

## Electronic Supporting Information (ESI)

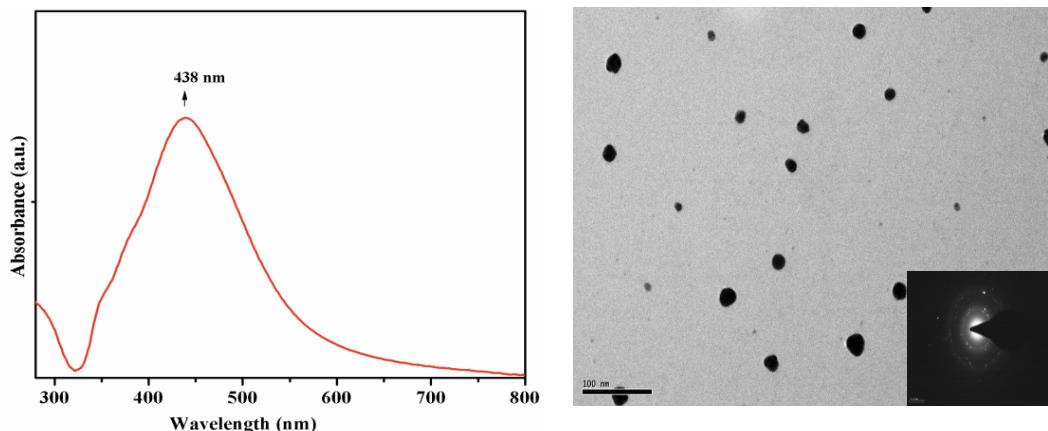
### Ru(II)-polypyridyl complexes grafted silica nanohybrids: Versatile hybrid materials for Raman spectroscopy and photocatalytic activity

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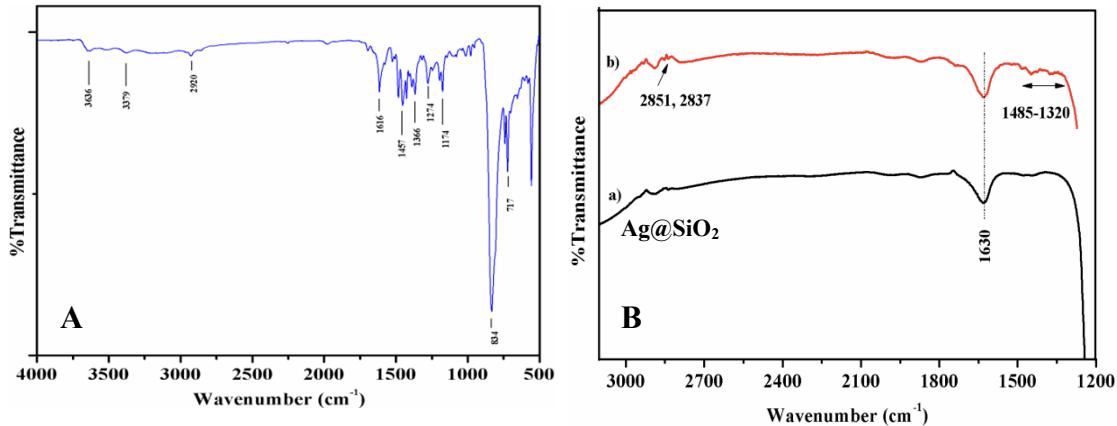
**Fig. S1.** UV-vis spectral profile of citrate capped Ag NPs and TEM image with selected area electron diffraction pattern (SAED)



