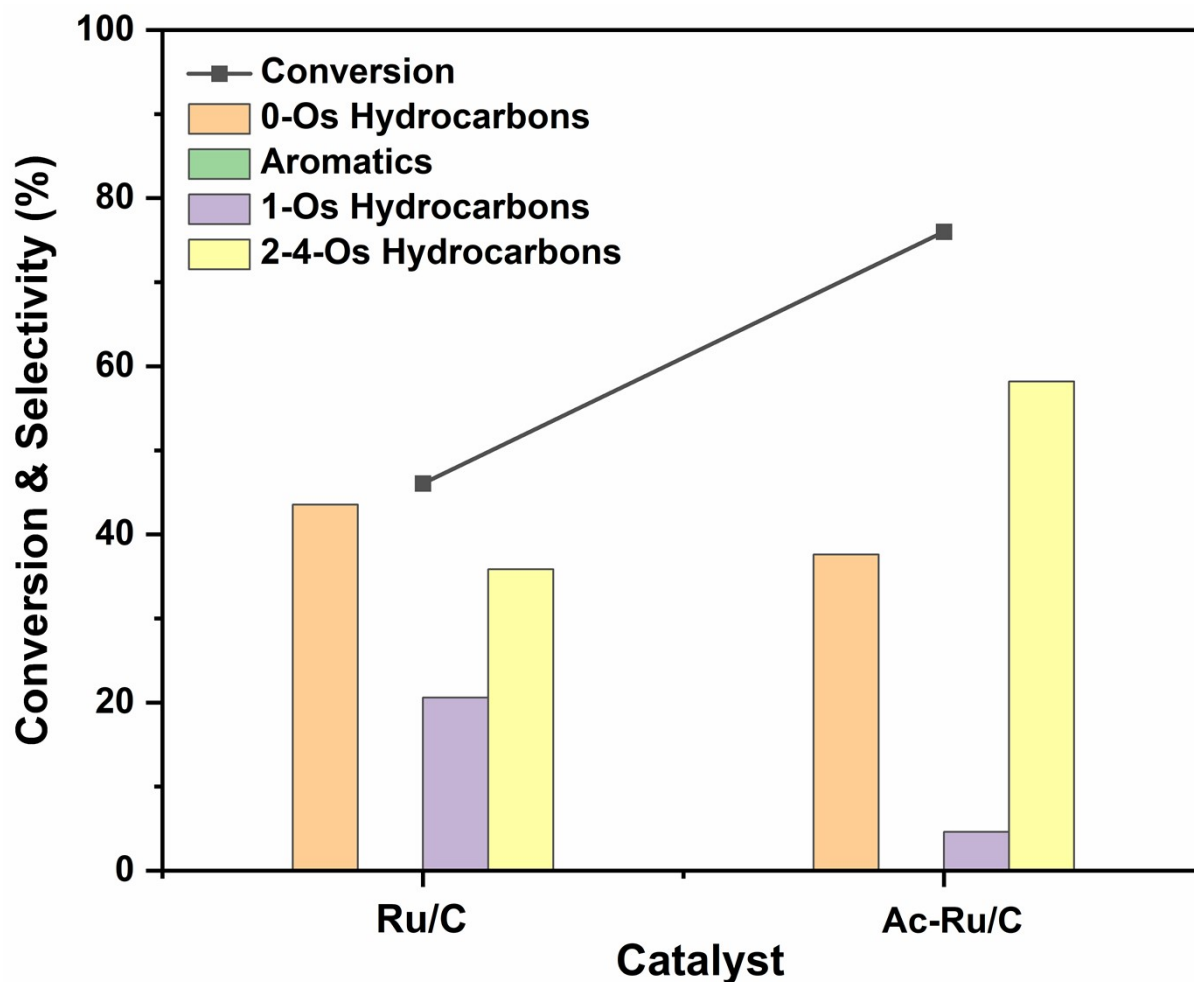


Fig. S7 Effect of hydrophilic catalyst in PET hydrogenolysis reaction. Reaction condition: 0.5 g catalyst + 0.5 g PET in (biphasic system), 220 °C, 50 bar H₂, 12 h.

