

## Supporting Information

### Central metal ion of MOFs modulated fluorescence detection of

**Fe<sup>3+</sup>**

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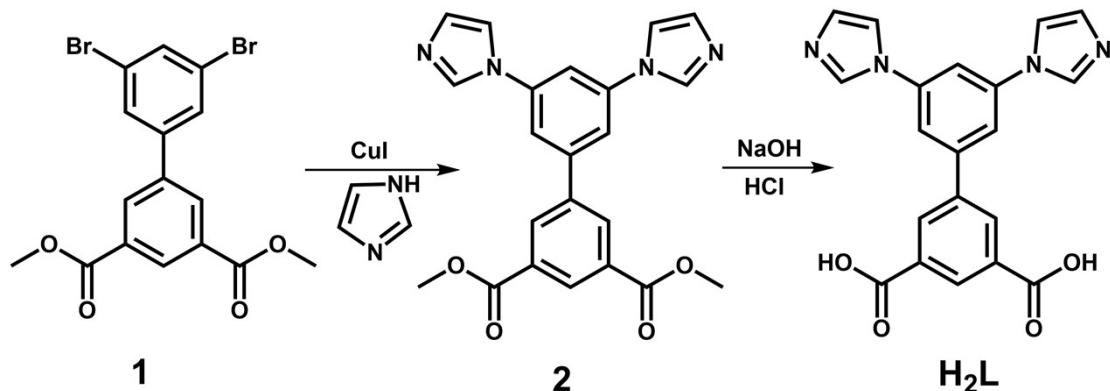
Number of figures: 16

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## Section 1 Synthesis of H<sub>2</sub>L

The ligand H<sub>2</sub>L was synthesized similar to the literature reported.<sup>S1</sup> Step 1: Dimethyl 3',5'-dibromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,5-dicarboxylate (**1**) was purchased from Chemical Book. The precursor **2** was synthesized through the classic Ullmann reaction. Mixing **1** (2.02 g, 5 mmol), imidazole (1.70 g, 25 mmol), L-Proline (0.46 g, 4 mmol), CuI (0.38 g, 2 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.07 g, 15 mmol) in 150 mL three-necked bottle, and adding 50 mL ultra-dry DMSO into the mixture under nitrogen atmosphere, heating to 125 °C for 48 h, after cooling to room temperature, the crude product was treated by the extraction with water and ethyl acetate. The organic phase with the product was purified by the silica gel column chromatography with the solvent of ethyl acetate/petroleum ether. The white powder of product **2** was obtained. Step 2: Adding **2** (1.15 g, 2.86 mmol) and NaOH (1.14 g, 28.6 mmol) into the mixed solution of THF/MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (35/35/70 mL), and then heated to 80 °C overnight. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated and concentrated hydrochloric acid was added dropwise until the pH value was 6. At last, the product H<sub>2</sub>L precipitated. <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 13.49 (s, 2H), 8.56 (dd, 4H), 8.52 (t, 1H), 8.06 (t, 2H), 8.02 (d, 1H), 7.99 (d, 2H), 7.14 (d, 2H). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3431(vs), 3127(s), 1919(m), 1700 (w), 1609(s), 1550(w), 1502(m), 1403(w), 1317(m), 1228(s), 1132(m), 1093(m), 1064(s), 1013(m), 985(vw), 863(w), 832(w), 756(m), 712(w), 654(w), 607(w), 493(m), 431(vw).



**Scheme S1** Synthetic route of H<sub>2</sub>L ligand

## Section 2 General characterization and structural information

**Table S1** Crystal data and structure refinement details for compounds **1** and **2**

Compounds	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>5.5</sub> Zn	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Sr
Formula weight	464.73	459.96
Crystal system	monoclinic	orthorhombic
Space group	<i>C</i> 2/c	<i>P</i> cc <sub>a</sub>
<i>a</i> (Å)	24.585(4)	15.9757(11)
<i>b</i> (Å)	11.4983(18)	12.5349(9)
<i>c</i> (Å)	16.964(5)	8.3633(6)
$\alpha$ (°)	90	90
$\beta$ (°)	129.258(2)	90
$\gamma$ (°)	90	90
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3713.2(13)	1674.8(2)
<i>Z</i>	8	4
<i>D</i> (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.663	1.824
<i>Mu</i> (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.369	3.259
<i>F</i> (0 0 0)	1896	920
Unique reflections	2754	1542
Observed reflections	4213	1975
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0622	0.0392
Final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> >2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0498 <i>wR</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.1006	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0235 <i>wR</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0533
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.1018 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1233	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0368 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0567
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.013	1.042

