

## Supporting Information

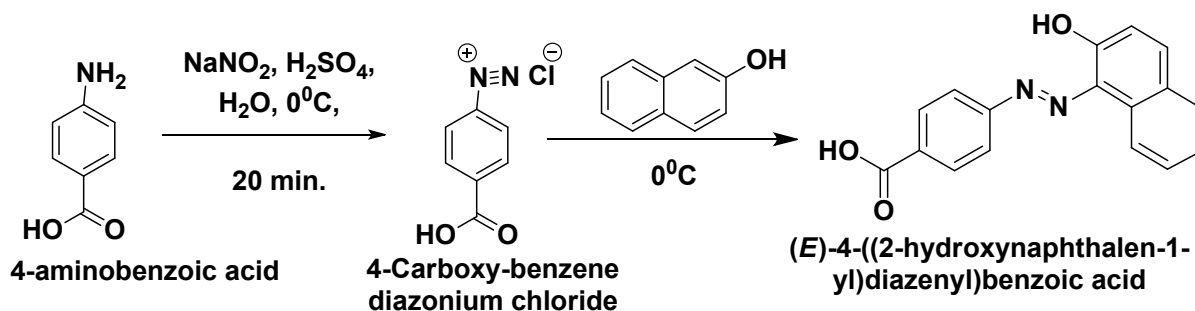
### Understanding electron transfer process in ZnO-naphthol azobenzoic acid composites from photophysical characterisations

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#### Supporting Information, SI-1

##### (4-(2-Hydroxy-naphthalen-1-ylazo)-benzoic acid (4ABBN))



##### <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, DMSO) $\delta$ ppm:

7.44-7.52 (1H,m), 7.59-7.66 (1H,m), 7.72-7.76 (1H,d, J=7.20Hz), 7.83-7.87(2H, d, J=8.59 Hz), 7.92-7.97(1H, d, J=9.85 Hz), 8.03-8.07(2H, d, J=8.72Hz), 8.46-8.50 (1H,d, J=7.32Hz), 15.91 (1H, s).

##### <sup>13</sup>C (400 MHz, DMSO) $\delta$ ppm :

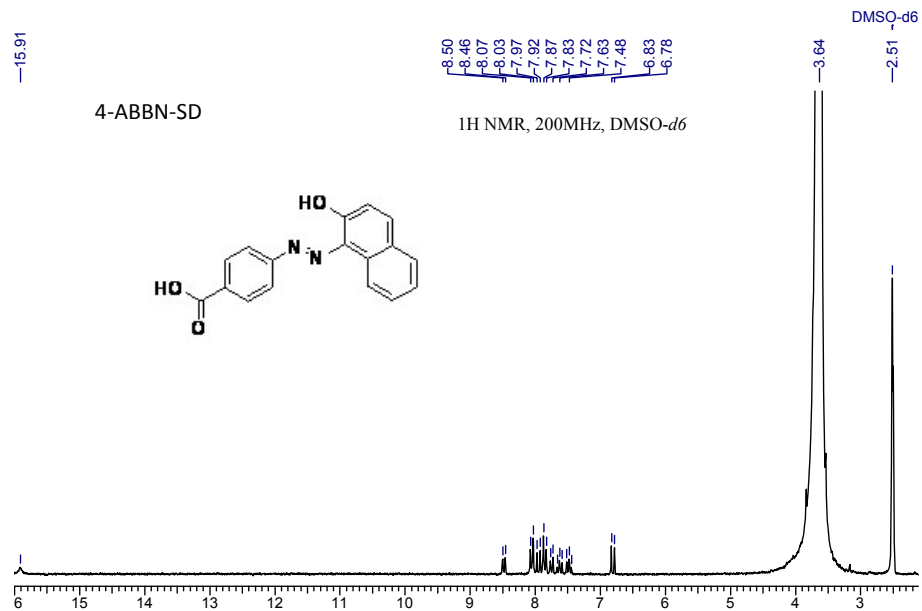
170.07,167.14,145.61,140.53,133.19,132.98,130.07,129.24,129.04,128.53,128.28,126.17, 124.15, 122.76, 121.59,119.56.

**FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 3353, 2973,2894,1696,1389,1319,1207,1044 and 879 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

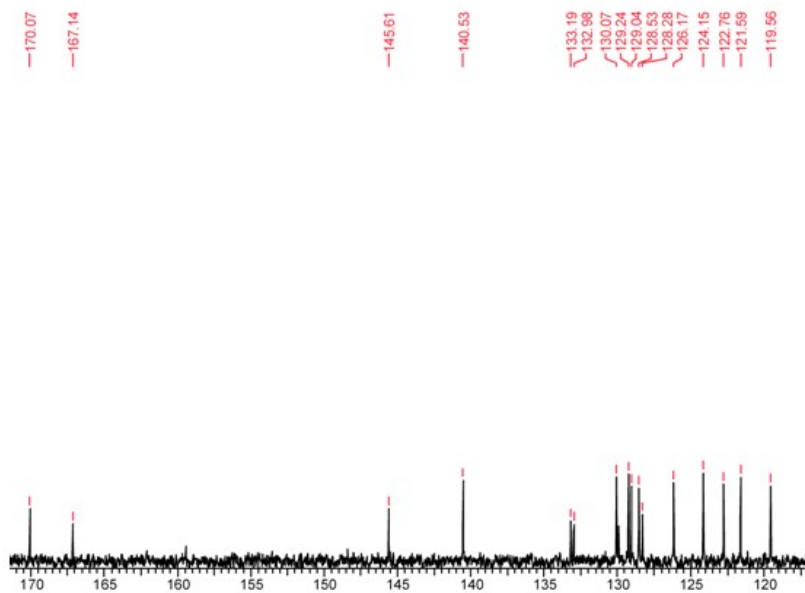
**Raman (cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 432, 498, 604, 710, 1255, 1382, 1658, 1700, 1769 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Elemental Analysis:** calcd(%): C 69.86, H 4.14, N 9.18; found (%): C 72.24, H 5.46, N 7.99.

