## **Supporting Information**

## MoS<sub>2</sub>-OH Bilayer Mediated Growth of Inch-Sized Monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> on Arbitrary Substrates

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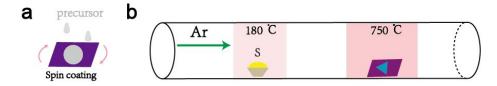
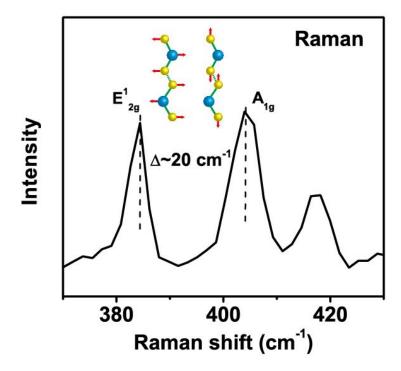
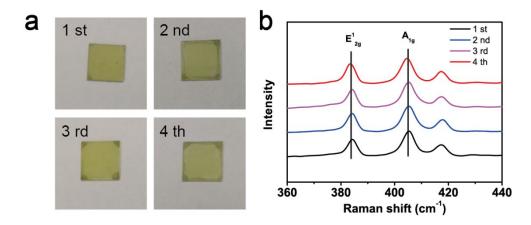


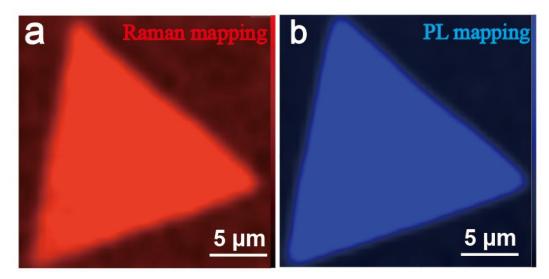
Figure S1. Schematic illustration of the  $MoS_2$  growth process including (a) spin-coating precursor solution on the substrate and (b) Annealing process in the tube furnace.



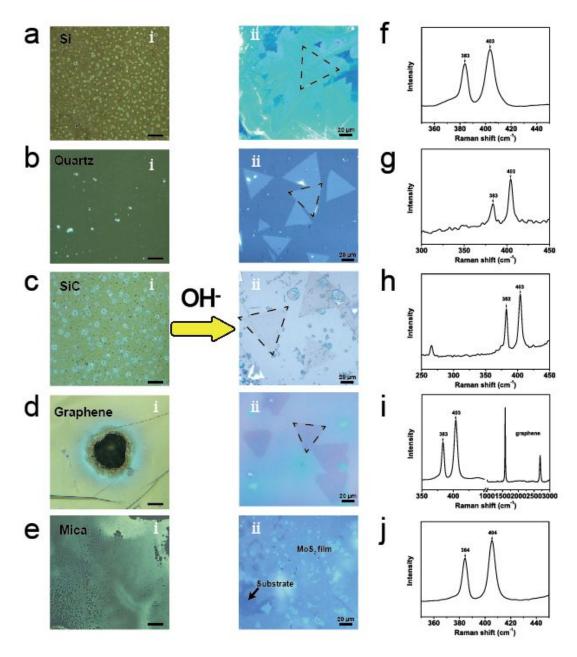
**Figure S2.** Raman spectra of the randomly selected position in the as-grown MoS<sub>2</sub> film. Raman modes of  $E_{2g}^1$  and  $A_{1g}$  are located at 384.3 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 404.6 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, suggesting the monolayer nature. The peak at 418 cm<sup>-1</sup> is resolved to the sapphire substrate.



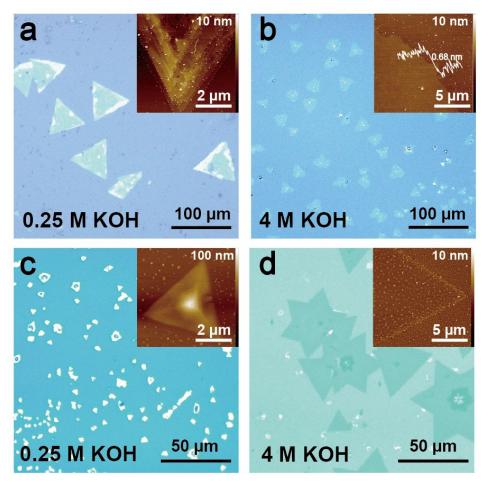
**Figure S3.** Photographs and Raman spectra of as-grown MoS<sub>2</sub> film on the sapphire substrate reused for four times. (a) Photographs show uniform films, (b) Raman spectra of four MoS<sub>2</sub> samples,  $E_{2g}^1$  and  $A_{1g}$  are located at ~384 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~404 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, corresponding to the monolayer.