**Table S2** Selected Bond Lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and Bond Angles ( $^\circ$ ) for **1** and **2**

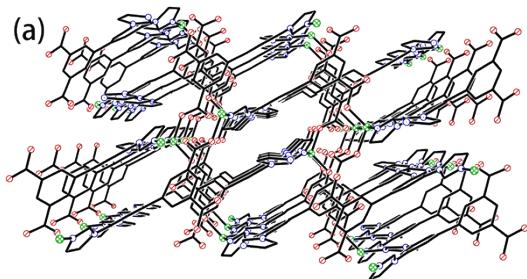
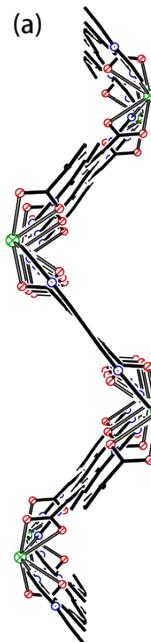
<b>1</b>			
Zn(1)-O(1)#1	1.916(3)	Zn(1)-O(3)#2	1.946(3)
Zn(1)-N(3)	1.994(3)	Zn(1)-N(1)#3	2.023(3)
O(1)#1-Zn(1)-O(3)#2	108.76(12)	O(1)#1-Zn(1)-N(3)	119.86(14)
O(3)#2-Zn(1)-N(3)	107.93(13)	O(1)#1-Zn(1)-N(1)#3	105.39(13)
O(3)#2-Zn(1)-N(1)#3	101.86(13)	N(3)-Zn(1)-N(1)#3	111.55(13)
<b>2</b>			
Sr(1)-O(2)#1	2.5380(14)	Sr(1)-O(2)#2	2.5380(14)
Sr(1)-O(2)	2.6241(14)	Sr(1)-O(2)	2.6241(14)
Sr(1)-O(1)	2.6729(14)	Sr(1)-O(1)	2.6729(14)
Sr(1)-N(1)	2.7469(17)	Sr(1)-N(1)	2.7469(17)
O(2)#1-Sr(1)-O(2)#2	73.19(6)	O(2)#1-Sr(1)-O(2)	111.53(6)
O(2)#2-Sr(1)-O(2)	160.90(6)	O(2)#1-Sr(1)-O(2)	160.90(6)
O(2)#2-Sr(1)-O(2)	111.53(6)	O(2)-Sr(1)-O(2)	70.42(6)
O(2)#1-Sr(1)-O(1)	117.65(5)	O(2)#2-Sr(1)-O(1)	76.52(5)
O(2)-Sr(1)-O(1)	114.54(4)	O(2)-Sr(1)-O(1)	49.44(4)
O(2)#1-Sr(1)-O(1)	76.52(5)	O(2)#2-Sr(1)-O(1)	117.65(5)
O(2)-Sr(1)-O(1)	49.44(4)	O(2)-Sr(1)-O(1)	114.53(4)
O(1)-Sr(1)-O(1)	163.46(6)	O(2)#1-Sr(1)-N(1)	85.47(5)
O(2)#2-Sr(1)-N(1)	126.32(5)	O(2)-Sr(1)-N(1)	72.77(5)
O(2)-Sr(1)-N(1)	76.93(5)	O(1)-Sr(1)-N(1)	71.03(5)
O(1)-Sr(1)-N(1)	103.48(5)	O(2)#1-Sr(1)-N(1)	126.32(5)
O(2)#2-Sr(1)-N(1)	85.47(5)	O(2)-Sr(1)-N(1)	76.93(5)
O(2)-Sr(1)-N(1)	72.77(5)	O(1)-Sr(1)-N(1)	103.48(5)
O(1)-Sr(1)-N(1)	71.03(5)	N(1)-Sr(1)-N(1)	142.71(8)

