

# SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*Maryam Alhefeiti,<sup>1</sup> Falguni Chandra,<sup>1</sup> Ravindra Kumar Gupta,<sup>2</sup> Na'il Saleh.<sup>1\*</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup> Department of Chemistry, College of Science, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain P.O. Box 15551, United Arab Emirates*

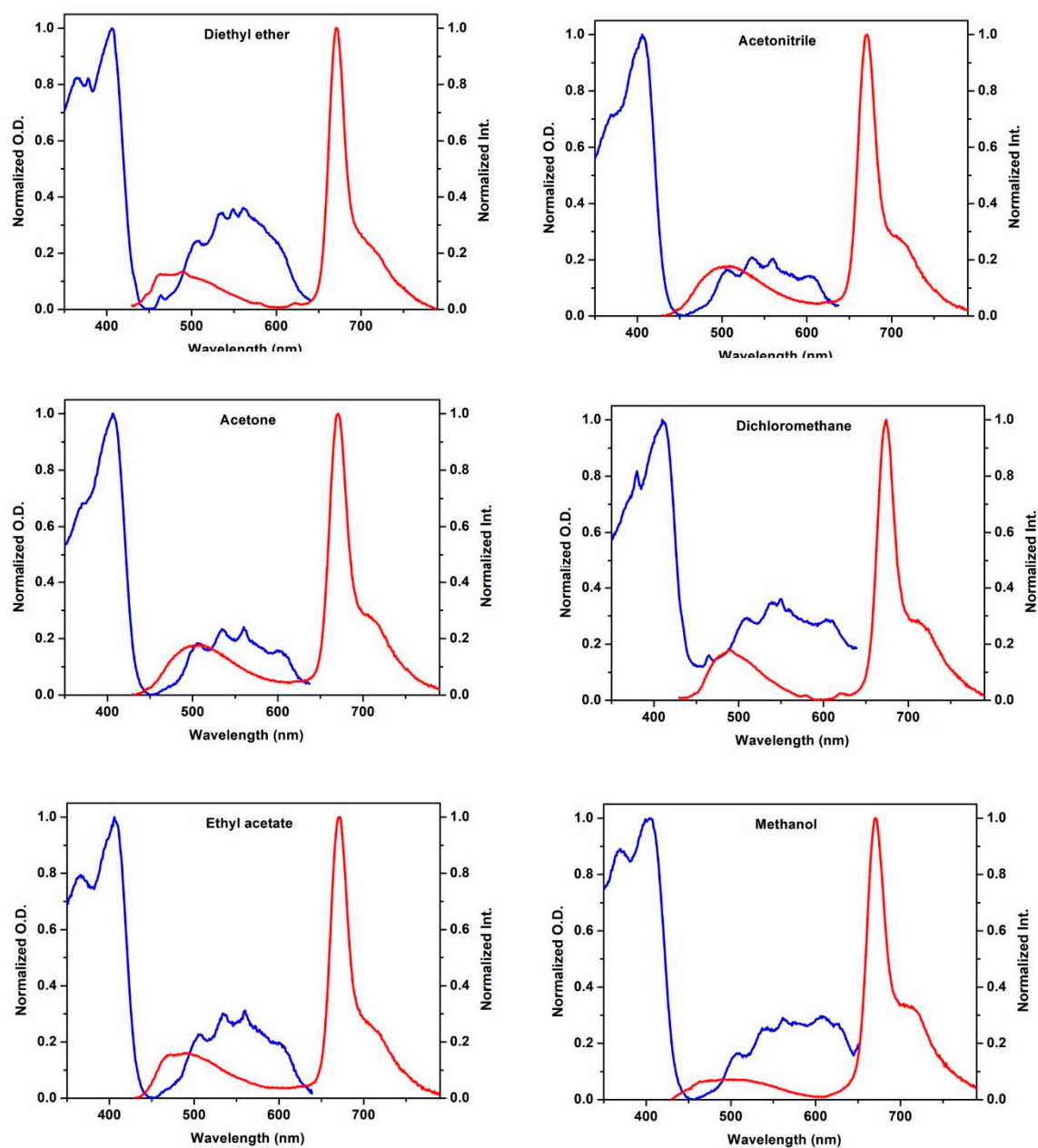
*<sup>2</sup> King Abdullah Institute for Nanotechnology, King Saud University, Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia*

*<sup>§</sup>Equal contribution*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Part 1: PL, PLE, and TRPL Spectra.....</b>	<b>S3</b>
PL and PLE Spectra of PCB in neat solvents .....	S3
TRPL Spectra of PCB in neat solvents .....	S5
Table S1: Solvent Properties.....	S7
<b>Part 2: XPS Spectra .....</b>	<b>S8</b>
XPS Spectra of PCB-Sensitized Nafion .....	S8
XPS Spectra of PCB-Sensitized LDPE.....	S11
<b>Part 3: Loading Characterization.....</b>	<b>S13</b>
Calibration Curves and Loading Measurements .....	S12-13
<b>Part 4: PL and Time-Resolved PL Spectra.....</b>	<b>S14</b>
Changes of PL spectra of PCB-Sensitized Electrolytic Membranes .....	S14
PL decays of solid PCB@LDPE films .....	S15-17
<b>Part 5: Thermal Stability .....</b>	<b>S18</b>
DSC curve of solid PCB@LDPE films .....	S18
<b>Part 6: Absolute Quantum Yield Measurements.....</b>	<b>S19</b>
PL and PLE Spectra of solid PCB@LDPE films .....	19
<b>References .....</b>	<b>S20</b>

## Part 1: PL and PLE Spectra



**Figure S1.** PLE (blue) and PL (red) spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 400$  nm and  $\lambda_{\text{mon}} = 672$  nm) of PCB dye in different solvents at 298 K. The name of the solvent is directly indicated in the paragraph.