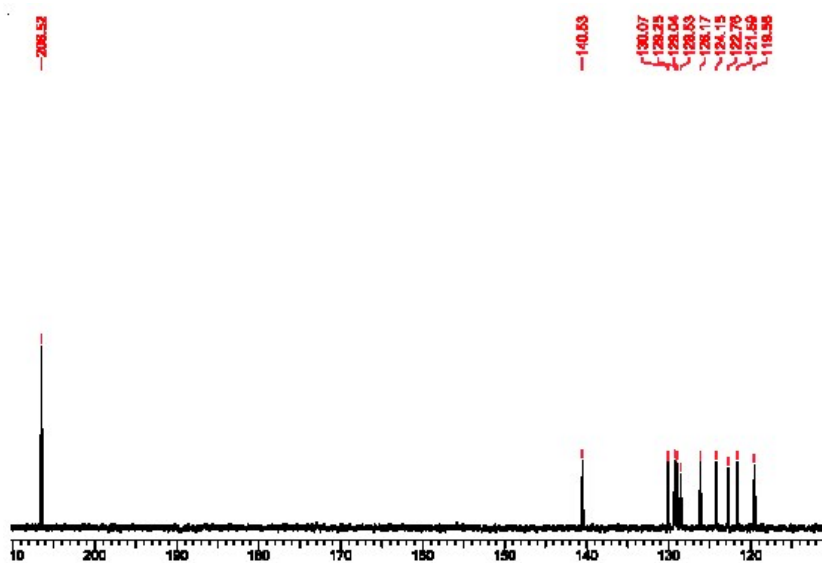
# NMR



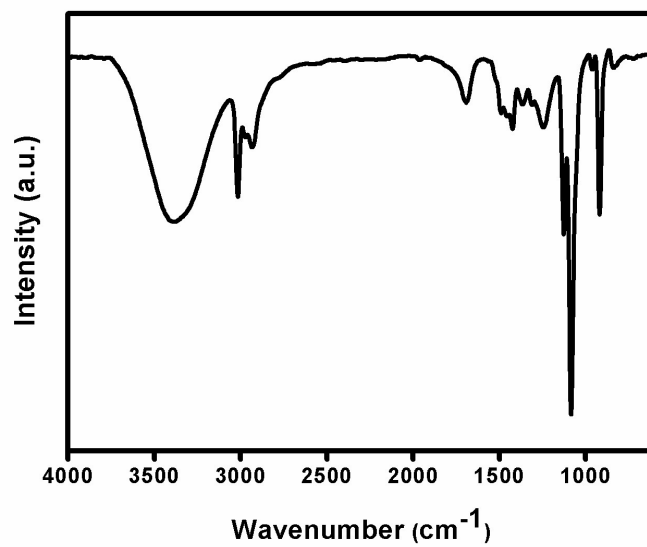
## <sup>13</sup>C



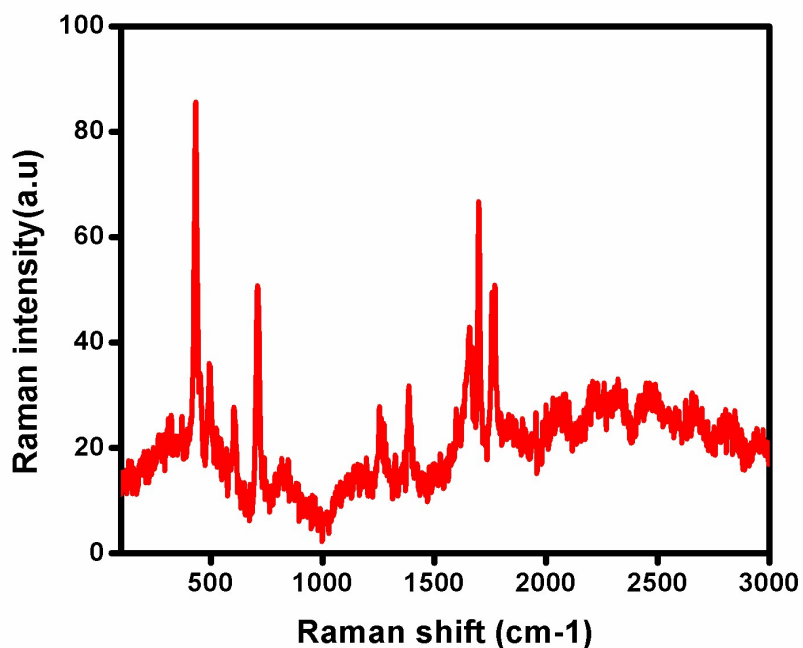
DEPT



IR



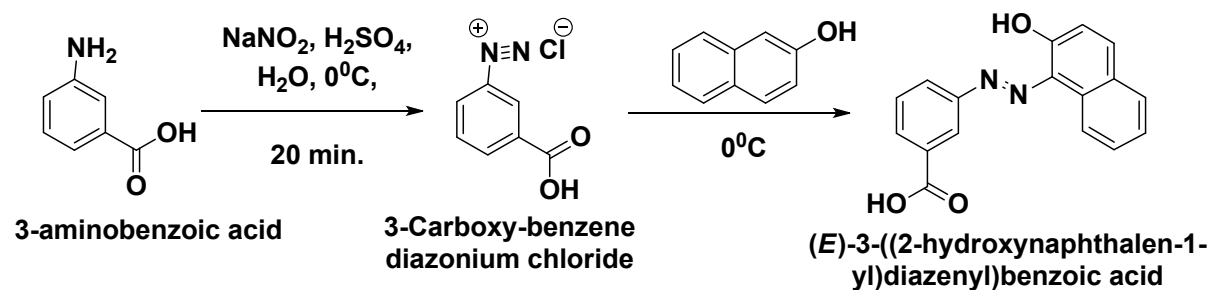
## Raman



Figures.SI

### Supporting Information, SI-2

#### 3-(2-Hydroxy-naphthalen-1-ylazo)-benzoic acid (3ABBN)



#### $^1\text{H}$ NMR (200 MHz, DMSO) $\delta$ ppm:

7.43-7.53 (1H,m), 7.63-7.72 (2H,m), 7.79-7.90 (3H,m), 7.97-8.02 (1H, d,  $J=9.47$  Hz), 8.27(1H, s), 8.58-8.62(1H, d,  $J=7.96$ Hz), 15.91 (1H, s)

#### $^{13}\text{C}$ (400 MHz, DMSO) $\delta$ ppm :

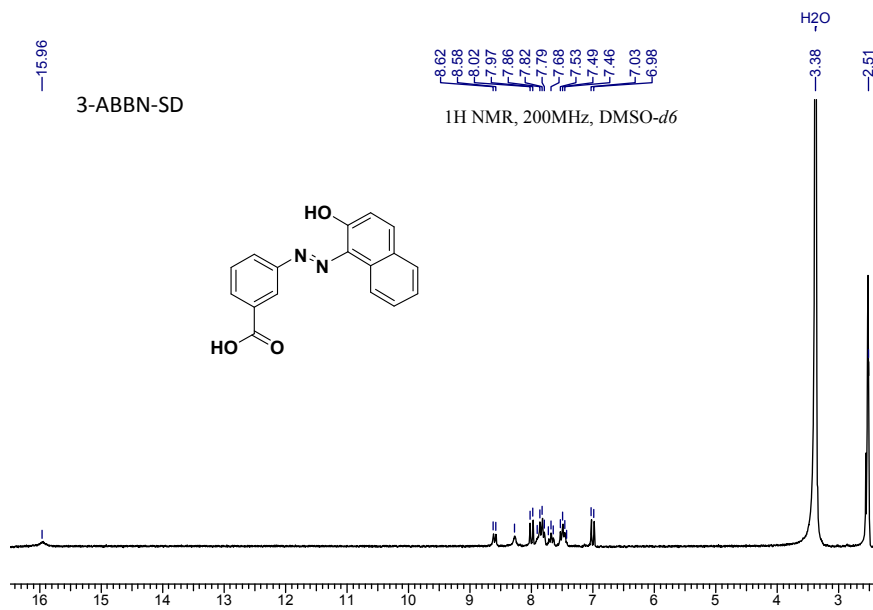
170.25,166.93,145.26,140.70,132.85,130.26,129.40,129.14,128.30,128.10,126.25,126.10,124.28,122.95,121.42,119.16.

**FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):** 3420, 3052, 2921, 1693, 1386, 1207, 1111 and 986  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

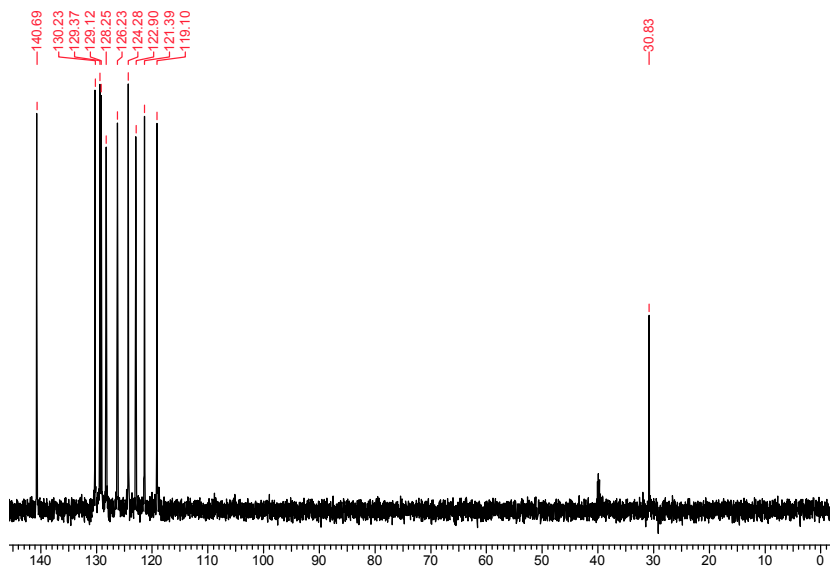
**Raman ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):** 432, 496, 607, 711, 1266, 1387, 1658, 1699, 1768  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**Elemental Analysis:** calcd(%): C 69.86, H 4.14, N 9.18; found (%): C 72.21, H 5.48, N 7.96.

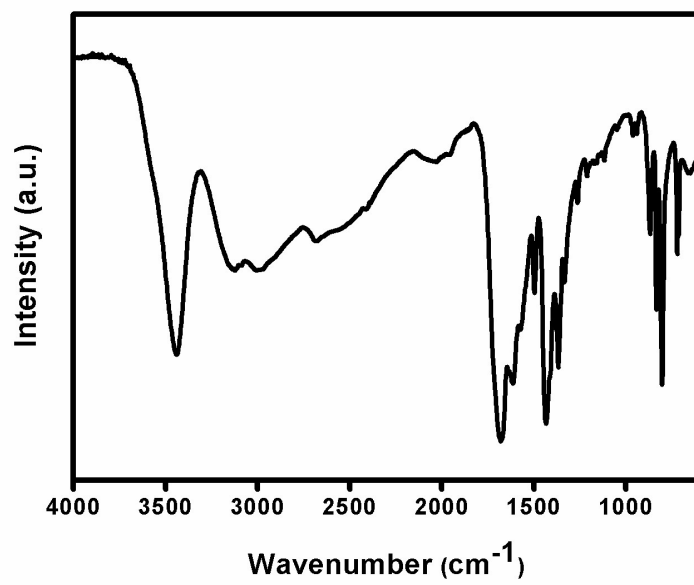
# NMR



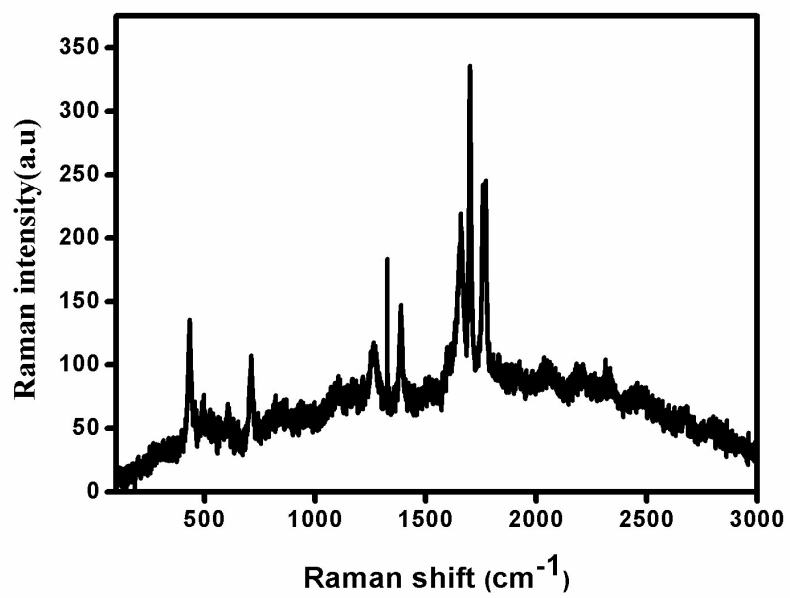
# DEPT



IR



Raman



Figures.S2

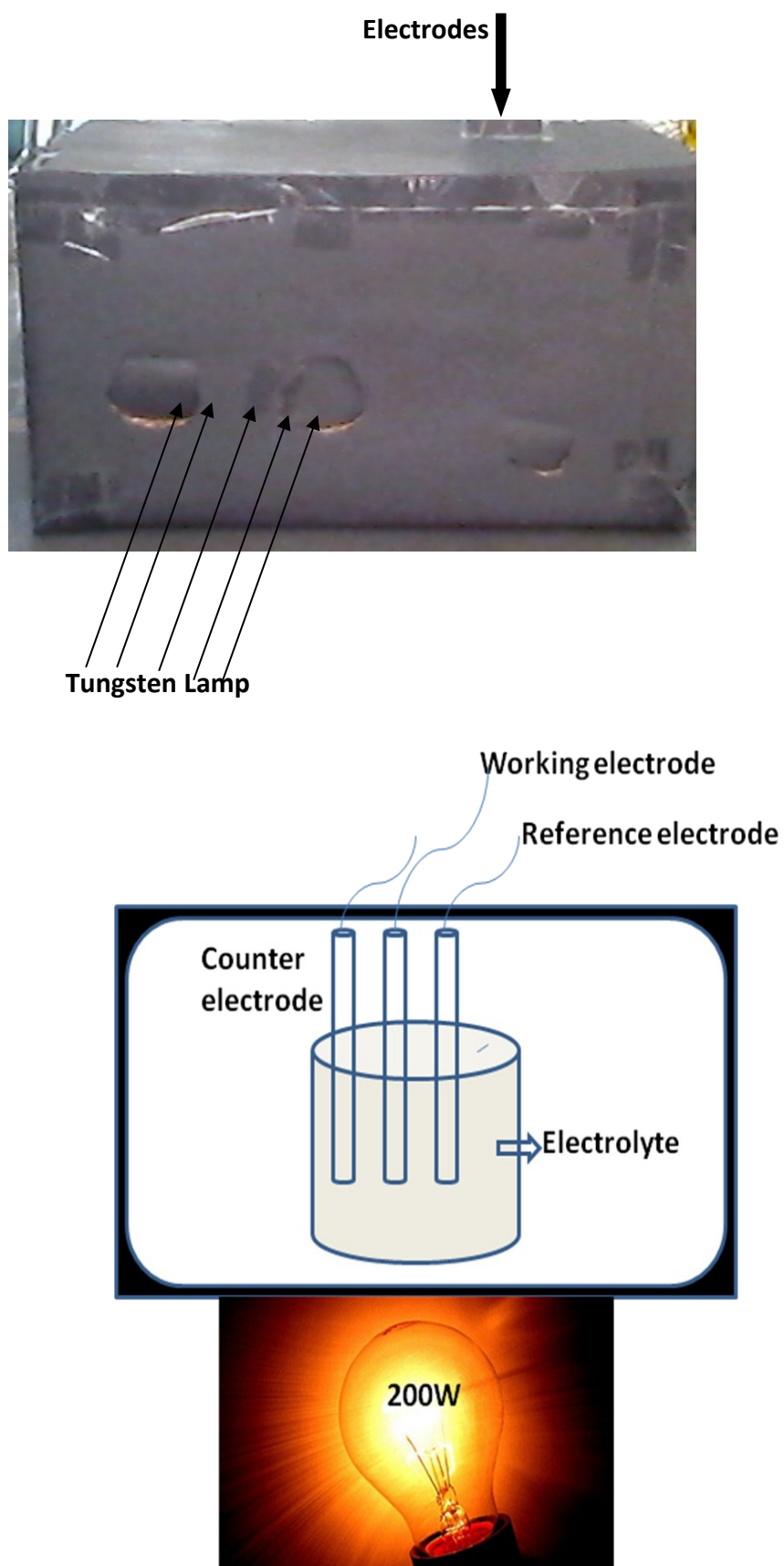


Figure. S3 Photoelectrochemical set up for the comparison of photocurrent with potential

