

Supporting Information

A Metal-Organic-Framework-Derived (Zn_{0.95}Cu_{0.05})_{0.6}Cd_{0.4}S Solid Solution as Efficient Photocatalyst for Hydrogen Evolution Reaction

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EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Preparation of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x\text{-MOF}$. $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (x mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (y mmol), $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($19y$ mmol), ($x / 20y = 0, 1/4, 2/3, 3/2, 4/1, 1, x + 20y = 1.69$), and PVP (1.0 g) were dissolved in DMF (30 mL) followed by addition of a DMF solution (30 mL) containing H_2bdc (0.501 g, 3.02 mmol) and PVP (1.0 g). After ultrasonic treatment, the solution was refluxed at 115 °C for 5 h. After natural refrigeration, the products were obtained via centrifugation, washed with DMF and methanol three times, respectively and then dried at 50 °C overnight. Finally, the products $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x\text{-MOF}$ ($(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})\text{-MOF}$, $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{-MOF}$, $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{-MOF}$, $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{-MOF}$, $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{-MOF}$ and Cd-MOF) were obtained.

Preparation of $\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x\text{-MOF}$. Similar to the synthetic method of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x\text{-MOF}$, while $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was replaced with $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ absolutely, and the products $\text{Zn}_x\text{Cd}_{1-x}\text{-MOF}$ (Zn-MOF , $\text{Zn}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{-MOF}$, $\text{Zn}_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{-MOF}$, $\text{Zn}_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{-MOF}$, $\text{Zn}_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{-MOF}$ and Cd-MOF) were obtained.

Materials characterization. The as-prepared nanocatalysts were characterized via powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD, D/Max-2500 X-ray diffractometer using Cu K α radiation, $\lambda = 1.54056 \text{ \AA}$, at a scan speed of 5° min^{-1} in the range $2\theta = 10\text{-}80^\circ$), thermogravimetric analyses (TGA, Labsys NETZSCH TG 209 Setaram apparatus with increasing rate of $10^\circ \text{ C min}^{-1}$ from 25 to 800 °C under N_2 atmosphere), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS, Axis Ultra DLD), UV-vis spectroscopy (Jasco V-570 spectrophotometer), photoluminescence spectroscopy (PL, Agilent Cary

Eclipse spectrophotometer), elemental analyses (C, H and N, Perkin-Elmer 2400-II CHNS/O analyzer), inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES, Spectro-Blue), scanning electron microscopy (SEM, JEOL JSM 7500F), transmission electron microscopy (TEM, FEI Tecnai G20), and nitrogen sorption isotherms measurement (Autosorb-IQ2 (Quantachrome Instruments), 77 K). The photoelectrochemical experiments were carried out in a CHI660D electrochemical system with a standard three-electrode configuration containing a Pt flake as the counter electrode, an Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and the synthesized catalysts as the working electrode in 0.1 M Na₂SO₄ solution. The working electrode was prepared on the basis of the literature.¹ A 300 W Xe lamp equipped with a 420 nm cut-off filter was used as the light source.

Photocatalytic activity tests. The photocatalytic activity for water splitting tests was conducted using a 300 W Xe lamp (PLS-SXE 300C, Beijing Perfect Light Co. Ltd, China, wavelength: 320-780 nm) as light source. The reactor was linked to a closed gas circulation and evacuation system. A typical hydrogen production experiment was performed by dispersing 50 mg catalyst in an aqueous solution involving Na₂S·9H₂O (35.0 mmol, 8.4 g) and Na₂SO₃ (25.0 mmol, 3.15 g) as the sacrificial electron donors. The reaction system was sealed and removed residual air thoroughly. The reaction system was investigated under irradiation through a 420 nm cut-off filter with a settled distance (10 cm), and the system temperature was maintained at 5 °C via water circulation under continuous magnetic stirring. The amount of gas product was

detected via gas chromatography using a thermal conductive detector (TCD) with N₂ as the carrier gas.

