

## Supporting Information

# Self-assembled Novel Co/Ni-based $\epsilon$ -Keggin Crystal Materials as Highly Efficient Photocatalysts for Diluted CO<sub>2</sub> Photoreduction

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## **8. References**

# 1. Materials and Physical property studies.

All chemicals were purchased from Aladdin Shanghai without further purification. The  $[\text{Mo}^{\text{V}}_{12}\text{O}_{30}(\mu_2\text{-OH})_{10}\text{H}_2\{\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3\}_4]$  abbreviated to  $\{\text{Ni}_4\text{Mo}_{12}\}$  was synthesized according to the corresponding literature.<sup>[17]</sup> The contents of C, H, and N were acquired using a PerkinElmer 2400 element analyzer. FT-IR spectra were conducted on a Nicolet Impact 410 Fourier transform infrared spectrometer from 4000-400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns were performed on a Bruker D8X diffractometer with  $\text{Cu-K}\alpha$  ( $\lambda=1.5418 \text{ \AA}$ ) radiation at  $2\theta$  in the range of 5-50° with a step size of 0.02°. TGA measurements were performed by a Diamond thermogravimetric analyzer under an atmosphere of flowing nitrogen with a heating rate of 10°C  $\text{min}^{-1}$  from room temperature to 800°C. UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra (Barium sulfate as reference) were collected on a SHIMADZU UV-2600 spectrophotometer in the range of 200-800 nm. The SEM were identified by using a Hitachi TM 3000 scanning electron microscope at an accelerating voltage of 20 kV. Elemental analyses (C, N and H) were determined by a Perkin-Elmer 2400 elemental analyzer. CO labelled by  $^{13}\text{C}$  was performed with gas chromatography-mass spectrometer (Agilent 6890 N/5975, USA).

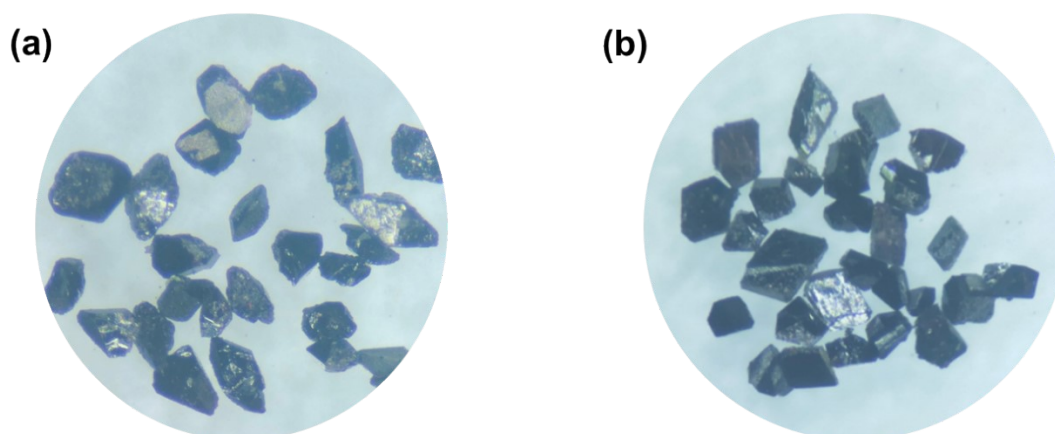
## 2. Experimental section

### 2.1 Electrochemical measurements

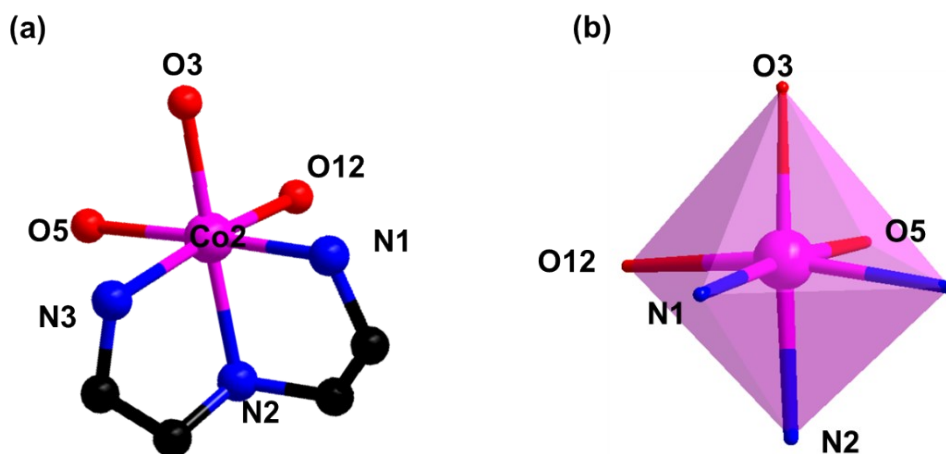
The Mott-Schottky spots were carried out in an ambient environment by using the electrochemical workstation (CHI 760e) in a standard three-electrode system: The carbon cloth (CC, 1 cm×1 cm) modified with catalyst samples, carbon rod and Ag/AgCl were used as the working electrode, counter electrode, and the reference electrode, respectively. The catalyst of 2 mg was ground to powder and then dispersed in 1 mL of 0.5% Nafion solvent by ultrasonication to form a homogeneous ink. Subsequently, 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of the ink was deposited onto the carbon cloth and dried at room temperature for Mott-Schottky spots measurements. The Mott-Schottky plots were measured over an alternating current (AC)

frequency of 1000 Hz, 1500 Hz, and 2000 Hz, and three electrodes were immersed in the 0.2 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution.

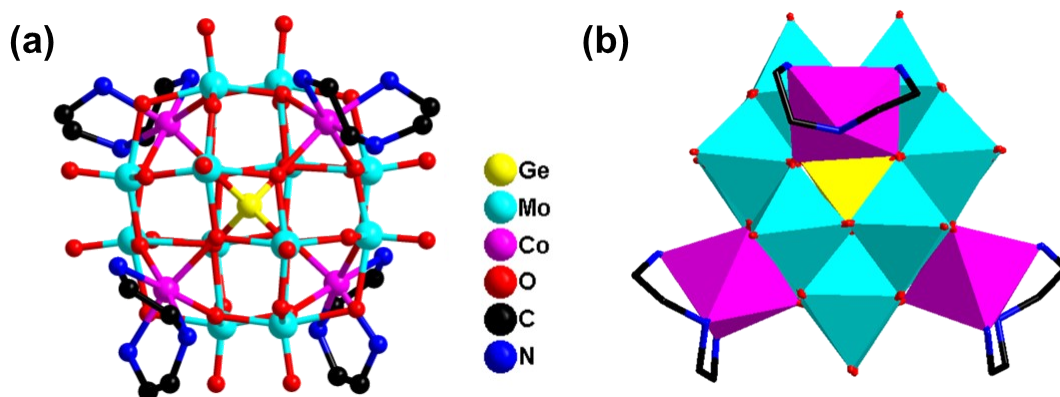
### 3. Structure



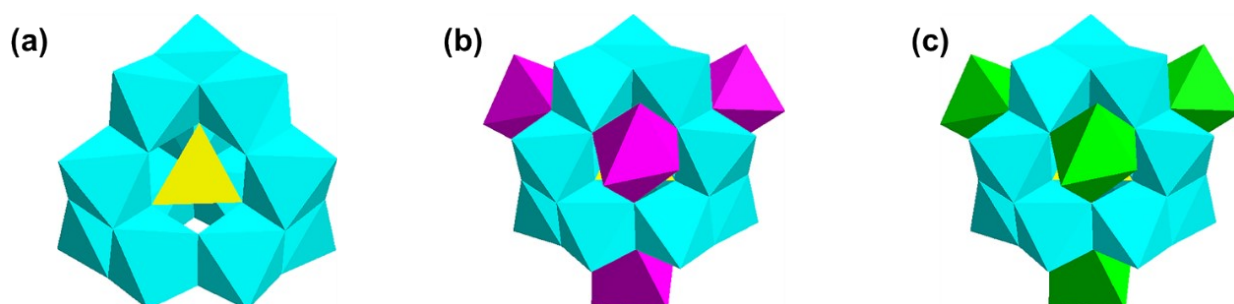
**Fig. S1** (a) The view of **Co-ε-Keggin** under an optical microscope. (b) The view of **Ni-ε-Keggin** under an optical microscope.