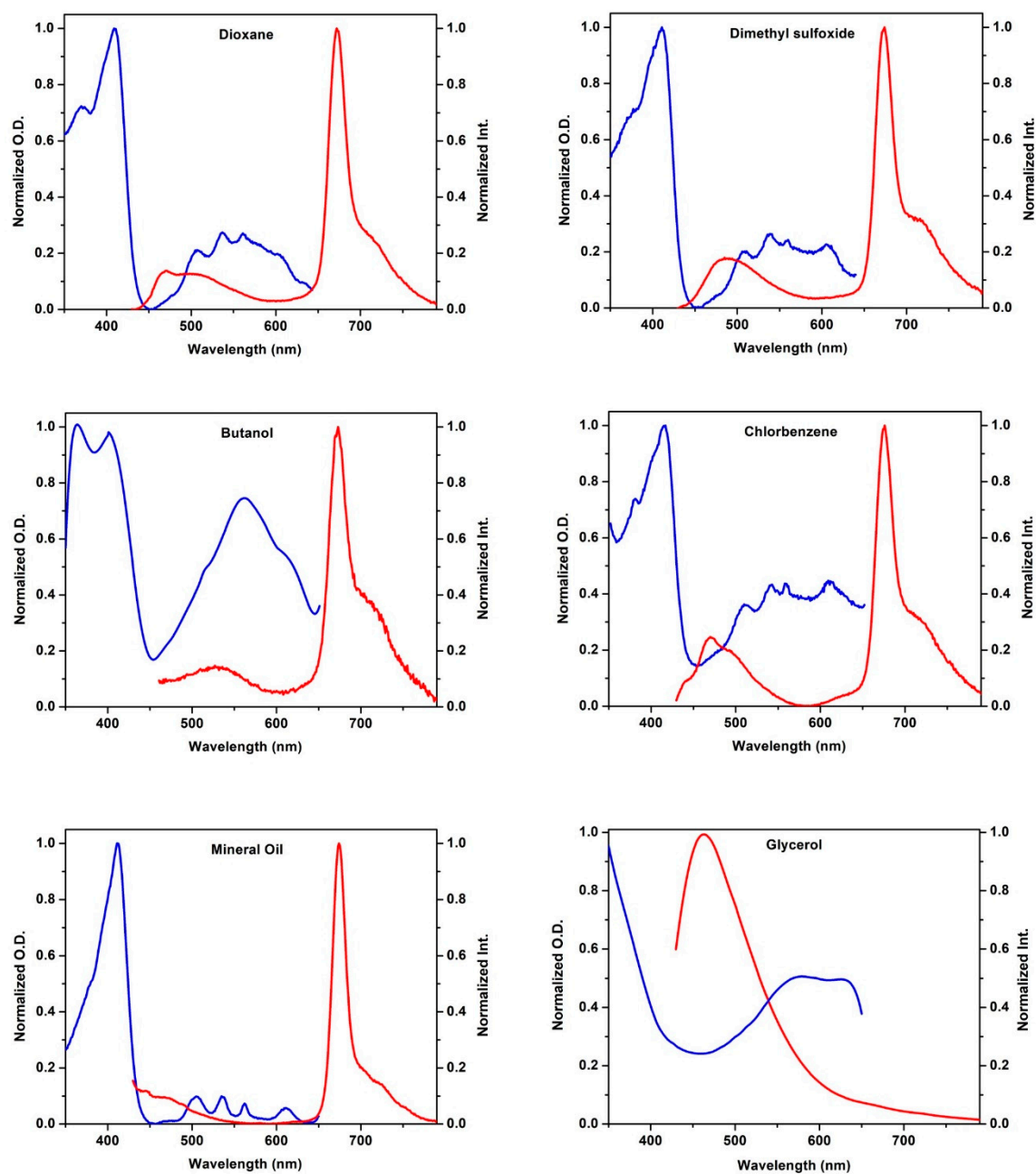
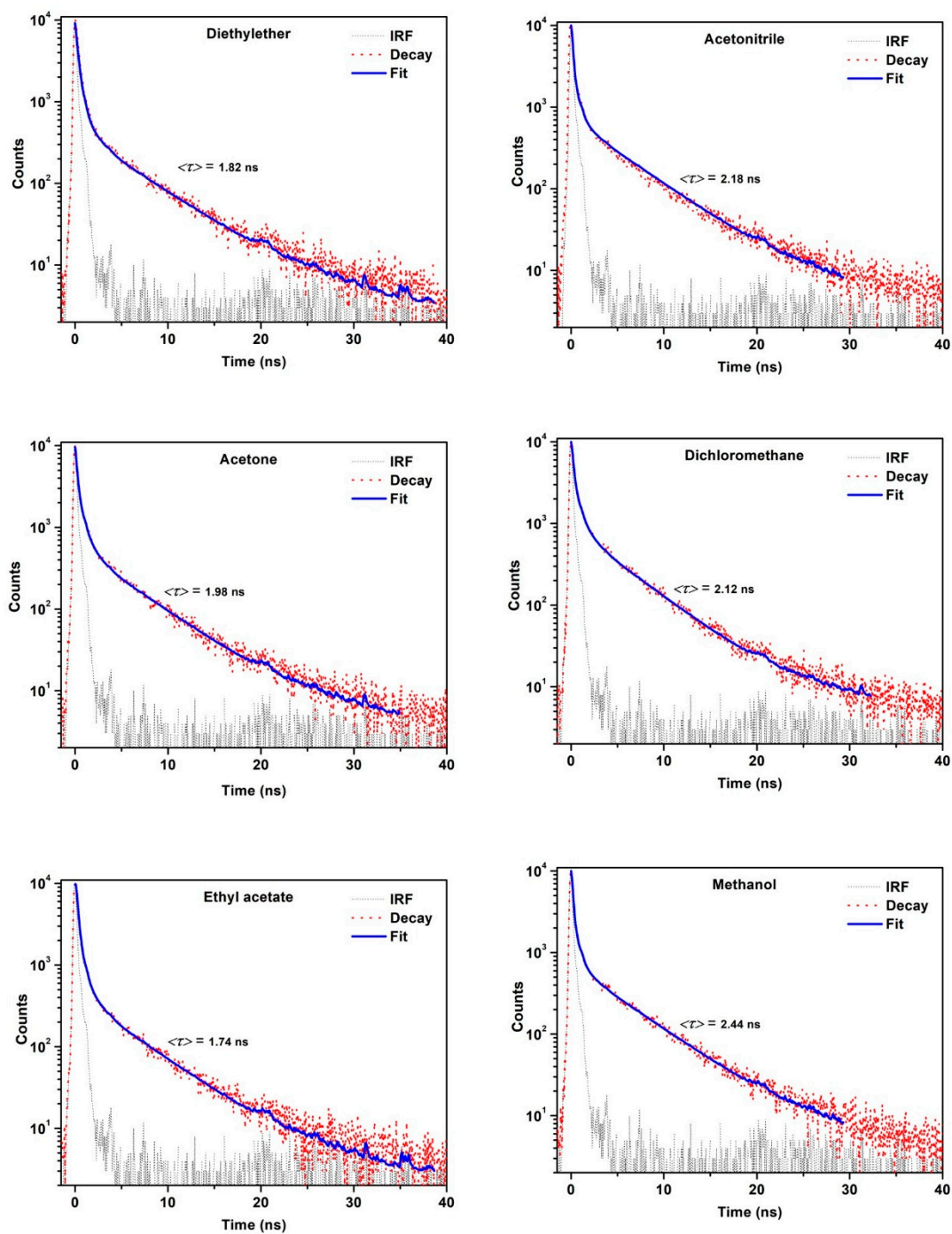


Figure S1. Continued.



