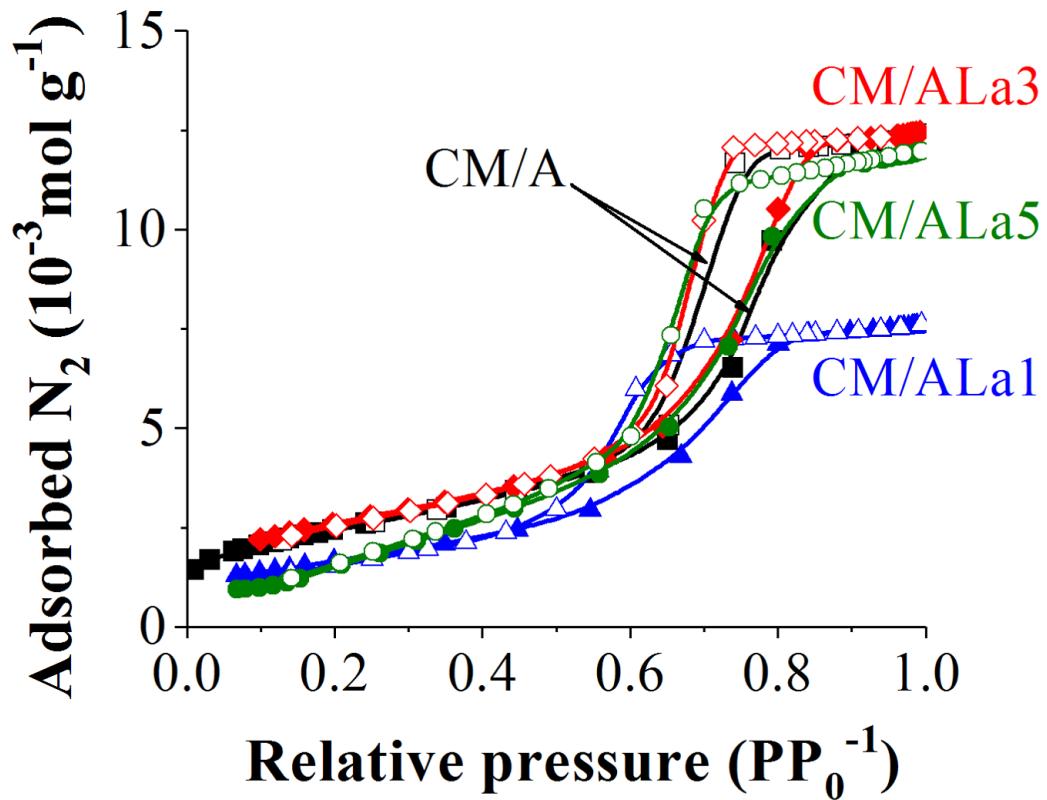
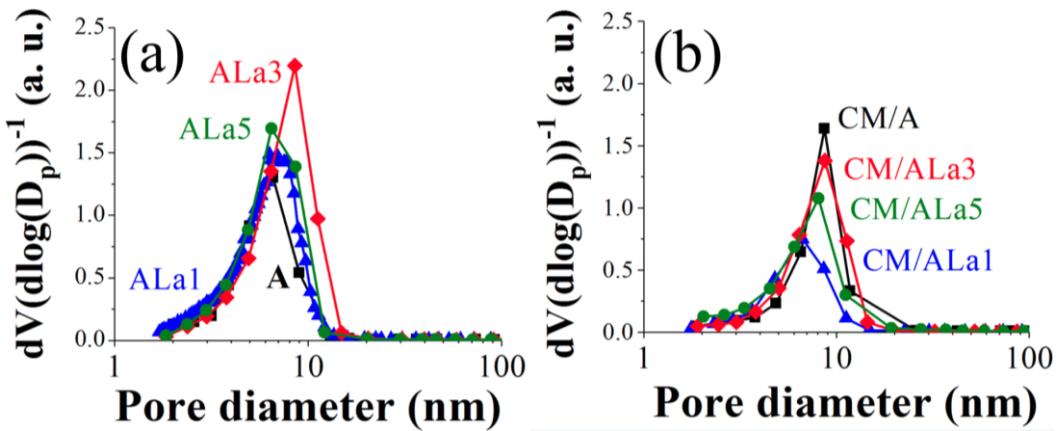


