## **Supporting Information**

Superhydrophobic SiO<sub>2</sub>-based Nanocomposite being Modified with Organic Groups as Catalyst for Selective Oxidation of Ethylbenzene

Chen Chen <sup>a</sup>, Song Shi <sup>a</sup>, Min Wang <sup>a</sup>, Hong Ma <sup>a</sup>, Lipeng Zhou <sup>b</sup>, Jie Xu <sup>a\*</sup>

E-mail: xujie@dicp.ac.cn

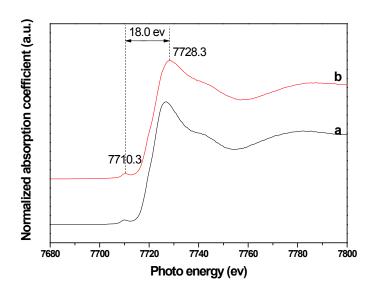


Fig. S1. Co K-edge XANES spectra for (a) Co-SiO<sub>2</sub> and (b) Pr-Co-SiO<sub>2</sub>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> State Key Laboratory of Catalysis, Dalian National Laboratory for Clean Energy, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian 116023, P. R. China.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Institute of Catalysis, Department of Chemistry, Zhengzhou University, 100 Kexue Road, Zhengzhou 450001, PR China

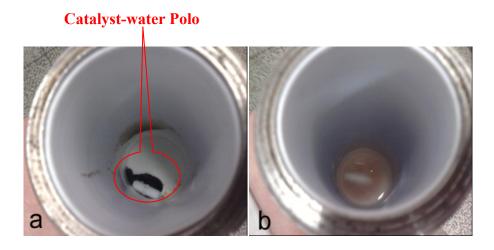


Fig. S2. Comparison of reaction mixture after catalytic reaction with hydrophilic Co- $SiO_2$  (a) and surperhydrophobic Pr-Co- $SiO_2$  (b) as catalyst, respectively

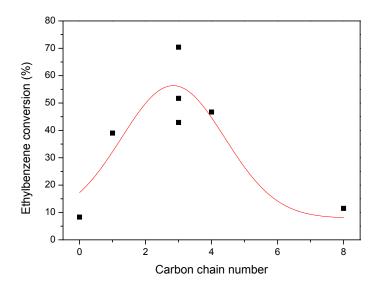
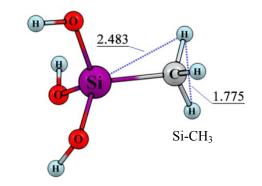
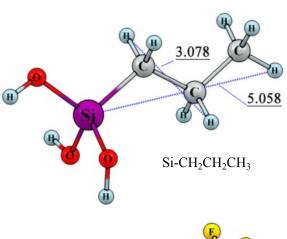
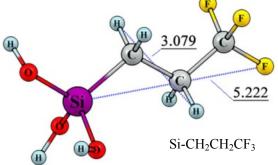
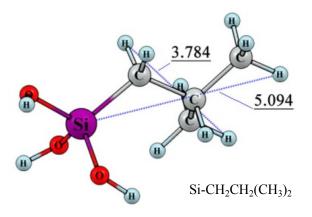


Fig. S3. Relationship between ethylbenzene conversion and carbon chain number of the organic groups









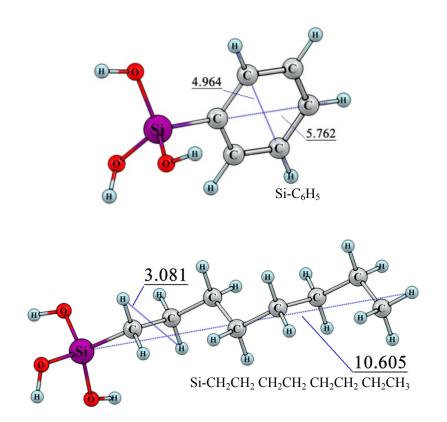


Fig. S4. Geometric information of different organic groups bonding on the surface of  ${
m SiO}_2$ .

**Table S1.** Catalytic performance of Pr-Co-SiO<sub>2</sub> and various reported catalytic system in literature for selective oxidation of ethylbenzene

| Catalyst                             | Temp. (K) | Time (h) | O <sub>2</sub> Pressure (MPa) | Solvent            | Conv. | Selectivity of Main<br>Products |                  | Ref.            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                      |           |          |                               |                    |       | Ketone                          | Alcohol          |                 |
| Pr-Co-SiO <sub>2</sub>               | 393       | 6        | 1.0                           | -                  | 70.4  | 87.5                            | 6.4              | Present<br>work |
| Mn-MgAl<br>hydrotalcite              | 408       | 5        | 1.0                           | -                  | 50.3  | 96.7                            | Not<br>Mentioned | 54              |
| Cobalt(Ⅲ) Pyridinecarboxami de       | 423       | 8        | 1.6                           | -                  | 70.8  | 86.1                            | 1.5              | 48              |
| Cobalt(Ⅲ)<br>Pyridinecarboxami<br>de | 393       | 4        | 1.6                           | -                  | 49.8  | 88.0                            | 9.3              | 48              |
| Carbon nanotube                      | 428       | 4        | 1.5                           | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | 38.2  | 60.9                            | 9.8              | 9               |
| Co/SBA-15                            | 393       | 6        | 1.0                           | -                  | 37.3  | 74.3                            | 19.0             | 11              |
| MnS-1                                | 383       | 6        | 1.0                           | -                  | 33    | 87                              | 13               | 55              |
| DACAQ/NHPI/HY                        | 353       | 10       | 0.3                           | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | 66.2  | 95.8                            | 4.2              | 56              |
| DDQ/NHPI                             | 353       | 6        | 0.3                           | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | 59.3  | 88.2                            | 6.2              | 57              |