Eosin-Y dye sensitized Co-TiO₂ photocatalysts for efficient water splitting under visible light

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Cobalt-doped TiO2 (Co-TiO2) photocatalyst was prepared by the impregnation method using TiO2 powder (P-25) and Co(NO3)2. 6H2O. Eosin Y dye was employed for the sensitization on the surface of Co-TiO2 catalyst. By the morphological, Co particles was apparently seen or aggregated on the outer surface and near the outer surface of TiO2 via normal impregnation method. UV-DRS spectra was shown significant blue shift that confirmed Co doping into TiO2, further dye sensitized on Co-TiO2 catalyst showed a longer shift with hump peak within the wide wavelength range of 450–580 nm with decreased in the band gap (2.48 eV). By photocatalytic water splitting results, eosin Y-Co/TiO2 catalyst obtains very high rates of H2 evolution of ~ 1232.6 (mol/g.cat/h) as compared to Co-doped TiO2 and bare TiO2 which might attribute to the increased surface oxygen defects by cobalt doping for the adsorption of Eosin Y on Co-doped TiO2.