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臺灣大學應用力學研究所  
演 講 公 告

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# NANOSTRUCTURED MATERIALS FOR ENERGY AND CATALYSIS APPLICATIONS

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## ABSTRACT

Reduction of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is an appealing approach toward tackling climate change associated with atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In this presentation, I will discuss two major strategies in my research group to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emission for the goal of net zero around 2050. Firstly, we are working on the development of solid-state lithium batteries as next-generation energy storage devices in order to lower the need of fossil fuels. Secondly, we apply CO<sub>2</sub> as a carbon feedstock and transform CO<sub>2</sub> into a value-added multi-carbon product, which can decrease the carbon footprint by circumventing traditional carbon intensive process. In the first study, we propose an asymmetric design of polymer membrane with tailored pore structure in order to promote the transport of lithium ions while stabilizing the lithium metal anode. Under the optimal conditions, we successfully fabricated polymer membranes with a bi-continuously nanoporous top layer with increasing pore sizes toward bottom surface. This unique structure provides the membranes exciting transporting properties including high ionic conductivity and high transference number. Additionally, the Li/LiFePO<sub>4</sub> battery tests demonstrate that the cell with asymmetric membrane outperforms the cell with commercial separator and symmetric membrane in terms of specific capacity, rate capability, and cycling stability, revealing a promising potential for applications in high-energy-density lithium metal batteries. For the work on CO<sub>2</sub> conversion, we developed a rapid reflux process for the preparation of ceria nanorods, which induced the formation of a defective mesoporous structure on the surface of ceria catalysts. Such defective structures enriched the surface with abundant trivalent Ce ions and oxygen vacancy sites, significantly promoted the catalytic activity of ceria nanorod in synthesizing dimethyl carbonate (DMC) from CO<sub>2</sub> and methanol. Overall, the nanostructured materials offer a promising opportunity for designing cost-effective and highly-efficient devices in sustainable research, and the interfacial/surface modification provides a unique avenue to tune the nanostructural features that can improve materials energy and catalytic properties to meet future demands.