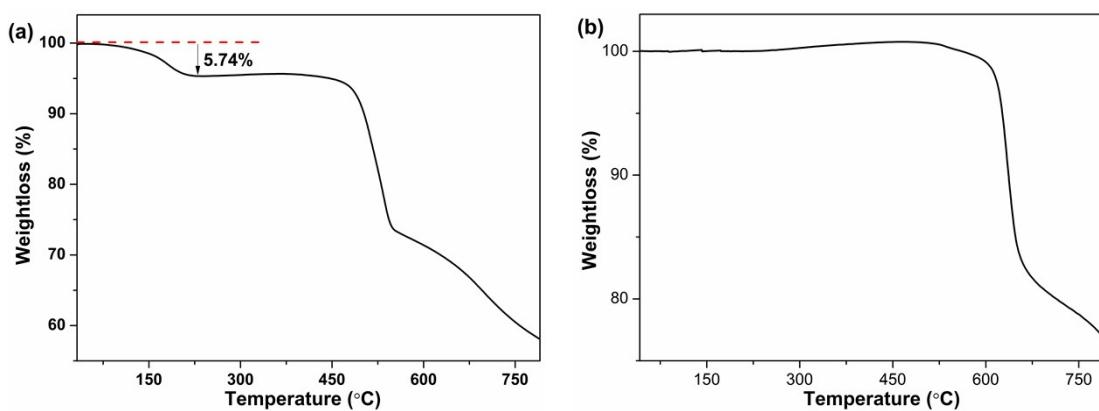
Symmetry codes: for **1**: #1: x-1/2, -y+1/2, z-1/2; #2: x-1/2, y+1/2, z; #3: x, y+1, z. for **2**: x, -y, z+1/2; -x+1/2, y, z+1/2.

**Table S3** Hydrogen bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and bond angles ( $^\circ$ ) for **1** and **2**

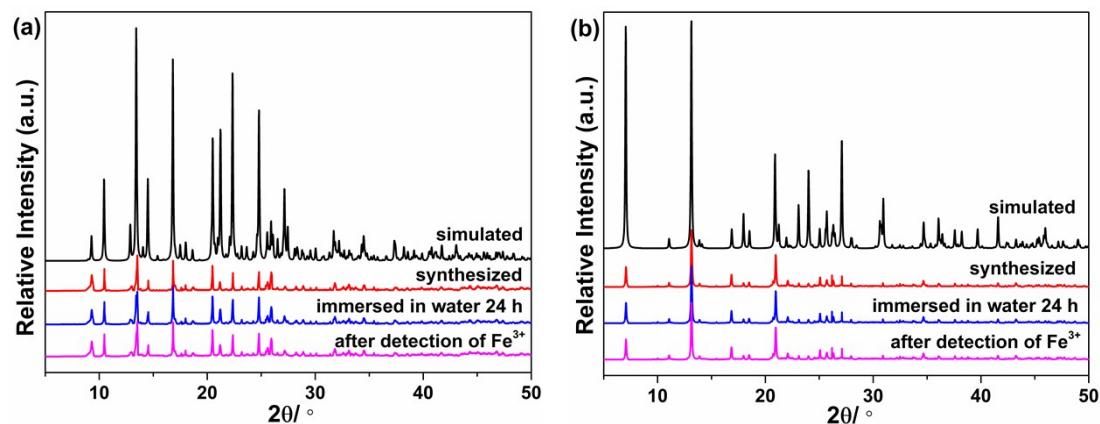
D-H $\cdots$ A	d(D-H)	d(H...A)	d(D...A)	$\angle$ (DHA)
<b>1</b>				
OW(1)-HW(1A)...O(4)	0.85	2.29	2.939(6)	133
OW(1)-HW(1A)...O(1)#1	0.85	2.57	3.106(7)	122
OW(1)-HW(1B)...O(2)#2	0.85	2.12	2.923(7)	158
C(3)-H(3A)...OW(1)#3	0.93	2.45	3.053(8)	122
C(5)-H(5A)...OW(1)#4	0.93	2.44	3.367(6)	173
C(6)-H(6A)...O(4)#5	0.93	2.43	3.161(6)	135
<b>2</b>				
C(11)-H(7A)...O(1)#1	0.93	2.51	3.094(2)	121

Symmetry codes: for **1**: #1: x, -y, z-1/2; #2: -x+1/2, y-1/2, -z-1/2; #3: x, -y-1, z+1/2; #4: -x, y, -z-1/2; #5: x-1/2, y+1/2, z. for **2**: #1: x, -y, z-1/2.

