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Integrated tuneable synthesis of liquid fuels via Fischer-Tropsch technology

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Supplementary Table 1 | FT performance over the conventional supports and Y_{meso} zeolites.^a

Catalyst	CO Conv. [%]	Hydrocarbon Selectivity [%] ^b				C _{iso} /C _n ^c	C _{olefins} [%] ^d	CTY [mol _{CO} kg _{Co} ⁻¹ h ⁻¹] ^e
		CH ₄	C ₂₋₄	C ₅₋₂₀	C ₂₁₊			
Co/SiO ₂	47	8.8	4.4	64	23	0.6	18	155
Co/Al ₂ O ₃	46	7.7	4.9	62	25	0.5	17	152
Co/Y _{micro} -Na	36	14	9.4	71	6.1	0.8	26	119
Co/Y _{meso} -Na	32	11	5.4	72	12	0.7	24	106
Co/Y _{meso} -H	28	17	19	64	0	2.2	12	93
Co/Y _{meso} -Ce	34	11	6.6	82	0	2.3	18	112
Co/Y _{meso} -La	40	9.5	4.5	86	0	3.3	17	132
Co/Y _{meso} -Li	38	11	4.0	72	13	0.6	18	126
Co/Y _{meso} -K	30	12	3.9	74	10	0.4	19	99

(a) Reaction conditions: $T = 523$ K; $P = 2.0$ MPa; $H_2/CO = 1.0$; flow rate, $W_{cat}/F = 10$ g h mol⁻¹; catalyst weight, 0.5 g; time on stream, 10 h. (b) The calculation of hydrocarbon selectivity based on the weight fraction of a product with respect to the total hydrocarbons. (c) C_{iso}/C_n is the ratio of isoparaffins to n-paraffins in C₅₋₂₀. (d) The olefins selectivity in C₅₋₂₀. (e) Cobalt-time-yield (CTY) represents moles of the converted CO over per kilogram of Co per hour.

Supplementary Table 2 | FT performance over Co/Y_{micro}-Na, Co/Y_{meso}-Na, Co/Y_{micro}-H and Co/Y_{meso}-H.^a

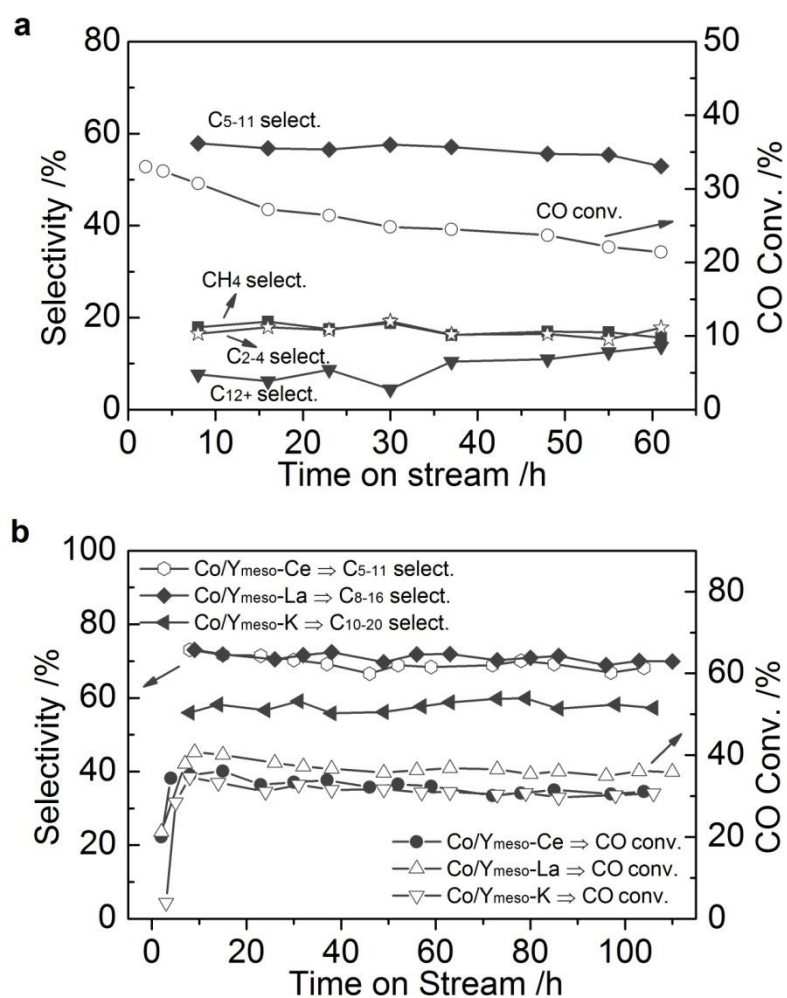
Catalyst	CO Conv. [%]	Hydrocarbon Selectivity [%] ^b				C _{iso} /C _n ^c
		CH ₄	C ₂₋₄	C ₅₋₂₀	C ₂₁₊	
Co/Y _{micro} -Na	36	14	9.4	71	6.1	0.8
Co/Y _{meso} -Na	32	11	5.4	72	12	0.7
Co/Y _{micro} -H	30	23	26	51	0	2.7
Co/Y _{meso} -H	28	17	19	64	0	2.2

(a) Reaction conditions: $T = 523$ K; $P = 2.0$ MPa; $H_2/CO = 1.0$; flow rate, $W_{cat}/F = 10$ g h mol⁻¹; catalyst weight, 0.5 g; time on stream, 10 h. (b) The calculation of hydrocarbon selectivity based on the weight fraction of a product with respect to the total hydrocarbons. (c) C_{iso}/C_n is the ratio of isoparaffins to n-paraffins in C₅₋₂₀.

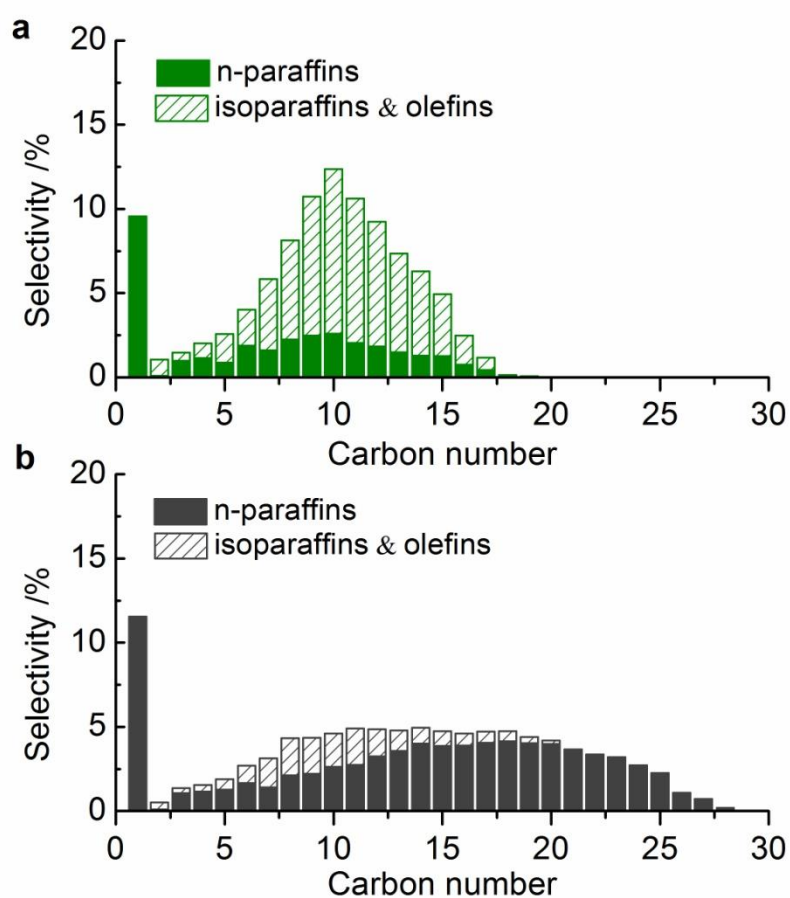
Supplementary Table 3 | Model reactions of n-C₁₆ cracking over Co/Y_{micro}-Na, Co/Y_{meso}-Na, Co/Y_{micro}-H and Co/Y_{meso}-H.^a