**Fig. S2** (a) Ball-and-stick model of Co ion coordination mode. (b) Polyhedron model of Co ion coordination mode.



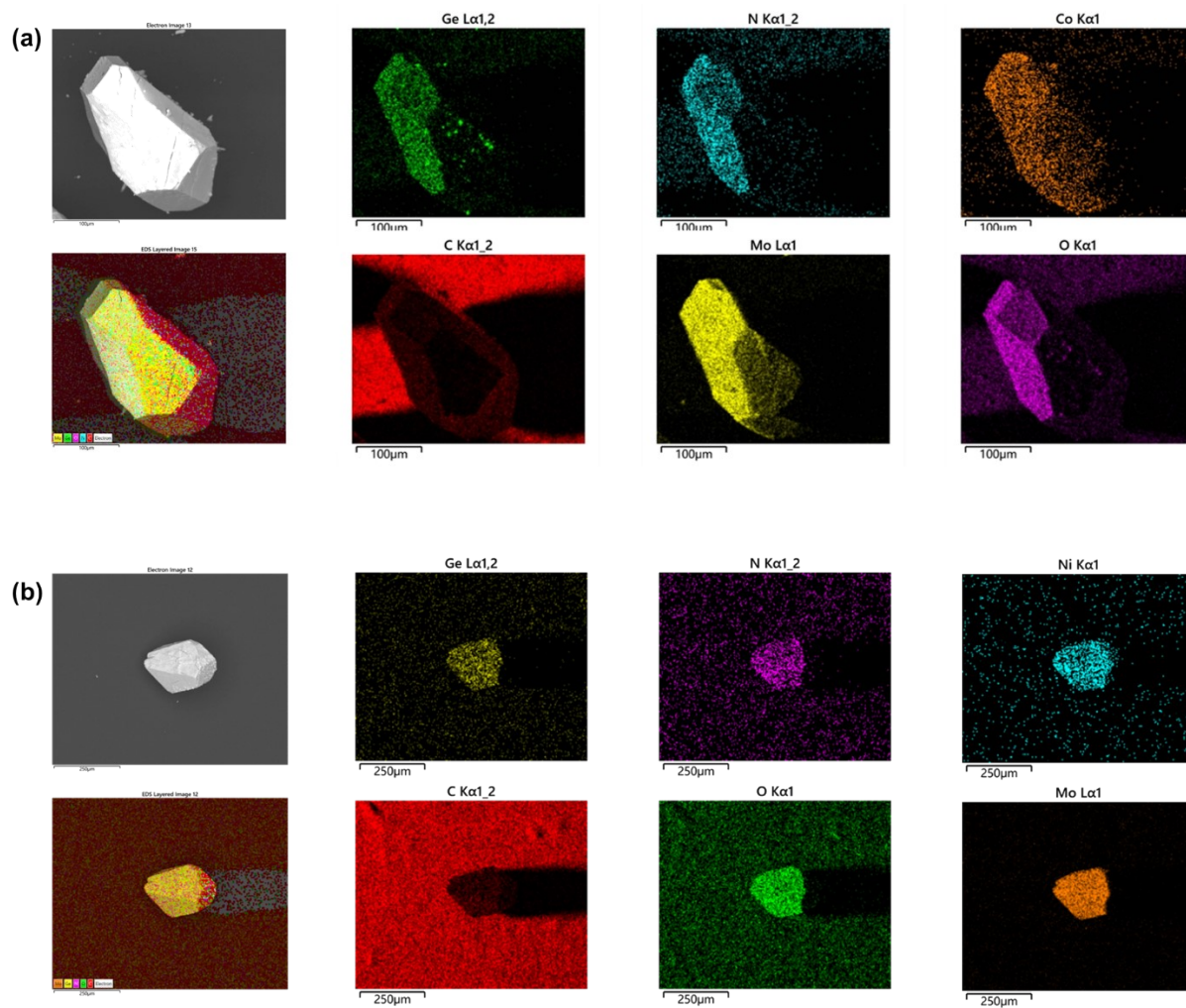
**Fig. S3** (a) Ball-and-stick model diagram of **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin**. (b) polyhedron model diagram of **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin**.



**Fig. S4** (a)  $\epsilon$ -Keggin polyhedron diagram. (b) **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin** polyhedron diagram. (c) **Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin** polyhedron diagram.

## 4. Characterizations

### 4.1 EDS-Mapping



**Fig. S5** (a) EDS-mapping diagram of Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin. (b) EDS-mapping of Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin.



## 4.2 IR

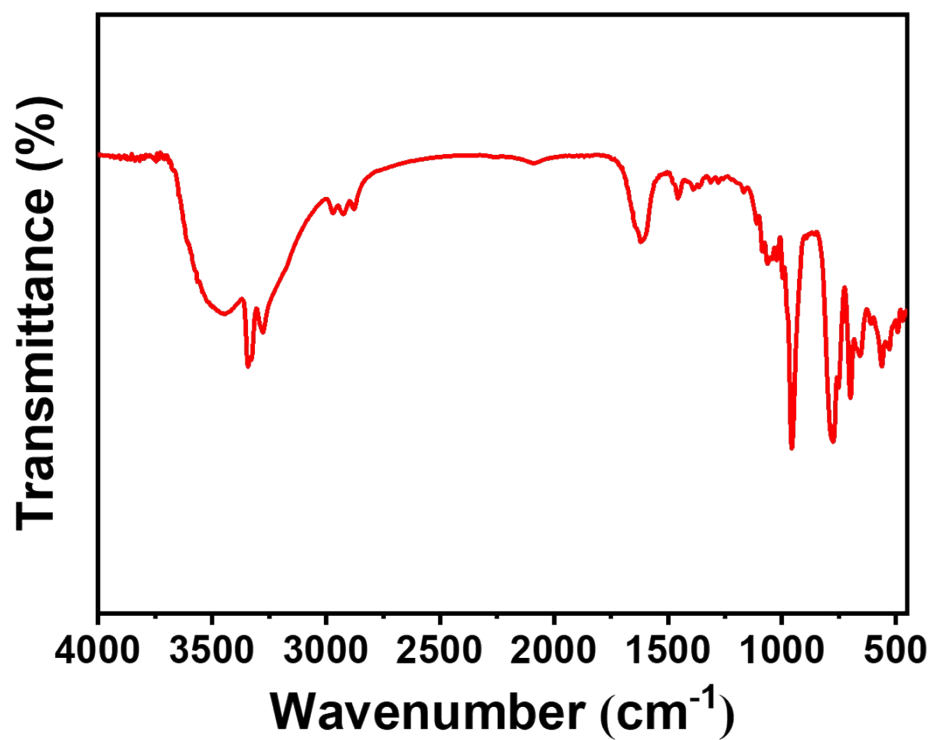


Fig. S6 The IR spectrum of Co-ε-Keggin.

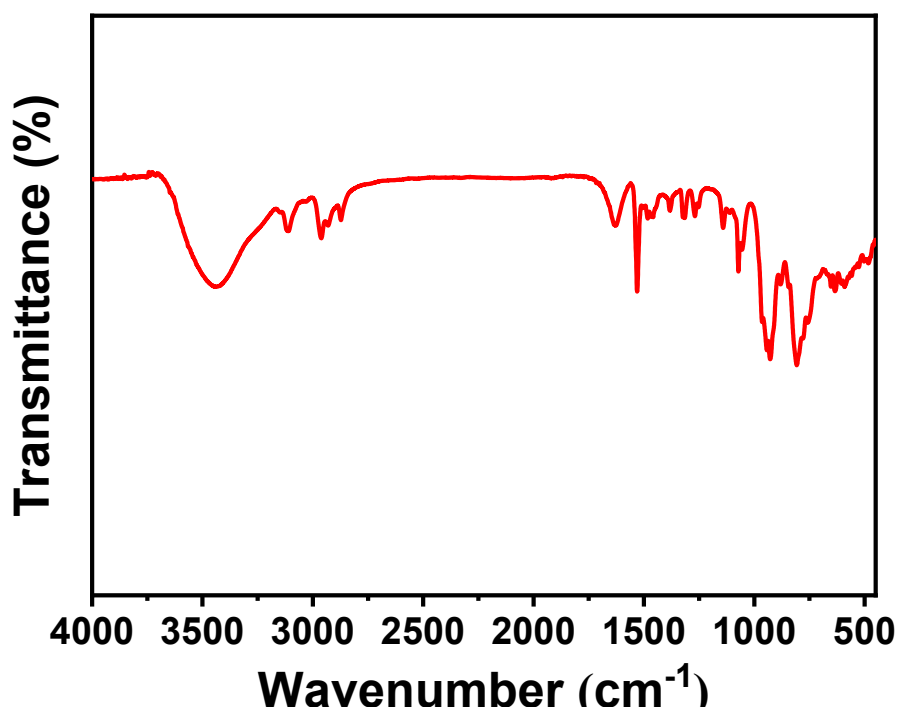
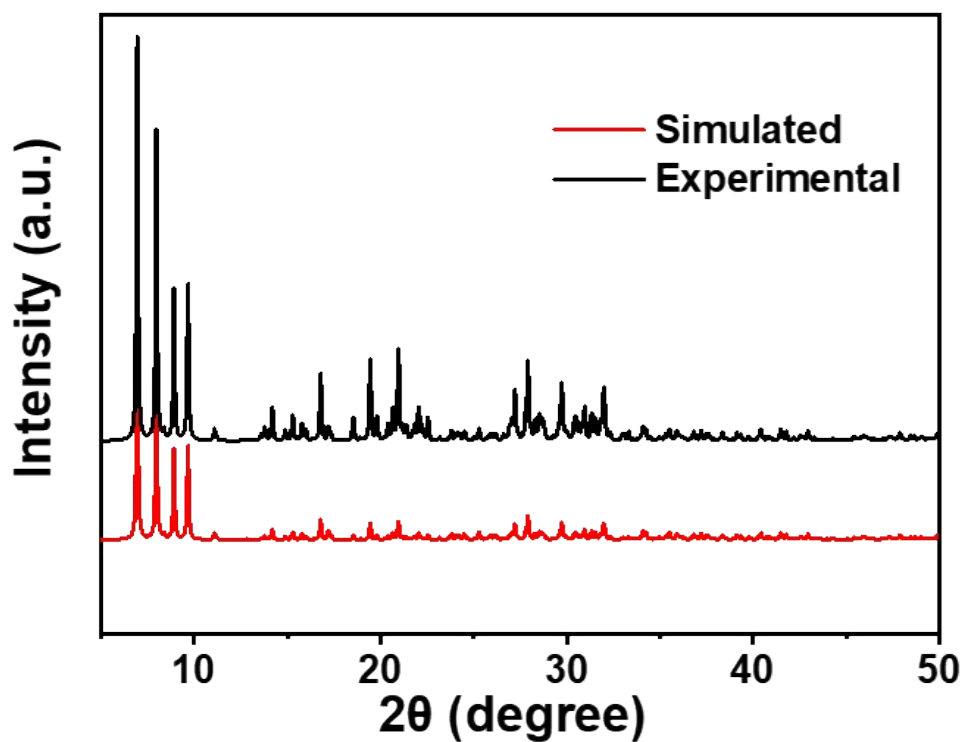
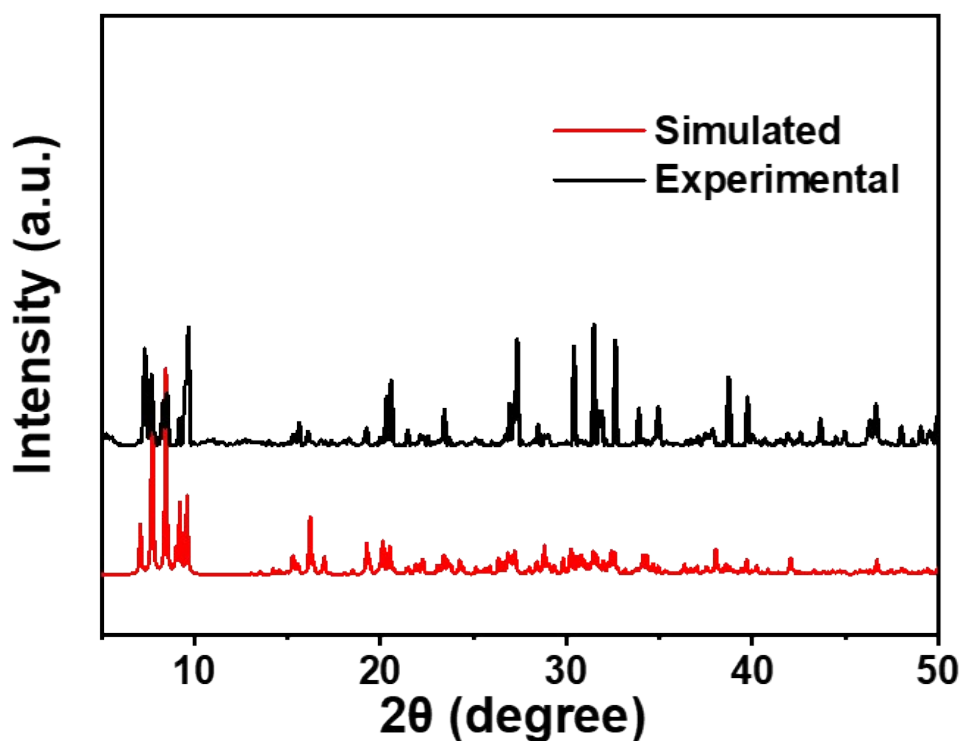


