### Supporting Information for

# Enhanced photovoltaic performance by synergism of light-cultivation and electronic localization for highly efficient dye-sensitized solar cells

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#### **1. Experimental section**

#### (1) Synthesis of ligands opip and otip

The synthetic procedure of opip and otip are showed in Scheme S1.



Scheme S1. Synthesis of ligands opip and otip.

#### (2) Synthesis of ruthenium sensitizers JF-1 and JF-2

The one-pot synthetic procedure developed for heteroleptic polypyridyl ruthenium complexes was employed for the preparation of new sensitizers **JF-1** and **JF-2**. The synthetic procedure of **JF-1** and **JF-2** were showed in Scheme S2.



Scheme S2. Synthesis of ruthenium sensitizers JF-1 and JF-2.

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**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (aromatic region) of **N3**, **JF-1** and **JF-2** in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO.

#### 2. The spectra mismatch factor (M)

The deviation in power-conversion efficiency can be calculated from the spectra mismatch factor (M) using equation 1,

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} \mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{R}}(\lambda) \mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{R}}(\lambda) d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} \mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{R}}(\lambda) \mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{T}}(\lambda) d\lambda} \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} \mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{S}}(\lambda) \mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{T}}(\lambda) d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} \mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{S}}(\lambda) \mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{R}}(\lambda) d\lambda}$$
(1)

where  $E_R(\lambda)$  is the reference spectral irradiance,  $E_S(\lambda)$ , the source spectral irradiance,  $S_R(\lambda)$ , the spectral responsivity of the reference cell, and  $S_T(\lambda)$ , the spectral responsivity of the cell that was fabricated by us. In this instance, we used a Si reference solar cell (Oriel 91150, calibrated by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) as the reference cell.



3. The UV-vis absorption and emission spectra of opip and otip

Fig. S2 UV-vis absorption and emission spectra of the free ligands, opip and otip, in DMF.

# 4. Computational selected bond lengths $[{\rm \AA}]$ and angles (deg) of complexes

## JF-1 and JF-2



Fig. S3 Structural schematic diagrams of JF-1 and JF-2 for atom numbering.

**Table S1** Selected bond distances [Å] and angles [deg] of complexes **JF-1** and **JF-2** in calculated singlet ground-state geometry using the DFT at the B3LYP/LanL2DZ level.

| Compound | Ru–N1 | Ru–N2 | Ru–N3 | Ru–N4 | Ru–N5 | Ru–N6 | N1-Ru-N4 | N2-Ru-N5 |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|----------|
| JF-1     | 2.02  | 2.01  | 2.03  | 2.04  | 2.05  | 2.05  | 177.97   | 173.13   |
| JF-2     | 2.04  | 2.05  | 2.07  | 2.07  | 2.06  | 2.05  | 177.30   | 172.18   |





**Fig. S4** Energy and character of the frontier MOs of **JF-1** and **JF-2**. Also shown are isodensity plots of selected MOs. For better clarity on the major components in the MOs, we set isovalue = 0.04 for these plots.