Calculation Method and Models. In this work, density functional theory (DFT) based calculations were implemented by the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP) to optimize the structures and calculate the projected band structure and projected density of states (PDOS). The ion-electron interactions were depicted by projector augmented waves (PAW)² when the function of Perdew, Burke and Ernzerhof (PBE)³ based on the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) was adopted to describe the exchange and correlation potential. In this calculation, 7*7*7 Monkhorst-Pack⁴ sampled k points were used and a cut-off energy of 400 eV was adopted. The threshold of convergence was set to 1×10^{-5} eV and 0.01 eV/Å for the self-consistent field (SCF) and ion steps, respectively. It should be noted that the method of DFT always underestimates the band gaps of semiconductors, though the qualitative conclusions from DFT calculations are usually reliable to illustrate the trends. The high-symmetry points in band structure are G (0, 0, 0), A (0, 0, 0.5), H (-0.333, 0.667, 0.5), K (-0.333, 0.667, 0), M (0, 0.5, 0) and L (0, 0.5, 0.5).

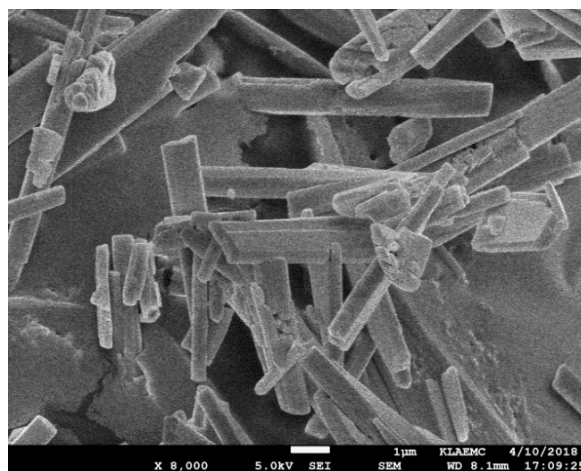


Figure S1 SEM image of Cd-MOF.

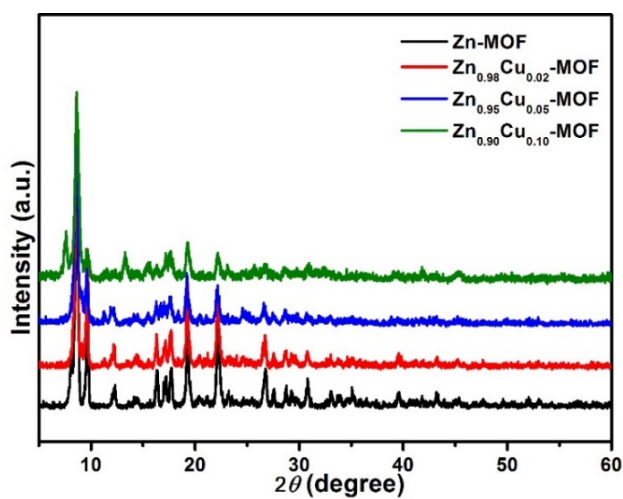


Figure S2 PXRD patterns of (Zn_{1-x}Cu_x)-MOF (x=0, 0.02, 0.05, 0.10).

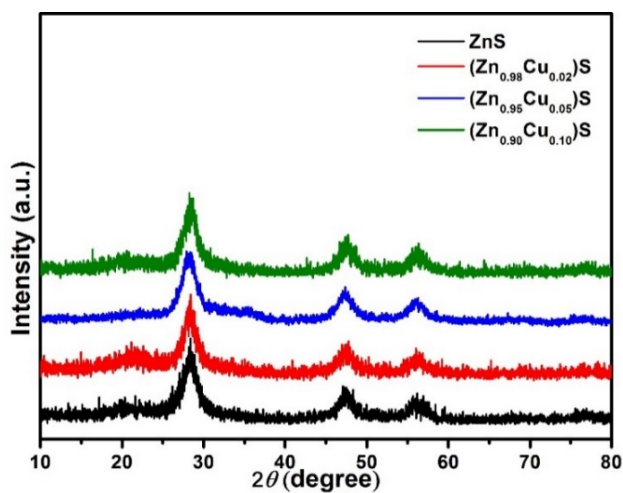


Figure S3 PXRD patterns of (Zn_{1-x}Cu_x)S solid solutions (x=0, 0.02, 0.05, 0.10).