Fig. S7 The IR spectrum of Ni-ε-Keggin.

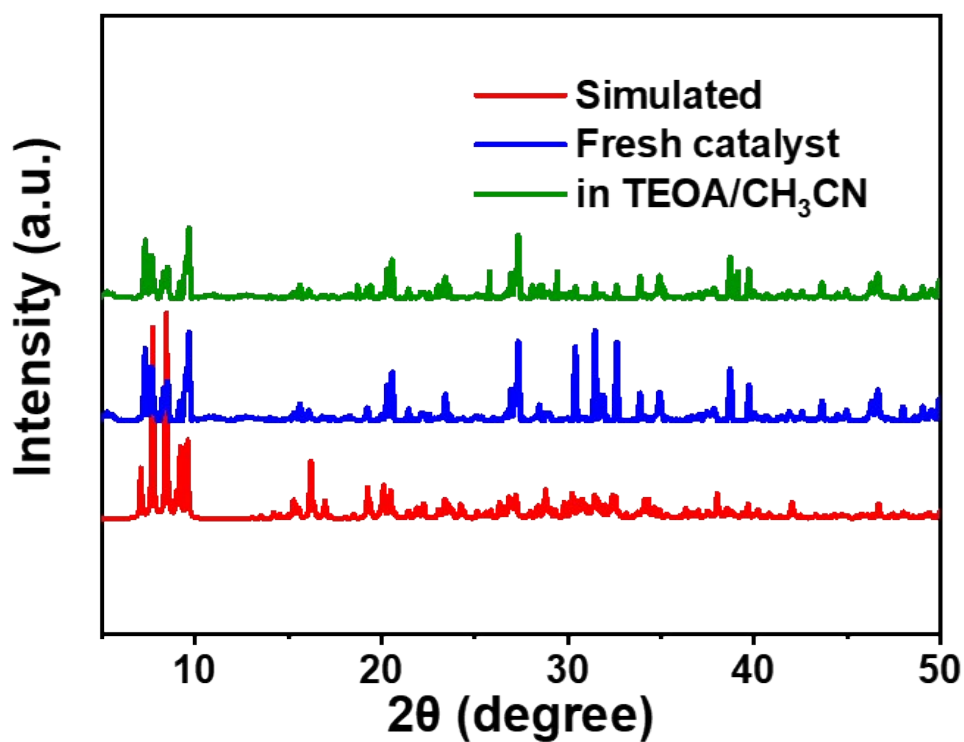
### 4.3 PXRD patterns



**Fig. S8** The experimental and simulated powder PXRD patterns of **Co-ε-Keggin**.

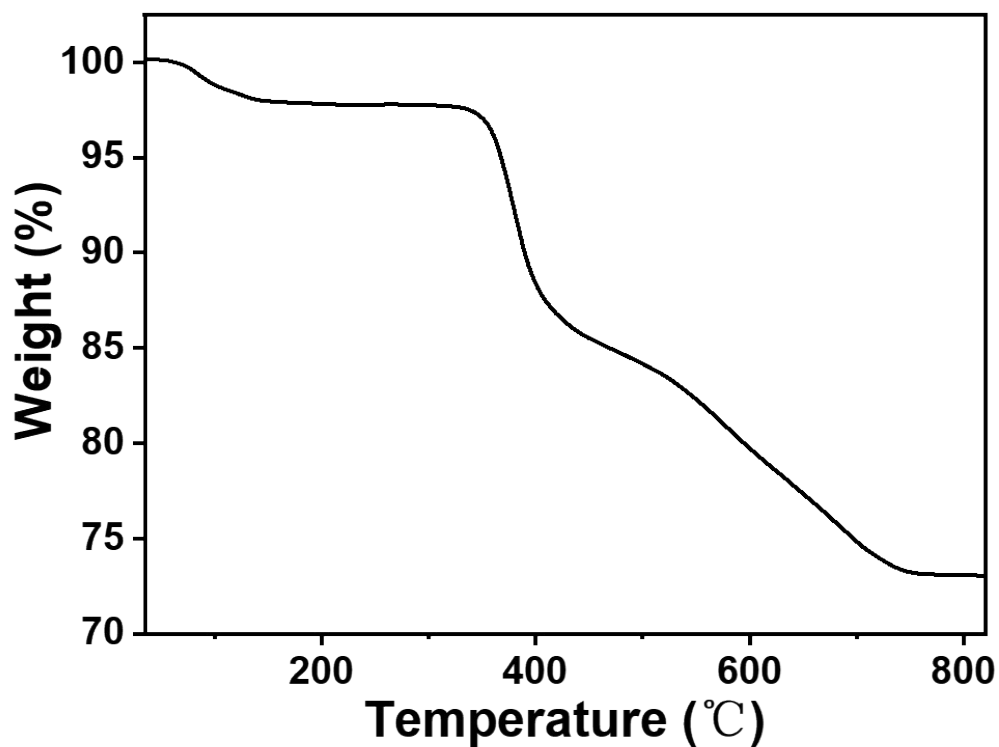


**Fig. S9** The experimental and simulated powder PXRD patterns of **Ni-ε-Keggin**.



**Fig. S10** Solvent stability in TEOA/CH<sub>3</sub>CN mixed solvents of Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin.

#### 4.4 TGA



**Fig. S11** The TG curve for Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin.

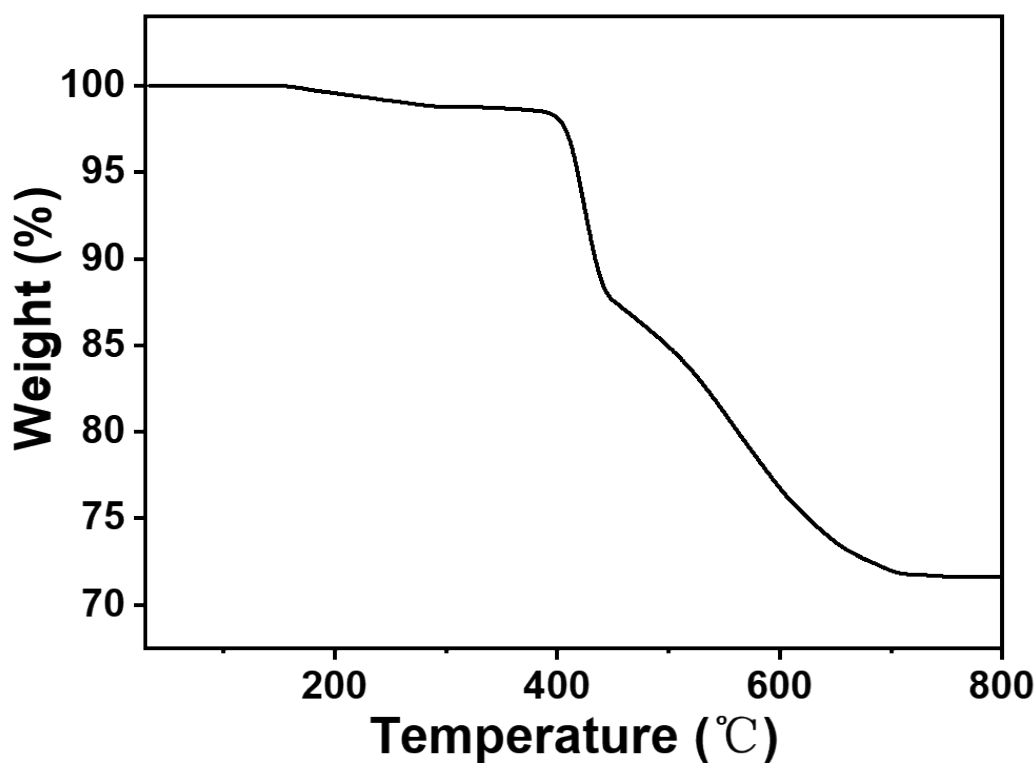


Fig. S12 The TG curve for Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin.

