## **Supporting information**

## Enhanced selectivity of CO<sub>2</sub> reverse water-gas reaction over

## Ni<sub>2</sub>P/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst

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Figure S1. XRD patterns for Ni phosphides supported on CeO<sub>2</sub> observed at different reduction temperature.

Fig. S1 showed the XRD diffraction peaks of Ni<sub>x</sub>P<sub>v</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub> which was formed at different reduction temperature. As seen, all samples gave the characteristic peaks of CeO<sub>2</sub> centered at 28.6, 33.1, 47.5, 56.4, 59.4, 69.6, 76.7 and 79.2° (JCPDS No. 43-1002). The sample at 350 °C gave the weak peaks at 41.7 and 43.4°, which were attributed to the Ni<sub>12</sub>P<sub>5</sub> (JCPDS No. 22-1190) and NiO (JCPDS No: 44-1159), respectively. The sample at 550° showed the XRD peaks at 41.7 and 44.5°, which were due to the Ni<sub>12</sub>P<sub>5</sub> and Ni<sub>2</sub>P (JCPDS No. 03-0953), respectively. As the reduction temperature increased to 750°, except for the characteristic peaks of CeO<sub>2</sub>, the only diffraction peak at 44.5° could be observed, linking to the pure Ni<sub>2</sub>P phase formed. However, when the reduction temperature was 950°, the  $Ni_{12}P_5$  phase emerged again. This indicated that too low reduction temperature led to incomplete reaction, which was not conducive to the generation of Ni<sub>2</sub>P phase. As the temperature gradually increased, the Ni<sub>12</sub>P<sub>5</sub> was also formed, and this was probably because excessive reaction temperature would accelerate the loss of surface P element, which was adverse to Ni<sub>2</sub>P formation. Therefore, the reduction temperature was set to be 750 °C which yield pure Ni<sub>2</sub>P phase, would be considered as the optimum for the formation of Ni<sub>2</sub>P phase.