**Fig. S1** The 3D network of **1** along b axis.**Fig. S2** (a) The zigzag chain along b axis.

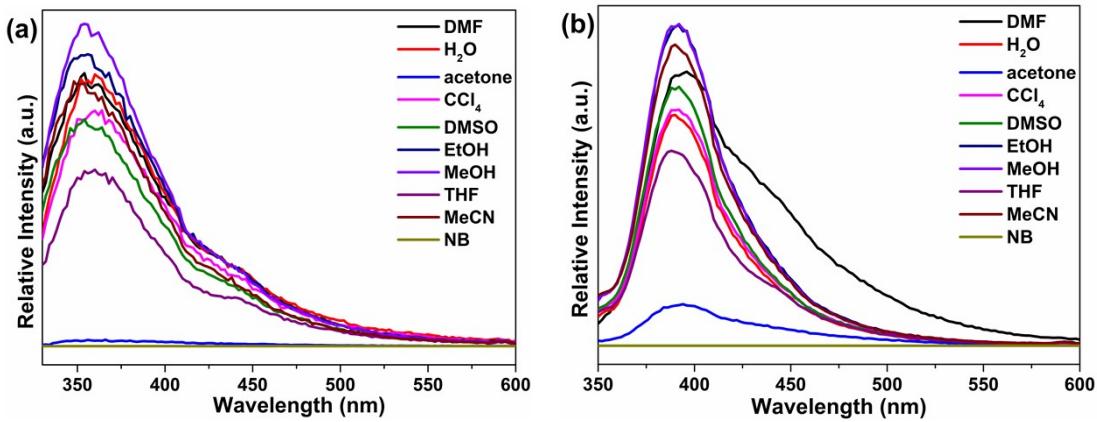


**Fig. S3** The thermal analysis curve of compound **1** (a) and **2** (b).

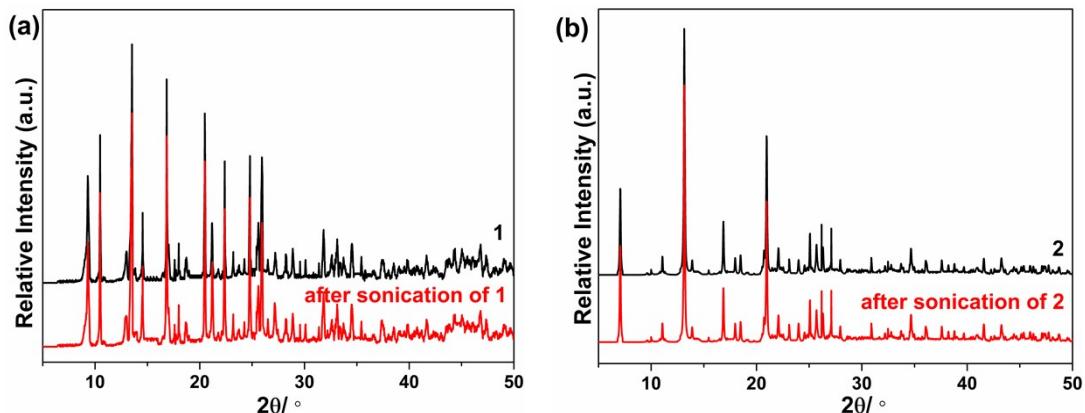


**Fig. S4** PXRD pattern of compound **1** (a) and **2** (b), the immersed sample and the detection of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .

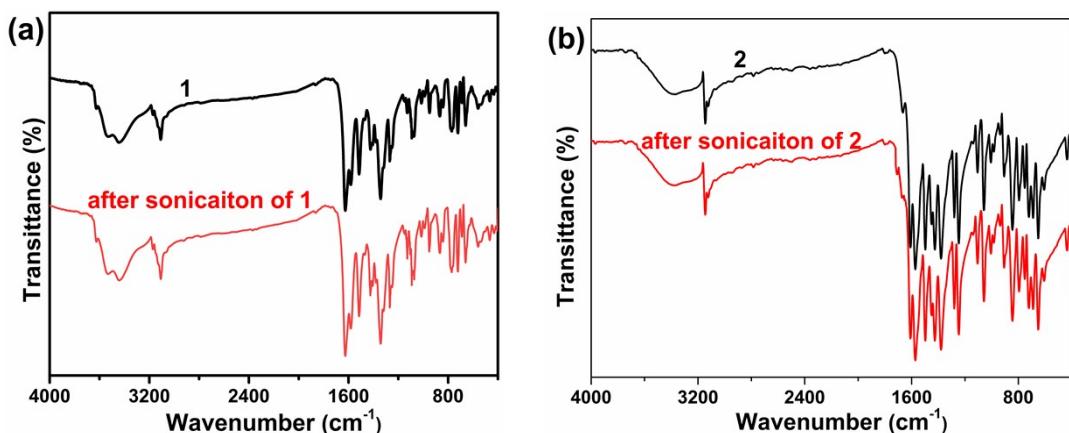
### Section 3 Detection of Fe<sup>3+</sup>