**Figure S2.** PL decays (red) at 672 nm and the three-exponentials nonlinear fitting (red) spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 510$  nm with 30 picoseconds time-resolution) of PCB dye in different solvents at 298 K. The name of the solvent and the average lifetime values are directly indicated in the paragraph. The instrument response function (IRF; gray) is also shown in the paragraph.

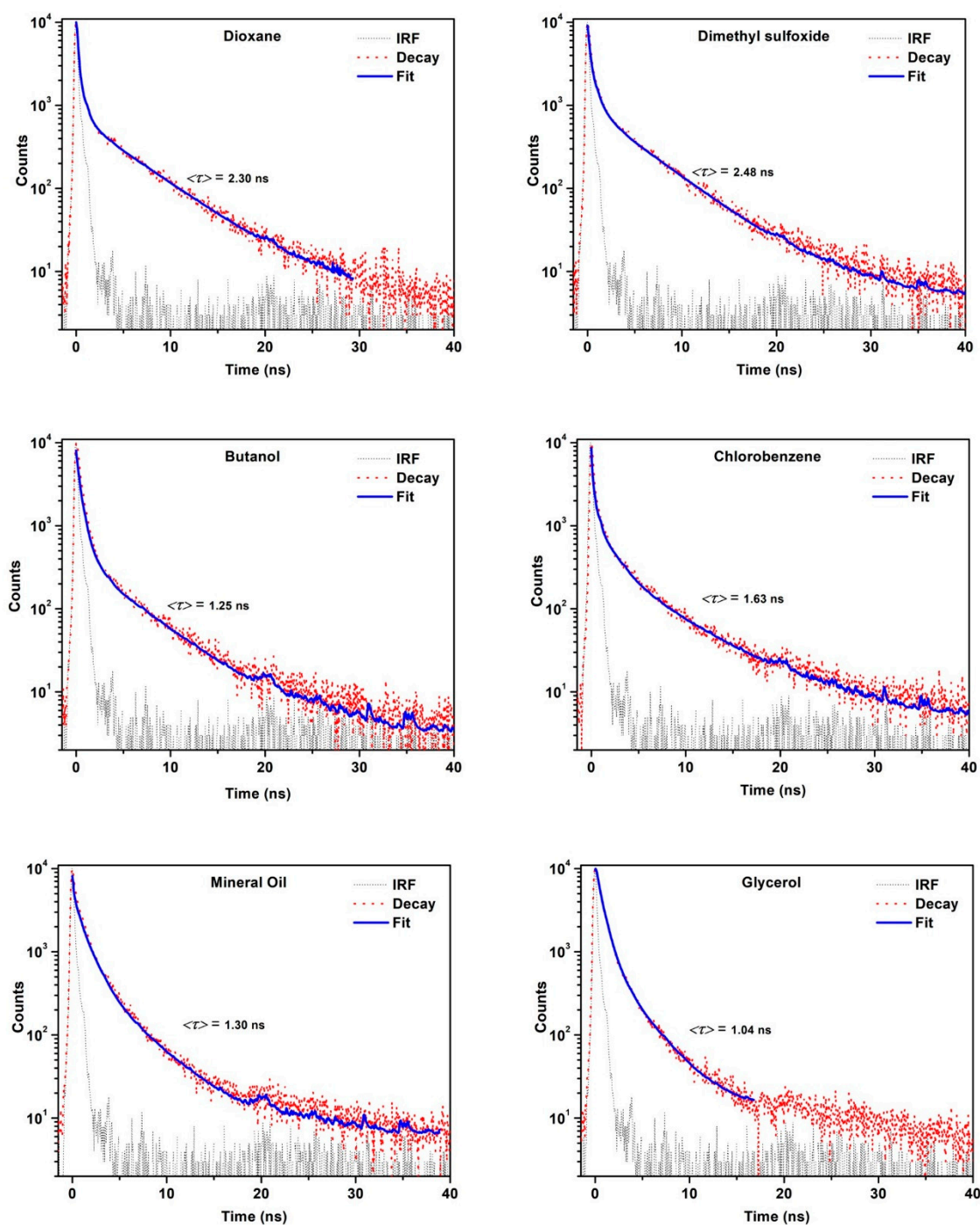


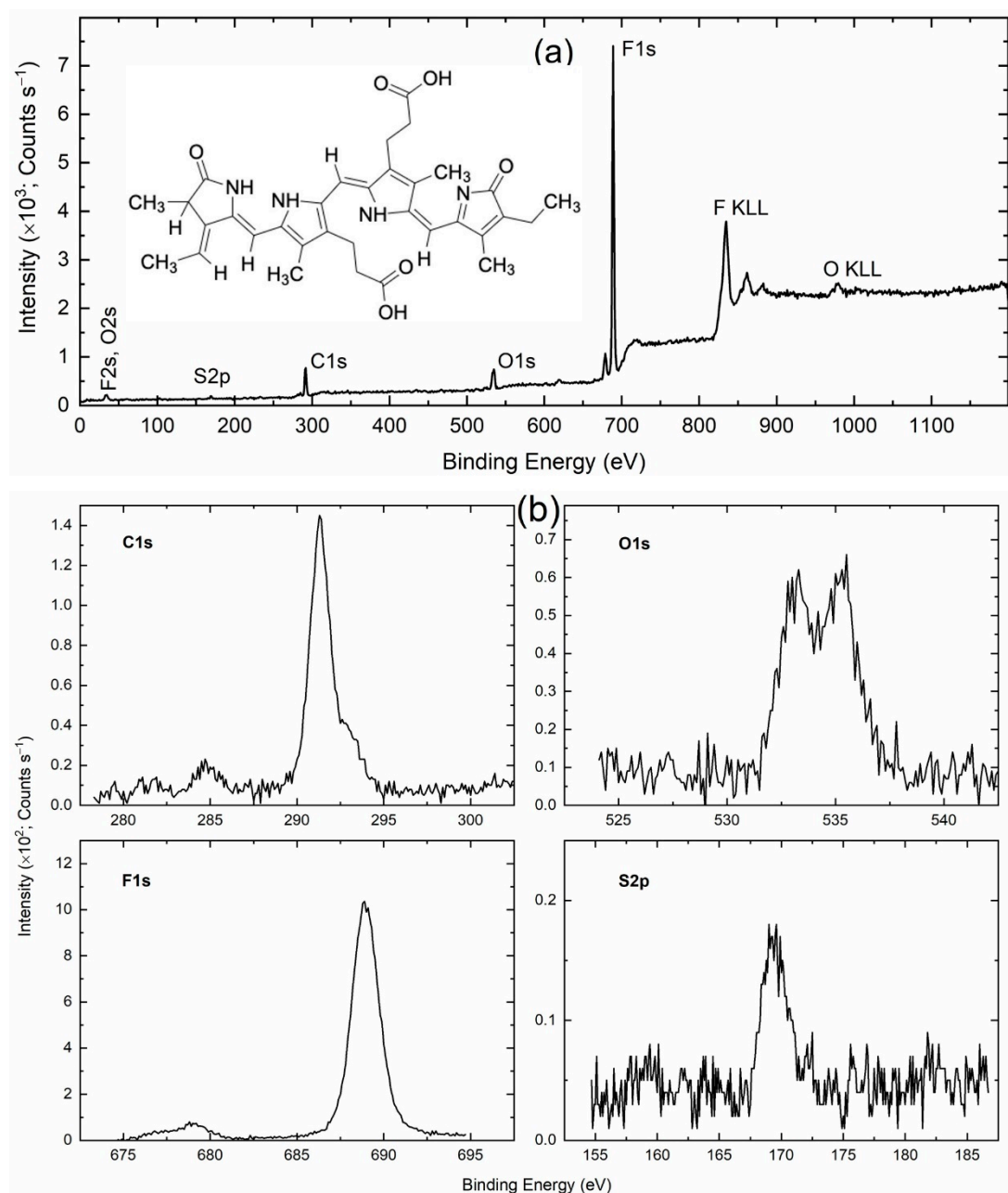
Figure S2. Continued.