Supporting Information, SI-4



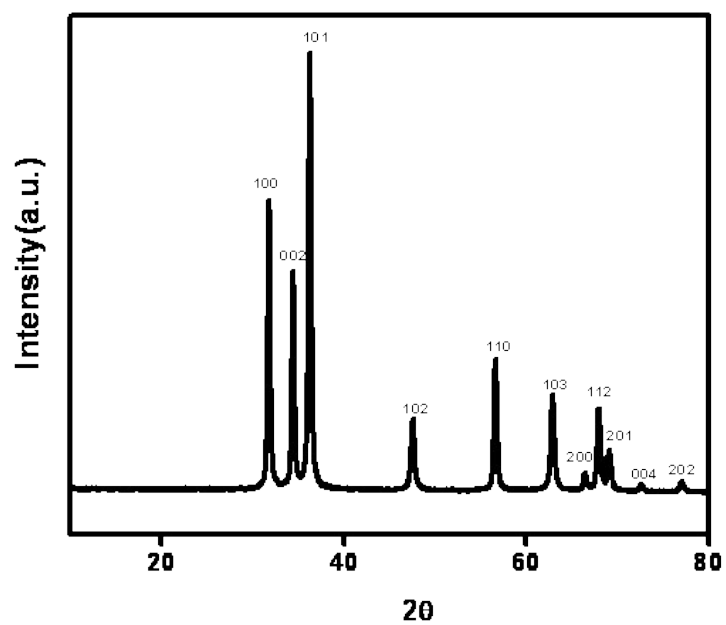


Figure. S4 Powder XRD pattern of ZnO NPs

Supporting Information, SI-5

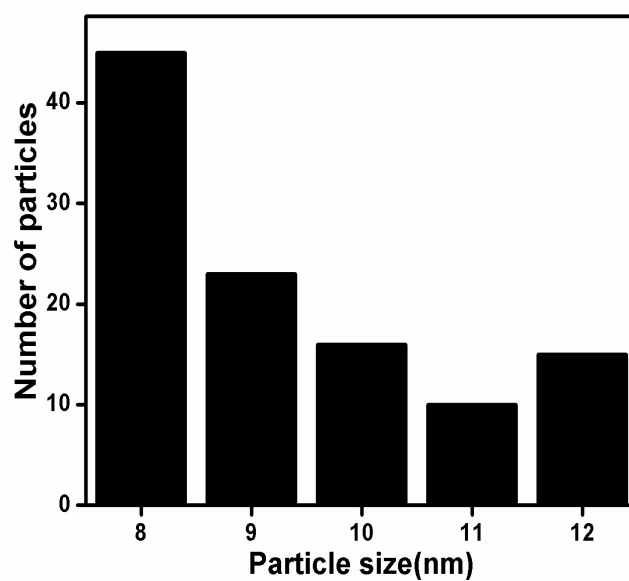
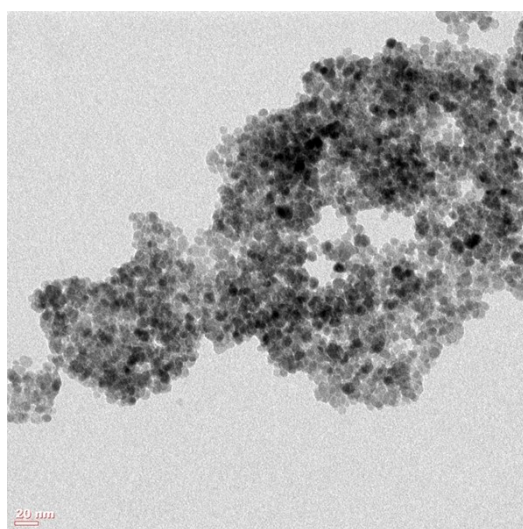
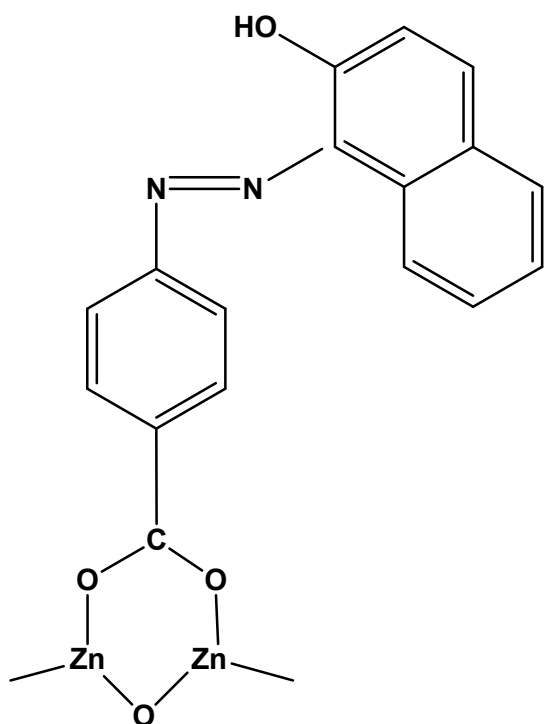


Figure.S5 TEM image and the corresponding histogram of ZnONPs

Supporting Information, SI-6



**Details of calculations of the amount of 4ABBN to be used based on the number of ZnO on the surface of the particles.**

(a) Number of moles of Zinc acetate dihydrate (ZA) in y ml = **x moles**

Assuming 100% conversion of ZA to ZnONPs, no: of moles of ZnONPs = **t moles in y ml**

(b) Total radius of ZnO = **0.202 nm**

Volume of one ZnO molecule =  $4/3\pi r^3 = 0.034508 \text{ nm}^3$

(c) Volume of one ZnONP of 'a' radius (from TEM) =  $4/3\pi a^3 = \text{b nm}^3$

(d) Total no: of molecules which can be accommodated in one particle =  $\text{b nm}^3 / 0.034508 \text{ nm}^3$

= **c molecules**

(e) Total no: of ZnO molecules = t moles \* N = **s molecules**

(f) Total no: of ZnO particles =  $s/c = \text{r particles}$

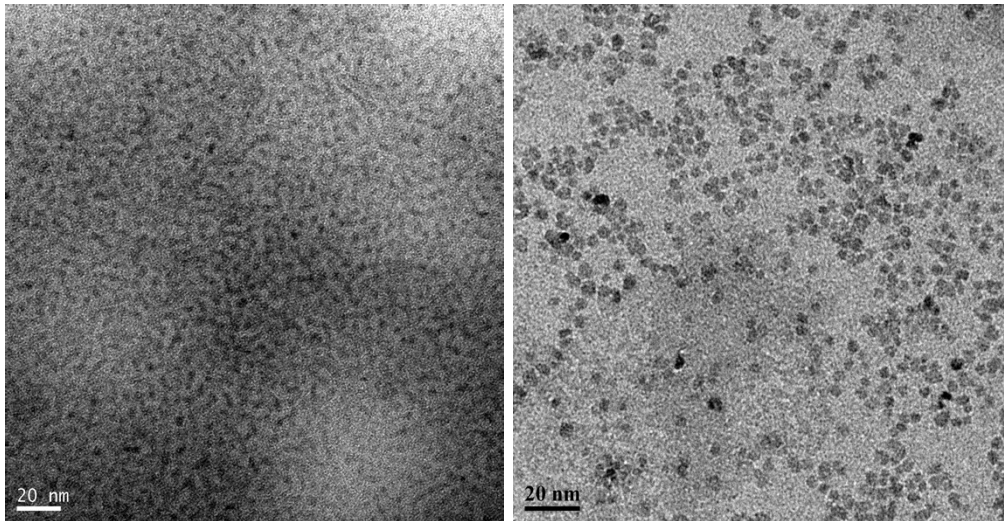
(g) Total no: of ZnO particles exposed on the surface =  $4\pi (a \text{ nm}^2) / \pi (0.202 \text{ nm}^2) = \text{e particles}$