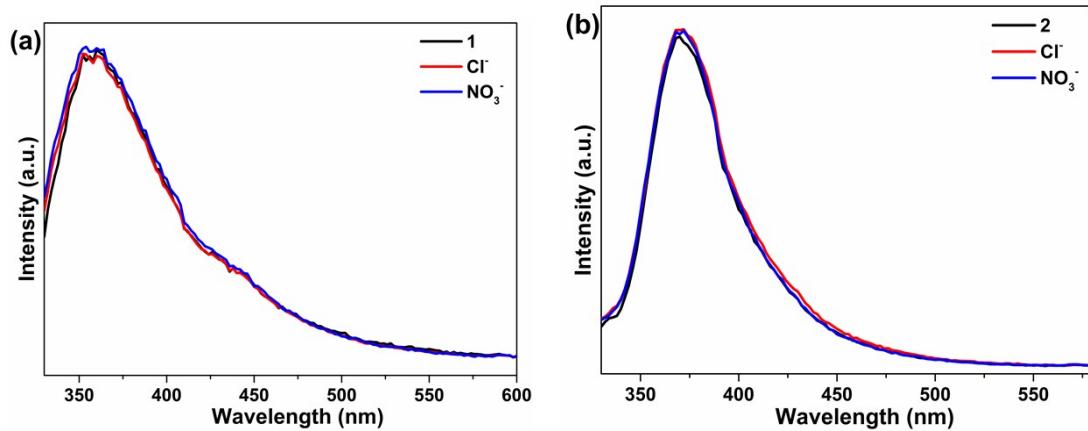
**Fig. S5** Luminescent spectra of **1** (a) ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ : 291 nm) and **2** (b) ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ : 326 nm) in different solvents (Condition: 5 mg **1**, 3 mL solvent).



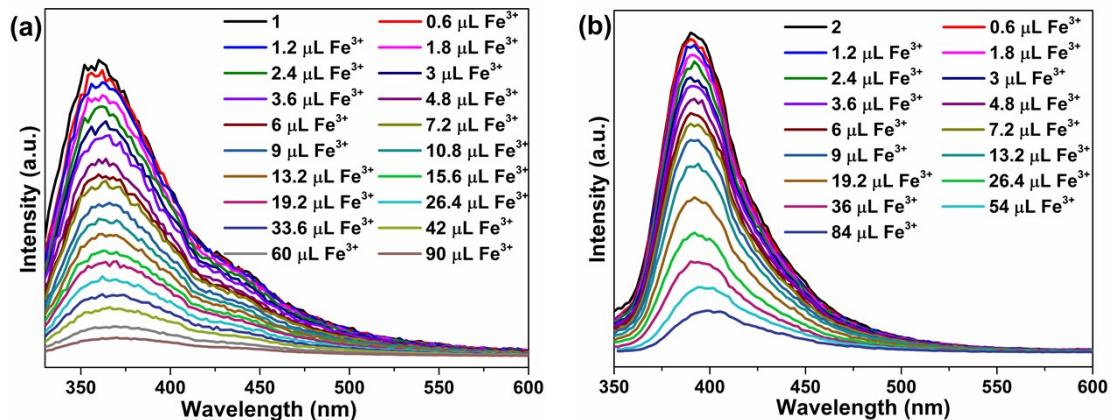
**Fig. S6** PXRD pattern of compounds **1** (a) and **2** (b) before and after sonication in water.



