## **Supporting Information**

## Understanding the synthesis mechanism, chemical structures and optical properties of aromatic carbon nitride

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Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of DPT dimer.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  8.44 – 8.37 (m, 4H), 7.62 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.4 Hz,

4H), 7.30 (d, J = 52.9 Hz, 4H), 6.75 (s, 1H).



Figure S2. LC-MS spectra of DPT multimer (inset: the molecular structures of intermediates).



Figure S3. TEM image of PhCN.



Figure S4. M–S plots of PhCN at different frequencies.



Figure S5. LC-MS spectra of the supernatant of DMF washed PhCN (inset: the molecular structures of intermediates).



Figure S6. GC-MS spectra of exhaust gas (inset: the molecular structures of volatile gases).



Figure S7. GC-MS spectra of downstream deposit in the tuber furnace (inset: the molecular structures of volatile compounds).



Figure S8. Schematic diagram of ring-opening isomerization reaction.



Figure S9. UV-vis absorption spectrum of DPT monomer.



Figure S10. The positive correlation graph between PL spectra and PL lifetimes of (a) DPT dimer,

(b) DPT multimer, and (c) PhCN.



Figure S11. Normalized PL spectra of (a) DPT dimer, (b) DPT multimer, and (c) PhCN under different excitation lights.



Figure S12. The FWHM of DPT dimer, DPT multimer, and PhCN at different temperatures.

		DPT monomer	DPT dimer	DPT multimer	PhCN
C1	Peak BE (eV)	285.1	285.2	285.2	285.1
	FWHM (eV)	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3
C2	Peak BE (eV)	286.4	286.5	286.4	286.5
	FWHM (eV)	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.0
C3	Peak BE (eV)	287.1	287.4	287.4	287.1
	FWHM (eV)	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.4
C4	Peak BE (eV)	289.1	289.1	289.1	289.0
	FWHM (eV)	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1

**Table S1.** Fitted peak, FWHM and element content of C 1s spectra of DPT monomer, DPT dimer,DPT multimer, and PhCN.

		DPT monomer	DPT dimer	DPT multimer	PhCN
N1	Peak BE (eV)	398.6	398.8	398.9	398.9
	FWHM (eV)	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3
	Atomic (%)	61.7	58.1	47.4	63.2
N2	Peak BE (eV)	399.6	399.9	399.9	399.7
	FWHM (eV)	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
	Atomic (%)	38.3	42.0	52.6	19.9
N3	Peak BE (eV)	405.0	404.7	404.7	405.0
	FWHM (eV)	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
	Atomic (%)	-	-	-	-
N4	Peak BE (eV)	-	-	-	401.0
	FWHM (eV)	-	-	-	1.7
	Atomic (%)	-	-	-	16.9

**Table S2.** Fitted peak, FWHM and element content of N 1s spectra of DPT monomer, DPT dimer,DPT multimer, and PhCN.

Samples	Peak fit	Peak center (nm)	Peak area	Peak area percentage (%)
	Peak 1	415	0.71	0.87
	Peak 2	444	19.33	23.63
	Peak 3	468	25.57	31.26
DPT dimer	Peak 4	495	18.76	22.93
	Peak 5	520	9.92	12.13
	Peak 6	553	5.37	6.56
	Peak 7	598	2.13	2.61
	Peak 1	449	0.94	1.15
	Peak 2	470	3.53	4.32
	Peak 3	494	11.00	13.46
DPT multimer	Peak 4	520	25.98	31.78
	Peak 5	553	25.87	31.65
	Peak 6	597	11.21	13.71
	Peak 7	656	3.20	3.91
	Peak 1	446	2.33	2.13
	Peak 2	470	19.66	17.96
	Peak 3	494	22.96	20.97
PhCN	Peak 4	520	24.88	22.73
	Peak 5	551	26.45	24.16
	Peak 6	597	10.41	9.51
	Peak 7	657	2.78	2.54

**Table S3.** PL fitting data of DPT dimer, DPT multimer, and PhCN.

Samples	Emission wavelength (nm)	$\tau_1$ (ns)	$\tau_2$ (ns)	$\tau_3$ (ns)	$\tau_{ave} \left( ns \right)$
	444	1.09	4.40	-	2.69
DDT dimor	468	0.81	3.56	-	2.45
DF I dimer	495	0.81	3.94	-	2.82
	520	0.34	3.32	-	1.30
	470	0.31	1.76	6.91	4.29
DPT multimor	494	1.62	8.24	-	6.78
DF I multimer	520	0.91	8.90	-	8.32
	553	0.14	6.55	-	3.21
	470	0.99	5.98	-	4.78
DLCN	494	1.05	6.84	-	5.55
FIICN	520	0.95	6.34	-	5.16
	551	0.91	5.63	-	4.33

**Table S4.** PL lifetime of DPT dimer, DPT multimer, and PhCN.