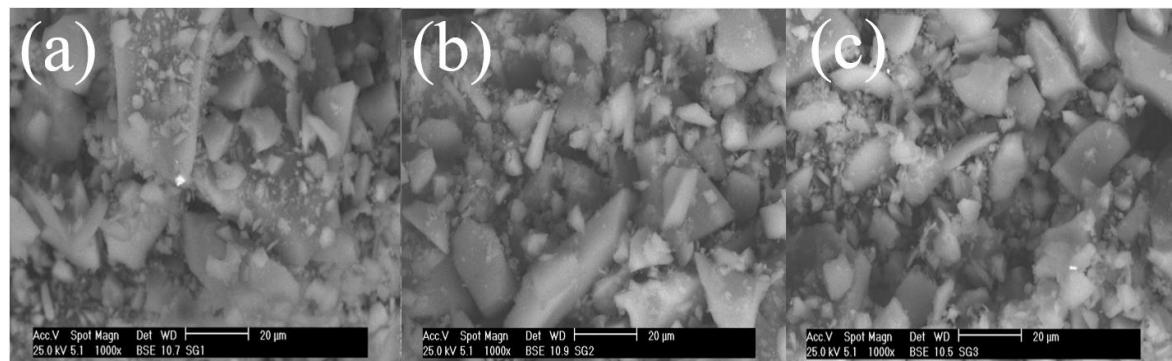
**Figure S1.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms (at -198 °C) of sol-gel alumina support (A) and La-modified carriers at various rare earth contents (ALa<sub>z</sub>). Closed symbols: adsorption branch; open symbols: desorption branch.



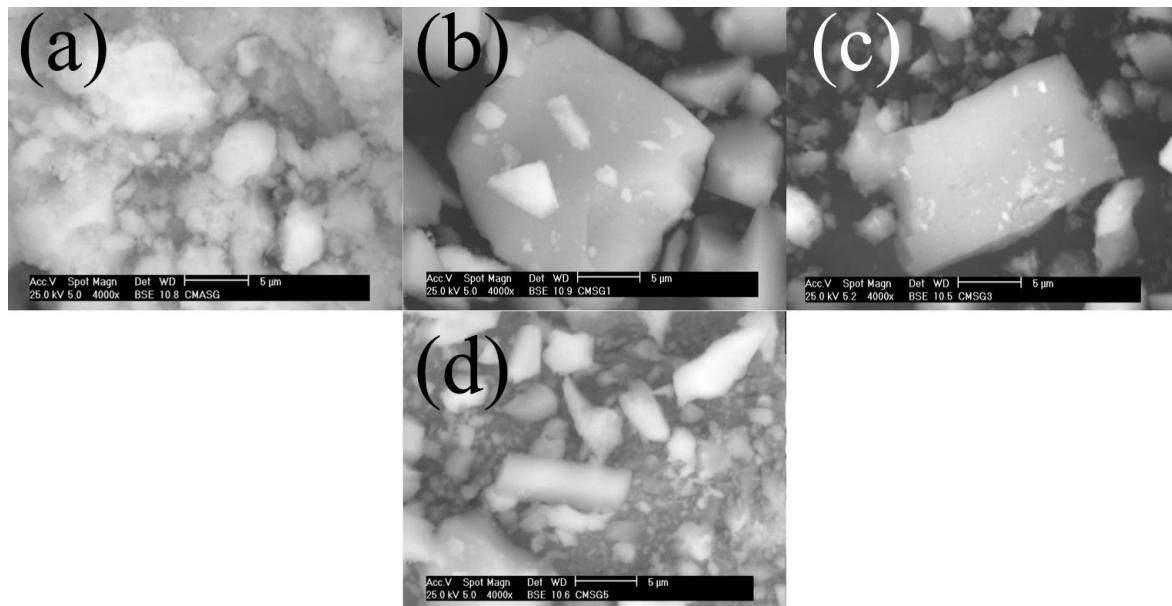
**Figure S2.**  $\text{N}_2$  physisorption isotherms (at  $-198^\circ\text{C}$ ) of oxidic P-doped CoMo materials impregnated over sol-gel alumina (A) and corresponding La-modified (ALa<sub>z</sub>) carriers. Closed symbols: adsorption branch; open symbols: desorption branch.