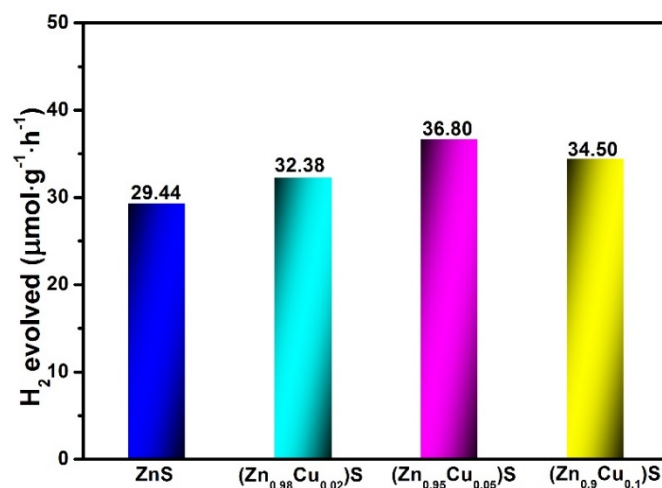


Figure S4 Comparison of photocatalytic HER rates with $(\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Cu}_x)\text{S}$ solid solutions under visible-light irradiation.

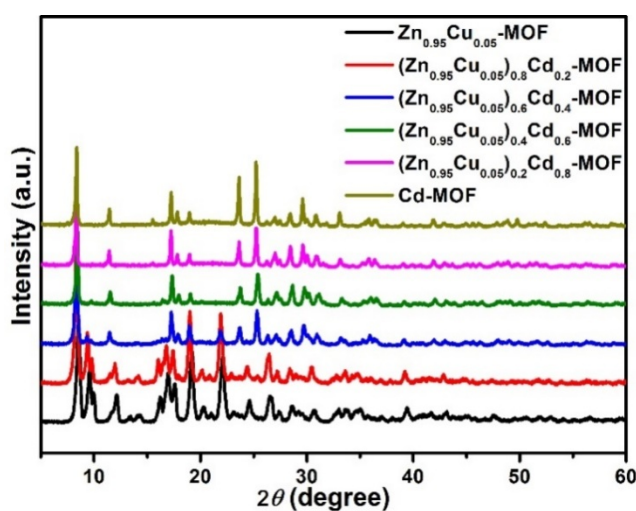


Figure S5 PXRD patterns of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x\text{-MOF}$.

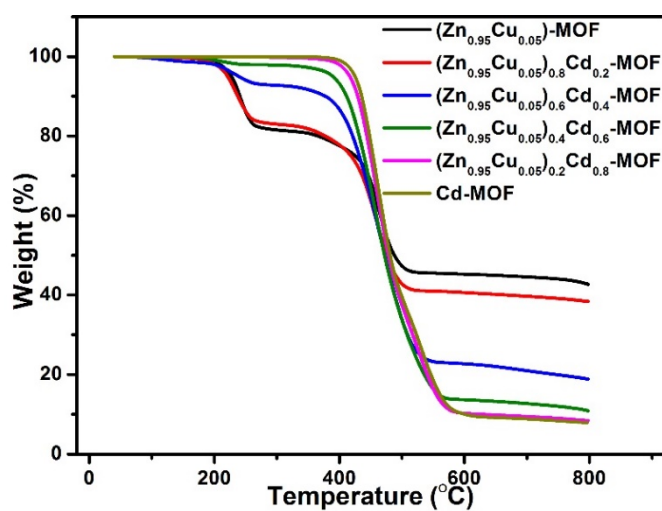


Figure S6 TGA curves of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x\text{-MOF}$.

