## **Electronic Supporting Information**

## Hydrophobic functionalization of metal-organic framework as ammonia visual sensing material for high humidity

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Fig. S1 Digital images of static volumetric device.



Fig. S2 Electrophilicity of Cu(BDC) and functionalized Cu(BDC).



Fig. S3 SEM images of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) (a-b), NH<sub>3</sub>@CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) (c-d), activated CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) (e-f) and NH<sub>3</sub>@CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) after 10 cycles (g-h).



Fig. S4 PXRD profiles of  $CH_3$ -Cu(BDC) samples soaked in the aqueous solutions with pH = 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 solution for 24 h.



Fig. S5  $N_2$  sorption isotherms of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) and Cu(BDC) at 77 K. The Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) surface area was 339 m<sup>2</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>, there is decreased by 44% compared with Cu(BDC) (603 m<sup>2</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>)



Fig. S6 The pore-size distribution of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) and Cu(BDC).



Fig. S7 Ammonia adsorption isotherm of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC).



Fig. S8 Digital images of  $CH_3$ -Cu(BDC) after exposed to 25, 50 and 75 ppm  $NH_3$  for different times.



Fig. S9 UV-vis DRS of Cu(BDC) exposed to 50 ppm NH<sub>3</sub> for 25 min.



Fig. S10 FT-IR spectra of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) and NH<sub>3</sub>@CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC).



**Fig. S11** (a) UV-Vis DRS of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) after exposed to 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 ppm ammonia. (b) Absorbance curve over ammonia levels.



**Fig. S12** Digital images of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) after exposed to 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 ppm ammonia.



Fig. S13 UV-Vis DRS of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) after exposed to different relative humidity.



**Fig. S14** UV-Vis DRS of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) exposed to 50 ppm NH<sub>3</sub> with different relative humidity.



Fig. S15 Response of  $CH_3$ -Cu(BDC) against  $NH_3$  and other exhaled air. The concentration of acetone, acetaldehyde, methanol and ethanol were 50 ppm, the rest of gases were high-purity.



**Fig. S16** (a-b) UV-Vis DRS of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) exposed to 50 ppm methyl amine (a) and triethyl amine (b) atmosphere. (c) Response of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC) against NH<sub>3</sub> and bulkier amines.



Fig. S17 GCMC simulations of  $H_2O$  and  $NH_3$  adsorption sites in Cu(BDC) and CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC).



Fig. S18 GCMC simulations of the competitive adsorption between  $H_2O$  and  $NH_3$  on  $CH_3$ -Cu(BDC) (50 ppm  $NH_3$ , 95 % RH).



Fig. S19 Electrostatic potential patterns of (a)  $CH_3$ -Cu(BDC), (b)  $H_2O@CH_3$ -Cu(BDC) and  $NH_3@CH_3$ -Cu(BDC).

Items	Blood ammonia	Exhale ammonia	Abnormal
Reference value	10.0-47.0 umol L <sup>-1</sup>	0.05-1.5 ppm	
Patient 1	48.3 umol L <sup>-1</sup>	3.05 ppm	1
Patient 2	50.0 umol L <sup>-1</sup>	3.88 ppm	1
Patient 3	50.1 umol L <sup>-1</sup>	3.91 ppm	1

 Table S1 Compared of blood test and exhale test.



**Fig. S20** PXRD patterns of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu-BTC for 1 day and 2 months in the atmospheric environment.



Fig. S21 PXRD patterns of CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu-BTC and NH<sub>3</sub>@CH<sub>3</sub>-Cu(BDC).



Fig. S22 TGA curves of  $NH_3@CH_3-Cu(BDC)$  under  $N_2$  flow. The result show that the  $NH_3$  in  $NH_3@CH_3-Cu(BDC)$  will be desorbed at 80 °C



Fig. S23 Response to NH<sub>3</sub> (50 ppm) during 10 cycles of adsorption and desorption.