Catalyst	n-C ₁₆ Conv. [%]	Hydrocarbon Selectivity [%] ^b			C _{iso} /C _n ^c
		CH ₄	C ₂₋₄	C ₅₋₁₅	
Co/Y _{micro} -Na	90	23	3.0	74	0.01
Co/Y _{meso} -Na	93	15	1.4	84	0.02
Co/Y _{micro} -H	94	0.5	39	60	2.4
Co/Y _{meso} -H	97	1.9	25	73	2.1

(a) Reaction conditions: $T = 523$ K; H₂ pressure, 2.0 MPa; H₂ flow rate, 60 mL min⁻¹; n-C₁₆ flow rate, 0.24 mL h⁻¹; catalyst weight, 0.5 g; time on stream, 10 h. (b) The calculation of hydrocarbon selectivity based on the weight fraction of a product with respect to the total hydrocarbons. (c) C_{iso}/C_n is the ratio of isoparaffins to n-paraffins in C₅₋₁₅.



Supplementary Figure 1 | Time-on-stream evolution of CO conversion and fuel selectivity. (a) The stability for Co/Y_{meso}-H, (b) the stability for Co/Y_{meso}-Ce, Co/Y_{meso}-La and Co/Y_{meso}-K. Reaction conditions: $T = 523$ K; $P = 2.0$ MPa; $H_2/CO = 1.0$; flow rate, $W_{cat.}/F = 10$ g h mol⁻¹; catalyst, 0.5 g.

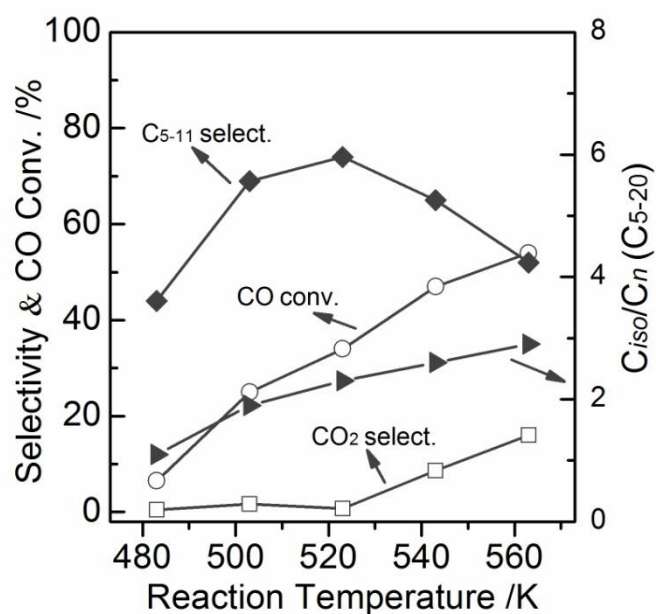


Supplementary Figure 2 | Comparison of FT product distribution over Co/Y_{meso}-La and Co/SiO₂-La. (a) Co/Y_{meso}-La, (b) Co/SiO₂-La. Reaction conditions: $T = 523$ K; $P = 2.0$ MPa; $H_2/CO = 1.0$; flow rate, $W_{cat}/F = 10$ g h mol⁻¹; catalyst weight, 0.5 g; time on stream, 10 h. To prepare the catalyst of Co/SiO₂-La, the traditional SiO₂ support was used to replace the Y_{meso} zeolite in the preparation processes, while the other treatment conditions kept same.

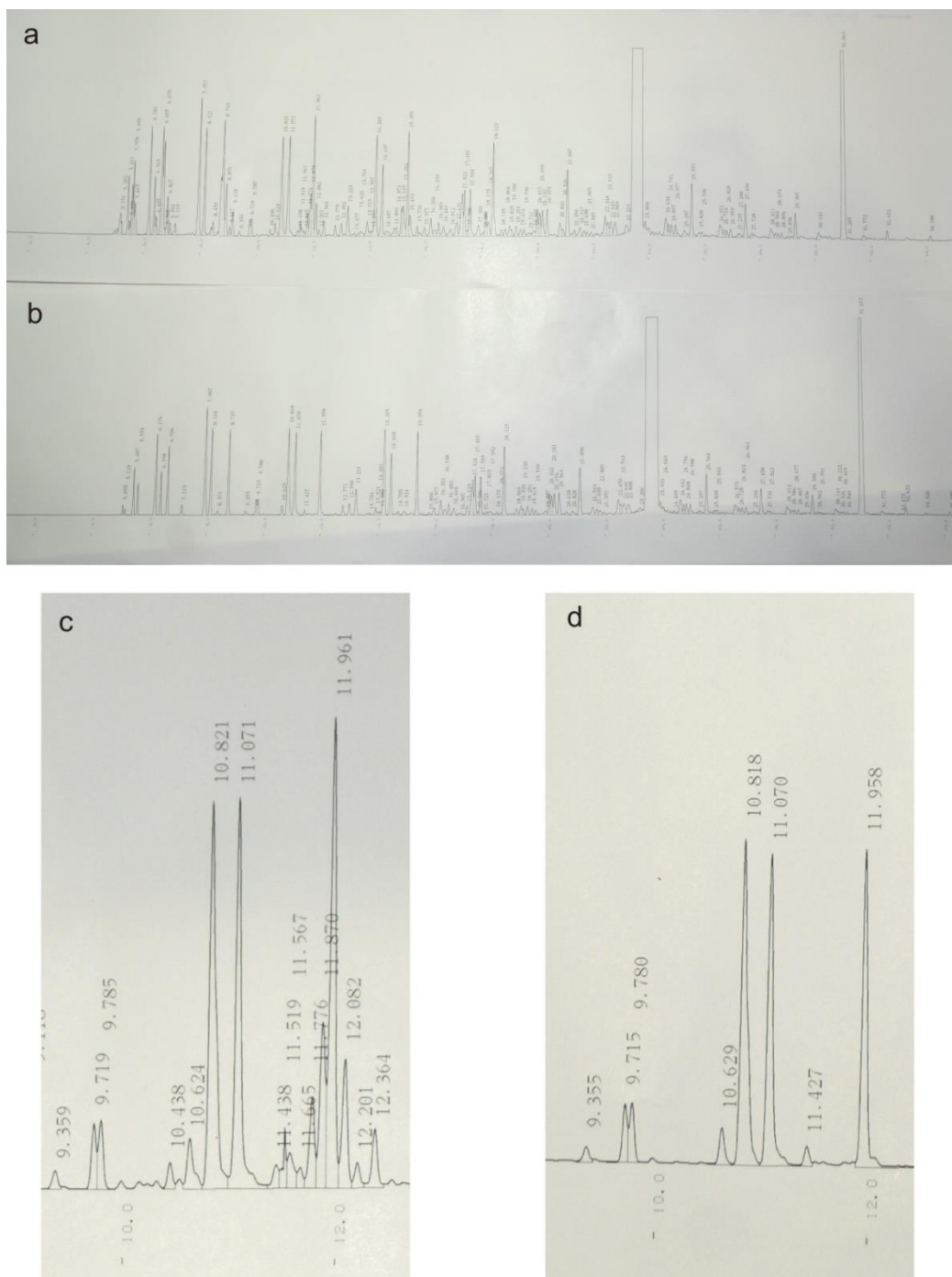
Supplementary Table 4 | Comparison of research octane number (RON).

