

## Supporting Information

### **ZnO/boron nitride quantum dots nanocomposites for the enhanced photocatalytic degradation of methylene blue and methyl orange**

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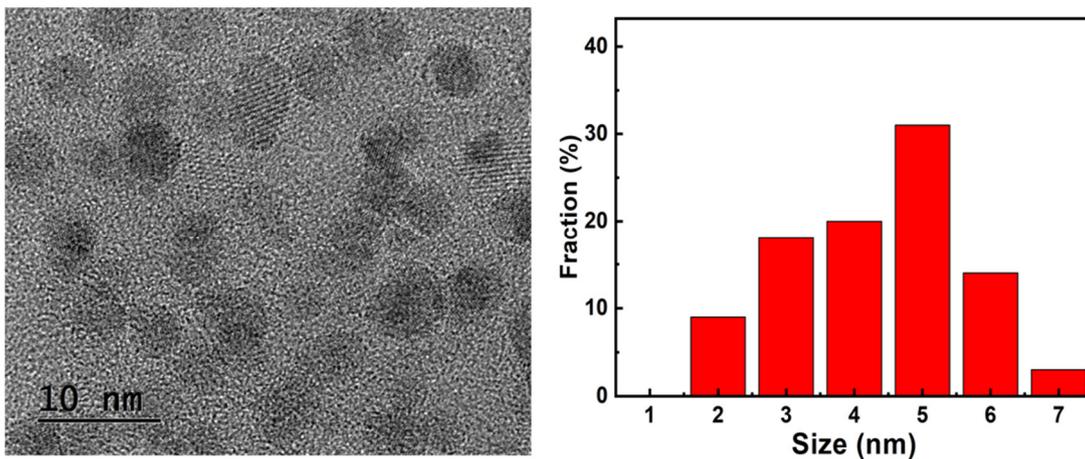
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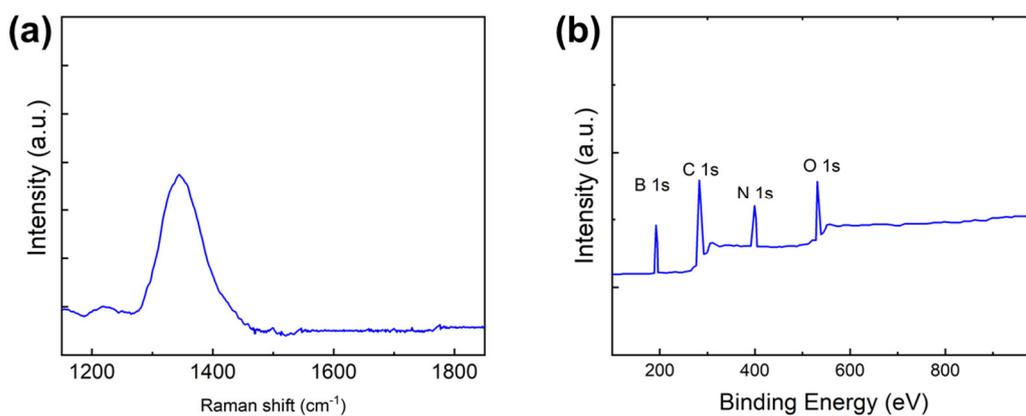
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E-mail addresses: [shhur@ulsan.ac.kr](mailto:shhur@ulsan.ac.kr) (S.H. Hur)