#### 4.5 XPS

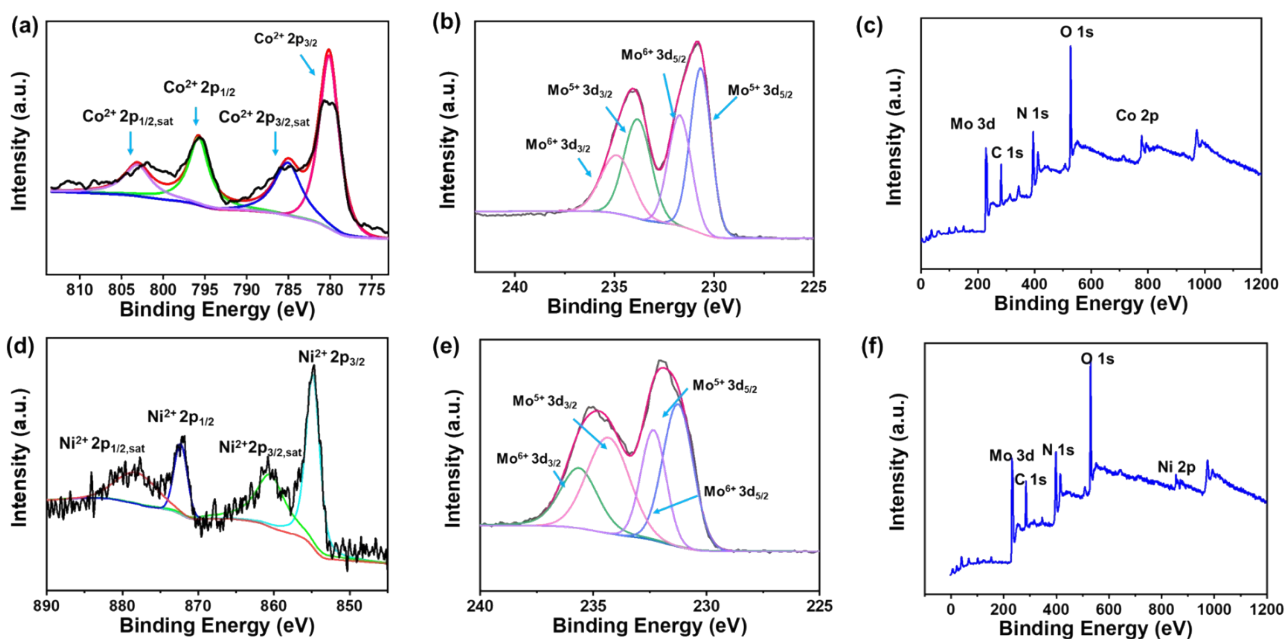


Fig. S13 (a) Co 2p spectrum analysis of Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin. (b) Mo 3d spectrum analysis of Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin. (c) Full spectrum analysis of Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin. (d) Ni 2p spectrum analysis of Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin. (e) Mo 3d spectrum analysis of Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin. (f) Full spectrum analysis of Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin.

## 5. Photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction experiments

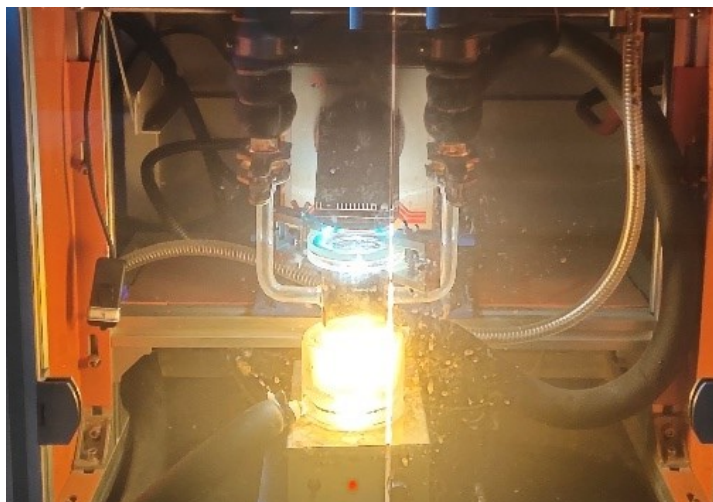


Fig. S14 The photograph of the CO<sub>2</sub> photoreduction devices.

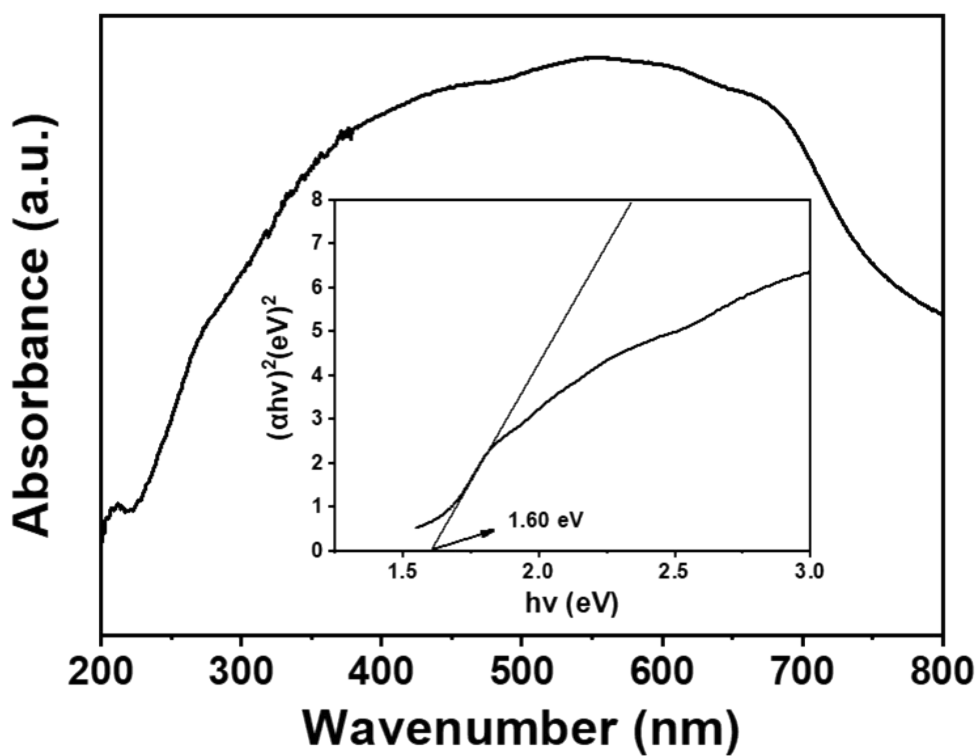


Fig. S15 UV/vis spectra, K-M function curves of Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin.

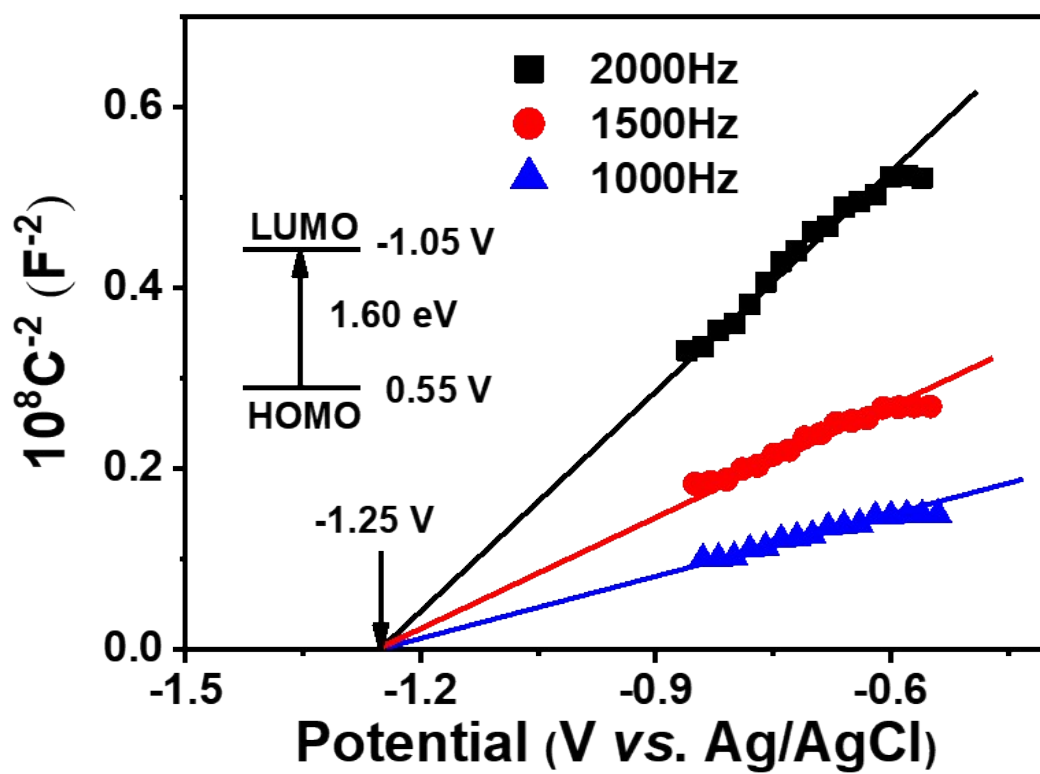


Fig. S16 Mott-Schottky plots for catalysts Co-ε-Keggin.