(h) Total no: of ZnO molecules exposed on the surface =  $e * r = \text{f molecules}$

(i) Total no: of organic linkers required =  $\text{f molecules} / 2 = \text{k molecules}$

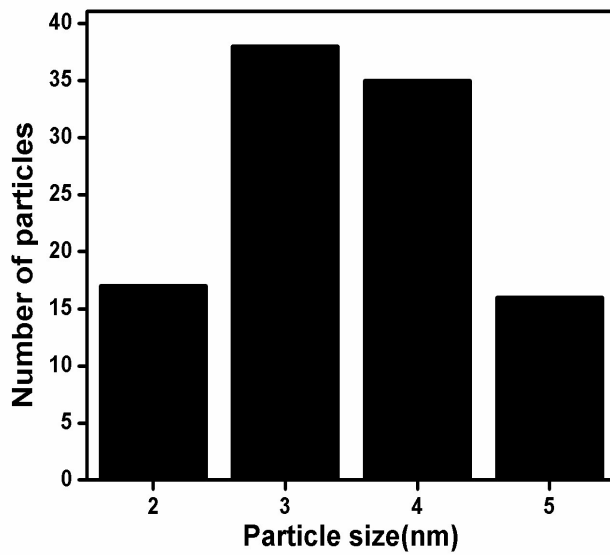
No: of moles of organic linker =  $\text{k molecules} / N = \text{m moles}$

**Supporting Information, SI-7**



(a)

(b)



(c)

Figure. S7 TEM images of (a) ZnO-3ABBN composite, (b) ZnO- 4ABBN composite and (c) corresponding histogram of the composites.

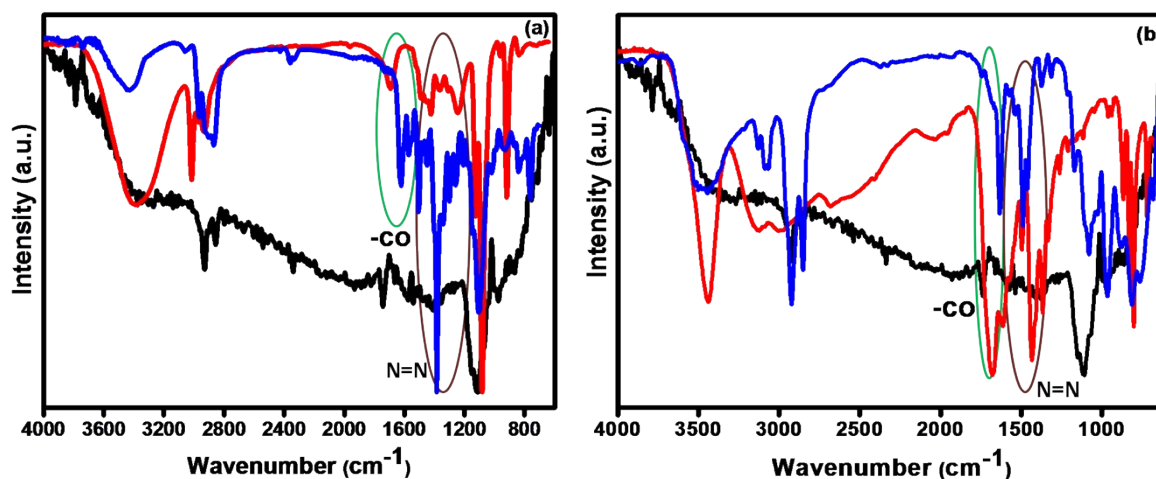


Figure. S8 IR spectra of (a) ZnO (black), 4ABBN (red) and ZnO-4ABBN composite (blue), left and (b) ZnO (black), 3ABBN (red) and ZnO-3ABBN composite (blue), right.

#### Supporting Information, SI-9

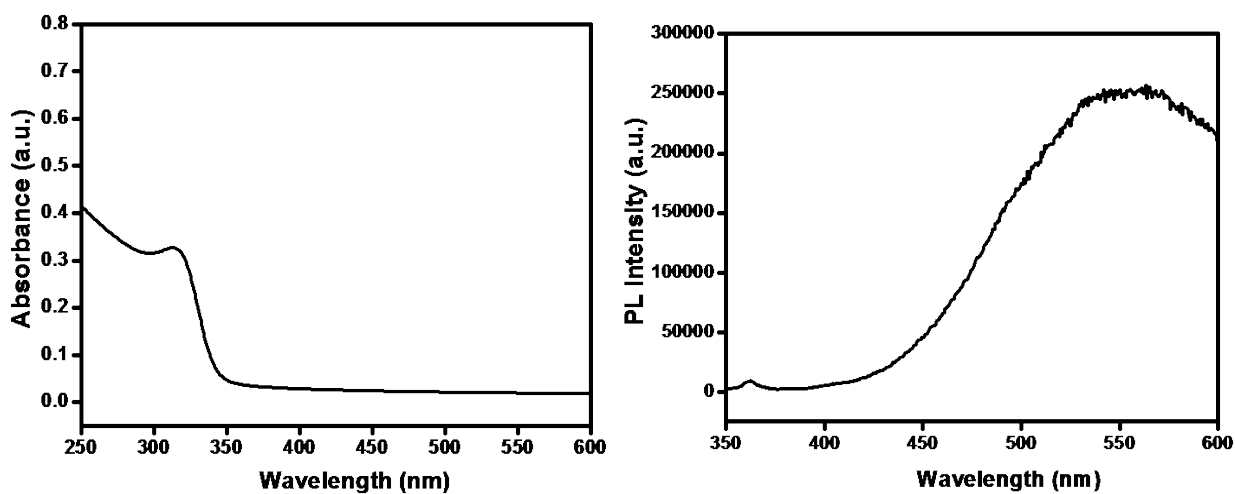


Figure. S9 UV-vis spectrum (left) and photoluminescence spectrum,  $\lambda_{exc}=325$  nm (right) of pristine ZnO NPs ( $1.69 \times 10^{-3}$  M).