**Figure S3.** Pore size distributions of various prepared supports (a) and oxidic P-doped CoMo materials impregnated on sol-gel carriers at different La contents (b), as calculated by Barret-Joyner-Halenda methodology with data from adsorption branch of corresponding N<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms.



**Figure S4.** SEM micrographs of sol-gel La-modified supports. 1000 $\times$  magnification, back-scattered electrons detector. (a): ALa1; (b): ALa3; (c): ALa5.

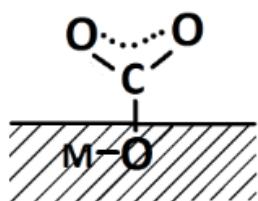


**Figure S5.** SEM micrographs of oxidic P-doped CoMo materials impregnated on sol-gel alumina and La-modified carriers at various rare earth contents. 4000 $\times$  magnification, back-scattered electrons detector. (a): CM/A; (b): CM/ALa1; (c): CM/ALa3; (d): CM/ALa5.

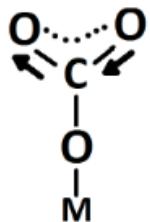
**Table S1.** SEM-EDS chemical analysis of P-doped CoMo materials impregnated on sol-gel alumina and La-modified carriers at various rare earth contents.

<b>CM/A</b>	<b>Wt%</b>	<b>At%</b>
O <sub>K</sub>	42.08	63.98
Al <sub>K</sub>	28.92	26.07
Si <sub>K</sub>	1.69	1.46
P <sub>K</sub>	1.83	1.43
Co <sub>K</sub>	3.76	1.55
Mo <sub>K</sub>	21.73	5.51
<b>Total</b>	100	100
<b>CM/ALa1</b>		
O <sub>K</sub>	43.35	65.02
Al <sub>K</sub>	30.5	27.13
P <sub>K</sub>	1.71	1.32
La <sub>L</sub>	1.8	0.31
Co <sub>K</sub>	3.5	1.43
Mo <sub>K</sub>	19.14	4.79
<b>Total</b>	100	100
<b>CM/ALa3</b>		
O <sub>K</sub>	40.79	64.82
Al <sub>K</sub>	26.97	25.41
P <sub>K</sub>	1.27	1.04
La <sub>L</sub>	2.17	0.4
Co <sub>K</sub>	4.17	1.8
Mo <sub>K</sub>	24.64	6.53
<b>Total</b>	100	100
<b>CM/ALa5</b>		
O <sub>K</sub>	42.26	64.55
Al <sub>K</sub>	30.49	27.62
P <sub>K</sub>	1.27	1.0
La <sub>L</sub>	3.68	0.65
Co <sub>K</sub>	3.13	1.3
Mo <sub>K</sub>	19.18	4.89
<b>Total</b>	100	100