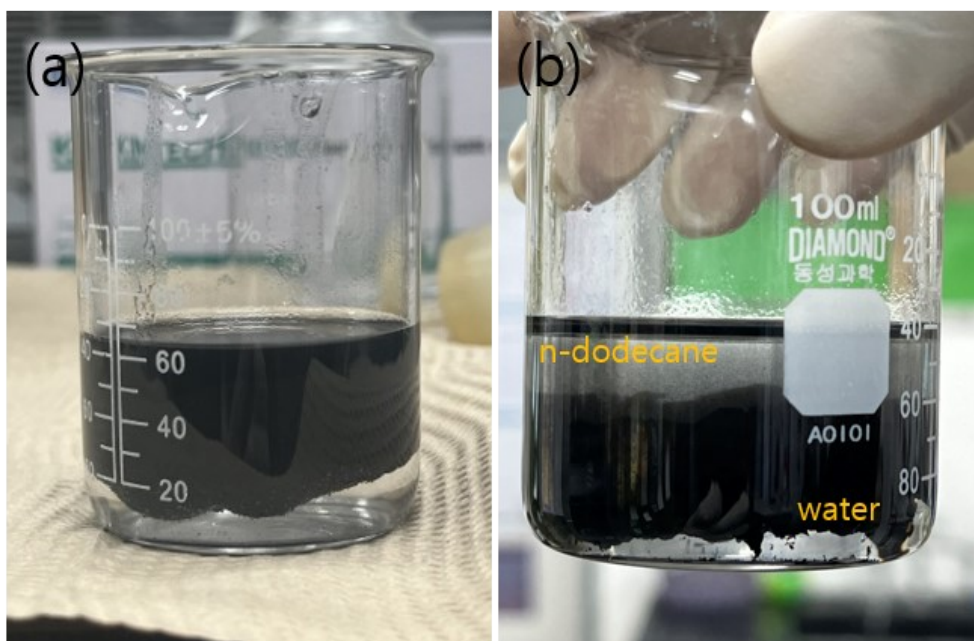


Fig. S8 Photograph of a) (W/O) system of Ru/C, b) (O/W) emulsion system of Ac-Ru/C