**Table S1.** Solvent properties: refractive index ( $n$ ), dielectric constant ( $\epsilon$ ), orientational polarizability ( $\Delta f$ ), viscosity ( $\eta$ ), hydrogen bond accepting ability ( $\beta$ ), hydrogen bond donating ability ( $\alpha$ ), and polarity/polarizability parameter ( $\pi^*$ ).

Solvents	$n$	$\epsilon$	$\Delta f$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\pi^*$	$\alpha + \beta + \pi^*$
Diethyl ether	1.352	4.33	0.17	0	0.47	0.27	0.74
Acetonitrile	1.344	37.5	0.31	0.19	0.31	0.75	1.25
Acetone	1.35	20.70	0.29	0.08	0.48	0.71	1.27
Dichloromethane	1.416	8.93	0.22	0.33	0	0.82	1.15
Ethyl Acetate	1.37	6.02	0.17	0	0.45	0.45	0.90
Methanol	1.328	32.7	0.31	0.93	0.62	0.6	2.15
Dioxane	1.422	2.22	0.02	0	0.37	0.55	0.92
Dimethyl sulphoxide	1.479	48.9	0.26	0	0.76	1	1.76
Butanol	1.394	17.85	0.27	0.79	0.88	0.47	2.14
Chlorobenzene	1.52	5.62	0.14	0	0.44	0.19	0.63
Mineral Oil	1.47	2.22	0.01	NA	NA	NA	NA
Glycerol	1.46	46.50	0.27	0.93	0.67	0.04	1.64

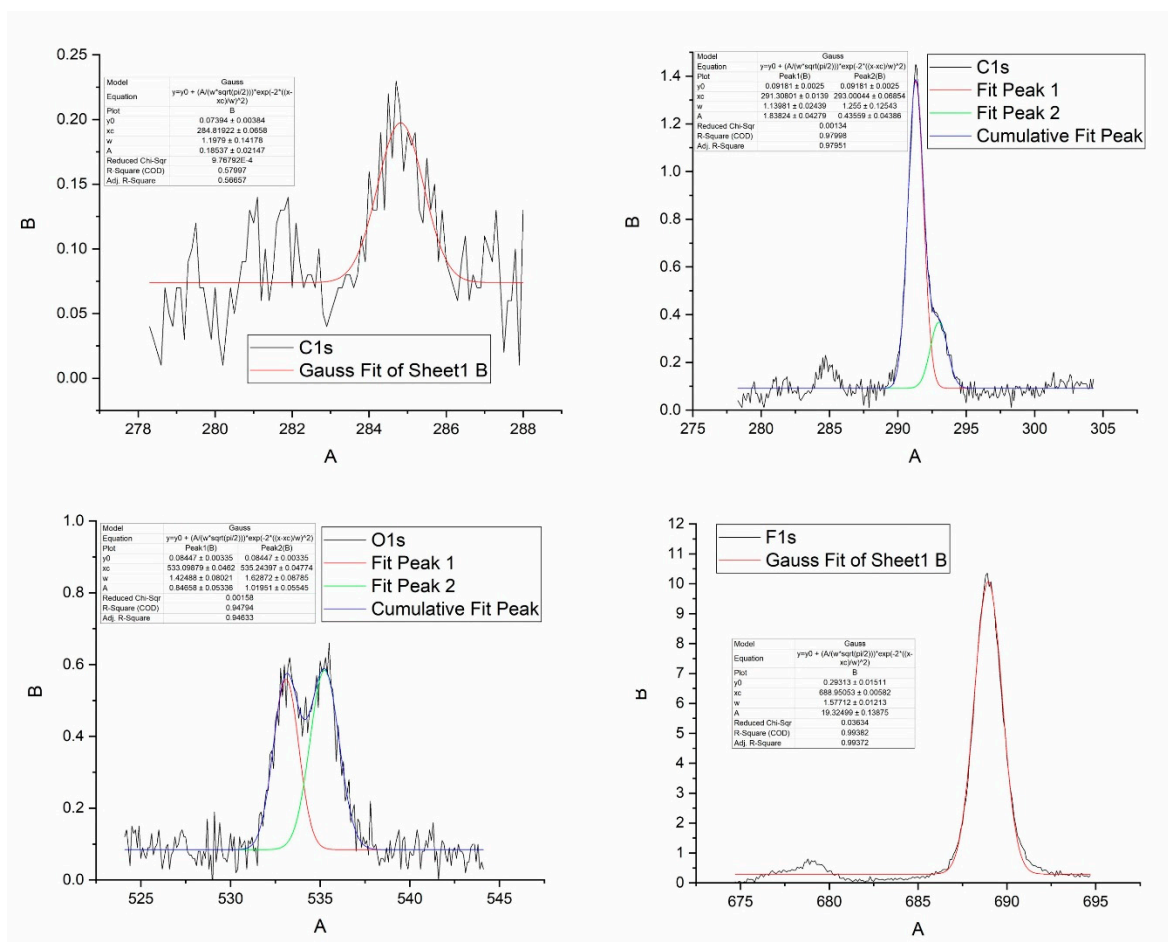
NA: not applicable.