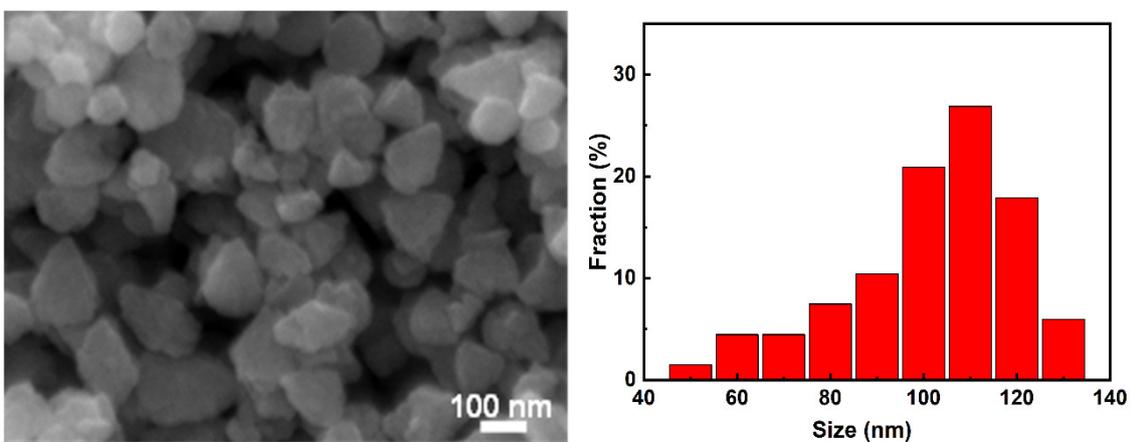
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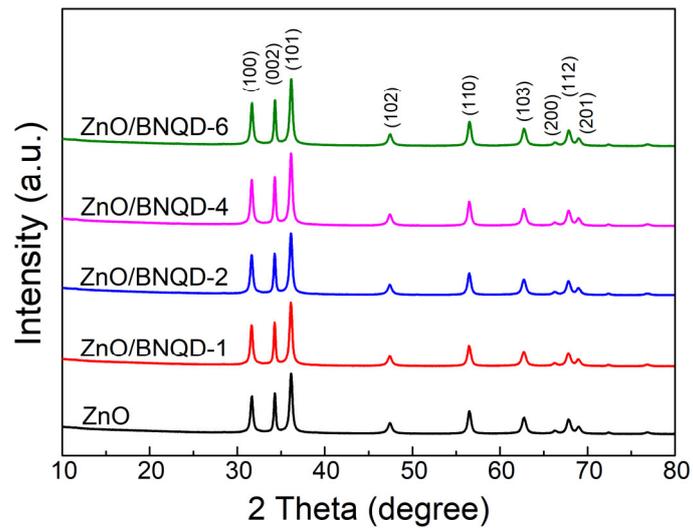
**Figure S1.** HRTEM image and the size distribution of the synthesized BNQDs.



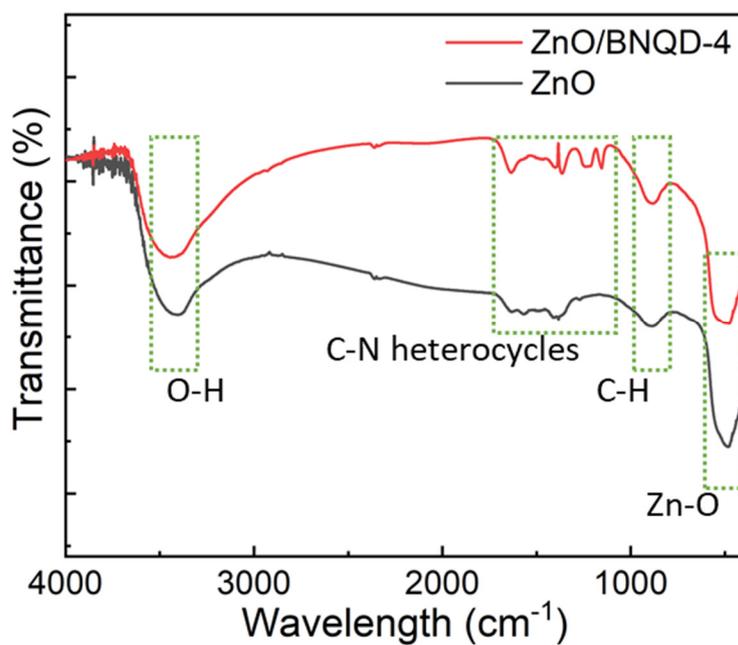
**Figure S2.** (a) Raman spectrum and (b) XPS survey scan of BNQDs.



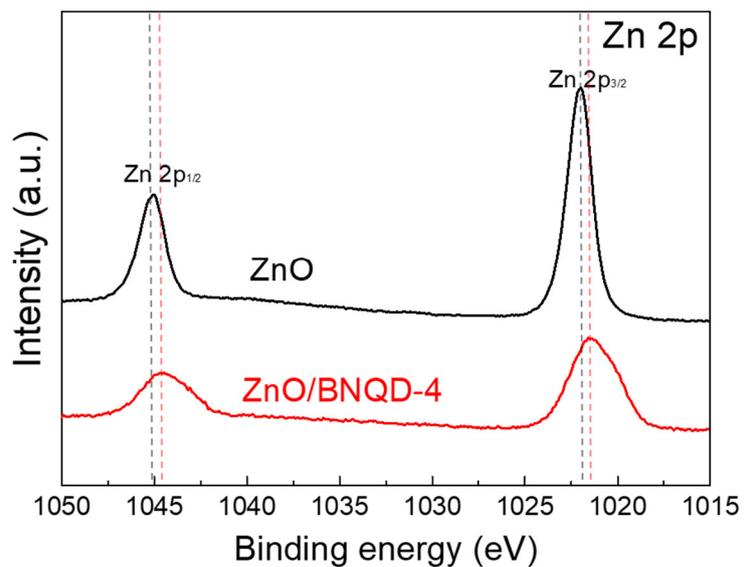
**Figure S3.** FESEM image and the size distribution of the synthesized ZnO particles.



