

25th Nano Congress for Future Advancements

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12th Edition of International Conference on

Nanopharmaceutics and Advanced Drug Delivery

August 16-18, 2018 | Dublin, Ireland

Low-temperature SnO₂-modified TiO₂ yields record efficiency for normal planar perovskite solar modules

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Hybrid organic-inorganic perovskite solar cells (PSCs), particularly for the planar PSCs, attracted significant attention because of their high efficiency, low fabrication costs, and simple preparation process. However, planar PSCs exhibit lower efficiency and stability than mesoporous PSCs, primarily owing to defects in the electron transport layer (ETL). Here, we introduce a SnO₂ nanoparticle modified TiO₂ film (SnO₂@TiO₂) as the ETL. In addition, we propose a simple three-step chemical bath method to achieve such SnO₂@TiO₂ structure at low temperatures (140°C). The SnO₂@TiO₂ ETL significantly enhances the electron extraction and decreases the trap states at the perovskite/ETL interface. We achieved average efficiencies at reverse scan and forward scan of 21.27%, 19.79%, 17.21% and 16.31% for device area of 0.10 cm², 1.13 cm², 5.25 cm² and 10.56 cm² respectively. Besides, we achieved a certificated efficiency of 15.65% for the normal planar perovskite solar module with masked area of 10.55 cm². The SnO₂@TiO₂-based PSCs exhibit enhanced photocurrent and reduced hysteresis. Furthermore, the solar cell retained about 89% of its initial efficiency after about 750 hours of aging in dark and about 93% for 528 hours under full-sun illumination. Because of the low-temperature processability and the absence of spin-coating steps, SnO₂@TiO₂ ETLs will provide a promising path for the commercialization of PSCs.

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