## Part 2: XPS and PL Spectra

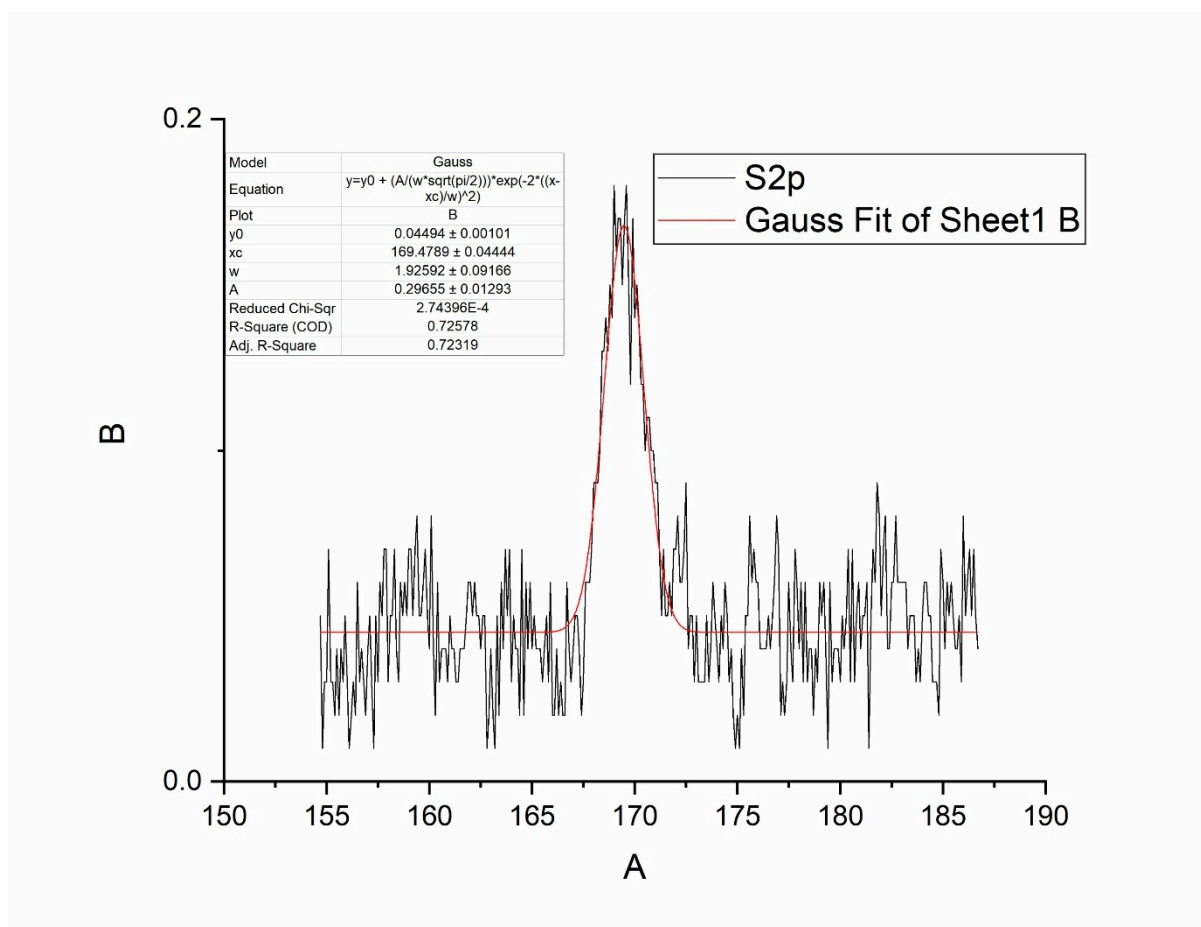


**Figure S3.** XPS spectra for (a) survey and (b) elements (C1s, O1s, F1s, and S2p) of PCB-sensitized Nafion. The *inset* shows the chemical structure of PCB.





**Figure S4.** Best fit for elements (C1s, O1s, F1s, and S2p) of PCB-sensitized Nafion.

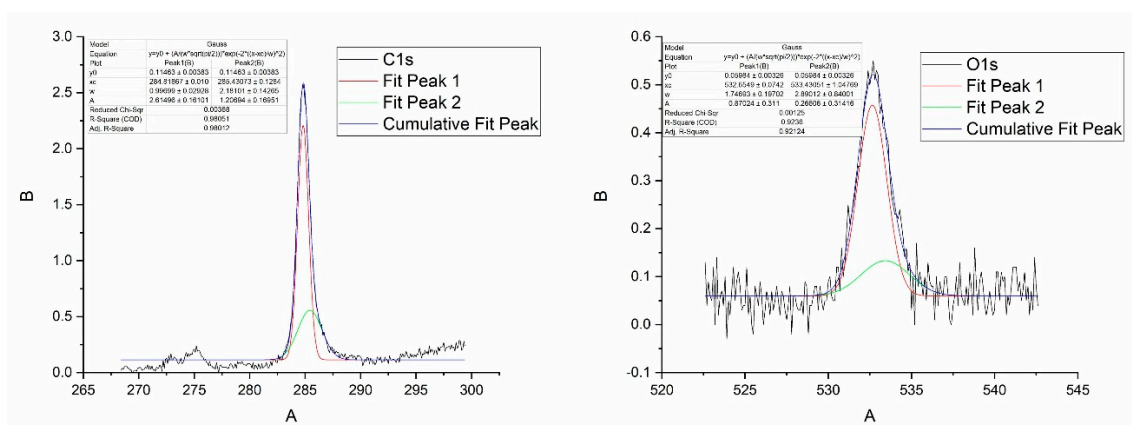


**Figure S4.** Continued.

**Table S2.** Binding energy in eV for elements (C1s, O1s, F1s, and S2p) of PCB-sensitized Nafion.

C1s	284.8 (284.8, C–C) <sup>†</sup> ; 291.3 (292.2, –CF <sub>2</sub> –); 293 (294.4, –CF <sub>3</sub> )
O1s	533.1 (533, –SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>–</sup> ) <sup>†,§</sup> ; 535.2 (535.7, –CF <sub>2</sub> –O–CF–)
F1s	688.9 (689, C–F) <sup>†</sup>
S2p	169.5 (170, –SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>–</sup> ) <sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> [1,2], <sup>§</sup> [3]



