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## **Supporting Information**

## Enhancement of the visible light photocatalytic activity of CeO<sub>2</sub> by chemisorbed oxygen in the selective oxidation of benzyl alcohol

Zhiqing Cui<sup>a,b</sup>, Hongjian Zhou<sup>a,\*</sup>, Guozhong Wang<sup>a</sup>, Yunxia Zhang<sup>a</sup>, Haimin Zhang<sup>a,\*</sup> and Huijun Zhao<sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Materials Physics, Centre for Environmental and Energy Nanomaterials, Anhui Key Laboratory of Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology, CAS Center for Excellence in Nanoscience, Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei 230031, China

<sup>b</sup> University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China

<sup>c</sup> Centre for Clean Environment and Energy, Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus, QLD 4222, Australia

\* Corresponding author: hjzhou@issp.ac.cn (H. Zhou); Zhanghm@issp.ac.cn (H. Zhang)



**Fig. S1.** (a)  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms of the CeO<sub>2</sub>-X samples. (b) XRD patterns of various CeO<sub>2</sub>-X samples was calcined at 400 °C for 2 h in air.



**Fig. S2.** (a) Reaction selectivity in oxidizing benzyl alcohol to benzaldehyde of various  $CeO_2$ -X samples. (b) The photocatalytic conversion of benzyl alcohol without the addition of photocatalysts under light irradiation (blank), in the presence of  $CeO_2$ - $O_2$  composites in the dark (dark) and in the presence of  $CeO_2$ - $O_2$  composites under visible light illumination for irradiation 2 h.



**Fig. S3.** (a) Mott-Schottky plots of  $CeO_2-O_2$  samples measured under the visible light. (b) Conversions of photocatalytic benzyl alcohol using the  $CeO_2$ -Ar-400 °C,  $CeO_2$ -Air-400 °C and  $CeO_2-O_2$ -400 °C as catalysts under illumination for 2 h.



**Fig. S4.** (a) XPS spectra of CeO<sub>2</sub>-Ar, CeO<sub>2</sub>-Air and CeO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> nanostructures. (b) High-resolution O 1s XPS spectra of CeO<sub>2</sub>-400 °C sample. (c) High-resolution O 1s XPS spectra of CeO<sub>2</sub>-Ar, CeO<sub>2</sub>-Air and CeO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>. (d) EPR profiles measured at room temperature for CeO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> sample.



**Fig. S5.** (a) Raman spectrum of the CeO<sub>2</sub>-Ar-400 °C, CeO<sub>2</sub>-Air-400 °C and CeO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-400 °C. (b) UV–vis DRS of the CeO<sub>2</sub>-Ar, CeO<sub>2</sub>-Air and CeO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> photocatalysts after photocatalytic reaction under O<sub>2</sub>-saturated atmosphere.

**Table S1.** Composition on CeO<sub>2</sub>-Ar, CeO<sub>2</sub>-Air, CeO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>, and CeO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-400 °C samples characterized by XPS technique.

Sample	O (at.%)	Ce (at.%)	Surface content of O <sub>ads</sub> (%)	Ce(III) content in total Ce (%)
CeO <sub>2</sub> -Ar	77.7	22.3	31.7	17.1
CeO <sub>2</sub> -Air	79.2	20.8	33.6	16.6
CeO <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>2</sub>	82.6	17.4	46.1	14.9
CeO <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>2</sub> -400 °C	76.8	23.2	31.3	15.2