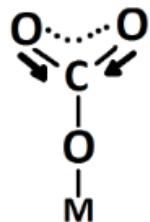
**UNIDENTATE  
CARBONATE**



**High-strength basic site**

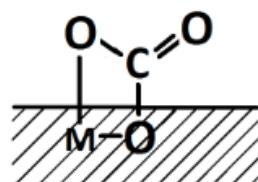


$1510\text{--}1560\text{ cm}^{-1}$

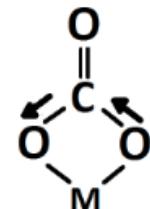


$1360\text{--}1400\text{ cm}^{-1}$

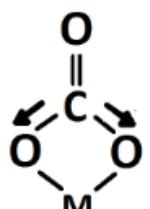
**BIDENTATE  
CARBONATE**



**Medium-strength basic site**

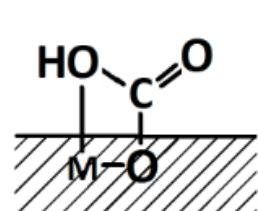


$1610\text{--}1630\text{ cm}^{-1}$

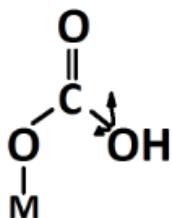


$1320\text{--}1340\text{ cm}^{-1}$

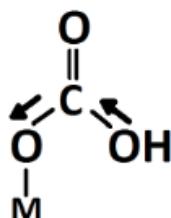
**BICARBONATE**



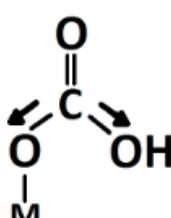
**Low-strength basic site**



$1220\text{ cm}^{-1}$

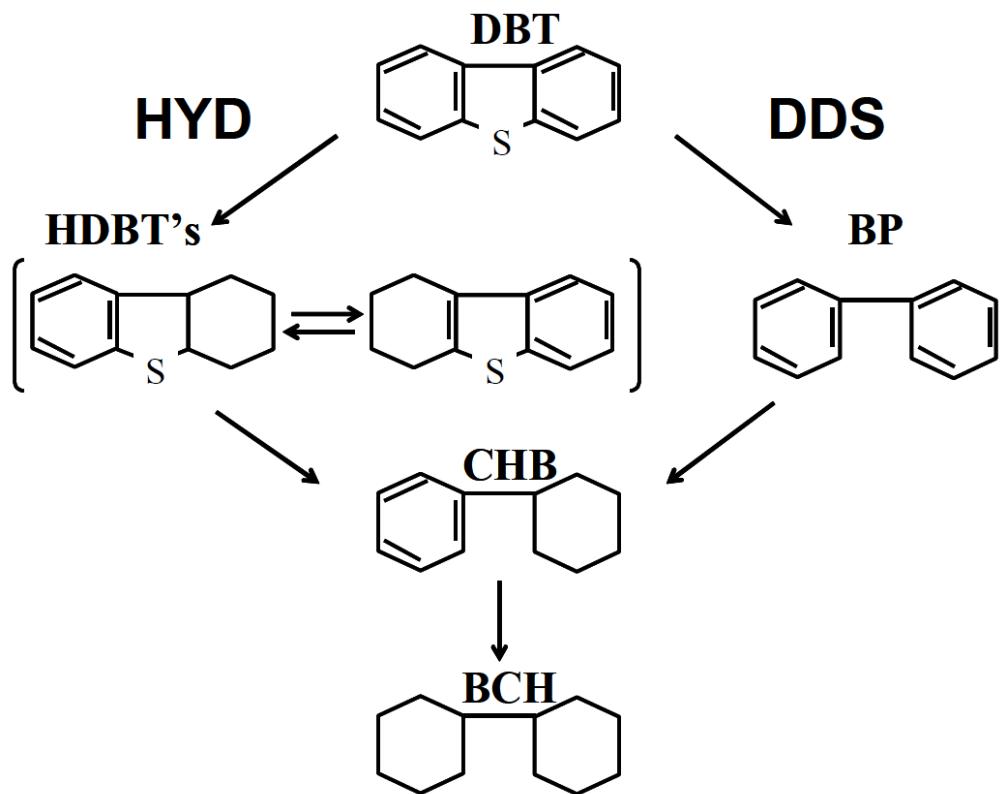


$1650\text{ cm}^{-1}$



$1480\text{ cm}^{-1}$

**Scheme S1.** Absorption bands in the infrared region of CO<sub>2</sub> species adsorbed on basic sites [from ref. S1].



**Scheme S2.** Dibenzothiophene HDS reaction network over sulfided CoMo/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [from ref. S2]. HDBT's: hydrodibenzothiophenes; BP: biphenyl; CHB: cyclohexylbenzene; BCH: bicyclohexyl.

## References

- S1 Morterra, C.; Ghiotti, G.; Bocuzzi, F.; Coluccia, S. An infrared spectroscopic investigation of the surface properties of magnesium aluminate spinel, *J. Catal.* **1978**, *51*, 299-313.
- S2 Houalla, M.; Nag, N.K.; Sapre, A.V.; Broderick, D.H.; Gates, B.C. Hydrodesulfurization of dibenzothiophene catalyzed by sulfided CoO-MoO<sub>3</sub>/γ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: The reaction network. *AIChEJ* **1978**, *24*, 1015-1021.