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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Boron-imidazolate coordination networks with 3d transition metals for enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capability

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## **Supporting Figures**



**Figure S1.** SEM and optical microscope images of the obtained BIF-3-Cu crystals prepared by (I): previously reported BIF-3-Cu synthesis method in Ref. 4, (II): using 2-amino-1-butanol as a reaction solvent at 100 °C for 4 days, (III): using CuCl as a metal salt, (IV): heating for 2 days, (V): heating 24 hours and (VI): heating 24 hours with adding NaI.

	Previous study <sup>S1</sup>	This study
Formula	$C_{16}H_{20}BCuN_8$	$C_{16}H_{20}BCuN_8$
Formula weight	398.75	398.75
<i>T</i> (K)	293	93.15
Crystal system	cubic	cubic
Space group	P-43n	P-43n
<i>a</i> (Å)	16.0184(2)	15.9474(4)
<i>b</i> (Å)	16.0184(2)	15.9474(4)
<i>c</i> (Å)	16.0184(2)	15.9474(4)
$\alpha$ (deg)	90	90
$\beta$ (deg)	90	90
γ (deg)	90	90
$V(Å^3)$	4110.15	4055.7(3)
Ζ	6	6
$D_{\rm cal}~({ m g~cm^{-3}})$	0.967	0.980
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.809	0.820
F (000)	1236	1236.0
crystal size (mm)	N/A	$0.156 \times 0.111 \times 0.072$
$2\theta$ range (deg)	3.60-50.08	5.108-52.718
reflns collected	14833	5449
indep reflns/R <sub>int</sub>	1222 / 0.1167	1329 / 0.0317
GOF on $F^2$	1.159	1.151
$R_1, WR_2 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0605, 0.1537	0.0426, 0.1289
$R_1$ , w $R_2$ (all data)	0.1001, 0.1755	0.0449, 0.1316

 Table S1. Crystallographic data and structure refinement details of BIF-3-Cu

	Specific surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Pore volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /g)
This study	1000	0.60
Solvothermal synthesis <sup>S1</sup>	182.3	N/A
Mechanochemical synthesis <sup>S2</sup>	935	N/A

Table S2. Comparison of specific surface area of BIF-3-Cu



**Figure S2.** TG curves of the prepared BIF-3-Cu crystals, (I): using 2-amino-1-butanol as the reaction solvent at 100 °C for 4 days and (II): with triethylamine addition and at 50/50 (= MeOH/MeCN, v/v).



Figure S3. SEM/EDX mapping images of BIF-3-Cu.



Figure S4. Photograph of the obtained BIF-3-Cu.



**Figure S5.** PXRD patterns of BIF-3-Cu crystals before and after soaking in the acetonitrile solution of tetracyanoethylene (TCNE) for 24 hours. (I): as-prepared sample (before soaking) and after soaking in (II): 5 mmol  $L^{-1}$ , (III): 25 mmol  $L^{-1}$ , (VI): 50 mmol  $L^{-1}$  TCNE solution.



Figure S6. Rietveld refinement of BIF-3-Zn.



Figure S7. SEM/EDX mapping images of BIF-3-Zn.



**Figure S8.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of (a)  $H[B(2-MIm)_4)]$  and (b) recovered ligand from prepared BIF-3-Zn crystal decomposed by *d*-HCl D<sub>2</sub>O solution. \*<sup>1</sup> indicates an internal standard (DMSO) and \*<sup>2</sup> indicates the reaction solvent.



Figure S9. N<sub>2</sub> adsorption measurements (77 K) of (I): BIF-3-Zn and (II): ZIF-8.



Figure S10. Rietveld refinement of BIF-3-Co.



Figure S11. SEM/EDX mapping images of BIF-3-Co.



**Figure S12.** CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption cycle test of BIF-3-Zn (red: 1st cycle, blue: 2nd cycle, green: 3rd cycle).

## **Supporting Reference**

- S1. J. Zhang, T. Wu, C. Zhou, S. Chen, P. Feng and X. Bu, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2009, **48**, 2542–2545.
- S2. C. B. Lennox, J. L. Do, M. Arhangelskis, H. M. Titi, O. K. Farha and T. Friscic, *Chem. Sci.*, 2021, **12**, 14499-14506.