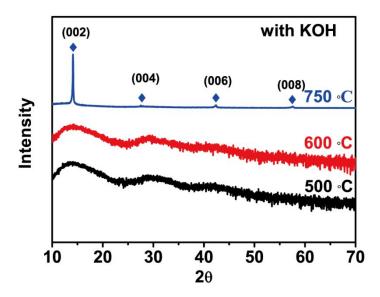
**Figure S4.** The monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> keeps good uniformity in thickness. (a) Raman intensity map of  $A_{1g}$  peak, (b) PL map of the A-exciton.



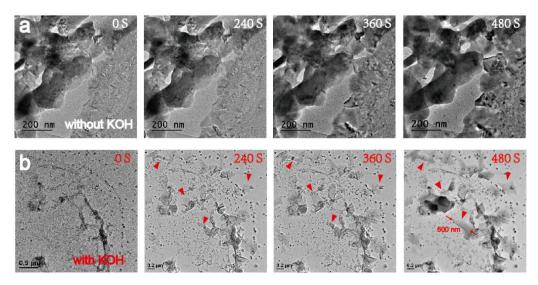
**Figure S5.** Substrate-independent growth of monolayer  $MoS_2$ . Optical microscopy (OM) images of  $MoS_2$  grown on diverse substrates without (i) and with -OH (ii), respectively. (a) Si, (b) quartz, (c) SiC, (d) graphene, (e) mica. (f - j) Corresponding Raman spectra of as-grown  $MoS_2$  with -OH on diverse substrates from ii, respectively.



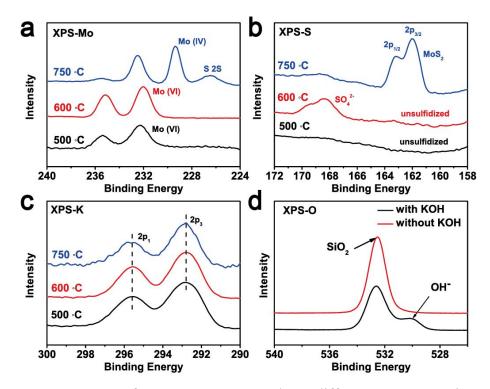
**Figure S6.** Insufficient and excess amount of -OH in the growth of monolayer  $MoS_2$  (a, b)  $MoS_2$  grown on sapphire with 0.25 and 4 M KOH, respectively. (b)  $MoS_2$  grown on  $SiO_2$  substrate with 0.25 and 4 M KOH, respectively.



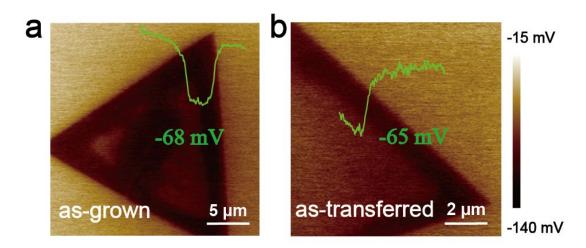
**Figure S7.** XRD patterns of the as-grown MoS<sub>2</sub> samples at different annealing temperature. MoS<sub>2</sub> samples have poor crystal quality at 500 and 600 °C but high-quality crystallinity at 750 °C.



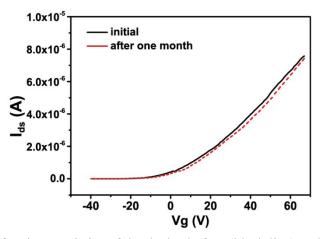
**Figure S8.** Long-time-resolved TEM images of the growth of  $MoS_2$  at 750 °C. As a comparison, (a)  $MoS_2$  grown in precursor solution without KOH, (b)  $MoS_2$  grown in 1 M KOH precursor solution. The length of flake increased from 0 to 600 nm.



**Figure S9.** XPS spectra of as-grown MoS<sub>2</sub> samples at different temperature in annealing process. (a) Mo 3d, (b) S 2p, (c) K 2p, (d) O peak of the achieved MoS<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S10.** KPFM images of direct growth and as-transferred MoS<sub>2</sub> monolayers, respectively.



**Figure S11.** Transfer characteristics of the device before (black line) and after one month (red line) in air.

**Supplementary Movie 1.** The evolution of SAED patterns during the crystallization process.

Supplementary Movie 2. dynamical behavior of the increased flake at 750 °C.