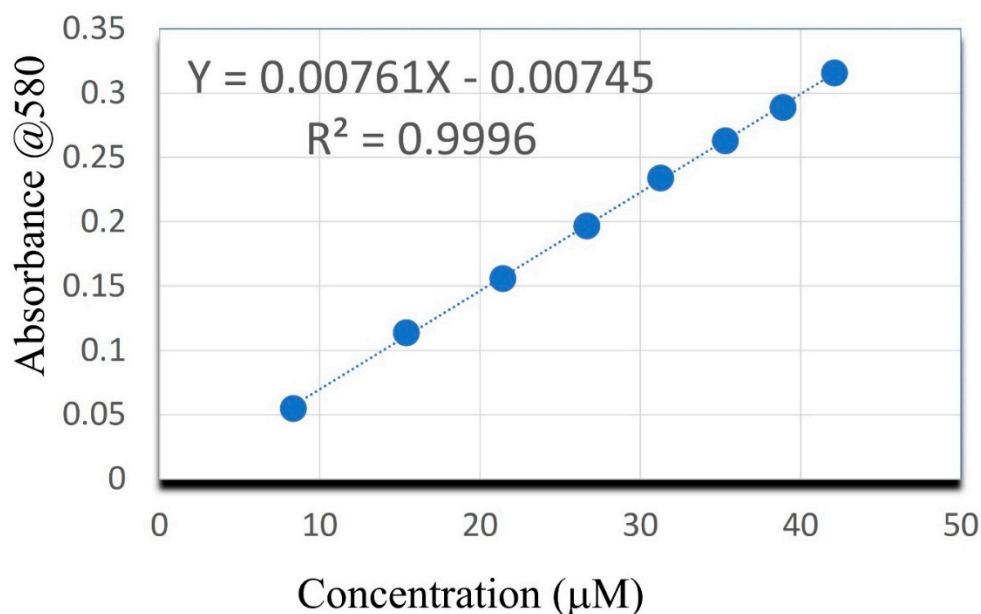
**Figure S5.** Best fit for elements (C1s and O1s) of PCB-sensitized LDPE.

**Table S3.** Binding energy in eV for elements (C1s and O1s) of PCB-sensitized LDPE.

C1s	284.8 (284.6, C–C) <sup>‡</sup> ; 285.4 (286, C–O) <sup>§</sup>
O1s	532.6; 533.4 (C=O; COOH) <sup>§</sup>

<sup>‡</sup> [4], <sup>§</sup> [3]

### Part 3: Loading Characterization



**Figure S6.** The standard equation and the calibration curves obtained from UV–visible absorption spectra were measured for different concentrations of PCB dye in methanol at 298 K.

**Table S4.** Mass-of-balance Analysis.

Y (Absorbance)	X =[PCB] (μM)	C <sub>PCB</sub> (μM)	[PCB@LDPE] (μM)	Weight (g) of PCB ± 0.001 <sup>§</sup>
~0	~0	< 10	< 10 (in 0.002 L)	< 0.000012 (in 0.002 L)
0.360545	48.36	100	51.64 (in 0.002 L)	0.000060 (in 0.002 L)
0.405661	54.28	1000	945.72 (in 0.0017 L)	0.000942 (in 0.0017 L)

<sup>§</sup>Total amount used of PCB = 0.001000 g (molecular weight = 585.714 g/mol)

The concentrations (number of moles) of PCB dye in the remaining and washed-out solutions ([PCB]) after the loading step (Experimental Section) were calculated by replacing Y (Figure S6) in the standard equation S1 by the absorbance at 580 nm for a given solution (Table S4).

$$X = \frac{Y+0.00745}{0.00761} \quad (\text{Equation S1})$$

The following mass-of-balance (equation S2) was then used to calculate the amount of PCB on top of LDPE film (Table S4: **Weight (g) of PCB**).

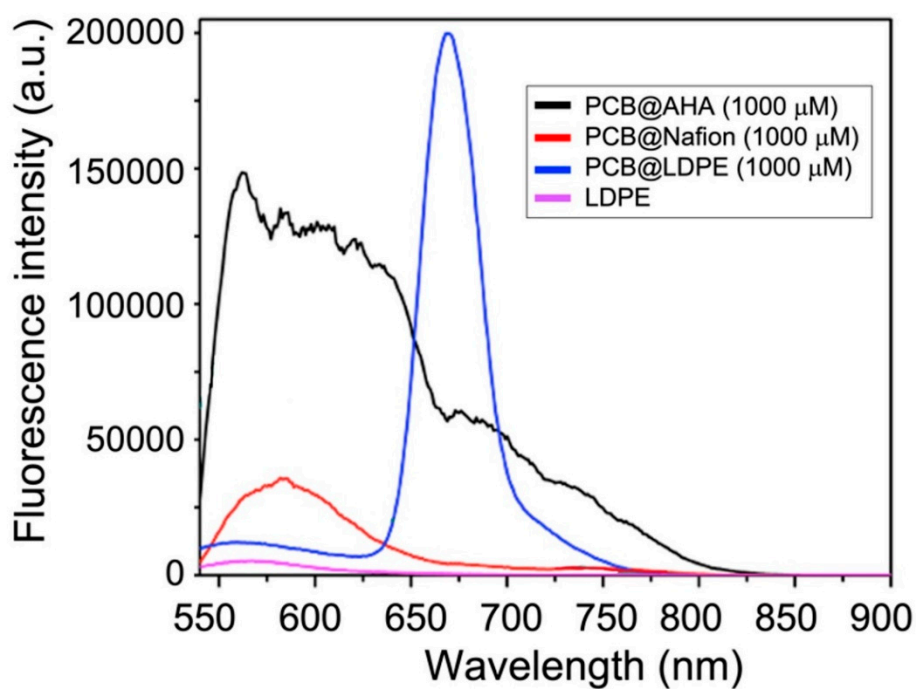
$$C_{\text{PCB}} = [\text{PCB}] + [\text{PCB@LDPE}] \quad (\text{Equation S2})$$

, where  $C_{\text{PCB}}$  is the total concentration of PCB,  $[\text{PCB}]$  is the concentration of the unbound PCB, and  $[\text{PCB@LDPE}]$  is the concentration of the adsorbed dye onto the plastic surface.