#### Supporting Information, SI-10

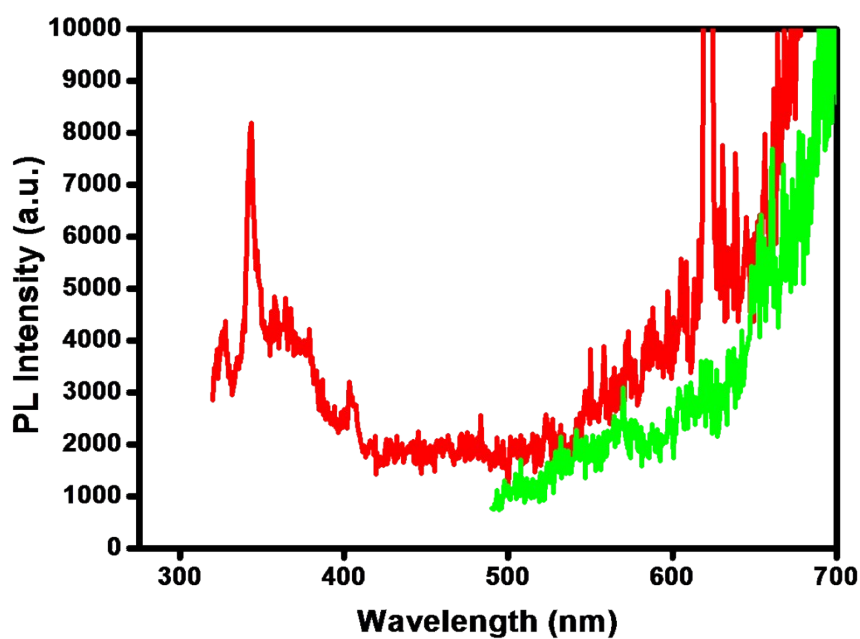


Figure. S10 PL spectrum of 3ABBN ( $9.04 \times 10^{-4} \text{M}$ ) at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=310 \text{ nm}$  (red) and  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=480 \text{ nm}$  (green)

Supporting Information, SI-11

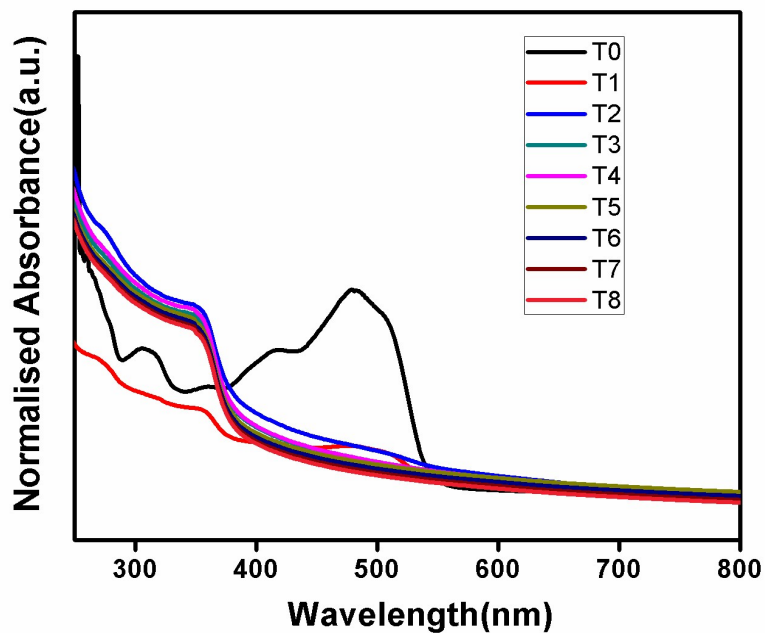


Figure. S11 UV-vis absorption spectra of 3ABBN after irradiating with visible light at different durations up to 8 h, denoted by T0 to T8

Supporting Information, SI-12

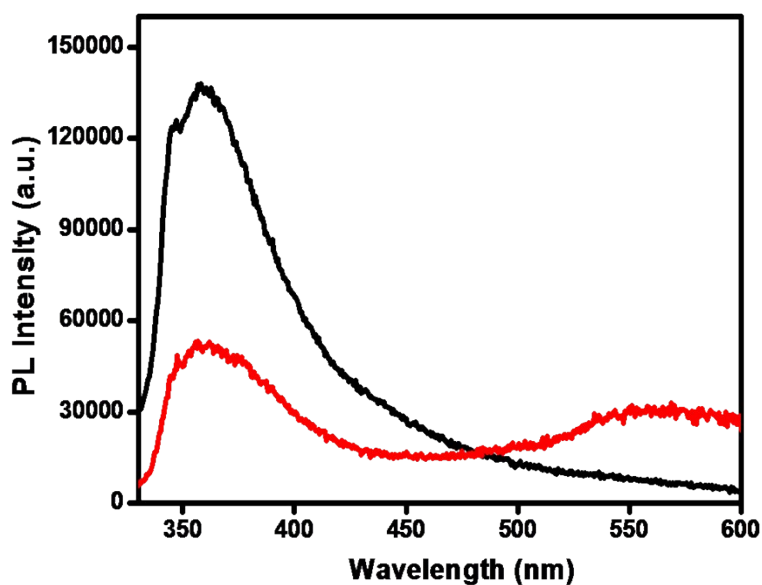


Figure. S12 PL spectrum of 4ABBN ( $9.04 \times 10^{-4}$  M-black) and ZnO-4ABBN composite ( $1.69 \times 10^{-3} + 9.04 \times 10^{-4}$  M- red),  $\lambda_{exc}=310$  nm.

Supporting Information, SI-13

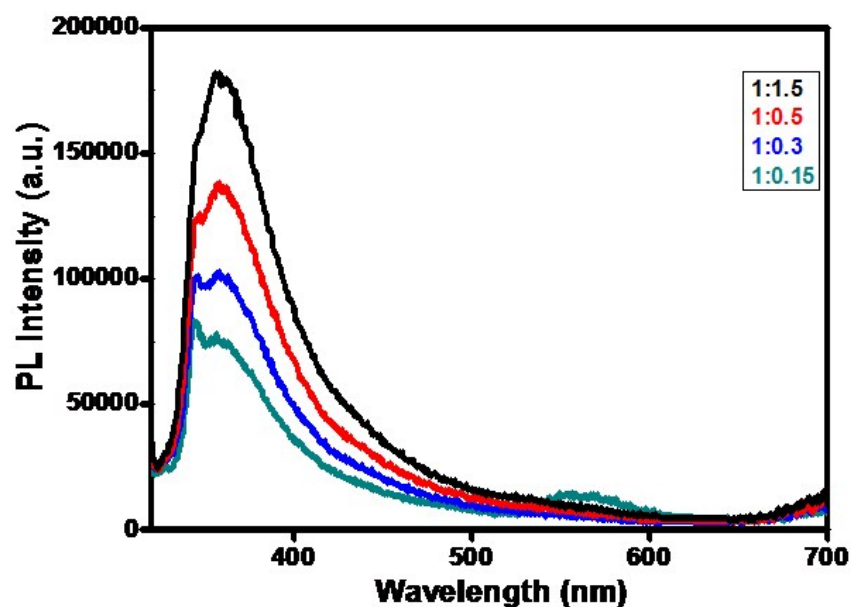


Figure. S13 PL spectrum of 4ABBN ( $13.56 \times 10^{-4}$  M-black), ( $9.04 \times 10^{-4}$  M-red), ( $7.23 \times 10^{-4}$  M-blue and ( $5.42 \times 10^{-4}$  M-olive green),  $\lambda_{exc}=310$  nm.