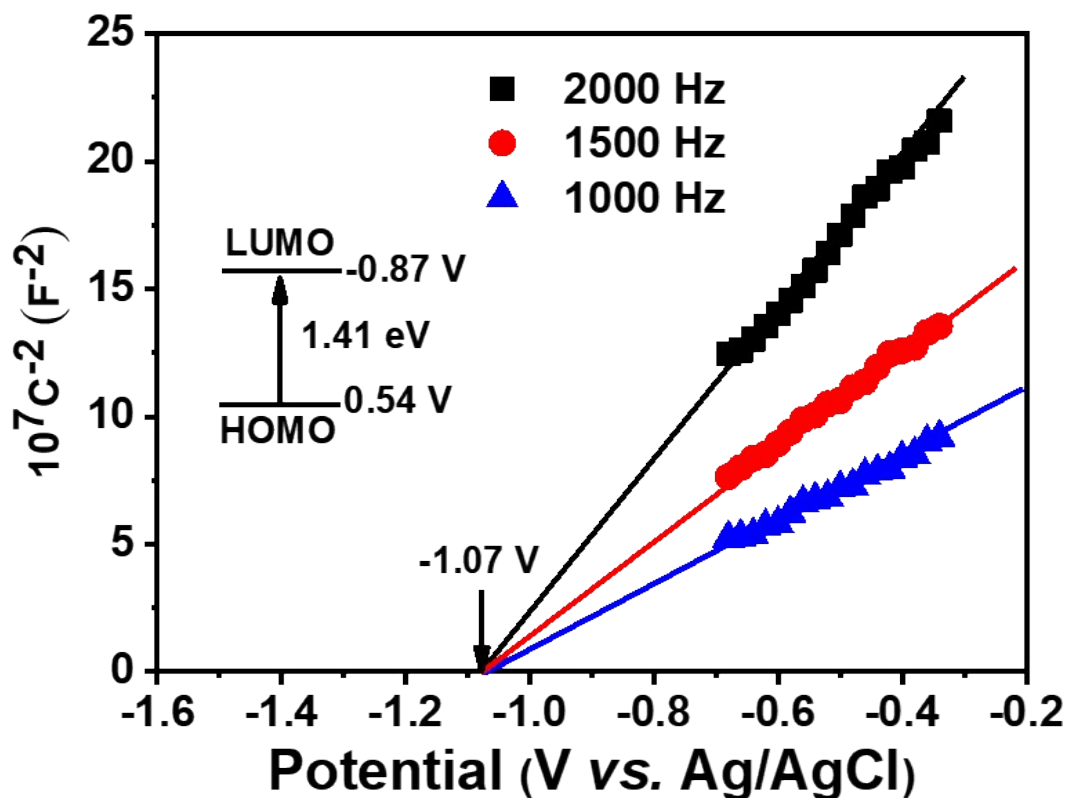


Fig. S17 Mott-Schottky plots for catalysts Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin.

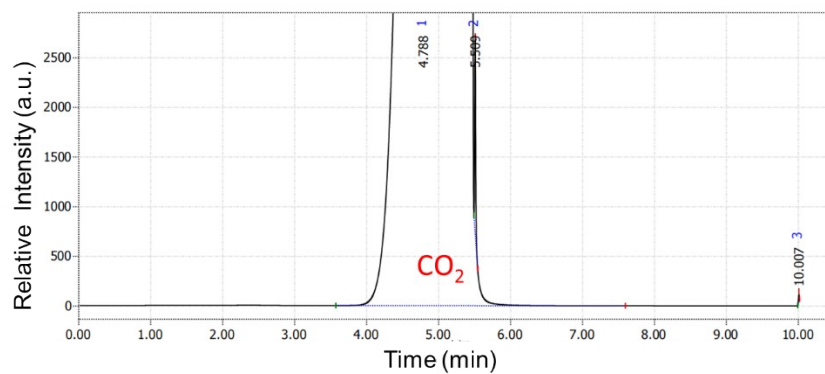


Fig. S18 GC profiles of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to CO without light.

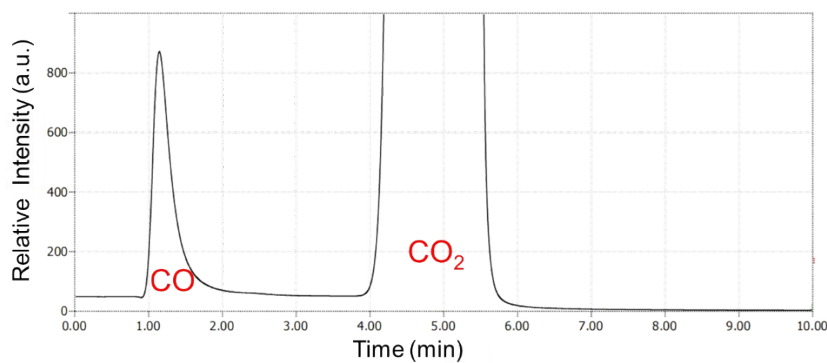
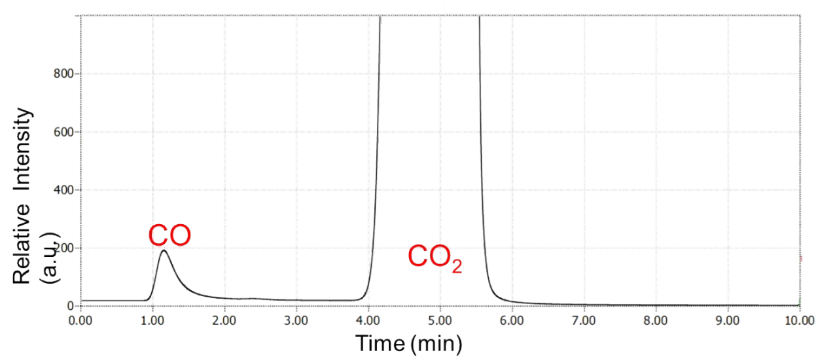
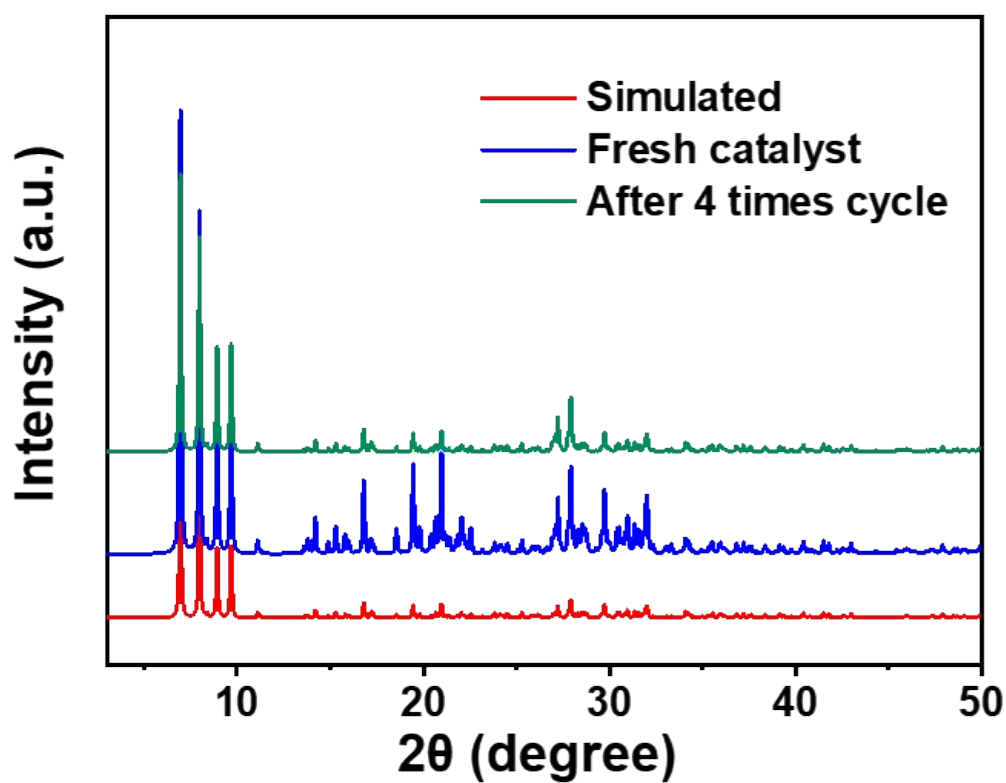


Fig. S19 GC profiles of 10% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to CO with Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin as catalyst after reaction 6 h.