Synthesis Process	Research Octane Number (RON)
Hydrocracking of crude oils ^a	78~85
Traditional LTFT C ₅₋₁₁ ^b	35~43
Direct FT (Co/Y _{meso} -Ce) ^c	80

(a) The RON of Hydrocracking of crude oils was reproduced from ref. 1¹. (b) The RON of traditional Low-Temperature FT synthesis (LTFT) was summarized from refs 2-4²⁻⁴. (c) The RON of direct FT synthesis over the Co/Y_{meso}-Ce was tested with PONA method by Nippon Oil Corporation (NOC) in Japan.



Supplementary Figure 3 | FT reactions over Co/Y_{meso}-Ce with different reaction temperature. Reaction conditions: $T = 483 \sim 563$ K; $P = 2.0$ MPa; $H_2/CO = 1.0$; flow rate, $W_{cat}/F = 10$ g h mol⁻¹; catalyst, 0.5 g. The Co/Y_{meso}-Ce exhibited low gasoline selectivity, when the reaction temperatures were too low or too high. The high gasoline selectivity with medium hydrocracking/isomerization was obtained at the reaction temperature of 523 K.



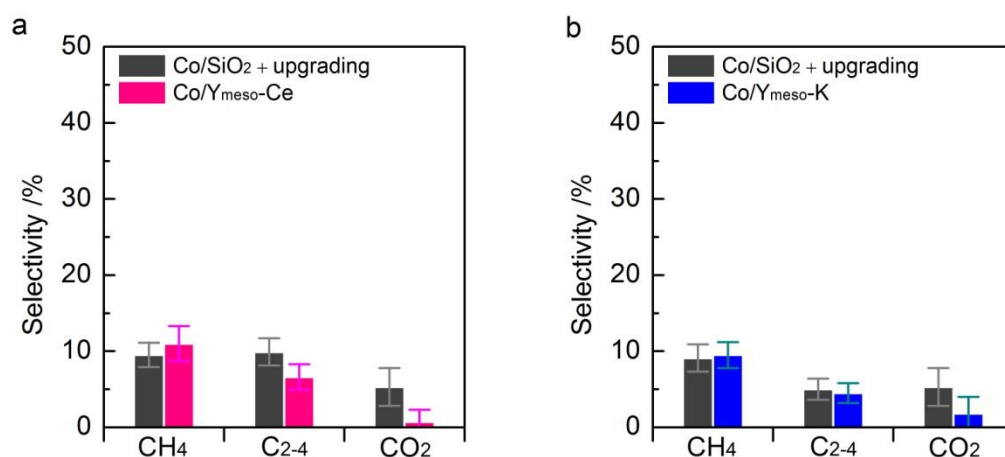
Supplementary Figure 4 | The detailed distributions of liquid fuel over the Co/Y_{meso}-Ce after direct FT process. (a) The liquid fuel from direct FT synthesis; (b) the liquid fuel after H₂SO₄ treatment; (c) the C₈ from direct FT process; (d) the C₈ after H₂SO₄ treatment. Reaction conditions were the same with Supplementary Table 1.

Supplementary Table 5 | Comparison of diesel fuel properties.

Diesel fuel property	Conventional diesel ^a	FT-GTL ^b (Shell International Gas Limited)	Direct FT ^c (Co/Y _{meso} -K)
Cetane Number (CN)	52	75	74
Density at 15 °C (g/cm ³)	0.84	0.78	0.78
90% distillation (T90, °C)	331	310	305
Flash point (°C)	/	/	91
Pour point (°C)	/	/	−20
Viscosity (mm ² /s)	2.67(40 °C)	2.74 (40 °C)	3.05 (30 °C)
Sulfur (ppm)	403	3	<1
Aromatics	27.7 wt%	1.4 wt%	<1vol%

(a) The diesel fuel properties of conventional diesel fuel were reproduced from ref. 5⁵.

(b) The GTL-FT diesel fuel properties of the Shell International Gas Limited were reproduced from refs 5 and 6^{5,6}. (c) The diesel fuel properties of direct FT synthesis over the Co/Y_{meso}-K were tested with JIS K2204 method by National Traffic Safety and Environment Laboratory (NTSEL) in Japan.

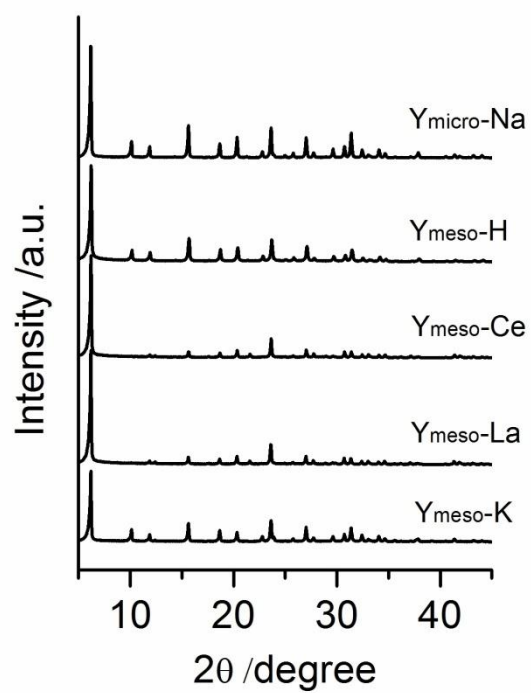


Supplementary Figure 5 | Comparison of direct FT synthesis and FT/upgrading on CH₄, C₂₋₄ and CO₂. (a) The comparison of Co/Y_{meso}-Ce and FT/upgrading. The product selectivity from FT/upgrading based on FT synthesis on traditional Co/SiO₂ and the C₁₂+ upgrading^{7,8}. (b) The comparison of Co/Y_{meso}-K and FT/upgrading. The product selectivity from FT/upgrading based on FT synthesis on traditional Co/SiO₂ and the C₂₁+ upgrading^{9,10}. The results revealed that the selectivity of small molecule products did not significantly differ from the products in the multistep process of FT/upgrading. The distribution of the data values was represented by the mean value, which were obtained by multiple measurements. The error bar represented the standard deviation to uncover the overall distribution of the data.