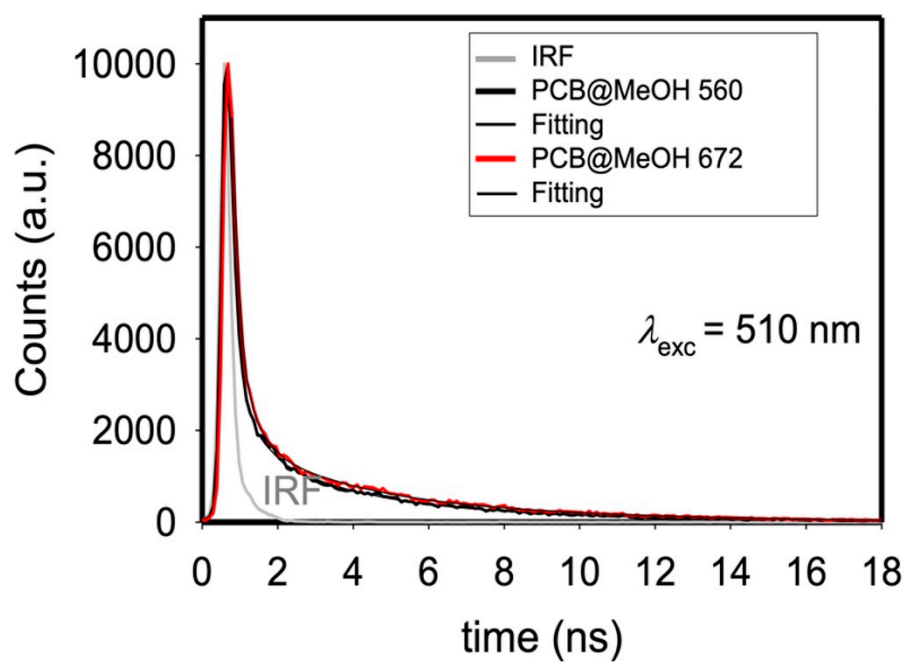
**Table S5.** Properties of Plastic Films.

Plastic film	Thickness (mm) $\pm 0.001$	$C_{\text{PCB}}$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Area ( $\text{mm}^2$ ) $\pm 1$	Weight (g) $\pm 0.001$	Color	Dye Loading (%) (w/w)
LDPE	0.120	0	100	0.0293	Watery	
PCB@LDPE	0.117	100	100	0.0136	Watery	< 0.08
PCB@LDPE	0.118	100	100	0.0137	Watery	0.44
PCB@LDPE	0.115	1000	100	0.0136	Watery	6.92
PCB@Nafion	0.183	1000	100	0.0240	Dark brown	
PCB@AHA	0.180	1000	100	0.0478	Dark brown	
Nafion	0.170	0	100	0.0366	Watery	
AHA	0.174	0	100	0.0172	Creamy	

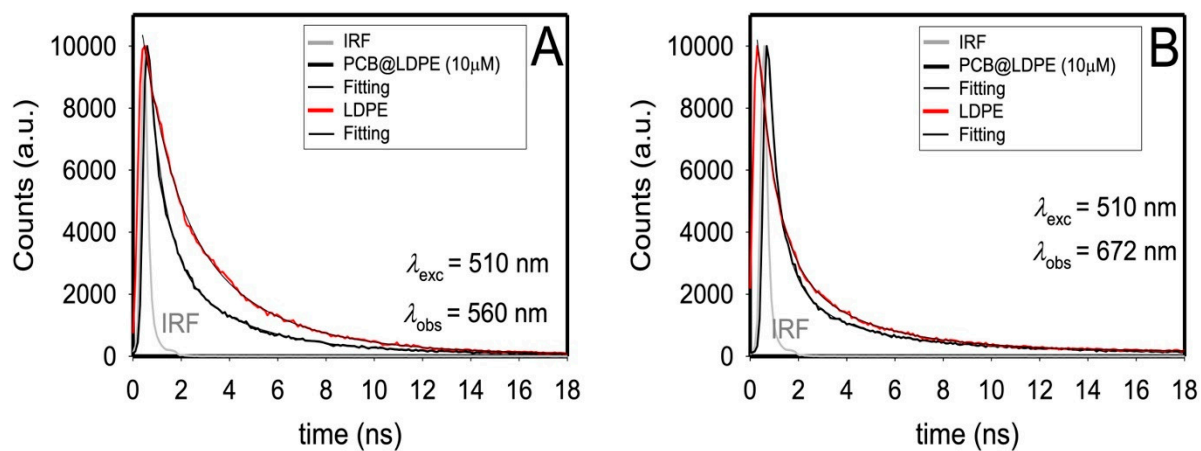
#### Part 4: PL and Time-Resolved PL Spectra



**Figure S7.** Changes of PL spectra of LDPE, Nafion, and AHA solid membranes upon the addition of different concentrations of PCB dyes in methanol under vacuum at 298 K (solid samples were excited at 510 nm)

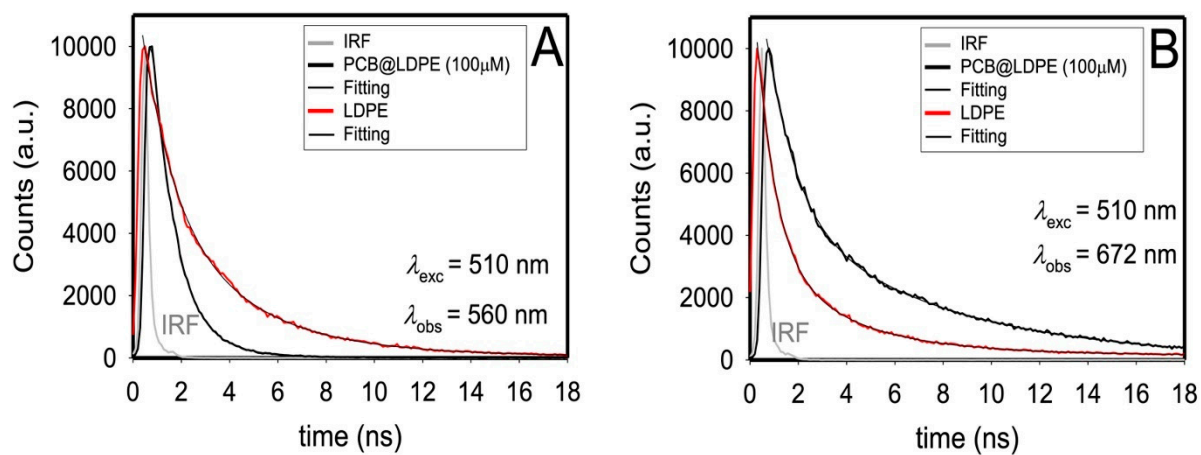


**Figure S8.** PL decays of PCB (10  $\mu$ M) in methanol at 298 K. The excitation and monitoring wavelength is indicated directly in the graph.