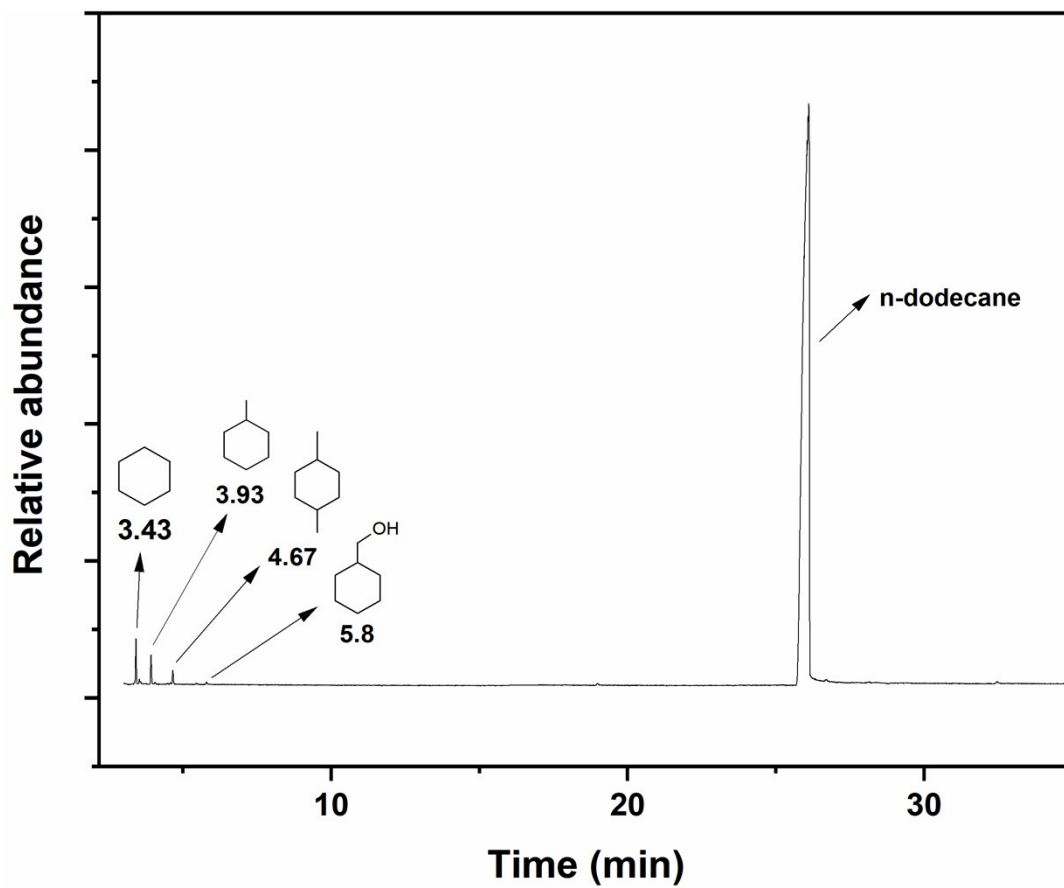


Fig. S9 GC-MS analysis of the PET HDO over Ru/TiO₂ catalyst in biphasic system.