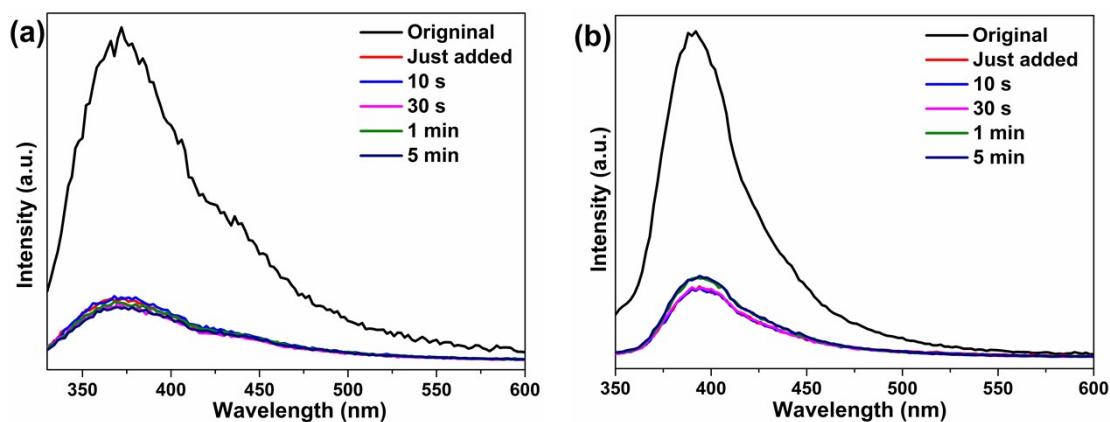
**Fig. S7** IR spectra of compounds **1** (a) and **2** (b) before and after sonication in water.



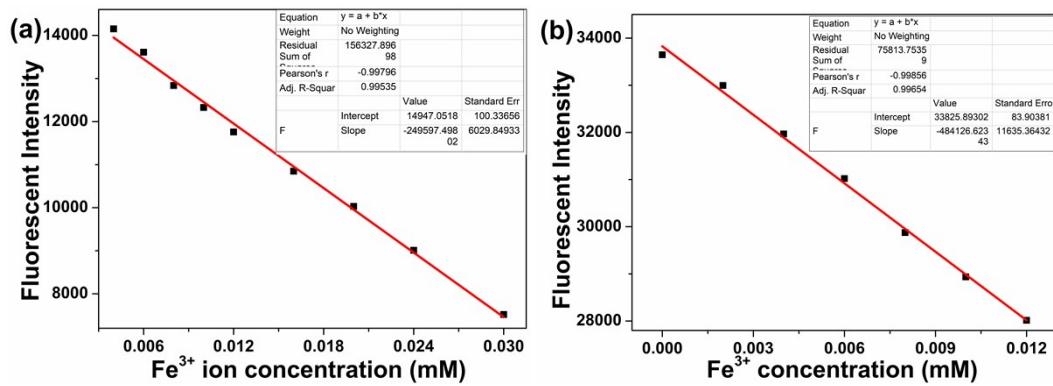
**Fig. S8** The emission spectra of **1** (a) and **2** (b) immersed in water solution of NaCl and NaNO<sub>3</sub>, respectively (Condition: 5 mg **1** (**2**), 3 mL H<sub>2</sub>O and 0.02 mmol Na<sup>+</sup> ion).



**Fig. S9** Fluorescent spectra of **1** (a) and **2** (b) suspension (1.67 mg/mL) upon incremental addition of Fe<sup>3+</sup> (0.01 M).



**Fig. S10** Time-dependent fluorescent quenching detections of **1** (a) and **2** (b) for Fe<sup>3+</sup>.



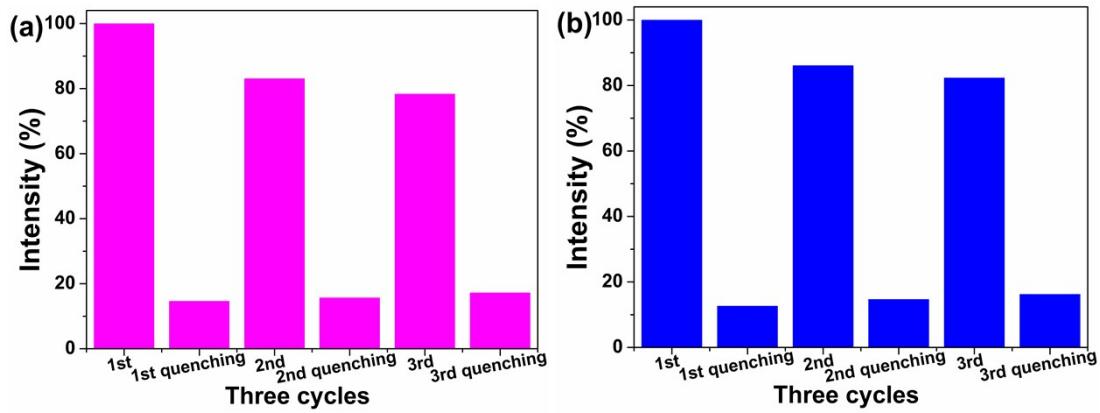
**Fig. S11** Linear curve of fluorescent intensity of **1** (a) and **2** (b) suspension upon incremental addition of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$