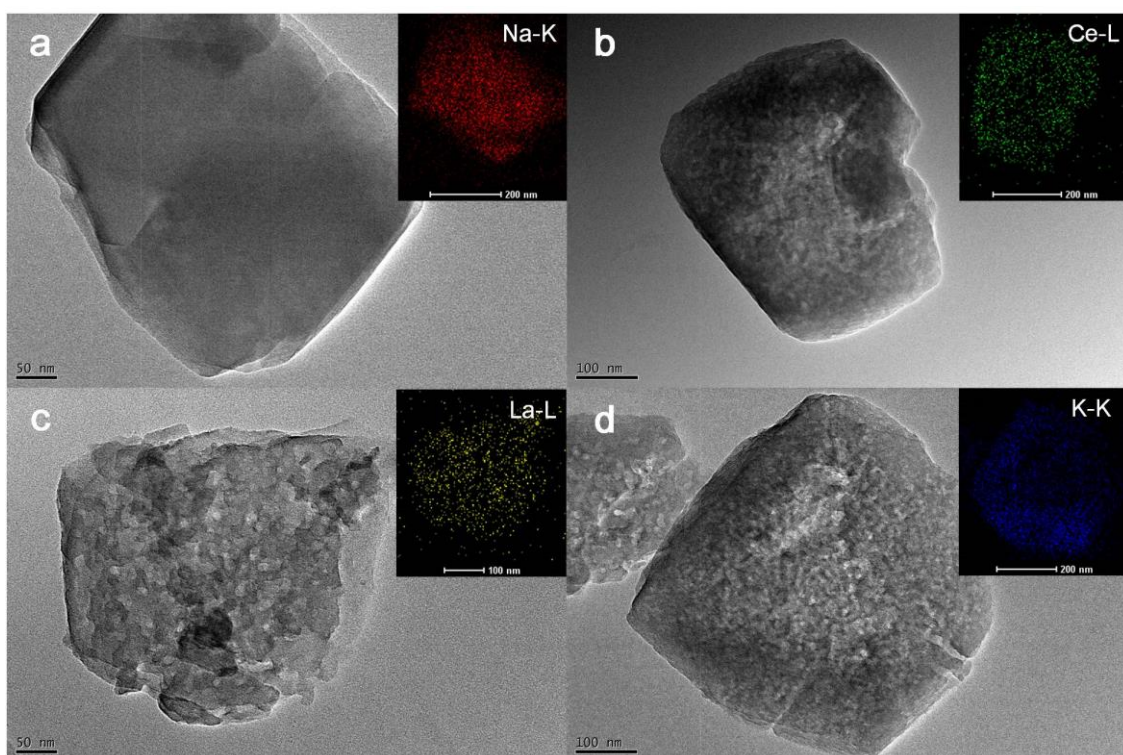
Supplementary Table 6 | Textural properties of Y_{micro} and Y_{meso} samples.

Sample		$A_{\text{BET}}^{\text{a}}$ [m ² g ⁻¹]	$A_{\text{meso}}^{\text{b}}$ [m ² g ⁻¹]	$V_{\text{micro}}^{\text{c}}$ [cm ³ g ⁻¹]	$V_{\text{meso}}^{\text{d}}$ [cm ³ g ⁻¹]	$D_{\text{meso}}^{\text{e}}$ [nm]	$D_{\text{micro}}^{\text{f}}$ [nm]
Y _{micro} -Na		540	54	0.20	0.07	/	0.7
Y _{micro} -H		536	51	0.21	0.09	/	0.7
Y _{meso}	Y _{meso} -Na	552	138	0.18	0.27	17	0.7
	Y _{meso} -H	504	126	0.14	0.25	14	0.7
	Y _{meso} -Ce	515	103	0.17	0.19	21	0.7
	Y _{meso} -La	536	76	0.18	0.15	29	0.7
	Y _{meso} -K	512	99	0.16	0.20	25	0.7

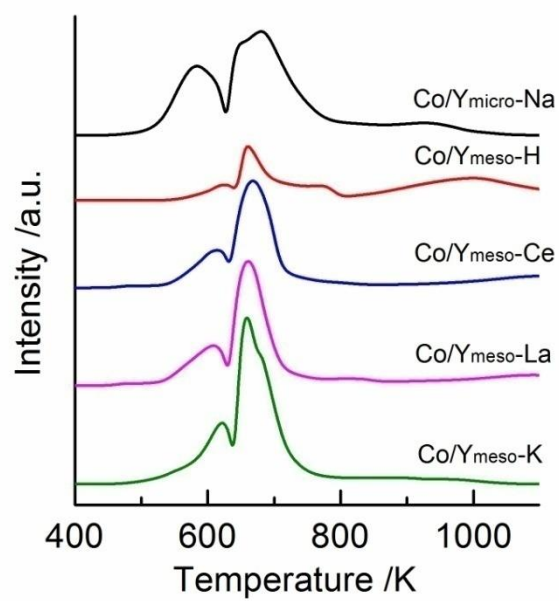
(a) BET area; (b) BJH adsorption cumulative surface area of pores in 2-50 nm; (c) the micropore volume evaluated by the *t*-plot method; (d) the mesopore volume evaluated by the BJH method; (e) pore size for mesopores evaluated by the BJH method; (f) pore size for micropores estimated by the HK method.



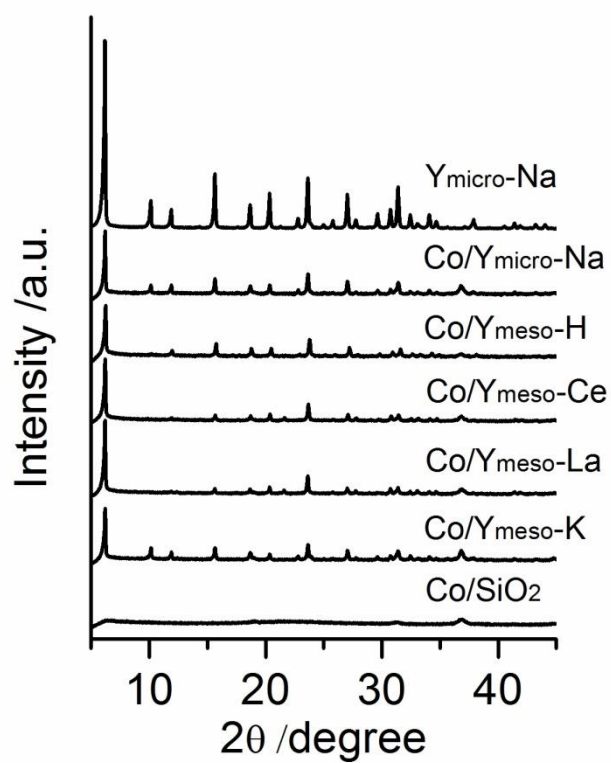
Supplementary Figure 6 | XRD patterns for the Y_{micro}-Na and Y_{meso} samples.