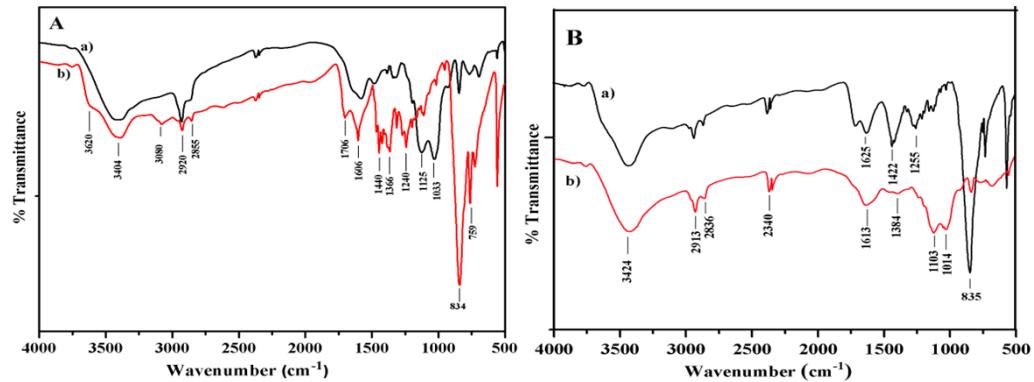
**Fig. S2.** Electron diffraction spectroscopy (EDS) profile and FFT pattern of Ag@SiO<sub>2</sub> core-shell NPs without surface functionalization



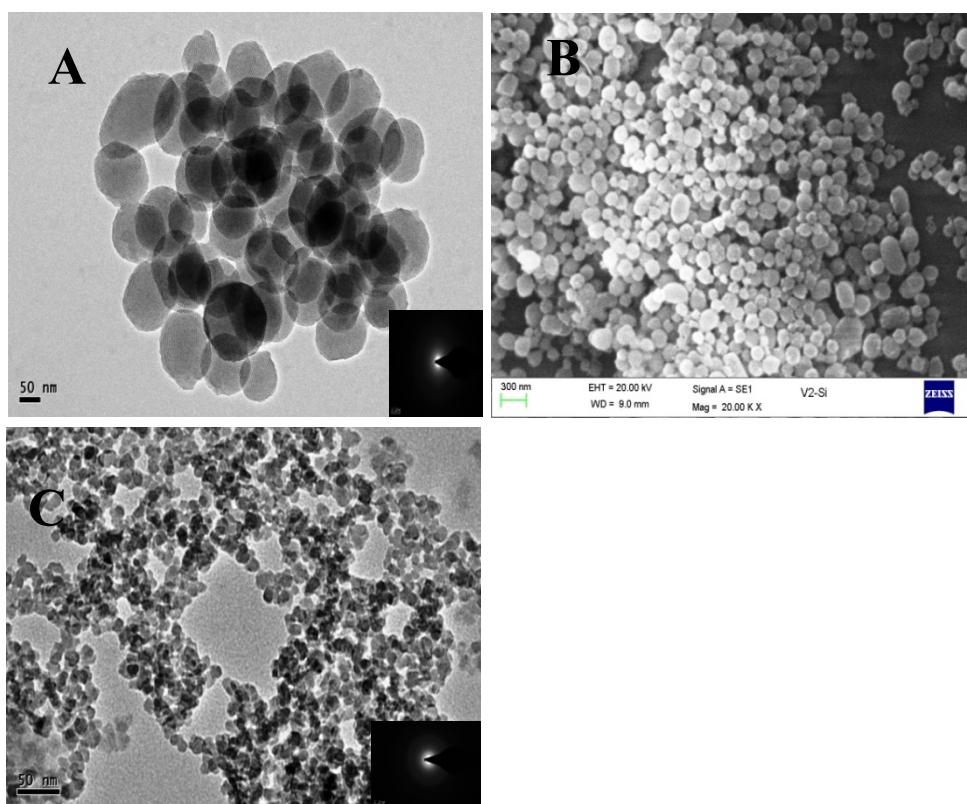
**Fig. S3.** A) FT-IR of Ru(3,4,7,8-tetramethyl-1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPP).2PF<sub>6</sub> complex; B) Blank Ag@SiO<sub>2</sub> core-shell NPs (a) and (b) after grafting 3-IPTMS linked Ru(3,4,7,8-tetramethyl-1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPP).2PF<sub>6</sub>.