**Table S4** Standard deviation calculation

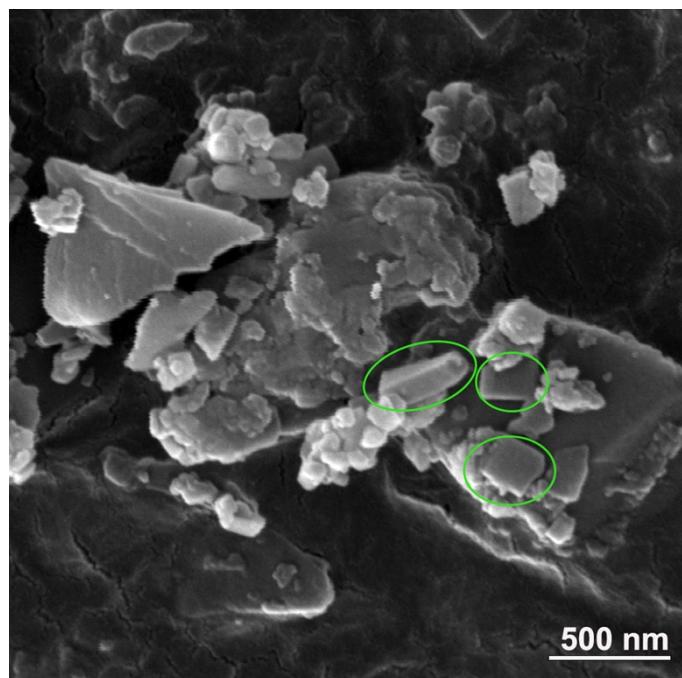
	Fluorescent intensity ( $\times 10^4$ )
<b>Compound 1</b>	
Test 1	1.613
Test 2	1.626
Test 3	1.621
<i>Continue</i>	
Test 4	1.616
Test 5	1.624
Standard deviation ( $\sigma$ )	0.0054
<b>Compound 2</b>	
Test 1	3.412
Test 2	3.422
Test 3	3.406
Test 4	3.426
Test 5	3.430
Standard deviation ( $\sigma$ )	0.0099

**Table S5** Detection limit calculation for  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$

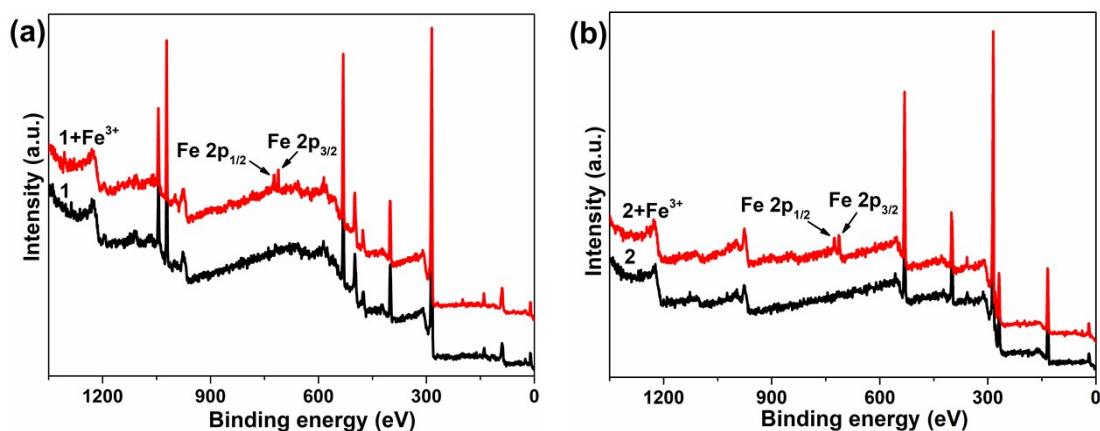
Compounds	
<b>1</b>	
Slope (k)	$2.50 \times 10^5 \text{ mM}^{-1}$
Detection limit ( $3\sigma/k$ )	$6.48 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mM}$
<b>2</b>	
Slope (k)	$4.84 \times 10^5 \text{ mM}^{-1}$
Detection limit ( $3\sigma/k$ )	$6.14 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mM}$



