## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## GC-MS analysis

All the GC analyses were carried out using an Agilent 7890A series chromatograph equipped with a MS detector (5975C) on a Agilent HP-5 column. For the catalytic hydrogenation reaction, aliquots of 0.5 mL were withdrawn at different times of reaction and extracted in chloroform. To a known volume (400  $\mu$ L) of organic phase, an external standard solution was added (50  $\mu$ L of a 0.022 M 4-methylcyclohexanol solution) and the samples were analyzed by gas chromatography (GC). For the Heck coupling, aliquots of 50  $\mu$ L were withdrawn and diluted with 450  $\mu$ L of an external standard solution (0.003 M phenol) and 1000  $\mu$ L CH<sub>3</sub>CN.



Figure S1. Digital camera images of CNCs freeze-dried powder before impregnation (left), after impregnation, before reduction (middle) and after impregnation and reduction (right)

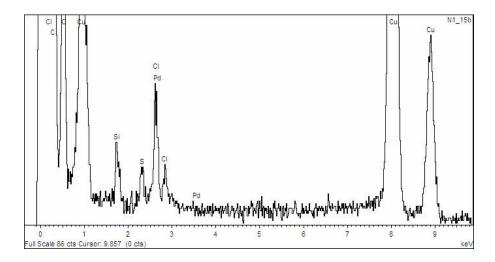


Figure S2. EDX analysis of Pd@CNCs nano-composite

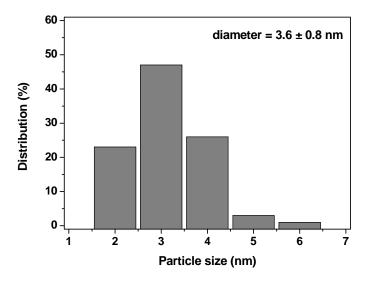


Figure S3. Nanometer-scale size distribution for Pd nanoparticles deposited onto CNCs as obtained from TEM picture of Figure 4

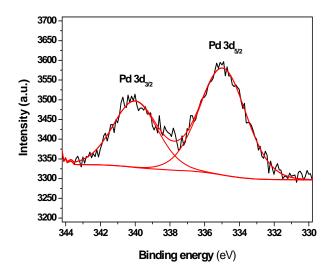


Figure S4. XPS spectrum of Pd3d in PdNPs@CNCs

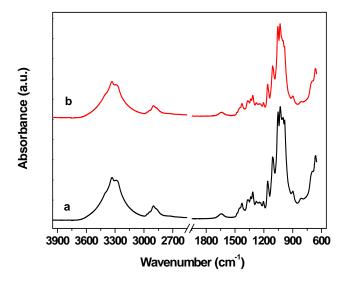


Figure S5. FTIR spectra obtained from CNCs before (a) and after deposition of PdNPs

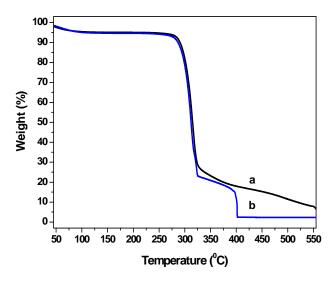


Figure S6. TGA spectra of CNCs under N<sub>2</sub> (a) and air (b) atmosphere