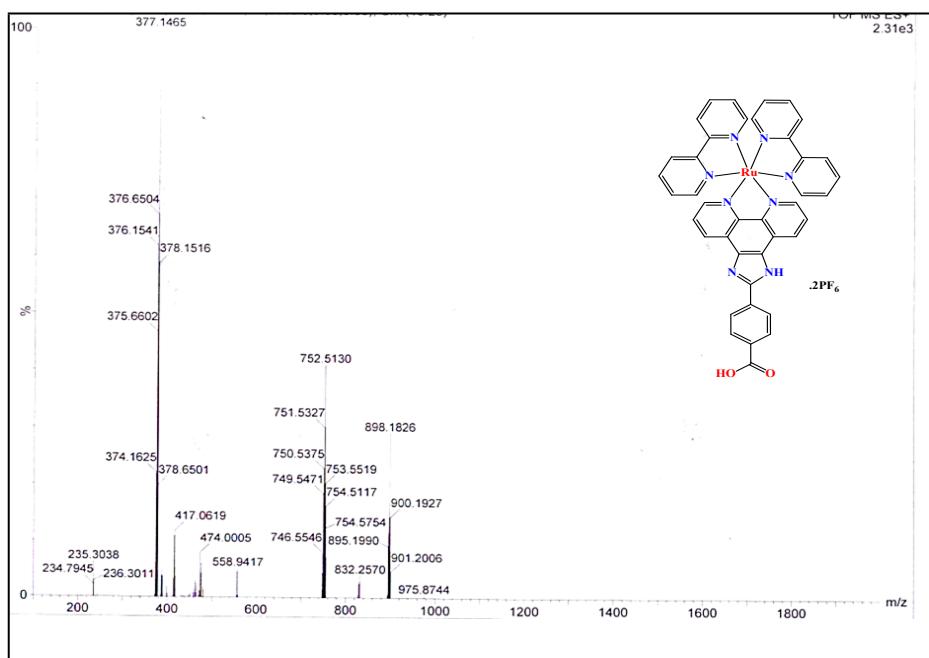
**Fig. S4.** A) FT-IR spectra of Ru(2,2'-bpy)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> complex (a) before and (b) after silylating with 3-APTMS; B) Ru(1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> complex (a) before and (b) after silylating with 3-APTMS.



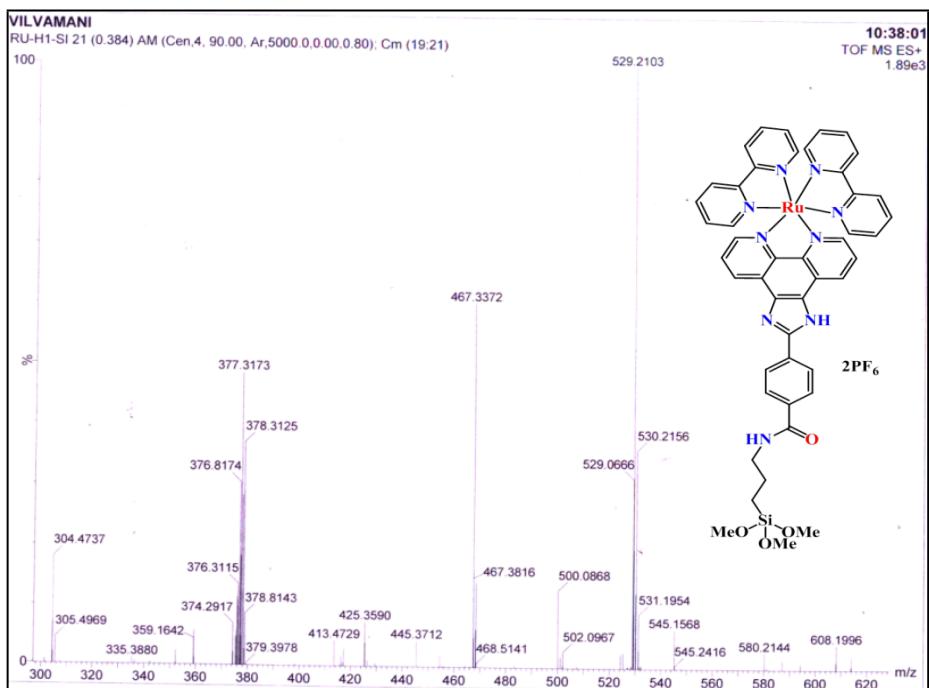
**Fig. S5.** A-C) TEM images with SAED, SEM image of MCM-41 SiO<sub>2</sub> NPs, amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub> without surface functionalization.