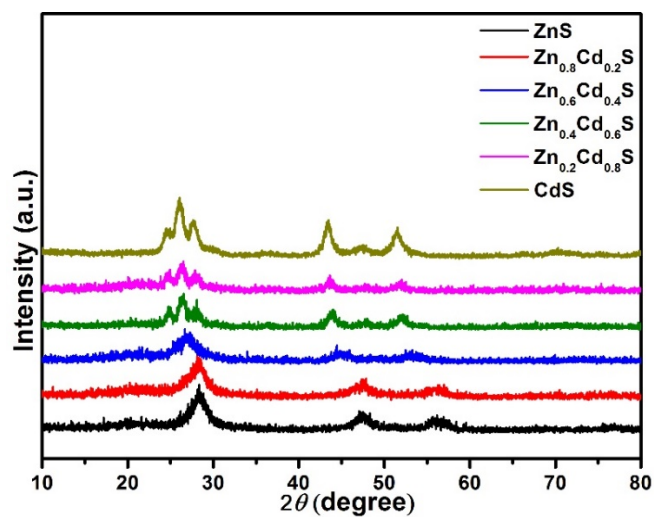


Figure S7 PXRD patterns of $(\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x)\text{S}$ solid solutions ($x=0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0$).

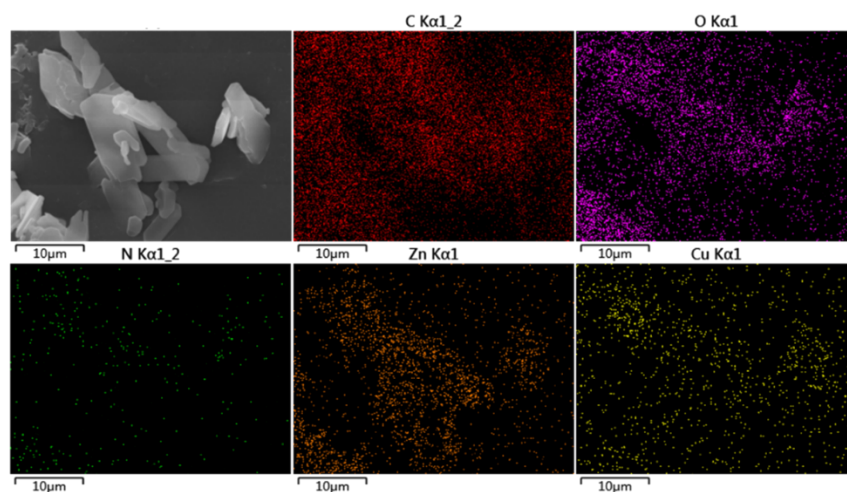


Figure S8 Elemental mapping images of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})\text{-MOF}$.

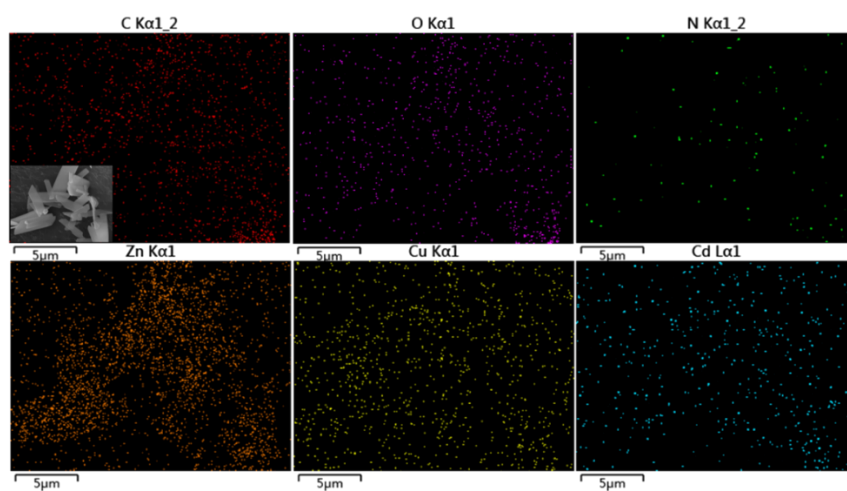


Figure S9 Elemental mapping images of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{-MOF}$.