**Fig. S20** GC profiles of 10% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to CO with **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin** as catalyst after reaction 6 h.



**Fig. S21** PXRD patterns of **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin** before and after CO<sub>2</sub>RR.



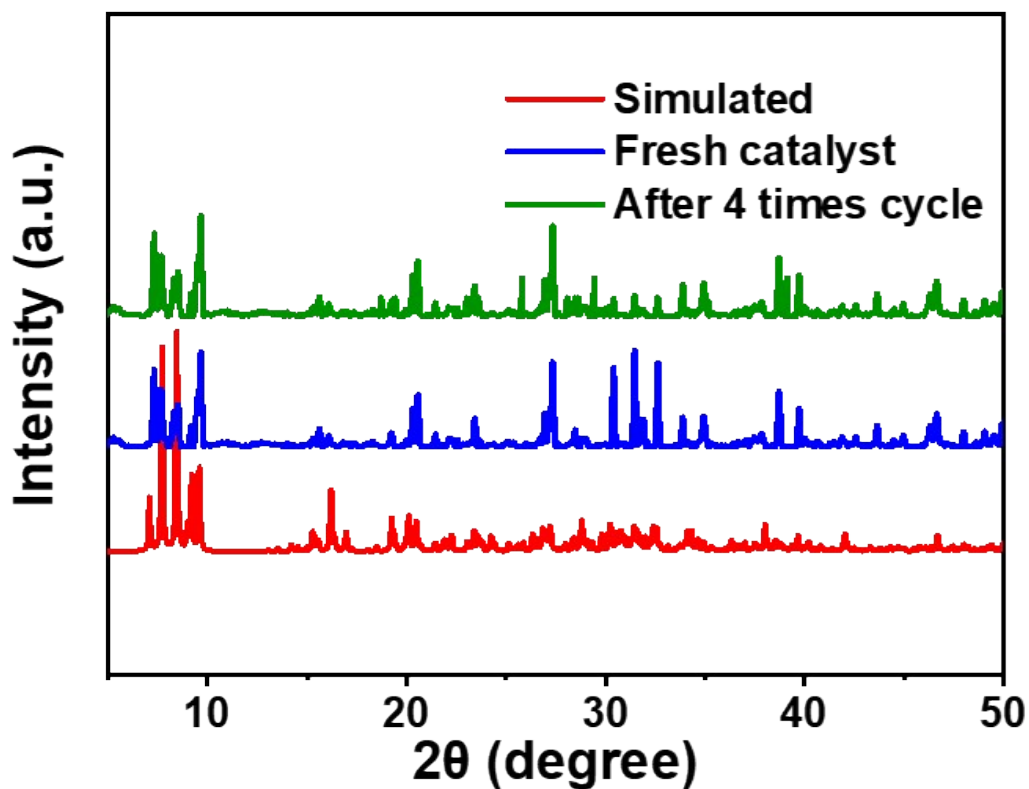


Fig. S22 PXRD patterns of Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin before and after CO<sub>2</sub>RR.

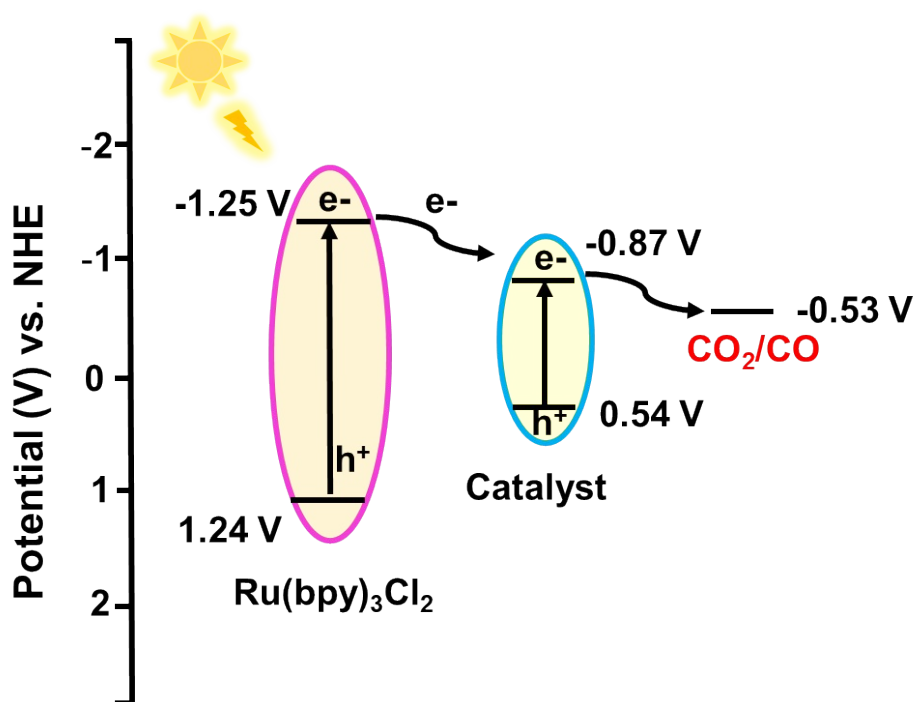
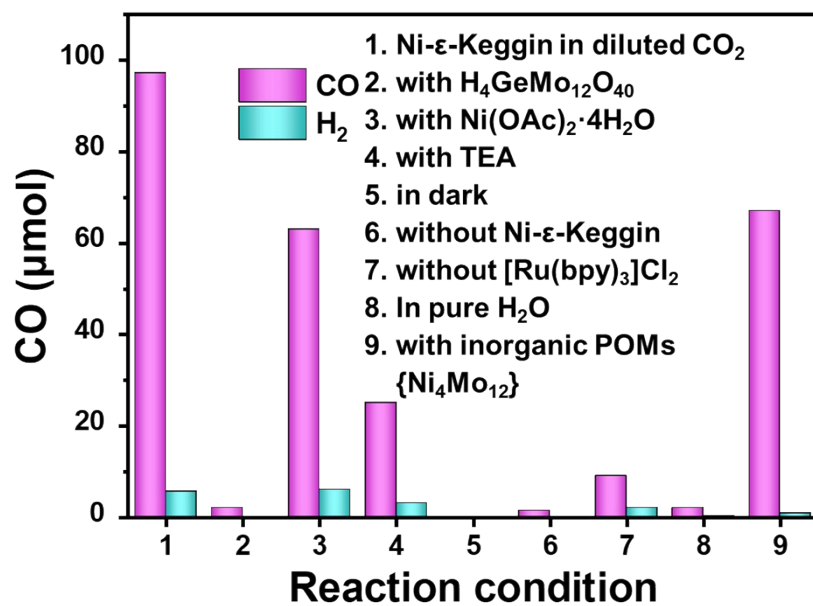
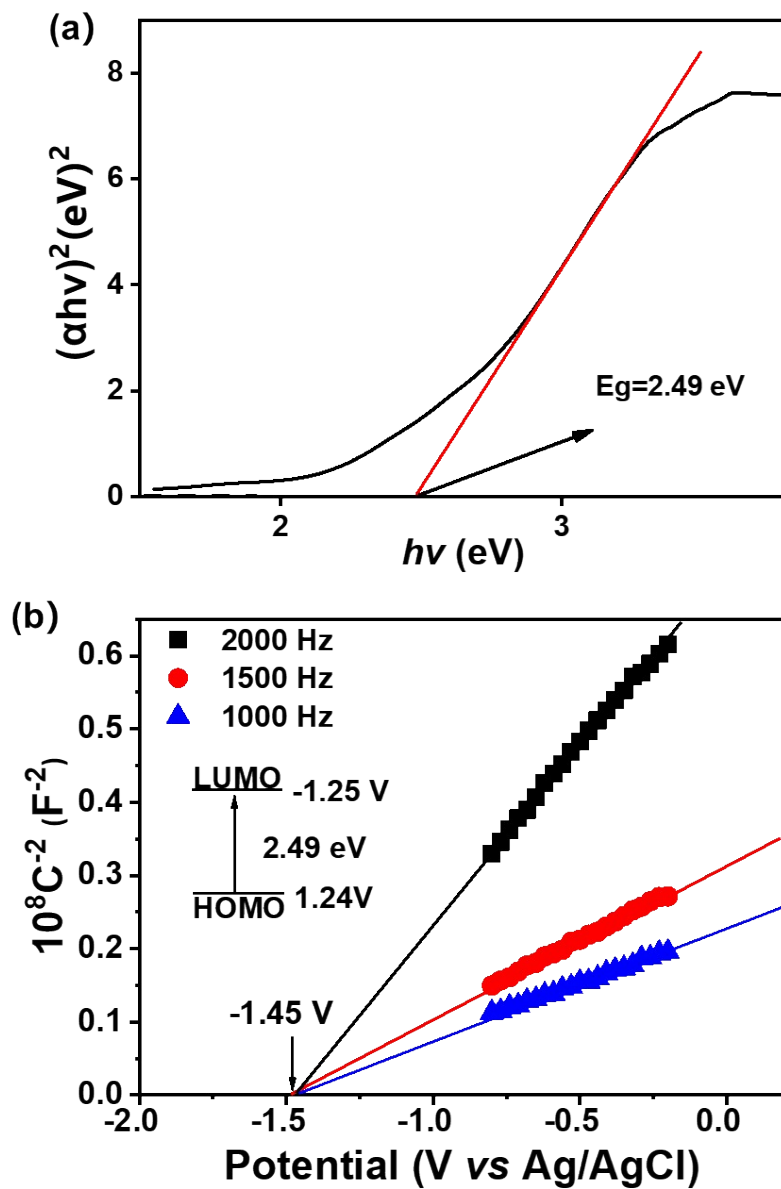


Fig. S23 Z- scheme diagram of the electron transfer process by using Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin as photocatalyst.