**Fig. S6.** Mass spectra of Ru(2,2'-bpy)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> before and after linked with 3-APTMS



Ru(2,2'-bpy)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> ESI-MS [M]<sup>2+</sup> = 377.1465



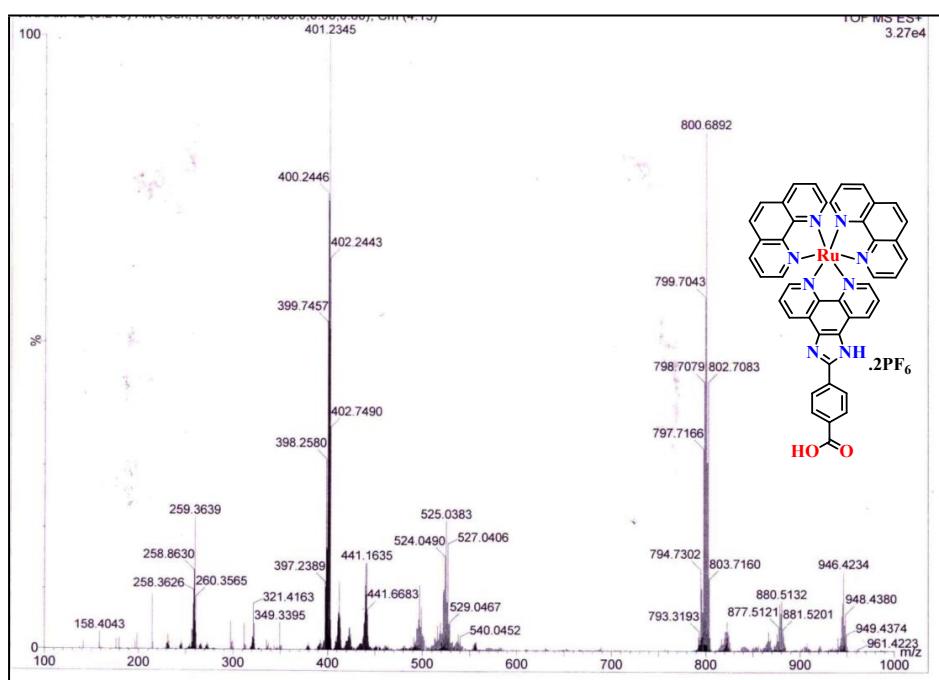
3-APTMS-Ru(2,2'-bpy)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> mol. wt [M] = 1204.98

[M-2PF<sub>6</sub>-3APTMS]/2 = 368.48 (cal.)/ 377.3173(exp.)