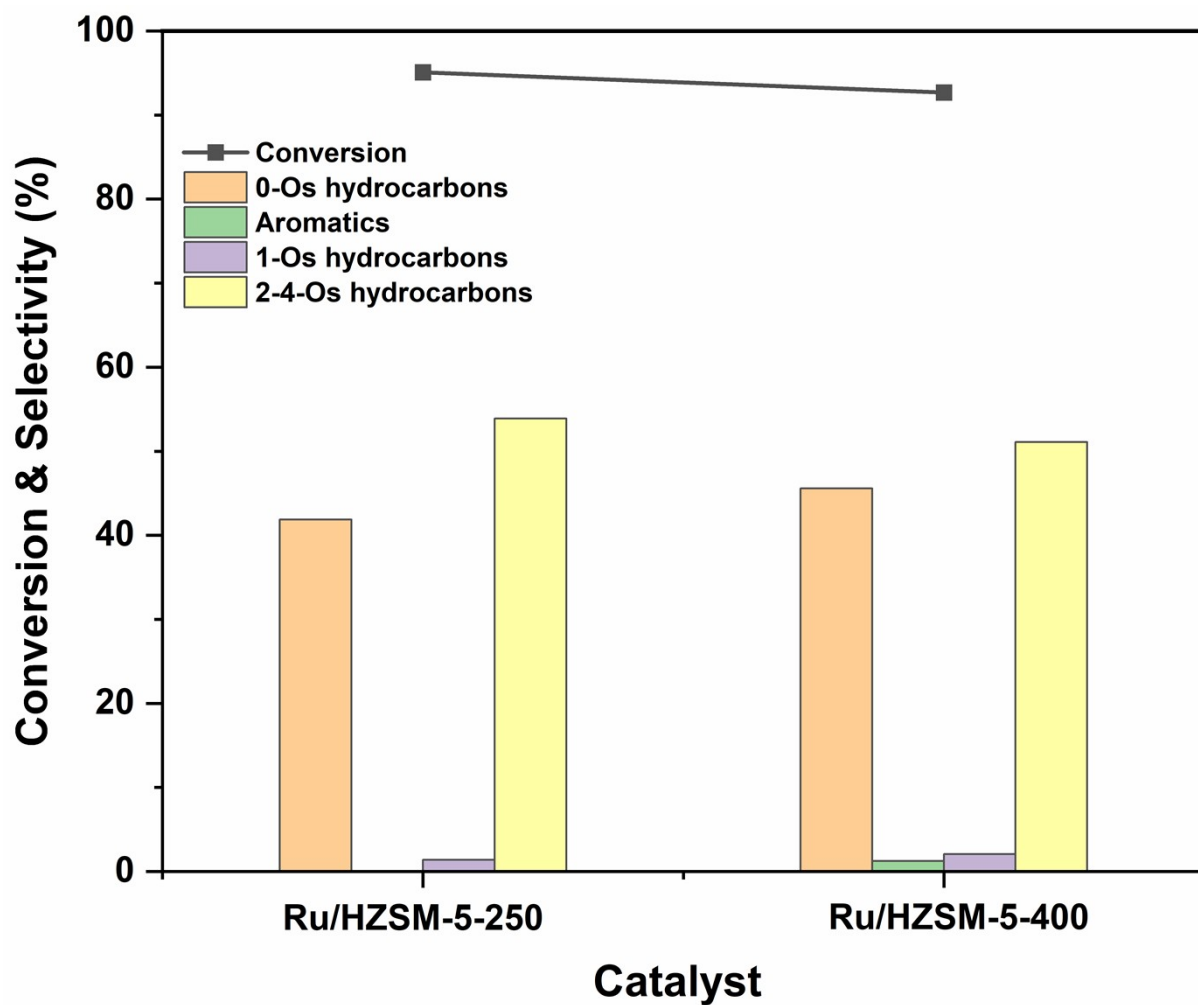


Fig. S10 Effect of reduction temperature in PET hydrogenolysis reaction over Ru/HZSM-5. Reaction condition: 0.5 g catalyst + 0.5 g PET in (biphasic system), 220 °C, 50 bar H₂, 12 h.

Table S5 Solubility of different intermediate products in water and dodecane medium.

No.	Products	Solubility in water medium	Solubility in dodecane medium
1	Terepathallic acid	Insoluble	Insoluble
2	Cyclohexane dicarboxylic acid	Slightly soluble	Soluble
3	4-Methylcyclohexane carboxylic acid	Slightly soluble	Soluble
4	Cyclohexane carboxylic acid	Slightly soluble	Soluble
5	4-Methyl cyclohexane methanol	Insoluble	Soluble
6	Cyclohexane methanol	Insoluble	Soluble
7	Dimethyl cyclohexane	Insoluble	Soluble
8	Methyl cyclohexane	Insoluble	Soluble
9	Cyclohexane	Insoluble	Soluble
10	Toluene	Insoluble	Soluble
11	Xylene	Insoluble	Soluble
12	p-Toluic acid	Insoluble	Soluble

Table S6
leaching test
results)

	First Run	Second Run	Catalyst (ICP-OES)
Ru Concentration (μ/L)	Ru	Ru	
water layer	0	0	
Oil layer	0	0	

6. Calculation of Energy economy coefficient (ϵ)

The energy economy coefficient (ϵ) is a useful parameter to identify the advanced process for PET hydrodeoxygenation. The advanced process would tend to possess high ϵ .

$$\epsilon = \frac{Y}{T * t} \quad (5)$$

Y=yield of the main monomer,

T=temperature of the reaction in celsius

t=the reaction time in minutes.

Table S7 Calculation of energy economy factor.

