## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## Ultrasmall Ni-promoted $WS_2$ nanocatalyst with enhanced number of edge atoms for hydrodesulfurization

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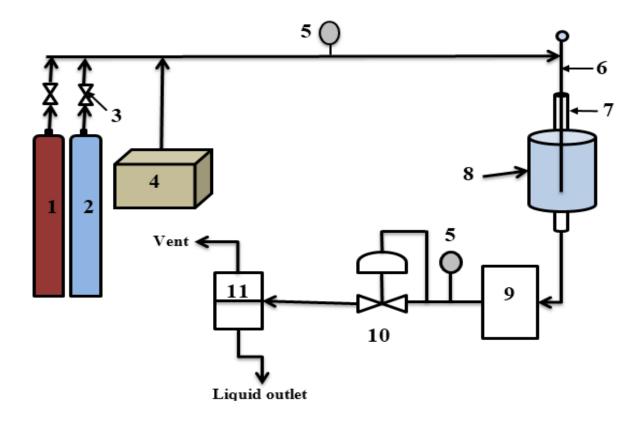
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Figure S1. Reaction pathways for the hydrodesulfurization of dibenzothiophene



1) Hydrogen Cylinder 2) Helium Cylinder 3) Mass flow controller 4) HPLC pump 5) Pressure gauge 6) Thermocouple 7) Reactor 8) Furnace 9) Condenser 10) Back pressure regulator 11) Gas liquid separator

Figure S2. Schematic diagram of experimental setup

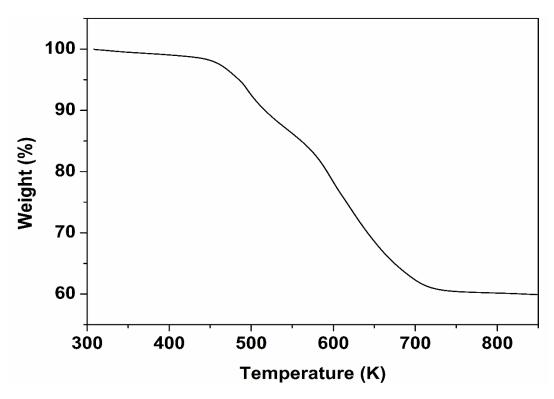


Figure S3. TGA analysis of unsupported Ni-promoted WO<sub>3</sub> nanoclusters

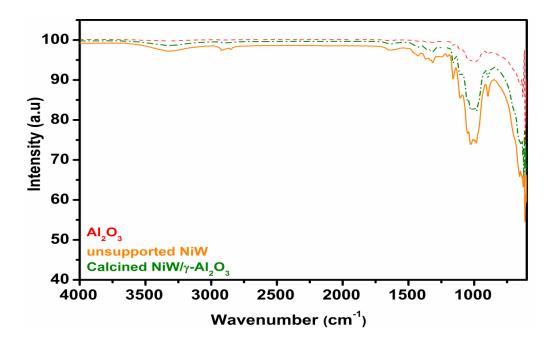


Figure S4. FT-IR spectra of Ni-promoted WO<sub>3</sub> nanoclusters

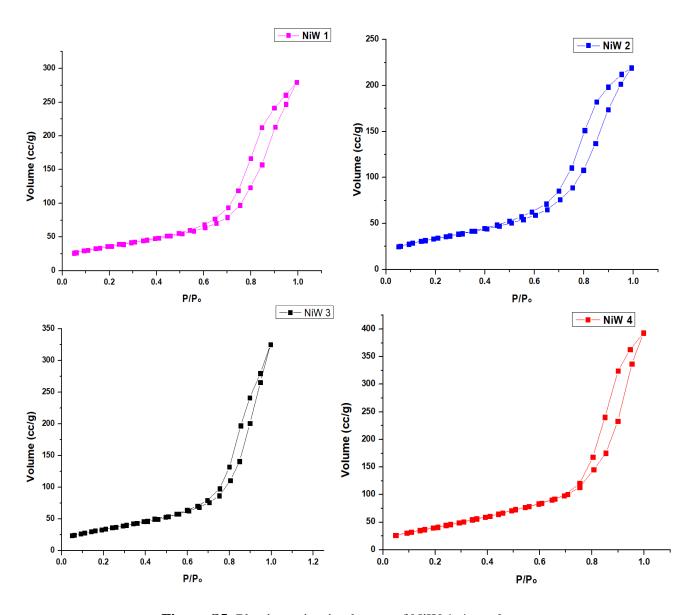
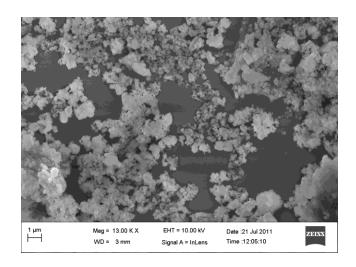