**Fig. S24** Comparison of the activity of the photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub>RR under different conditions when catalyst **Ni-ε-Keggin** was used.



**Fig. S25** (a) K-M function curves of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2$ . (b) Mott-Schottky plots for  $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2$ .

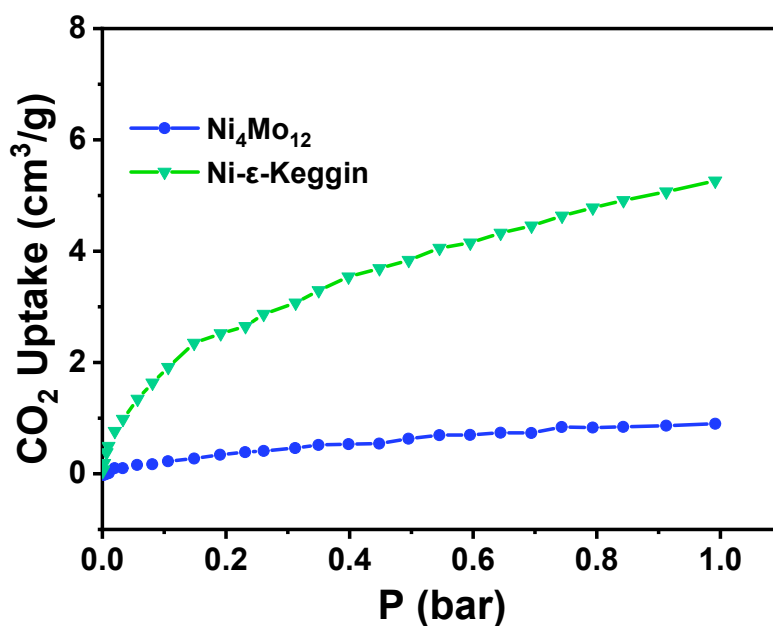


Fig. S26 CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms (298 K) of {Ni<sub>4</sub>Mo<sub>12</sub>} and Ni-ε-Keggin materials.

## 6. Table

Table S1. Comparison of reported POM-based hybrid materials photocatalyst for pure CO<sub>2</sub> to CO conversion.

Photocatalyst	Photosensitizer Sacrificial agent	Rate <sub>co</sub> (μmol g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	t	Selectivity CO (%)	Ref.
Co-ε-Keggin	[Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O triethanolamine	7699.5	6h	96.5	This work
Ni-ε-Keggin	[Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O triethanolamine	24657.2	6h	98.3	This work
H <sub>26.5</sub> K <sub>2.5</sub> Na(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>16</sub> [Ni <sub>6</sub> (OH) (BO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (dien) <sub>2</sub> (B-α-SiW <sub>10</sub> O <sub>37</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·24H <sub>2</sub> O	[Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O triethanolamine	6988	1h	83.03	[1]
[Co(en) <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>6</sub> [V <sub>12</sub> B <sub>18</sub> O <sub>54</sub> (OH) <sub>6</sub> ]·17H <sub>2</sub> O	[Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O triethanolamine	5700	3h	60	[2]
(H <sub>2</sub> bbi) <sub>2</sub> {[Co <sub>2</sub> (bbi)] [Co <sub>2.33</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> ][H <sub>9.33</sub> CoP <sub>8</sub> Mo <sub>12</sub> O <sub>62</sub> ]}·4H <sub>2</sub> O	[Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O triethanolamine	3261	8h	-	[3]
[Co <sub>2.67</sub> (SiW <sub>12</sub> O <sub>40</sub> ) (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> (Htrz) <sub>4</sub> ]·C <sub>11.33</sub>	[Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O triethanolamine	5235	6h	52	[4]
(C <sub>11</sub> NH <sub>10</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> {[Co(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ]}@	[Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	6764.3	8h	96.89	[5]

$[\text{H}_{29}\text{Co}_{16}\text{Mo}_{16}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{16}(\text{PO}_4)_{24}\text{O}_{36}]\{(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)\cdot 25\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$	triethanolamine				
$[\text{Co}_4(\text{PO}_4)(\text{C}_7\text{H}_8\text{N}_4)_6][\text{BW}_{12}\text{O}_{40}]\cdot 1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ triethanolamine	10852	5h	93.4	[6]

**Table S2.** Comparison of reported photocatalyst materials for 10% diluted CO<sub>2</sub> to CO conversion.

Photocatalyst	CO <sub>2</sub> (vol%)	Photosensitizer Sacrificial agent	Rate <sub>co</sub>	TOF (10 <sup>-3</sup> )s <sup>-1</sup>	SelectivityCO (%)	Ref.
Co-ε-Keggin	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ TEOA	3496.0 (μmol g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	2.5	18.4	This work
Ni-ε-Keggin	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ TEOA	16199.3 (μmol g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	11.7	94.6	This work
COF-367-Co NS	10	$\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ ascorbic acid	2.587 mmol·g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup>	/	72	[7]
Ni@TPHH-COF	10	$\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ TEOA	3.28 mmol·g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup>	/	95	[8]
Ni-MOF1	10	$\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ TEOA	23.13 mmol g <sup>-1</sup>	/	84.3	[9]
Ni MOLs	10	$\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ TEOA	12.5 (μmol/h)	/	96.8	[10]
Co MOLs	10	$\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ TEOA	0.44 (μmol/h)	/	9.6	[10]
Ni-TpBpy	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2/$ TEOA	915 μmol g <sup>-1</sup>	/	76	[11]
COF-367-Co NSs	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2/$ TEOA	2875 (μmol g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	/	72	[12]
[Emim]BF <sub>4</sub> (56.41 wt%)-Zn-S-COF	15	/	105.88 (μmol g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	[13]
MAF-X27I-CI	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2/$ TEOA	/	12	66.7	[14]
MAF-X27-OH	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2/$ TEOA	/	28	97.2	[14]
MAF-X27I-OH	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2/$ TEOA	/	59	98.2	[14]
MAF-X27-CI	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2/$ TEOA	/	6.3	63.6	[14]
$[\text{Co}_2(\text{OH})\text{L}_1](\text{ClO}_4)_3$	10	$[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3](\text{PF}_6)_2/$ TEOA	/	9.5	92.0	[15]
Ru(II)-Re(I) dinuclear complex	10	BIH	/	16.7	100	[16]

**Table S3.** Selected bond lengths (Å) for **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin**.

Ge(1)-O(1)#1	1.781(7)	Ge(1)-O(1)	1.781(7)
Ge(1)-O(7)#1	1.787(7)	Ge(1)-O(7)	1.787(7)
Mo(1)-O(20)	1.683(8)	Mo(1)-O(4)	1.921(8)
Mo(1)-O(4)#1	1.948(8)	Mo(1)-O(11)	2.024(8)
Mo(1)-O(16)#1	2.117(7)	Mo(1)-O(7)#1	2.301(7)
Mo(2)-O(9)	1.702(8)	Mo(2)-O(13)	1.847(7)
Mo(2)-O(11)	1.848(8)	Mo(2)-O(2)	1.978(8)
Mo(2)-O(12)	1.988(8)	Mo(2)-O(7)#1	2.420(7)
Mo(3)-O(19)	1.676(8)	Mo(3)-O(6)	1.949(8)
Mo(3)-O(5)	1.957(8)	Mo(3)-O(15)	2.022(8)
Mo(3)-O(8)	2.105(8)	Mo(3)-O(1)#1	2.312(7)
Mo(4)-O(10)	1.738(8)	Mo(4)-O(15)	1.815(8)
Mo(4)-O(18)	1.834(8)	Mo(4)-O(2)	1.991(8)
Mo(4)-O(12)	2.002(8)	Mo(4)-O(1)#1	2.395(7)
Mo(5)-O(17)	1.683(9)	Mo(5)-O(3)#1	1.952(8)
Mo(5)-O(3)	1.953(8)	Mo(5)-O(18)#1	2.019(8)
Mo(5)-O(8)#1	2.077(8)	Mo(5)-O(1)	2.357(8)
Mo(6)-O(14)	1.673(8)	Mo(6)-O(5)	1.931(8)
Mo(6)-O(6)	1.973(7)	Mo(6)-O(13)#1	2.043(7)
Mo(6)-O(16)	2.112(8)	Mo(6)-O(7)	2.294(7)
Co(1)-O(6)	2.065(8)	Co(1)-O(2)	2.141(8)
Co(1)-N(6)	2.144(10)	Co(1)-N(4)	2.145(10)
Co(1)-N(5)	2.155(10)	Co(1)-O(4)	2.165(8)

Co(2)-O(3)#1	2.083(8)	Co(2)-O(5)#1	2.104(8)
Co(2)-N(1)	2.123(11)	Co(2)-N(2)	2.135(10)
Co(2)-O(12)	2.145(8)	Co(2)-N(3)	2.168(11)