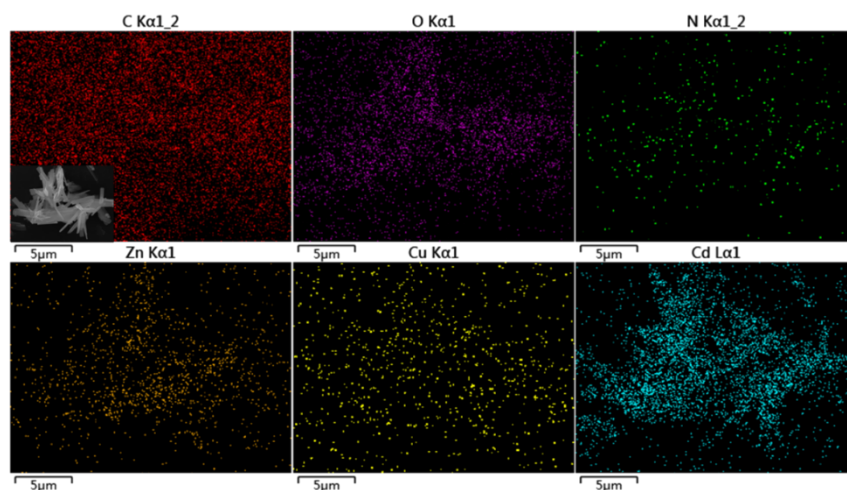


Figure S10 Elemental mapping images of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{-MOF}$.

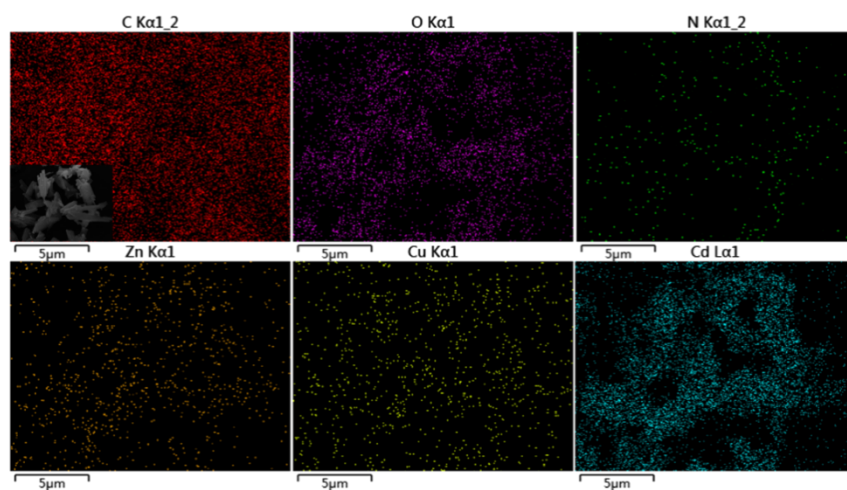


Figure S11 Elemental mapping images of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{-MOF}$.

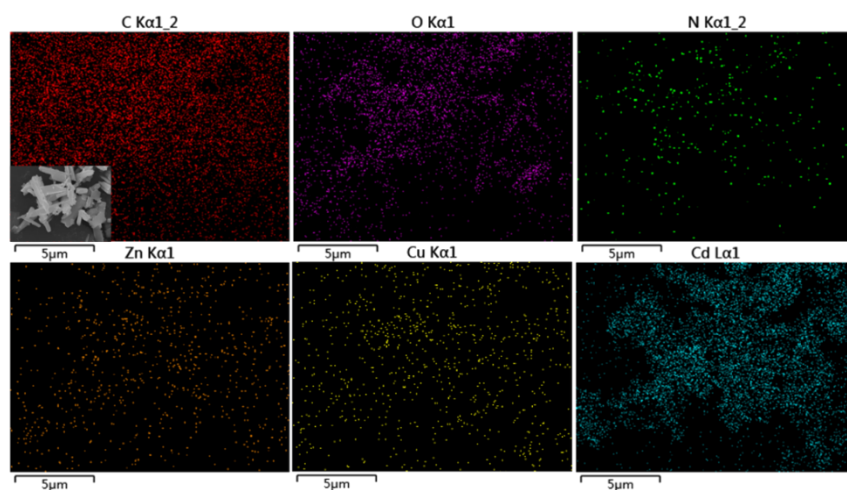


Figure S12 Elemental mapping images of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{-MOF}$.