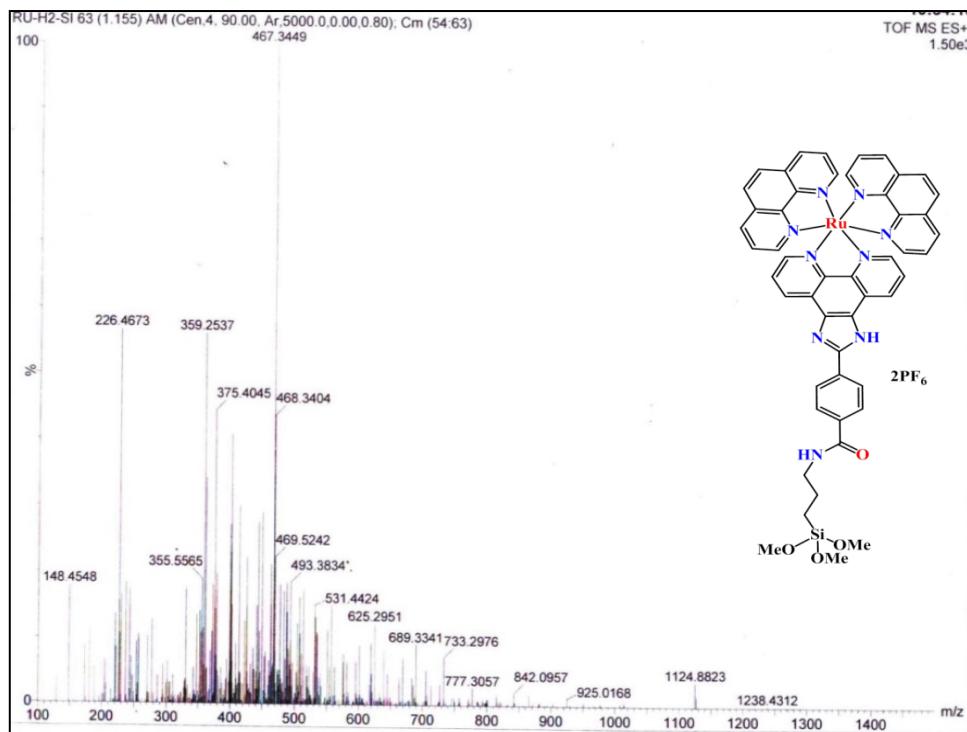
[M-2PF<sub>6</sub>]/2 = 457.52 (cal.)/467.3372 (exp.)

[M-PF<sub>6</sub>]/2 = 530.00 (cal.)/529.2103 (exp.)

**Fig. S7.** Mass spectra of Ru(1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> before and after linked with 3-APTMS

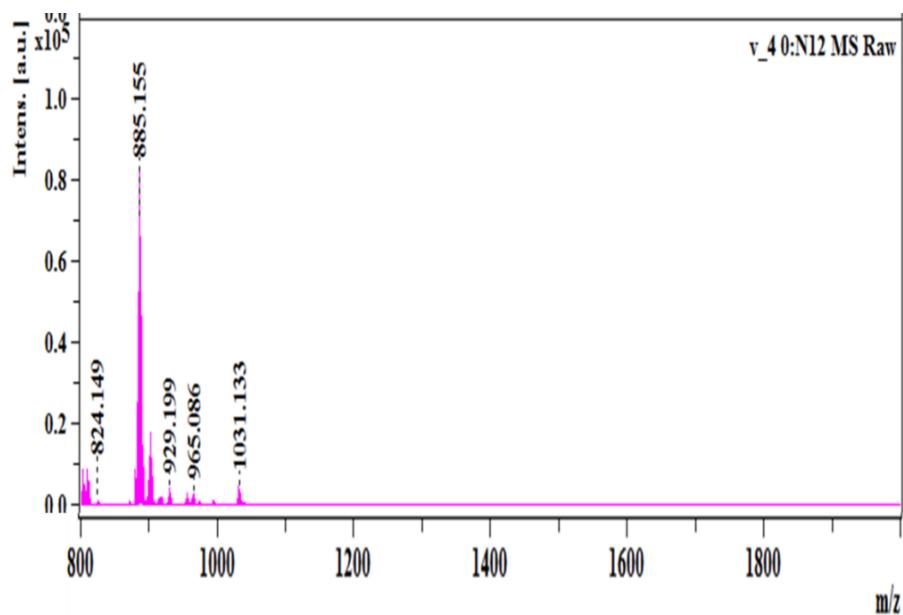


Ru(1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> ESI-MS: [M-2PF<sub>6</sub>] = 801.81 (Calc.) / 800.6892 (Obser.)  
 $[M-2PF_6]/2 = 400.90$  (Calc.) / 401.2345 (Obser.)