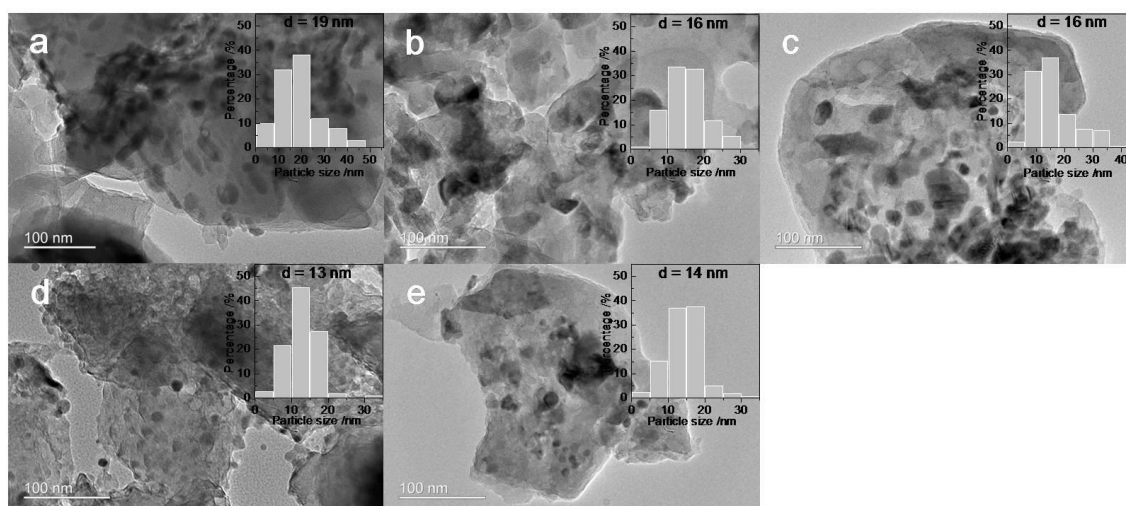
Supplementary Figure 7 | TEM and EDS results for the $Y_{\text{micro-Na}}$ and Y_{meso} samples. (a) $Y_{\text{micro-Na}}$, (b) $Y_{\text{meso-Ce}}$, (c) $Y_{\text{meso-La}}$, (d) $Y_{\text{meso-K}}$. The scale bars of the TEM images for $Y_{\text{micro-Na}}$, $Y_{\text{meso-Ce}}$, $Y_{\text{meso-La}}$ and $Y_{\text{meso-K}}$ correspond to 50, 100, 50 and 100 nm, respectively. The scale bars of the EDS analysis for $Y_{\text{micro-Na}}$, $Y_{\text{meso-Ce}}$, $Y_{\text{meso-La}}$ and $Y_{\text{meso-K}}$ correspond to 200, 200, 100 and 200 nm, respectively. These results were obtained by using FEI Tecnai F20.



Supplementary Figure 8 | H₂-TPR profiles for Co/Y_{micro}-Na and Co/Y_{meso} samples.



Supplementary Figure 9 | XRD patterns for the Co/Y_{meso} and other reference samples. The average size of cobalt oxide in the precursor catalysts was calculated by the Scherrer equation at $2\theta = 37^\circ$.

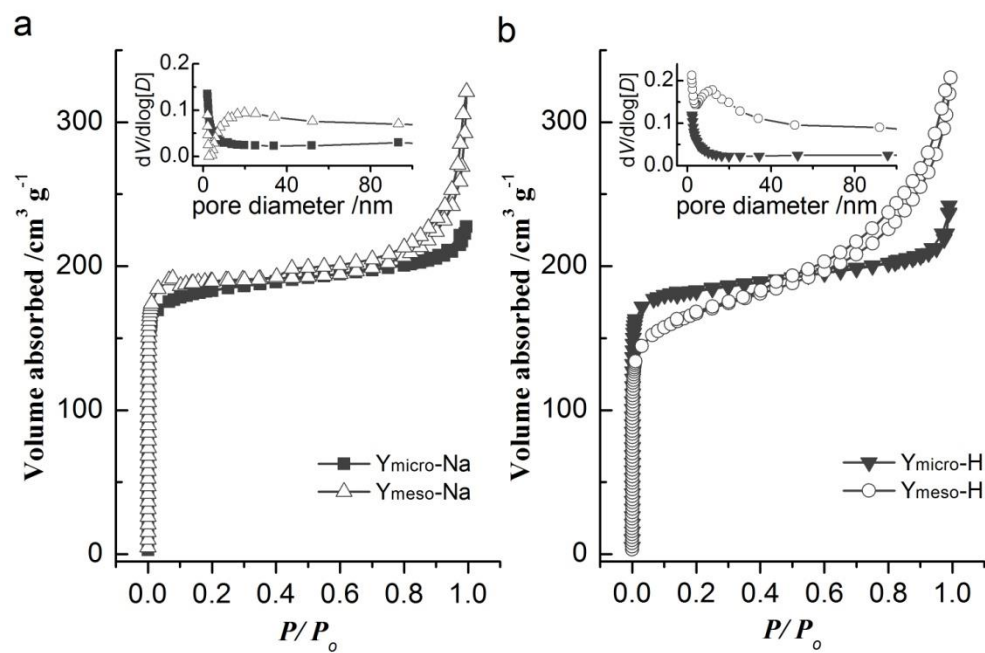


Supplementary Figure 10 | TEM and Co particle size distribution for the Co/Y_{micro}-Na and Co/Y_{meso} samples. (a) Co/Y_{micro}-Na, (b) Co/Y_{meso}-H, (c) Co/Y_{meso}-Ce, (d) Co/Y_{meso}-La, (e) Co/Y_{meso}-K. The morphology observation was obtained by using JEOL JEM-2100F2.

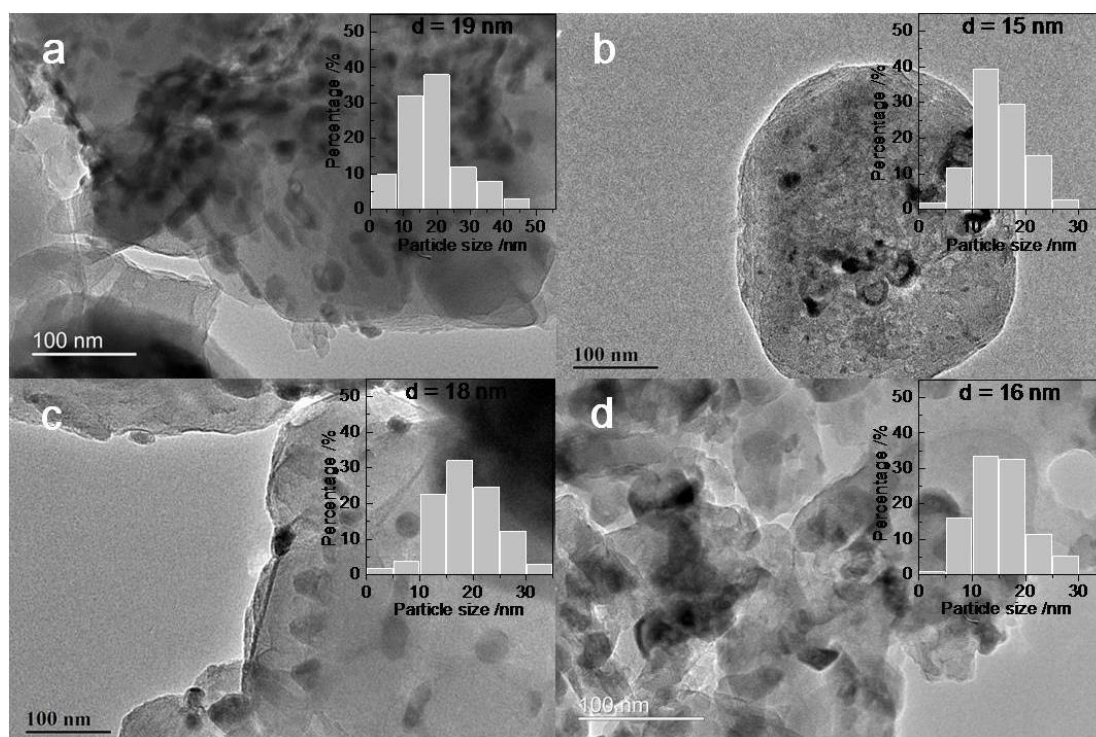
Supplementary Table 7 | Physicochemical properties for Co/Y_{micro}-Na, Co/Y_{meso}-H, Co/Y_{meso}-Ce, Co/Y_{meso}-La, Co/Y_{meso}-K and Co/SiO₂.