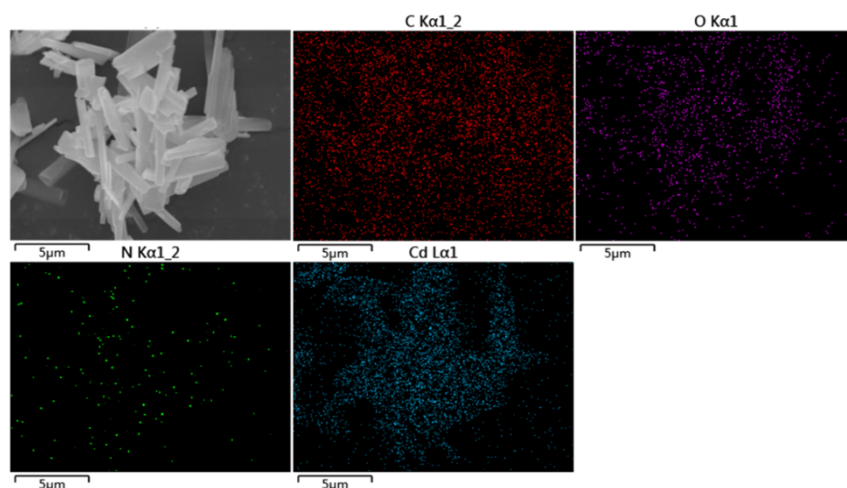


Figure S13 Elemental mapping images of Cd-MOF.

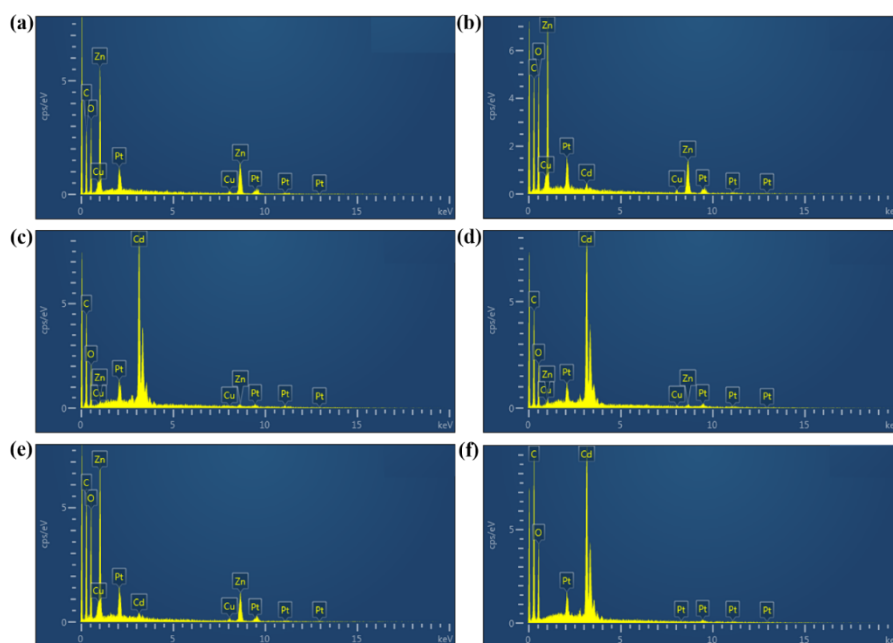


Figure S14 EDS patterns of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})\text{-MOF}$ (a), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{-MOF}$ (b), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{-MOF}$ (c), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{-MOF}$ (d), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{-MOF}$ (e) and Cd-MOF (f). The preparation techniques for EDX as follow: Firstly, stick the conductive adhesive tape on the sample holder; secondly, sprinkle the powder sample evenly on it and blow off the non-stick powder with an ear wash ball, and then spray a conductive layer (Pt) for testing.