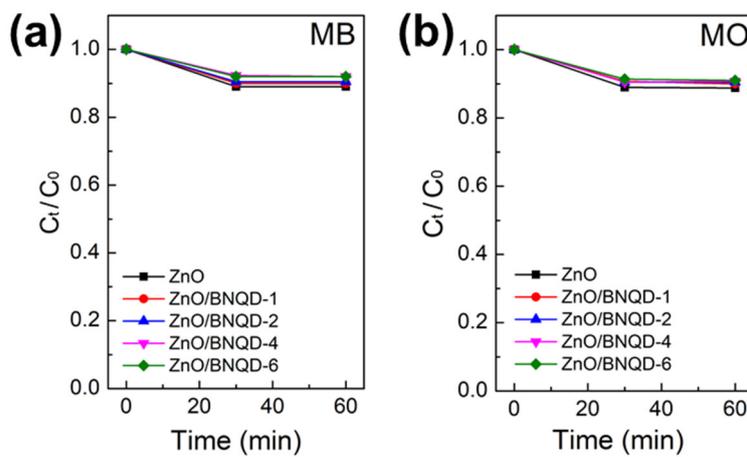
**Figure S4.** XRD patterns of ZnO and ZnO/BNQD nanocomposites.



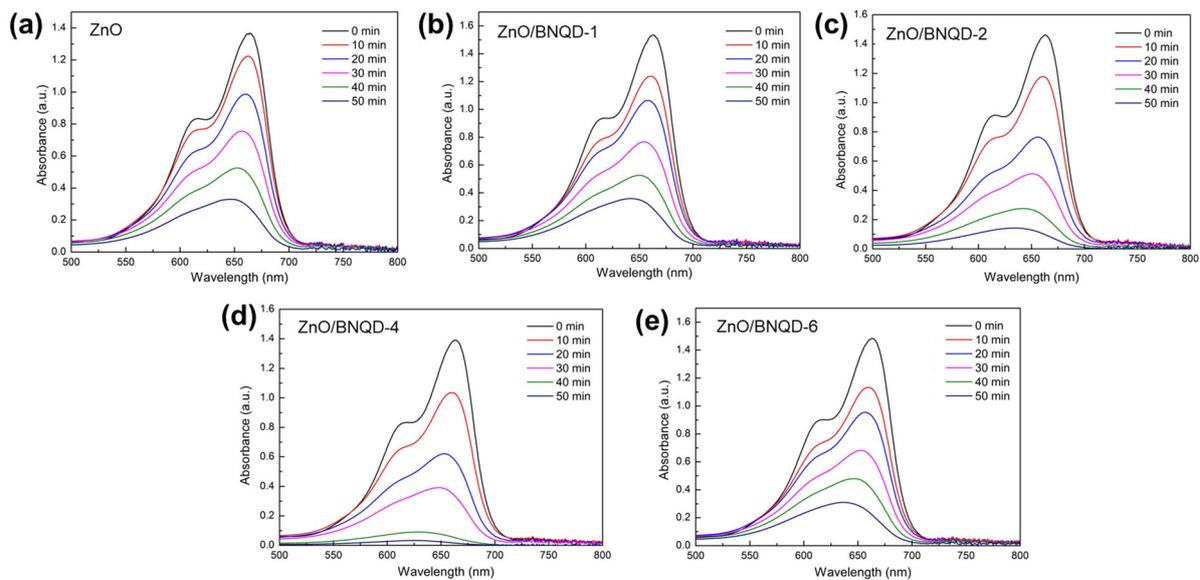
**Figure S5.** FTIR spectra of ZnO and ZnO/BNQD-4 nanocomposite.