Sample	Reduction degree ^a [%]	H ₂ chemisorption amount ^b [μmol g ⁻¹]	Size of Co ₃ O ₄ ^c [nm]	Co dispersion ^d [%]	Co diameter ^e [nm]	Mean Co size ^f [nm]
Co/Y _{micro} -Na	77	64	22	6.5	15	19
Co/Y _{meso} -H	49	53	16	8.5	11	16
Co/Y _{meso} -Ce	70	72	19	8.1	12	16
Co/Y _{meso} -La	73	85	14	9.2	10	13
Co/Y _{meso} -K	80	76	17	7.5	13	14
Co/SiO ₂	84	79	16	7.4	13	/

(a) Measured by the H₂-O₂ titration method; (b) evaluated from the H₂ chemisorption measurement; (c) calculated by the XRD at $2\theta = 37^\circ$; (d) calculated from the H₂ chemisorption amount; (e) calculated using the following equation: Co diameter = $0.96/\text{dispersion}^{11,12}$; (f) evaluated from the TEM images.



Supplementary Figure 11 | Ar adsorption-desorption isotherms and the pore-diameter distributions. (a) Y_{micro}-Na and Y_{meso}-Na, (b) Y_{micro}-H and Y_{meso}-H.

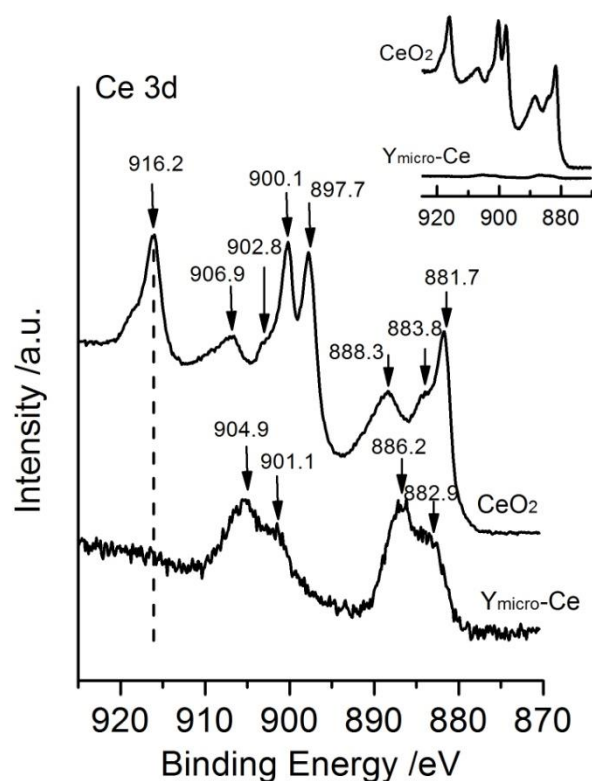


Supplementary Figure 12 | TEM and Co particle size distribution for Co/Y_{micro}-Na, Co/Y_{meso}-Na, Co/Y_{micro}-H and Co/Y_{meso}-H. (a) Co/Y_{micro}-Na, (b) Co/Y_{meso}-Na, (c) Co/Y_{micro}-H, (d) Co/Y_{meso}-H. The morphology observation of (a) and (d) was obtained by using JEOL JEM-2100F2 (National Institute for Materials Science, Japan). The morphology observation of (b) and (c) was obtained by using JEOL JEM-2100F (Institute of Coal Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China).

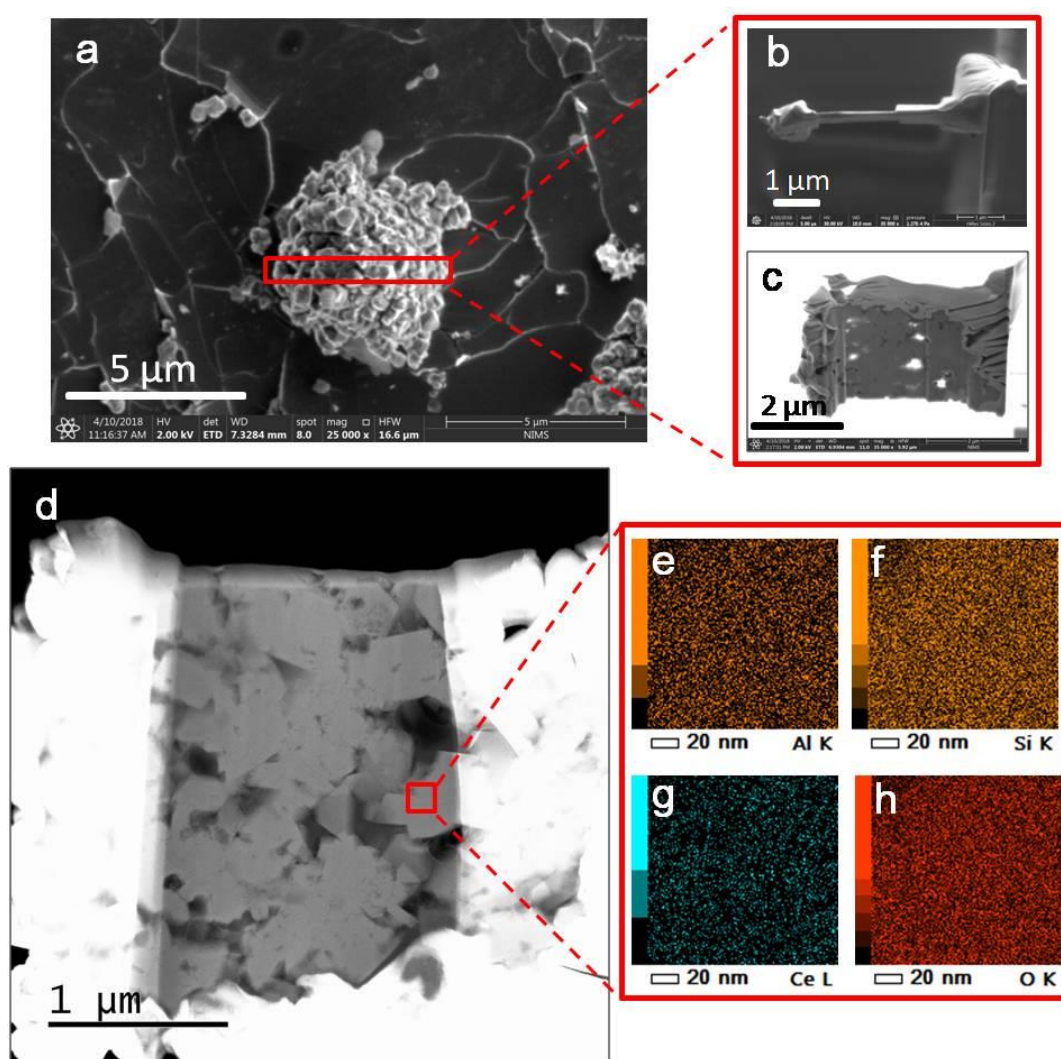
Supplementary Table 8 | Physicochemical properties for Co/Y_{micro}-Na, Co/Y_{meso}-Na, Co/Y_{micro}-H and Co/Y_{meso}-H.