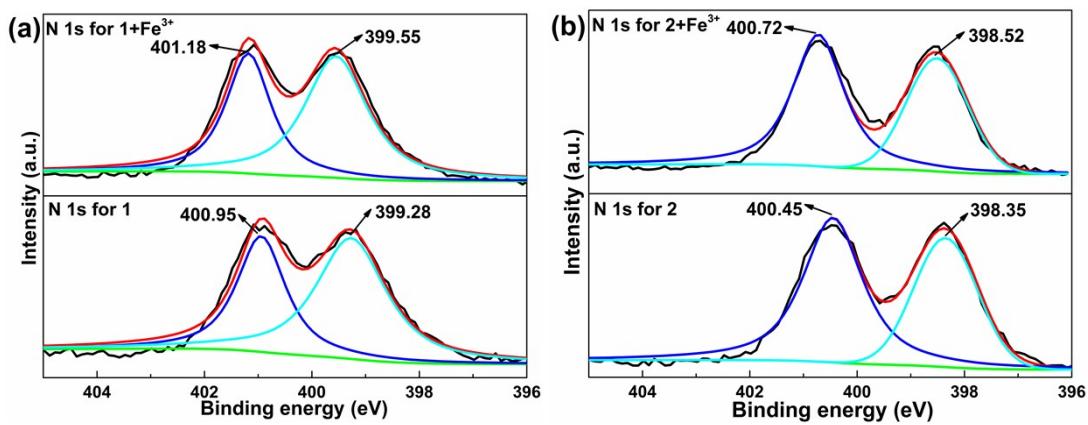
**Fig. S12** Three quenching cycles of **1** (a) and **2** (b) suspension after addition of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .



**Fig. S13** SEM image of compound **1** after  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  immersion.



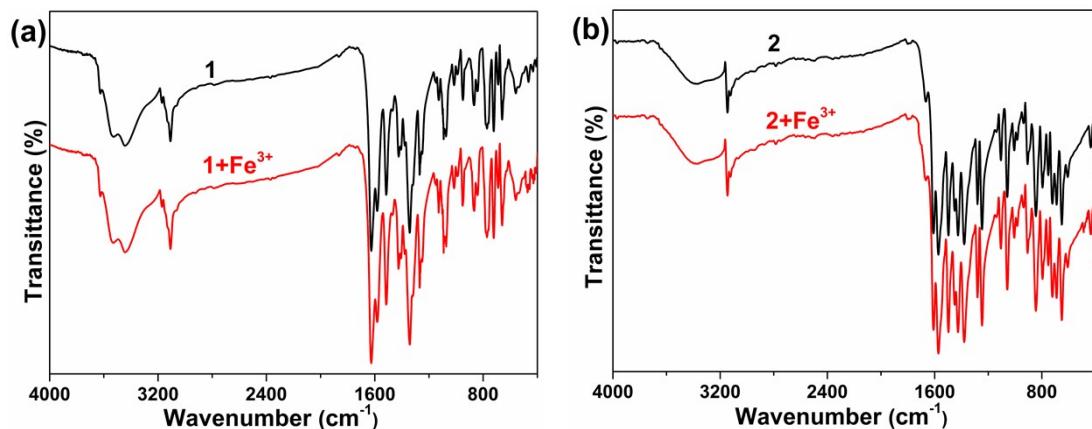
**Fig. S14** XPS for compound **1** and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  incorporating **1** (a), **2** and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  incorporating **2** (b).



**Fig. S15** XPS survey of N 1s of compounds **1** (a) and **2** (b) before and after binding with  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .

**Table S6** The comparison of XPS peak-peak displacement values in 1 and 2

	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	
	$\Delta E_{\text{C=O}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{C-O}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{C=O}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{C-O}}$
O 1s	0.21	0.45	0.06	0.01
	$\Delta E_{\text{C-N}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{N-Zn}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{C-N}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{N-Sr}}$
N 1s	0.27	0.77	0.17	0.27



**Fig. S16** (a) FT-IR spectra for compound **1** and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  incorporated **1**; (b) FT-IR spectra for compound **2** and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  incorporated **2**.

## Reference

(S1) Q. Dong, K. Ge, M. Zhang, H. Wang and J. Duan, Rotation configuration control of the  $\text{sp}^2$  bond in the diimidazole-dicarboxylate linker for the isomerism of porous coordination polymers, *Dalton Trans.*, 2022, **51**, 12232-12239.