Figure S5. Physisorption isotherms of NiW 1-4 catalysts



**Figure S6.** SEM image of NiW 2 catalyst

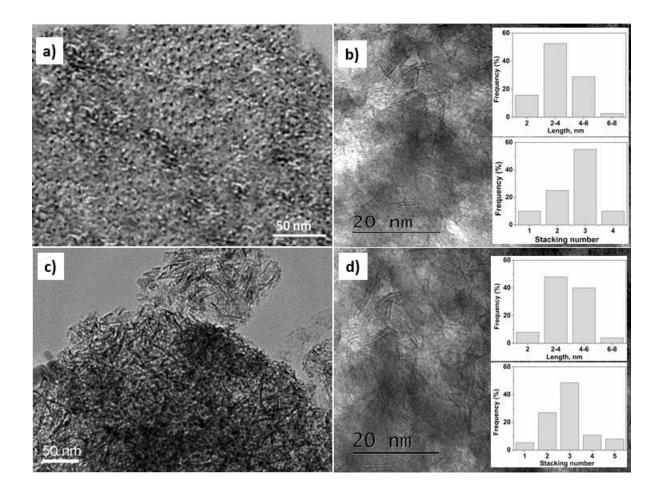


Figure S7. HRTEM images a) NiW 2 b) sulfided-NiW 2 c) NiW C1 d) sulfided NiW C1

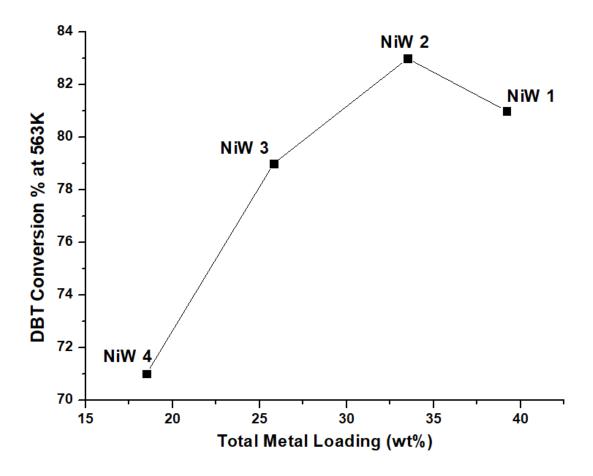
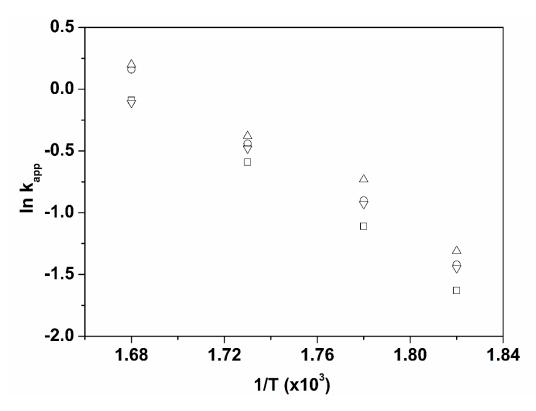
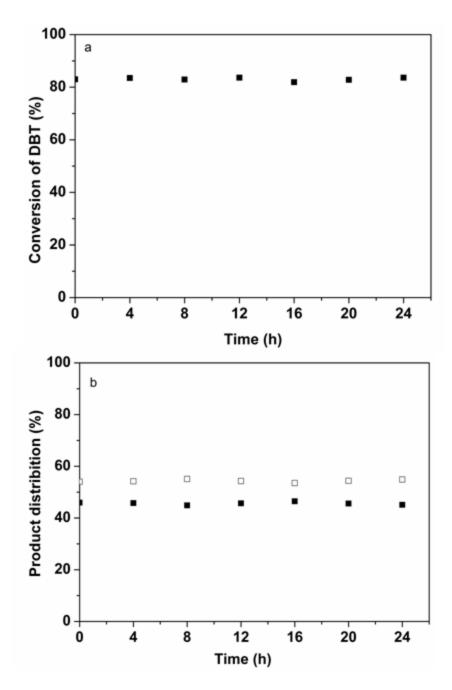


Figure S8. DBT conversion vs. total metal loading plot at 563K temperature



**Figure S9.** Arrhenius plot for the different Ni-promoted WS<sub>2</sub> nanocatalyst. NiW 1( $\square$ ); NiW 2( $\circ$ ); NiW 3( $\triangle$ ) and NiW 4 ( $\nabla$ )



**Figure S10.** Stability test for Ni-promoted WS<sub>2</sub> nanocatalyst under HDS reaction conditions (T= 563 K, amount of catalyst used= 150 mg, W/F<sub>Ao</sub>=  $2.38 \times 10^2 \text{ (kg cat.h/(kmol DBT))}$ ). Effect of time on (a) HDS activity, (b) product selectivity

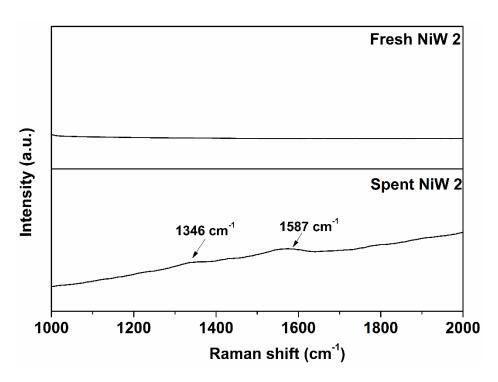
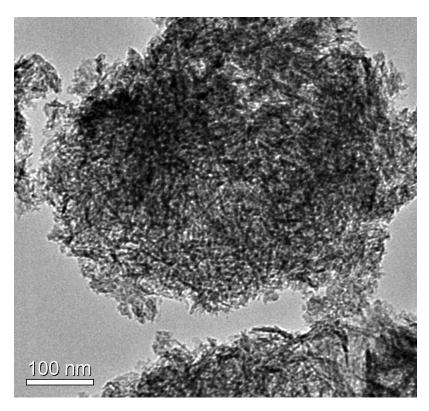


Figure S11. Raman spectra of NiW 2 catalyst.



**Figure S12.** HRTEM image of spent NiW 2