Catalyst	T (°C)	Reaction time (min)	Products	Yield of arenes or C6-C8 cyclic hydrocarbon or TPA (%)	Energy economy (ϵ) (°C ⁻¹ *min ⁻¹)	Ref.
Ru/TiO ₂	220	720	Cyclic hydrocarbon	87.92	5.55E-04	This work
Ru-TiO ₂	220	720	Cyclic hydrocarbon	83.41	5.27E-04	This work
Ru/Nb ₂ O ₅	320	960	Areans	85	2.77E-04	1
Ru/NiAl ₂ O ₃	320	960	Areans	80	2.60E-04	1
Co/TiO ₂	320	1440	Areans	75.2	1.36E-04	2
Ru/Cu/SiO ₂	400	1320	Cyclic hydrocarbon	94	1.78E-04	3
Ru/ZrO ₂	220	720	Areans	40	2.52E-04	4
Pt/NiAl ₂ O ₃	220	720	Areans	3.6	2.27E-05	4
Pd/NiAl ₂ O ₃	220	720	Areans	21	1.33E-04	4
Single site C/MoO ₂	260	1440	TPA	87	2.32E-04	5
Nickel phosphade catalyst	400	360	Areans	84	5.34E-04	6
CoMo/NC	260	600	TPA	91	5.34E-04	7

7. Product and catalyst separation

Table S8 Boiling points of solvents and major products.

Substance	Boiling point (°C)
n-dodecane	216.2
Cyclohexane	80.75
Methyl cyclohexane	101
Dimethyl cyclohexane	124-125

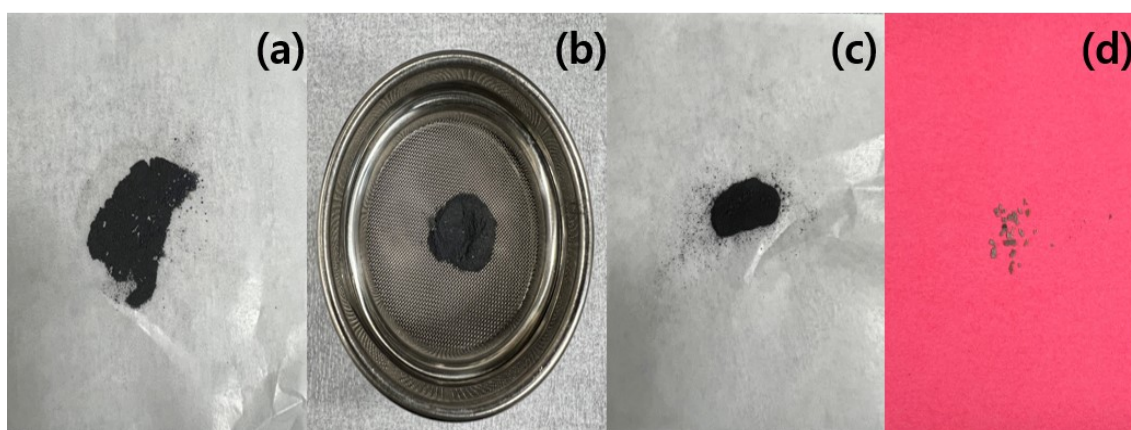


Fig. S11 Photograph of a) Catalyst after reaction (residual PET + catalyst), b) sieve process, c) Catalyst after sieving, d) Separated residual PET.

8. References

1. Y. Jing, Y. Wang, S. Furukawa, J. Xia, C. Sun, M. J. Hülsey, H. Wang, Y. Guo, X. Liu and N. Yan, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 5527-5535.
2. S. Hongkailers, Y. Jing, Y. Wang, N. Hinchiranan and N. Yan, *ChemSusChem*, 2021, **14**, 4330-4339.
3. H. Tang, N. Li, G. Li, A. Wang, Y. Cong, G. Xu, X. Wang and T. Zhang, *Green Chem.*, 2019, **21**, 2709-2719.
4. S. Lu, Y. Jing, B. Feng, Y. Guo, X. Liu and Y. Wang, *ChemSusChem*, 2021, **14**, 4242-4250.
5. Y. Jing, Y. Wang, S. Furukawa, J. Xia, C. Sun, M. J. Hülsey, H. Wang, Y. Guo, X. Liu and N. Yan, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 5527-5535.
6. M. Golubeva, M. Mukhtarova, A. Sadovnikov and A. Maximov, *Polym.*, 2023, **15**, 2248.
7. P. Wu, G. Lu and C. Cai, *Green Chem.*, 2021, **23**, 8666-8672.