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## Electronic supplementary Information Aqueous soft matter based photovoltaic devices

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Fig. S1 The effect of dye concentration on photovoltaic performance. When the dye concentration was increased 3 times  $(7.5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol in each gel layer})$  than that of the prototype device  $(2.5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol in each gel layer})$ , both photovoltaic parameters,  $J_{sc}$  and  $V_{oc}$ , were improved by 125% and 67%, respectively. The bias was swept from -0.6 V to 0.1 V at a sweep rate of ~9.5 mV/s.



**Fig. S2** UV-Vis absorption spectra of DAS<sup>-</sup> and  $[Ru(bpy)_3]^{2+}$  dyes. The energy gaps between the HOMO and LUMO of the DAS<sup>-</sup> and the  $[Ru(bpy)_3]^{2+}$  dyes for the provisional mechanism were estimated from the wavelength values at the maximum <sup>5</sup> peak position.



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**Fig. S3** Photocurrent responses of (a) HGPVs and (b) DSSCs under dark and illumination conditions. White and black arrows represent the times when the light was turned on and off, respectively.