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## Supporting information



Fig. S1 lower magnification SEM image of China rose-like structured  $\beta$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>



Fig. S2 XRD patterns of the time-dependent evolution in the form of  $\beta$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>

China rose-like flowers at time of 2, 12, and 24 h, respectively.



Fig. S3 Large scale SEM images of products at different calcination temperature: (a)

precursor; (b) 280 °C; (c) 360 °C; (d) 400 °C; (e) 440 °C; (f) 520 °C.