Sample	Reduction degree^a [%]	H₂ chemisorption amount^b [μmol g⁻¹]	Co dispersion^c [%]	Co diameter^d [nm]	Mean Co size^e [nm]
Co/Y _{micro} -Na	77	64	6.5	15	19
Co/Y _{meso} -Na	79	91	9.0	11	15
Co/Y _{micro} -H	61	56	7.3	13	18
Co/Y _{meso} -H	49	53	8.5	11	16

(**a**) Measured by the H₂-O₂ titration method; (**b**) evaluated from the H₂ chemisorption measurement; (**c**) calculated from the H₂ chemisorption amount; (**d**) calculated using the following equation: Co diameter = 0.96/dispersion^{11,12}; (**e**) evaluated from the TEM images.



Supplementary Figure 13 | XPS spectra of Ce 3d for CeO₂ and Y_{micro}-Ce. The inset is the Ce 3d XPS at the same test conditions. To facilitate comparison, the peak intensity of CeO₂ was reduced by 20 times. For the CeO₂, the peaks of binding energies at 881.7, 883.8, 888.3 and 897.7 eV corresponded to Ce 3d_{5/2} and its satellite, respectively. The peaks at 900.1, 902.8, 906.9 and 916.2 eV were due to Ce 3d_{3/2} and its satellite^{13,14}. For the Y_{micro}-Ce, the binding energies of 882.9 and 886.2 eV were assigned to Ce 3d_{5/2} and its satellite, and those at 901.1 and 904.9 eV corresponded to Ce 3d_{3/2} and its satellite. Typically, the Ce (IV) species showed a characteristic peak at 916.2 eV such as CeO₂. But the Y_{micro}-Ce had no obvious characteristic peak at 916.2 eV, and the peaks were similar with those of Ce 3d XPS of Ce(NO₃)₃¹⁴, suggesting that the Ce ion remained trivalent in the Y_{micro}-Ce.

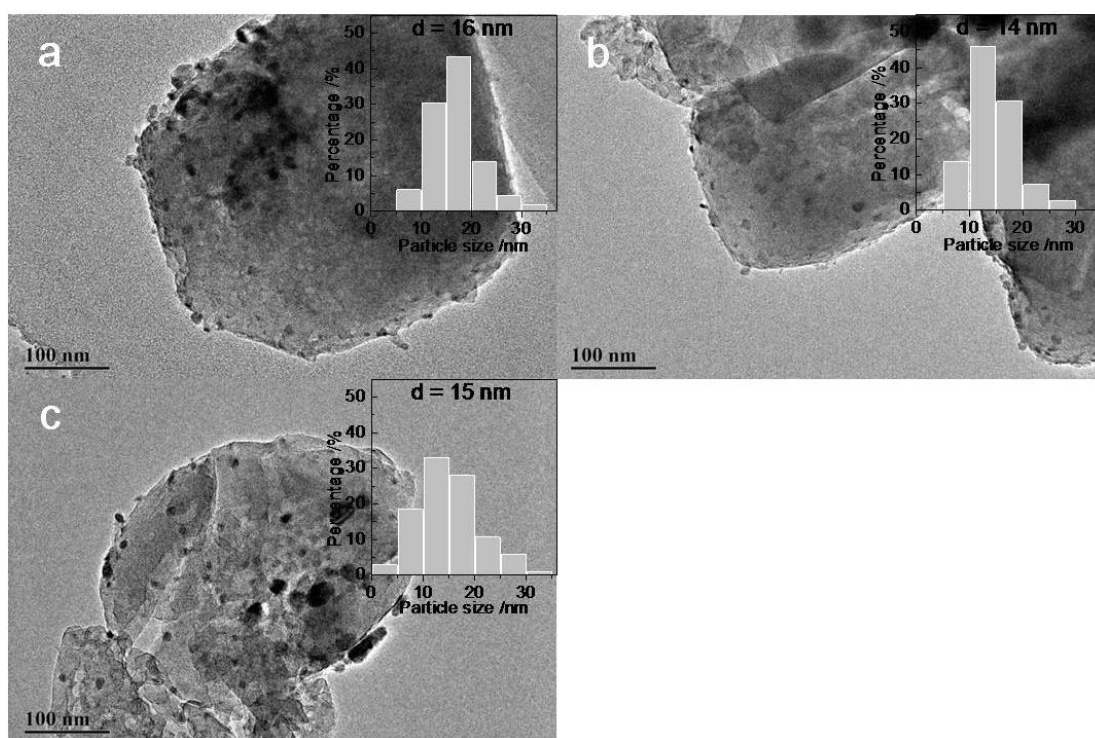


Supplementary Figure 14 | FIB-SEM and STEM results for the Y_{micro}-Ce. (a)-(c) SEM observation for FIB samples: (a) the accumulation from a number of Y_{micro}-Ce particles, (b) the Y_{micro}-Ce particles with thickness of 100 nm after FIB cutting, (c) the new cross-section of the Y_{micro}-Ce particles; (d) STEM for the new cross-section; (e)-(h) EDS analysis for Al, Si, Ce and O in a single Y_{micro}-Ce particle. Please note that original thickness of single particle of Y_{micro}-Ce was about 500-1000 nm.

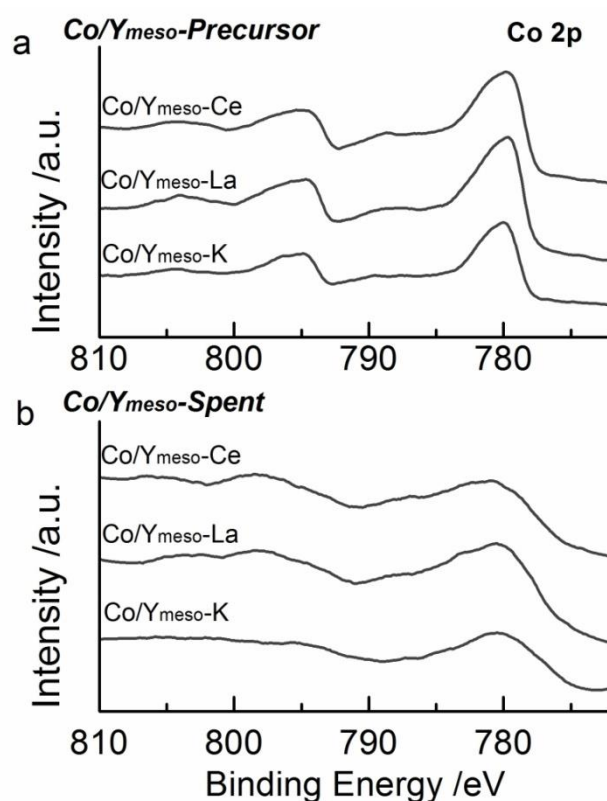
Supplementary Table 9 | Effect of alkali metal ions added to Co/Y_{meso}-Na on FT activity.^a

Catalyst ^b	Addition of Alkali [wt %]	Addition amount/Co [molar ratio]	Internal Na/Co [molar ratio]	CO Conv. [%]
Co/Y _{meso} -H	0	0	~ 0	28
Co/Y _{meso} -Na	0	0	1.4	32
Co-Li/Y _{meso} -Na	2	1.1	1.4	6.5
Co-Na/Y _{meso} -Na	2	0.3	1.4	15
Co-K/Y _{meso} -Na	2	0.2	1.4	20