Supporting Information, SI-14

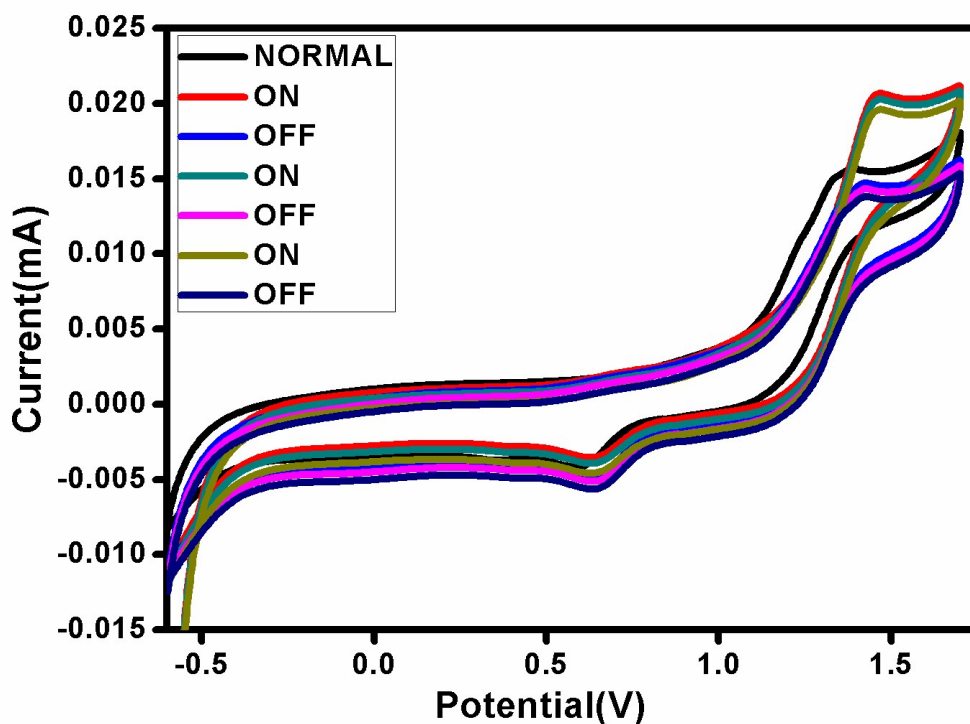
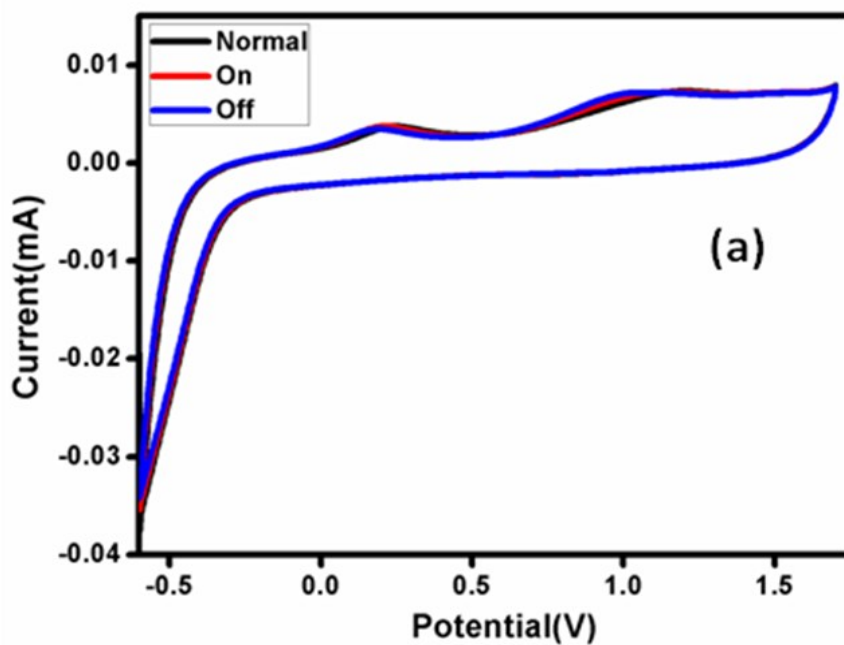


Figure. S14 Comparison of photocurrent with potential of ZnO-4ABBN composite upon turning on and off 200W tungsten lamp in three consecutive cycles by cyclic voltammetry.

Supporting Information, SI-15



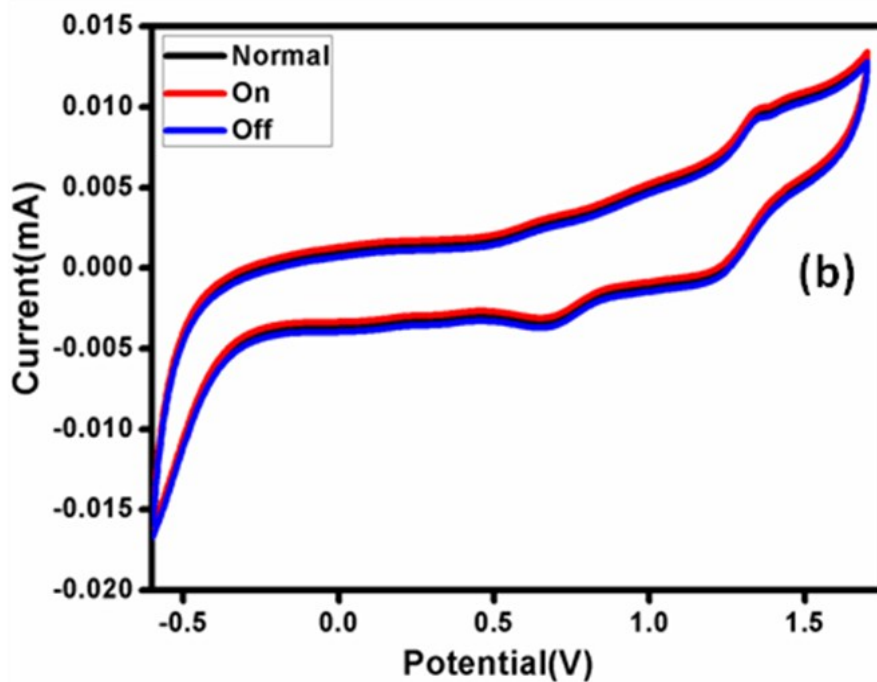


Figure. S15 Comparison of photocurrent with potential of (a) ZnO and (b) 4ABBN upon turning on and off 200W tungsten lamp by cyclic voltammetry.

**Supporting Information, SI-16**

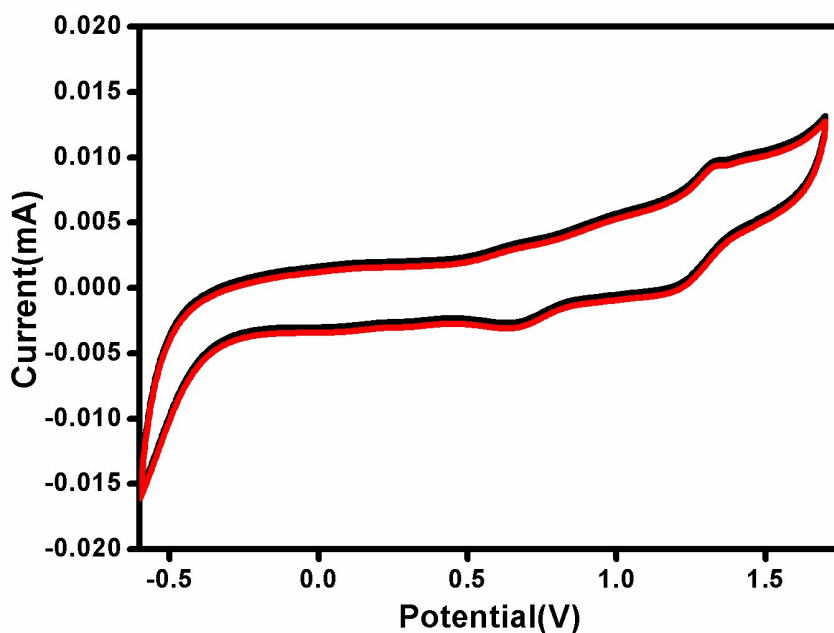


Figure. S16 Current–voltage data for photoelectrochemical cells employing 4ABBN (black) and 4ABBN-SiO<sub>2</sub> (red) by cyclic voltammetry.