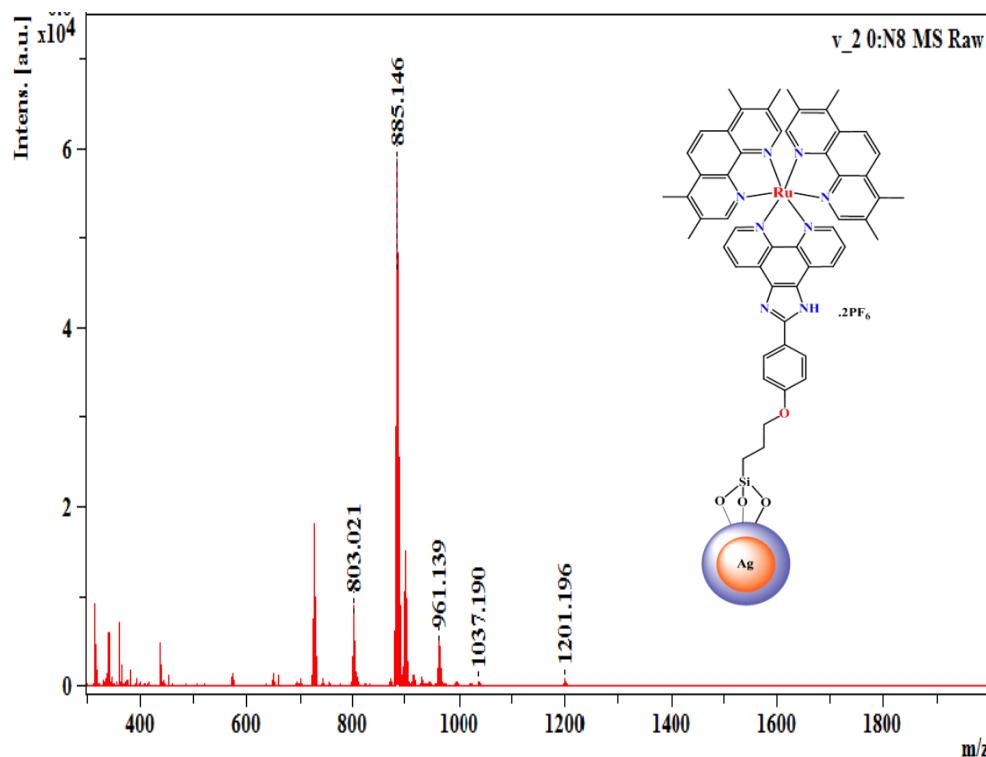


3-APTMS-Ru(1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPBA).2PF<sub>6</sub> mol. Wt [M] = 1253.02  
 $[M+Na -2PF_6]/2 = 493.05$  (calc.) / 493.3834 (obser.)  
 $[M+Na -2PF_6]/2 - (\text{three } -OCH_3) = (493.3834 - 93.06) = 400.3234$

**Fig. S8.** Mass spectrum of free Ru(3,4,7,8-tetramethyl-1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPP).2PF<sub>6</sub> in acetonitrile.



**Fig. S9.** Mass spectrum of Ru(3,4,7,8-tetramethyl-1,10-phen)<sub>2</sub>(IPP).2PF<sub>6</sub> grafted Ag@SiO<sub>2</sub> nanohybrid III.