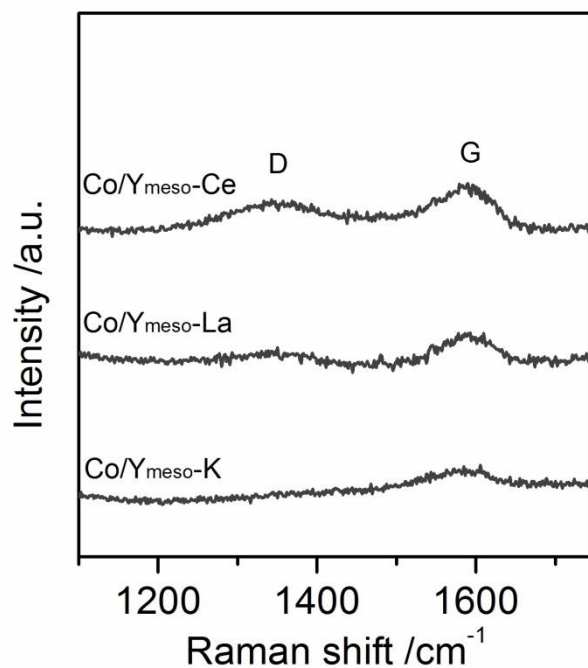
(a) Reaction conditions: $T = 523$ K; $P = 2.0$ MPa; $H_2/CO = 1.0$; flow rate, $W_{cat}/F = 10$ g h mol⁻¹; catalyst weight, 0.5 g; time on stream, 10 h. (b) The loading of Co was 15 wt%. Alkali metal ions were added by co-melt infiltration with Co(NO₃)₂·6H₂O and the alkali metal nitrates. The Co/Y_{meso}-Na with internal Na/Co ratio of 1.4 did not influence the FT activity, compared with the Co/Y_{meso}-H. But the Co-Li/Y_{meso}-Na, prepared by extra Li addition with Li/Co ratio of 1.1, significantly decreased the FT activity.



Supplementary Figure 15 | TEM and Co particle size distribution of Co/Y_{meso} samples after the FT reaction. (a) Co/Y_{meso}-Ce, (b) Co/Y_{meso}-La, (c) Co/Y_{meso}-K. The morphology observation was obtained by using JEOL JEM-2100F.



Supplementary Figure 16 | XPS spectra of Co 2p for Co/Y_{meso}-Precursor and Co/Y_{meso}-Spent. XPS results revealed two main components for Co 2p_{3/2}, Co 2p_{1/2}, and their satellites both on Co/Y_{meso}-Precursor and Co/Y_{meso}-Spent¹⁵⁻¹⁷. The peak of Co 2p_{3/2} in 780 eV region for the Co/Y_{meso}-Precursor was due to Co₃O₄. The same region for the Co/Y_{meso}-Spent exhibited a mixture of cobalt oxides and metallic cobalt. In addition, in the Co/Y_{meso}-Precursor or Co/Y_{meso}-Spent, the cobalt phases of Co/Y_{meso}-Ce, Co/Y_{meso}-La, and Co/Y_{meso}-K were very similar to each other.



Supplementary Figure 17 | Raman spectra for Co/Y_{meso} after the FT synthesis of 10

h. The D band is associated with disordered structure of graphene. The G band is due to the first-order scattering of E_{2g} mode of sp² carbon domains. It arises from the stretching of the C-C bond in graphitic materials^{18,19}. Although G bands were slightly higher than D bands in these samples, they all displayed very weak peak intensity, indicating very weak carbon accumulation on these used Co/Y_{meso} catalysts.

Supplementary Note. The calculation details for the bifunctional catalyst distribution model. n is the number of carbon atoms in a product; α is the chain growth probability, and β is the cracking contribution degree. W_n is the weight fraction of a product with n number of carbon atoms; S_n is the selectivity to the product²⁰⁻²³.

Supplementary Equations.

The calculation details for the gasoline distribution model as follows:

$$W_n = n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2 \quad (1)$$

$$W_{1\sim 4} = \sum_{n=1}^4 (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) \quad (2)$$

$$W_{5\sim 11} = \sum_{n=5}^{11} (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) \quad (3)$$

$$W_{12+} = 1 - W_{1\sim 4} - W_{5\sim 11} \quad (4)$$

$$W_{5\sim 11}' = W_{5\sim 11} + \beta(1 - W_{1\sim 4} - W_{5\sim 11}) \quad (5)$$

$$W_{5\sim 11}'' = \beta + (1 - \beta) * W_{5\sim 11} - \beta * W_{1\sim 4} \quad (6)$$

$$W_{5\sim 11}' = \beta + (1 - \beta) * \sum_{n=5}^{11} (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) - \beta * \sum_{n=1}^4 (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) \quad (7)$$

$$S_{5\sim 11} (\%) = W_{5\sim 11}' * 100 \quad (8)$$

The calculation details for the jet fuel distribution model as follows:

$$W_{8\sim 16}' = \beta + (1 - \beta) * \sum_{n=8}^{16} (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) - \beta * \sum_{n=1}^7 (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) \quad (9)$$

$$S_{8\sim 16} (\%) = W_{8\sim 16}' * 100 \quad (10)$$

The calculation details for the diesel fuel distribution model as follows:

$$W_{10\sim 20}' = \beta + (1 - \beta) * \sum_{n=10}^{20} (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) - \beta * \sum_{n=1}^9 (n\alpha^{n-1}(1 - \alpha)^2) \quad (11)$$

$$S_{10\sim 20} (\%) = W_{10\sim 20}' * 100 \quad (12)$$

Supplementary Table 10 | Calculation result for the β value of gasoline.

Sample	Hydrocarbon Selectivity [%]				C_{12+}
	CH_4	C_{2-4}	C_{5-11}	C_{12+}	Contribution degree (β)
Ideal ASF distribution	1.0	7.1	26	66	0.7
Co/ Y_{meso} -Ce	11	6.6	74	8.6	

Due to weak cracking ability on the Co/SiO₂, the ideal ASF distribution of $\alpha = 0.9$ was obtained by supposing that the growth trend of hydrocarbons C_{5-11} follows the original ASF model. The gasoline β value was calculated by the Supplementary Equations 7 and 8.

Supplementary Table 11 | Calculation result for the β value of jet fuel.

Sample	Hydrocarbon Selectivity [%]				C ₁₇₊ Contribution degree (β)
	CH ₄	C ₂₋₇	C ₈₋₁₆	C ₁₇₊	
Ideal ASF distribution	1.0	18	33	48	0.8
Co/Y _{meso} -La	9.6	17	72	1.4	

The jet fuel β value was calculated by the Supplementary Equations 9 and 10.

Supplementary Table 12 | Calculation result for the β value of diesel fuel.

Sample	Hydrocarbon Selectivity [%]					C_{21+}
	CH_4	C_{2-4}	C_{5-9}	C_{10-20}	C_{21+}	Contribution degree (β)
Ideal ASF distribution	1.0	7.1	18	37	36	0.6
Co/ Y_{meso-K}	12	3.9	16	58	10	

The diesel fuel β value was calculated by the Supplementary Equations 11 and 12.

Supplementary Table 13 | Comparison of experimental liquid fuel distribution and model distribution.

Sample	Hydrocarbon Selectivity [%]		
	C ₅₋₁₁	C ₈₋₁₆	C ₁₀₋₂₀
Ideal ASF distribution	26	33	37
Bifunctional catalyst distribution model	72	72	59
Experimental distribution	74 ^a	72 ^b	58 ^c

(a) Gasoline selectivity over the Co/Y_{meso}-Ce; (b) jet fuel selectivity over the Co/Y_{meso}-La; (c) diesel fuel selectivity over the Co/Y_{meso}-K.

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