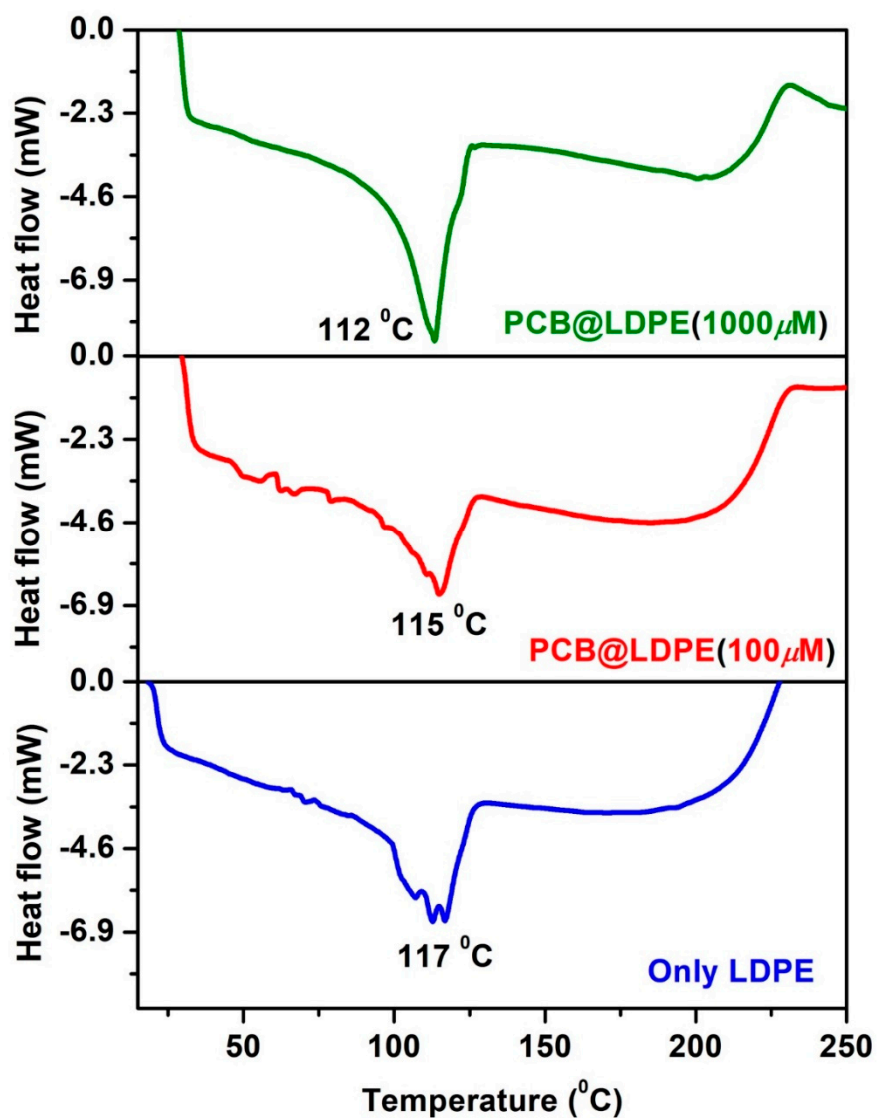


**Figure S9.** PL decays of solid PCB@LDPE films prepared upon loading PCB dyes at 10  $\mu\text{M}$  at 298 K (black lines). The excitation and monitoring wavelengths are indicated directly in the graph. The data for LDPE (red lines) are added for comparison purposes.

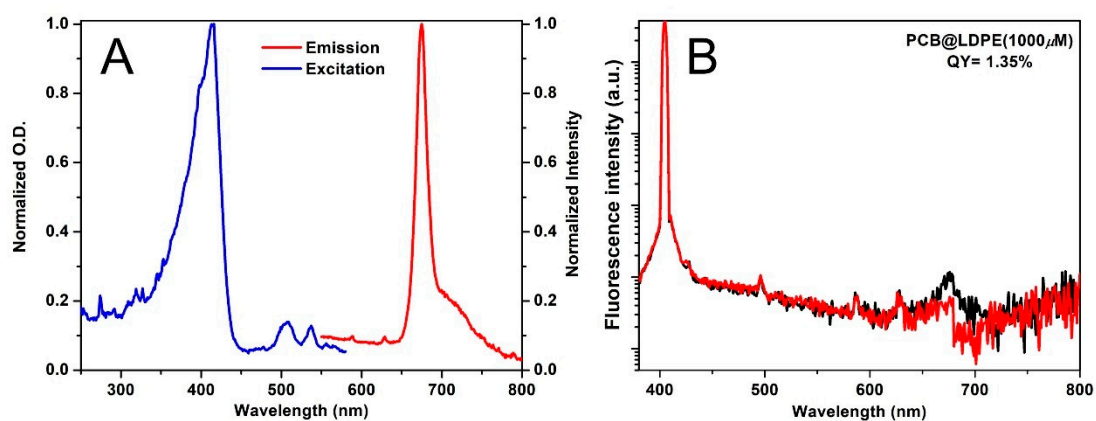




**Figure S10.** PL decays of solid PCB@LDPE films prepared upon loading PCB dyes at 100  $\mu\text{M}$  at 298 K (black lines). The excitation and monitoring wavelengths are indicated directly in the graph. The data for LDPE (red lines) are added for comparison purposes.



**Figure S11.** DSC curves of solid PCB@LDPE films prepared upon loading PCB dyes at 100 (red line) and 1000  $\mu$ M at 298 K (green line). The DSC curve for LDPE (blue line) was added for comparison purposes.



**Figure S12.** (A) PLE (blue) and PL (red) spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 400$  nm and  $\lambda_{\text{mon}} = 672$  nm) of solid PCB@LDPE films prepared upon loading 7% of PCB dyes at 298 K. (B) the measured Quantum Yield (QY) at 672 nm as directly indicated in the paragraph.

## References

1. Hoffmann, E.A.; Fekete, Z.A.; Korugic-Karasz, L.S.; Karasz, F.E.; Wilusz, E. Theoretical and experimental x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy investigation of ion-implanted nafion. *Journal of Polymer Science Part A: Polymer Chemistry* **2004**, *42*, 551-556.
2. Friedman, A.K.; Shi, W.; Losovyj, Y.; Siedle, A.R.; Baker, L.A. Mapping microscale chemical heterogeneity in nafion membranes with x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* **2018**, *165*, 733-741.
3. Göller, A.H.; Strehlow, D.; Hermann, G. The excited-state chemistry of phycocyanobilin: A semiempirical study. *ChemPhysChem* **2005**, *6*, 1259-1268.
4. AlMaadeed, M.A.; Nógellová, Z.; Mičušík, M.; Novák, I.; Krupa, I. Mechanical, sorption and adhesive properties of composites based on low density polyethylene filled with date palm wood powder. *Materials & Design* **2014**, *53*, 29-37.