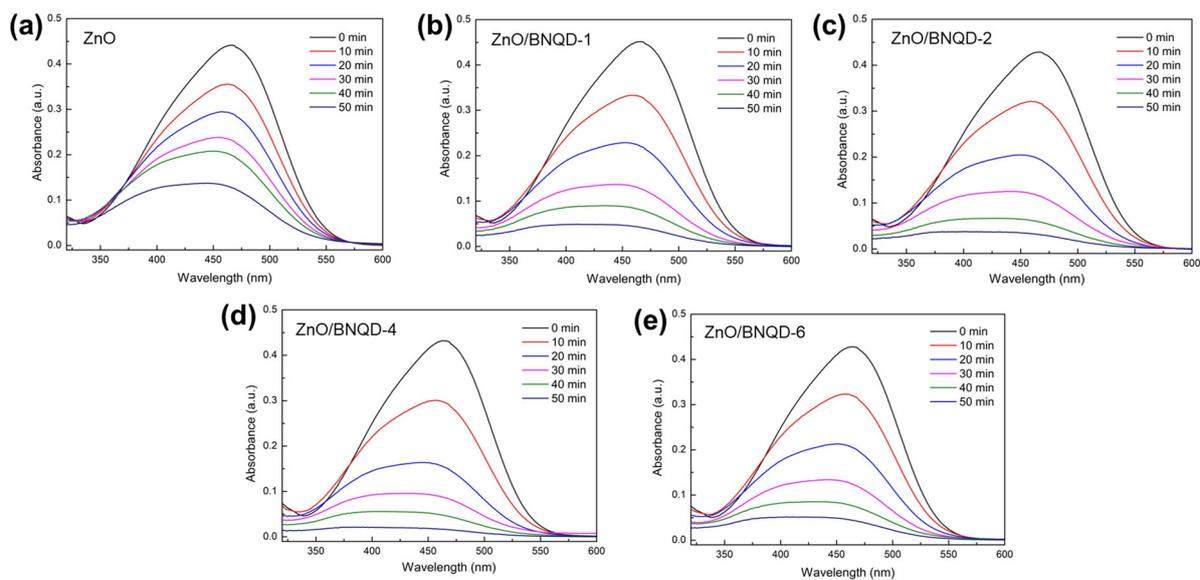
**Figure. S6.** High resolution XPS spectra of Zn 2p for ZnO and ZnO/BNQD-4 nanocomposite.



**Figure S7.** The adsorption equilibrium for ZnO and ZnO/BNQD-4 nanocomposite in (a) MB and (b) MO.



**Figure S8.** UV-vis spectra of MB solution with (a) ZnO and (b-e) ZnO/BNQD nanocomposites at different irradiation times.



**Figure S9.** UV-vis spectra of MO solution with (a) ZnO and (b-e) ZnO/BNQD nanocomposites at different irradiation times.

Table S1. Photocatalytic activities comparison for the degradation of MB with ZnO based composites under UV light irradiation.

Sample	Catalyst dosage (g/L)	Light source	Irradiation time	MB degradation (%)	Rate constant (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref.
N-doped ZnO/C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	0.5 g/L	300W Xe lamp	100 min	90%	0.0299	[1]
Ag/ZnO	0.6 g/L	6W UV lamp	60 min	87.74%	0.032	[2]
ZnO/Eu	1 g/L	300W Osram Vitalux	150 min	90%	-	[3]
N-ZnO/C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	1 g/L	300W Xe lamp	90 min	95%	0.030	[4]
AgBr/g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> /ZnO	0.4 g/L	300W Xe lamp	80 min	96.3%	0.041	[5]
N self doped ZnO	0.5 g/L	200W Xe lamp	80 min	95.3%	0.040	[6]
ZnO/BNQD	1 g/L	20W Sigma 4 BLB	40 min	96.4%	0.0776	This work

Table S2. Photocatalytic activities comparison for the degradation of MO with ZnO based composites under UV light irradiation.

Sample	Catalyst dosage (g/L)	Light source	Irradiation time	MO degradation (%)	Rate constant (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref.
ZnO/Eu	1.0 g/L	300 W Osram Vitalux	60 min	95%	-	[3]
Graphene/ZnO	0.5 g/L	Natural sunlight	150 min	100%	0.035	[7]
Ag-N-ZnO	0.2 g/L	500 W Xe lamp	120 min	98.82%	0.026	[8]
ZnO/SnO <sub>2</sub>	0.2 g/L	300 W Hg lamp	100 min	56%	-	[9]
Cu-TiO <sub>2</sub> /ZnO	1.0 g/L	500 W Xe lamp	60 min	83%	0.0306	[10]
ZnO/g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	2.5 g/L	500 W Xe lamp	120 min	98%	0.136	[11]
ZnO/BNQD	1.0 g/L	20W Sigma 4 BLB	50 min	97.9%	0.0666	This work

## References

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