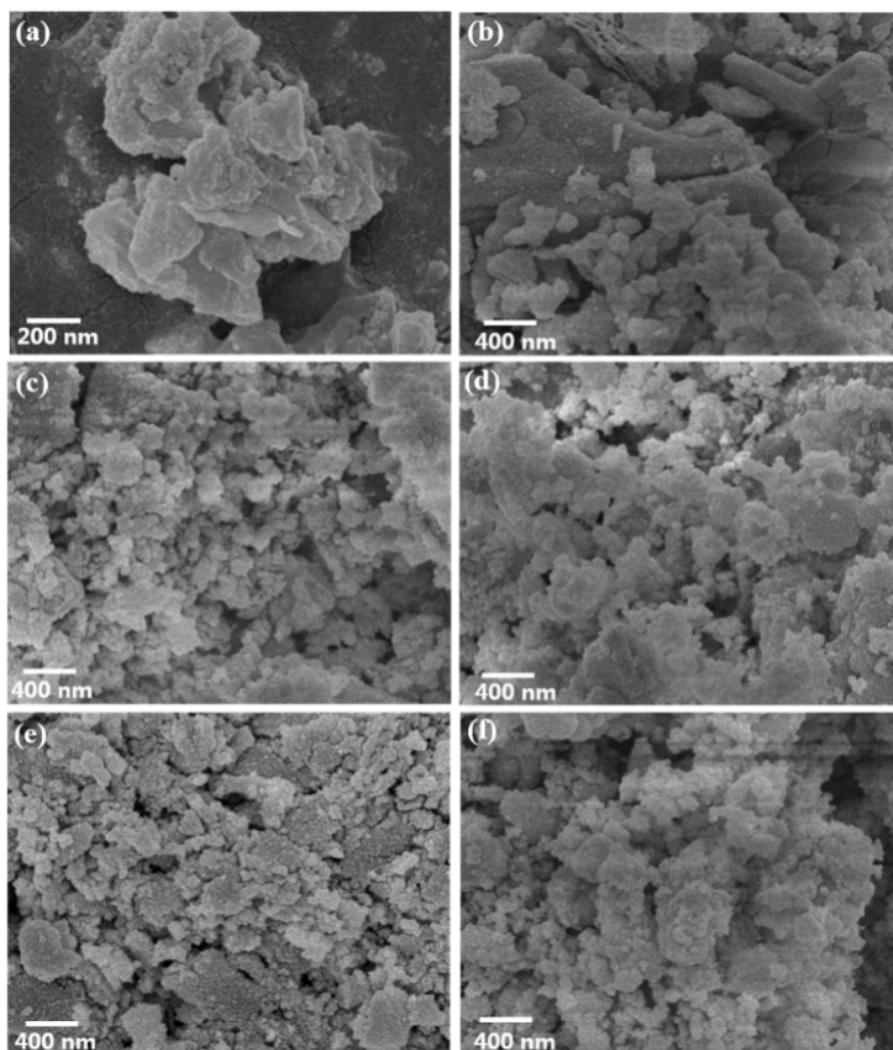


Figure S15 SEM images of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})\text{S}$ (a), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{S}$ (b), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ (c), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{S}$ (d), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{S}$ (e) and CdS (f).