### Supporting Information, SI-17

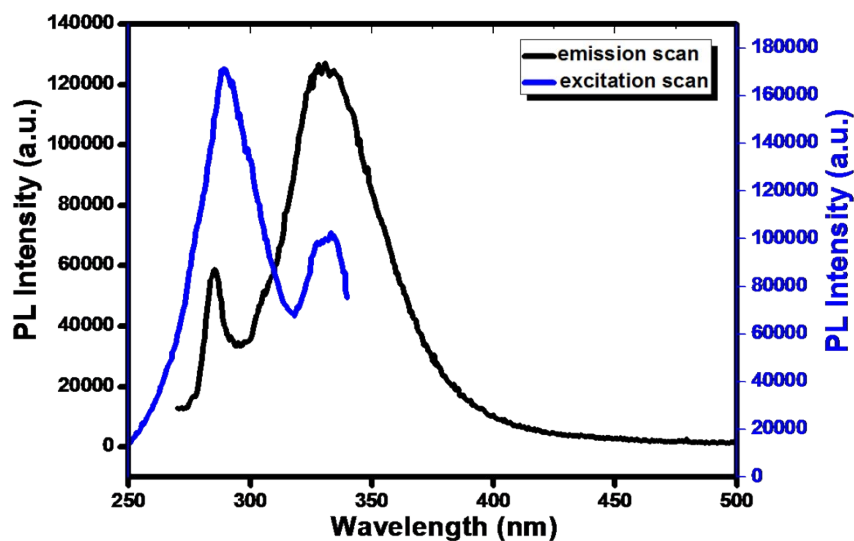


Figure. S17 PL spectrum of 4ABBN ( $9.04 \times 10^{-4}$  M) at  $\lambda_{exc}=260$  nm (black) and  $\lambda_{em}=350$  nm (blue).

### Supporting Information, SI-18

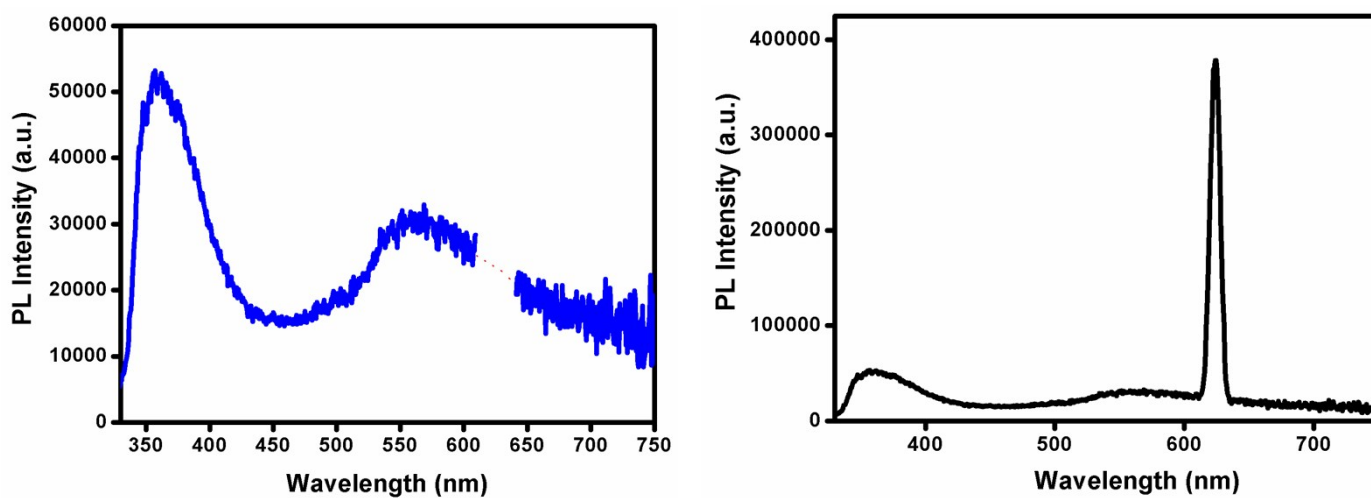


Figure. S18a Emission spectra of ZnO-4ABBN composite ( $1.69 \times 10^{-3}$  M ZnO +  $9.04 \times 10^{-4}$  M 4ABBN;  $\lambda_{exc}=310$  nm). Overtone at 620 nm ( $2\lambda_{exc}$ ) is also shown in the figure.

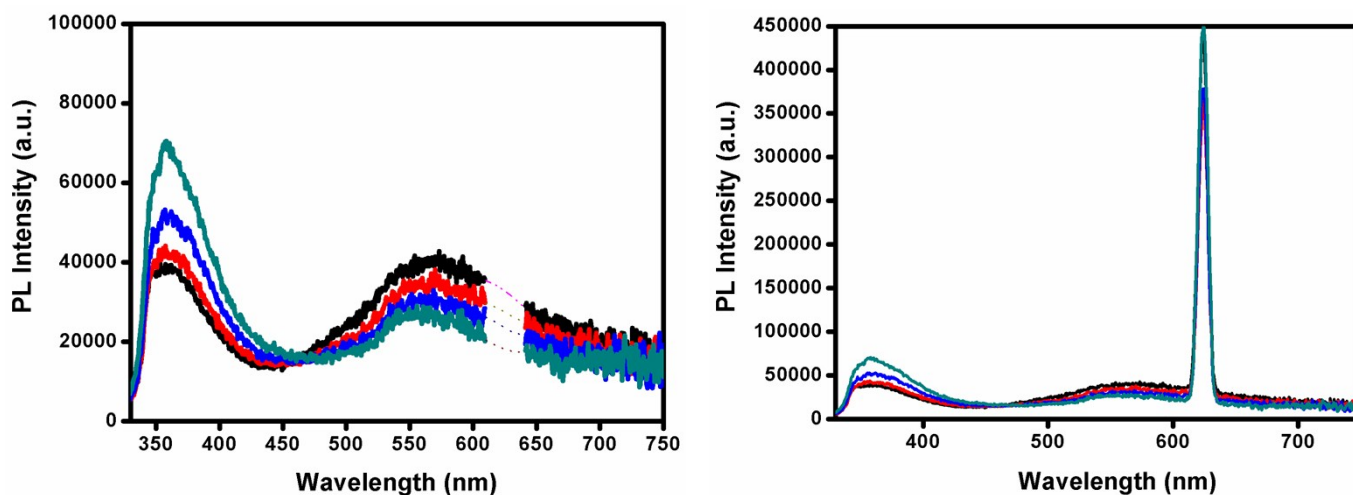


Figure. S18b Emission spectra of ZnO-4ABBN composite with different concentrations of 4ABBN indicating varying surface coverage of ZnO: (a)  $1.69 \times 10^{-3} + 13.56 \times 10^{-4}$  M; ZnO:dye = 1:1.5-black, (b)  $1.69 \times 10^{-3} + 9.04 \times 10^{-4}$  M; ZnO:dye = 1:0.5- red, (c)  $1.69 \times 10^{-3} + 7.23 \times 10^{-4}$  M; ZnO:dye = 1:0.3- blue and (d)  $1.69 \times 10^{-3} + 5.42 \times 10^{-4}$  M; ZnO:dye = 1:0.15 - cyan;  $\lambda_{exc}=310$  nm. Overtone at 620 nm ( $2\lambda_{exc}$ ) is also shown in the figure.

#### Reference ESI, SI-18

G. A. Beane, A. J. Morfa, A. M. Funston and P. Mulvaney, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 2012 **116**, 3305-3310.