**Table S4.** Selected bond lengths (Å) for **Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin**.

Ge(1)-O(16)	1.772(5)	Mo(5)-O(8)	1.971(4)
Ge(1)-O(6)	1.772(5)	Mo(5)-O(6)	2.357(4)
Ge(1)-O(3)#1	1.777(4)	Mo(6)-O(24)	1.692(4)
Ge(1)-O(3)	1.777(4)	Mo(6)-O(12)	1.918(4)
Mo(1)-O(19)	1.689(6)	Mo(6)-O(15)	1.954(4)
Mo(1)-O(4)#1	1.949(4)	Mo(6)-O(13)	1.965(5)
Mo(1)-O(4)	1.949(4)	Mo(6)-O(5)	1.967(4)
Mo(1)-O(18)	2.074(4)	Mo(6)-O(3)	2.360(4)
Mo(1)-O(18)#1	2.074(4)	Ni(1)-O(2)	2.049(5)
Mo(1)-O(16)	2.316(6)	Ni(1)-N(4)	2.071(7)
Mo(2)-O(17)	1.696(6)	Ni(1)-N(3)	2.092(6)
Mo(2)-O(4)#1	1.951(4)	Ni(1)-N(3)#1	2.092(6)
Mo(2)-O(4)	1.951(4)	Ni(1)-O(5)#1	2.143(4)
Mo(2)-O(14)#1	2.056(4)	Ni(1)-O(5)	2.143(4)
Mo(2)-O(14)	2.056(4)	Ni(2)-O(1)	2.066(6)
Mo(2)-O(6)	2.309(5)	Ni(2)-N(1)	2.076(8)
Mo(3)-O(22)	1.692(4)	Ni(2)-N(2)	2.102(6)
Mo(3)-O(11)	1.936(3)	Ni(2)-N(2)#1	2.102(6)
Mo(3)-O(5)	1.938(4)	Ni(2)-O(9)	2.109(4)
Mo(3)-O(13)	1.949(5)	Ni(2)-O(9)#1	2.109(4)

Mo(3)-O(18)	1.964(4)	Mo(4)-O(21)	1.685(4)
Mo(3)-O(16)	2.354(4)	Mo(4)-O(12)	1.937(4)
Mo(4)-O(8)	1.946(4)	Mo(4)-O(7)	1.958(4)
Mo(4)-O(9)	1.951(4)	Mo(4)-O(3)	2.345(4)
Mo(5)-O(23)	1.682(4)	Mo(5)-O(9)	1.957(4)
Mo(5)-O(10)	1.940(3)	Mo(5)-O(14)	1.968(4)

**Table S5.** Bond valence calculation (BVC) for **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin**.

Mo1	Mo2	Mo3	Mo4	Mo5	Mo6
4.94	5.20	4.87	5.90	4.86	4.90

**Table S6.** Bond valence calculation (BVC) for **Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin**.

Mo1	Mo2	Mo3	Mo4	Mo5	Mo6
4.80	4.83	4.99	5.76	4.94	4.88

### X-ray crystallography

Select the crystal type and good quality crystal and glue it to the capillary glass tube. At 298 K, the crystallographic data of crystals **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin** and **Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin** were collected using Mo-K $\alpha$  rays ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) using Bruker Apex II CCD diffractometer in  $\theta$  mode. The crystal structure of the compound was analyzed by the direct method using the SHELXL-2018/3 software package and refined by the least square method F<sup>2</sup>.

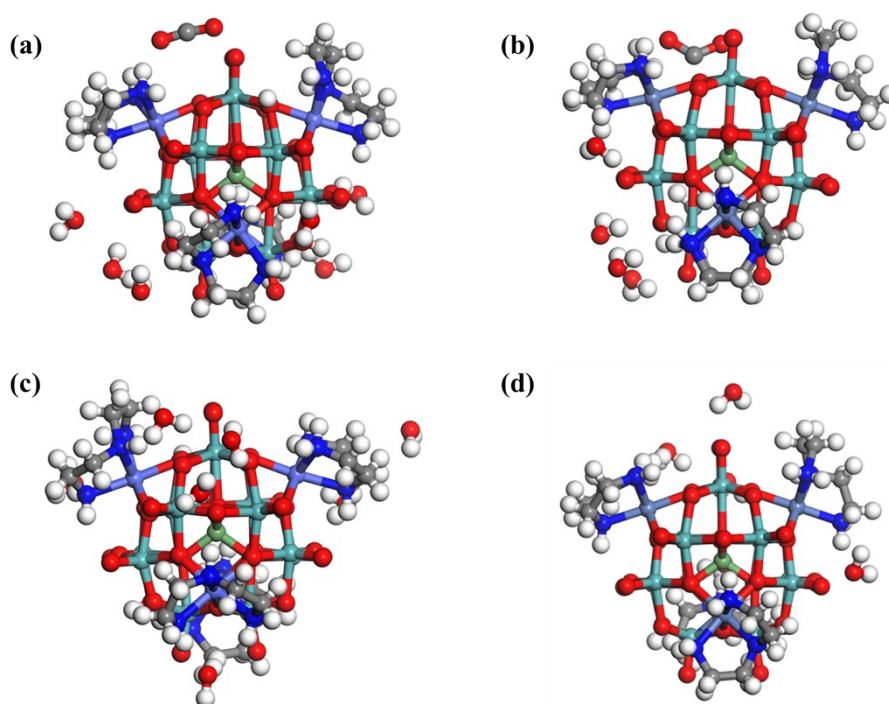
**Table S7.** Partial crystallographic data and structural refinement of **Co- $\epsilon$ -Keggin** and **Ni- $\epsilon$ -Keggin**.

Compound	<b>Co-<math>\epsilon</math>-Keggin</b>	<b>Ni-<math>\epsilon</math>-Keggin</b>
Formula	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>66</sub> Co <sub>4</sub> GeMo <sub>12</sub> N <sub>12</sub> O <sub>45</sub>	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>64</sub> GeMo <sub>12</sub> N <sub>12</sub> Ni <sub>4</sub> O <sub>44</sub>
Formula weight	2606.39	2587.50
<i>T</i> (K)	293 (2)	293 (2)
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic

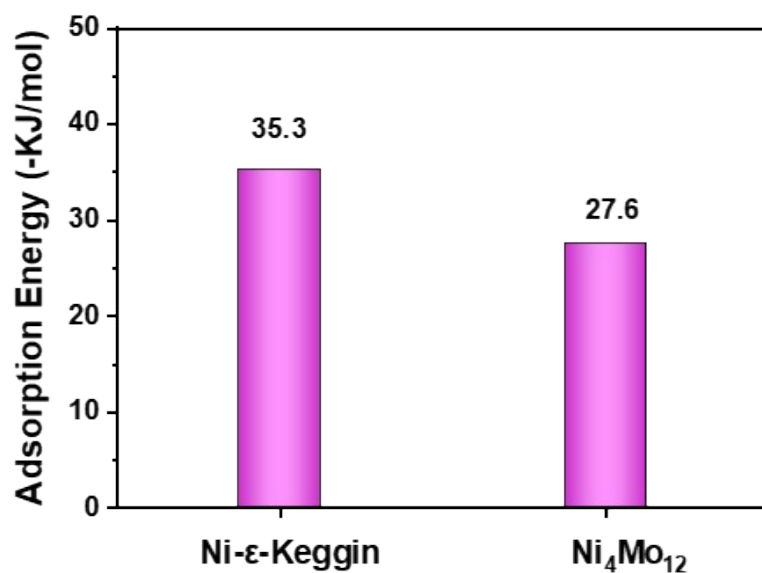


Space group	<i>C</i> 2/ <i>c</i>	P 21/ <i>m</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	16.107(7)	12.829(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	21.036(7)	18.764(5)
<i>c</i> (Å)	18.501(7)	13.571(3)
$\beta$ (°)	98.575(6)°	90°
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	6199(4)	3111.9(13)
<i>Z</i>	4	2
<i>D</i> <sub>c</sub> (mg m <sup>-3</sup> )	2.793	2.761
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	3.958	4.084
<i>F</i> (000)	5000	2488
$\theta$ range (°)	1.575-7.213	1.575-27.213
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.15×0.14×0.12	0.13×0.12×0.10
Limiting indices	-19≤ <i>h</i> ≤17, -24≤ <i>k</i> ≤25, -22≤ <i>l</i> ≤22	-15≤ <i>h</i> ≤15, -22≤ <i>k</i> ≤22, -16≤ <i>l</i> ≤16
Reflections collected	20263	22394
<i>R</i> (int)	0.0822	0.1024
Data / restraints / parameters	5463/65/411	5694/65/437
GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.158	1.052
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> <sup>a</sup> ,	<i>R</i> 1=0.0639,	<i>R</i> 1=0.0458,
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup> [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>wR</i> 2=0.1374	<i>wR</i> 2=0.1229
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub>	<i>R</i> 1=0.0779,	<i>R</i> 1=0.0538,
(all data)	<i>wR</i> 2=0.1421	<i>wR</i> 2=0.1287

## 7. Theoretical calculations



**Fig. S27** (a) DFT-derived CO<sub>2</sub> binding structures of catalyst **Co-ε-Keggin**. (b) DFT-derived CO<sub>2</sub> binding structures of catalyst **Ni-ε-Keggin**. (c) DFT-derived H<sub>2</sub>O binding structures of catalyst **Co-ε-Keggin**. (d) DFT-derived H<sub>2</sub>O binding structures of catalyst **Ni-ε-Keggin**.



**Fig. S28** The adsorption energies of CO<sub>2</sub> for **Ni-ε-Keggin** and **Ni<sub>4</sub>Mo<sub>12</sub>** were compared.

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