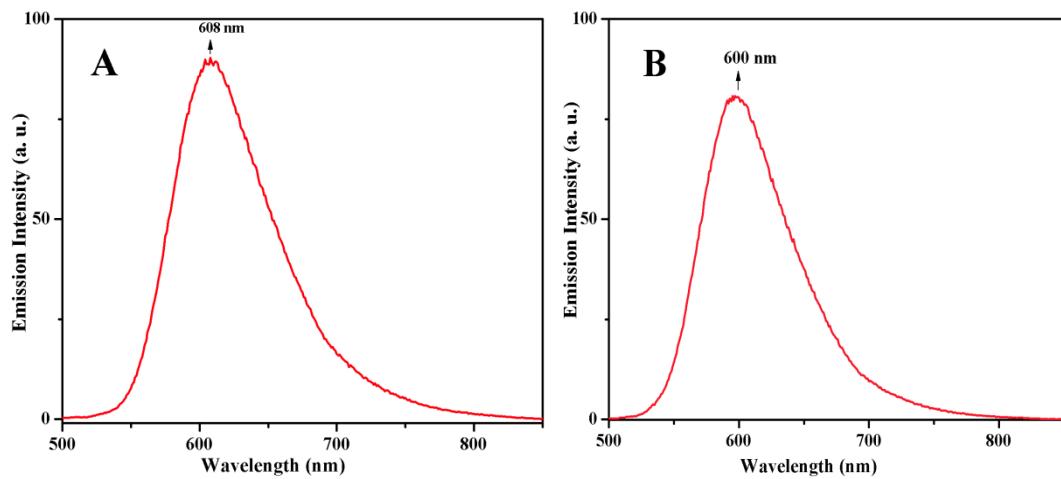


Mol.wt calculation of Ag@SiO<sub>2</sub> nanohybrid III:

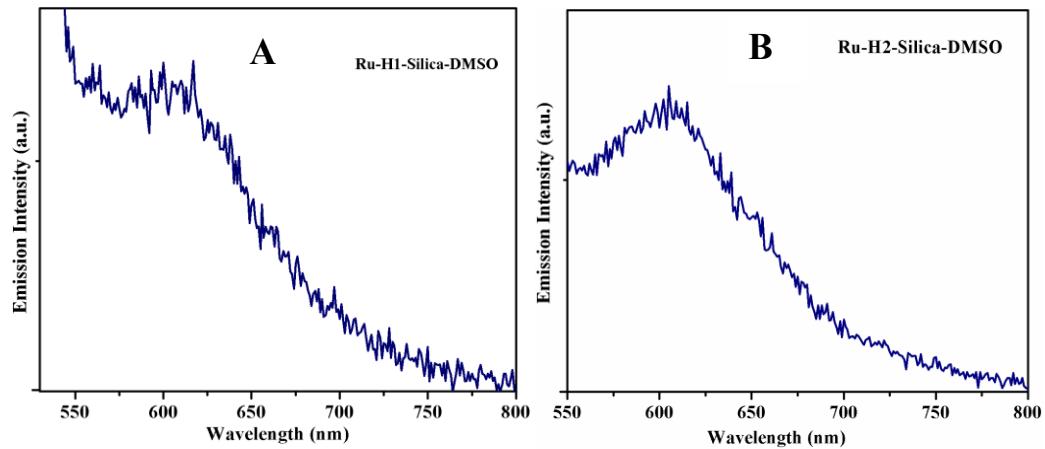
$$[M+OH^-] = 1201.245 \text{ (calc.)}/1201.196 \text{ (obser.)}$$

$$[M-(2PF_6 + Na^+)] = [1201.196 - 312.919] \\ = 888.277 \text{ (calc.)}/885.146 \text{ (obser.)}$$

**Fig. S10.** A) Emission spectra of  $10^{-5}$  M  $\text{Ru}(2,2'\text{-bpy})_2(\text{IPBA})\cdot 2\text{PF}_6$  and  $\text{Ru}(1,10\text{-phen})_2(\text{IPBA})\cdot 2\text{PF}_6$  (B) in acetonitrile ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 455, 450$  nm).



**Fig. S11.** Emission spectra of silica nanohybrids I and II in DMSO ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 455, 450$  nm).



**Fig. S12.** Plasmon enhanced Raman scattering spectra of  $\text{Ag}@\text{SiO}_2$  core-shell nanohybrid III  
A)  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 488.0$  nm (on-resonance proof); B)  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 785.0$  nm (off-resonance proof)