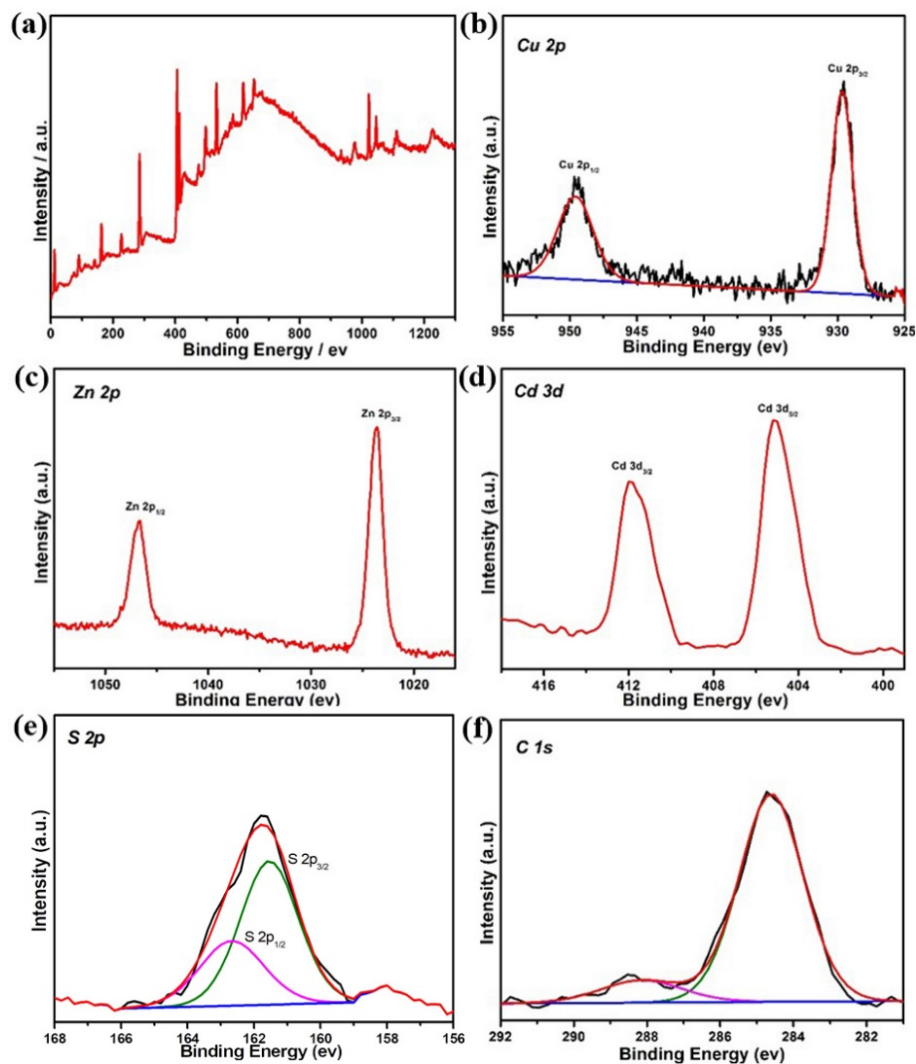


Figure S16 (a) XPS full-spectrum of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$, (b) Cu 2p spectrum, (c) Zn 2p spectrum, (d) Cd 3d spectrum, (e) S 2p spectrum and (f) C 1s spectrum.

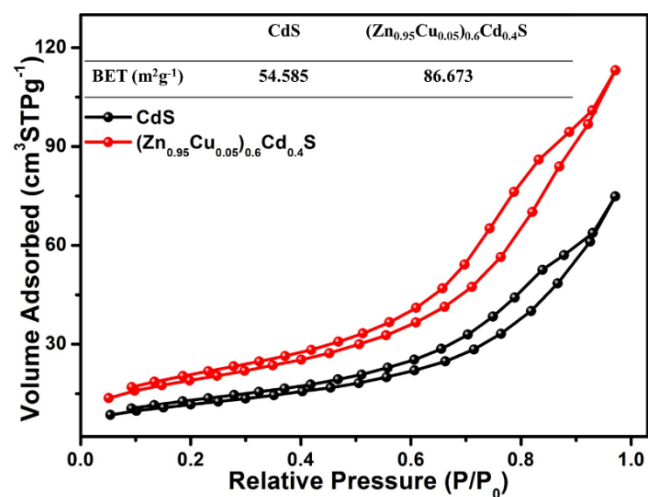


Figure S17 Nitrogen adsorption/desorption isotherms of CdS and $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$.

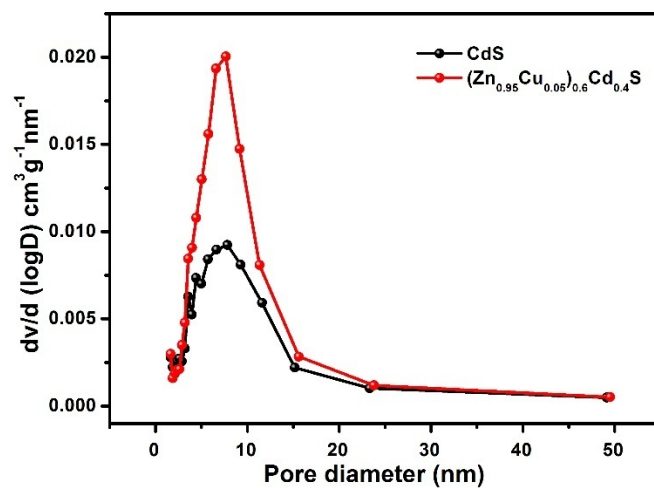


Figure S18 BJH pore size distribution from adsorption branch of CdS and $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$.

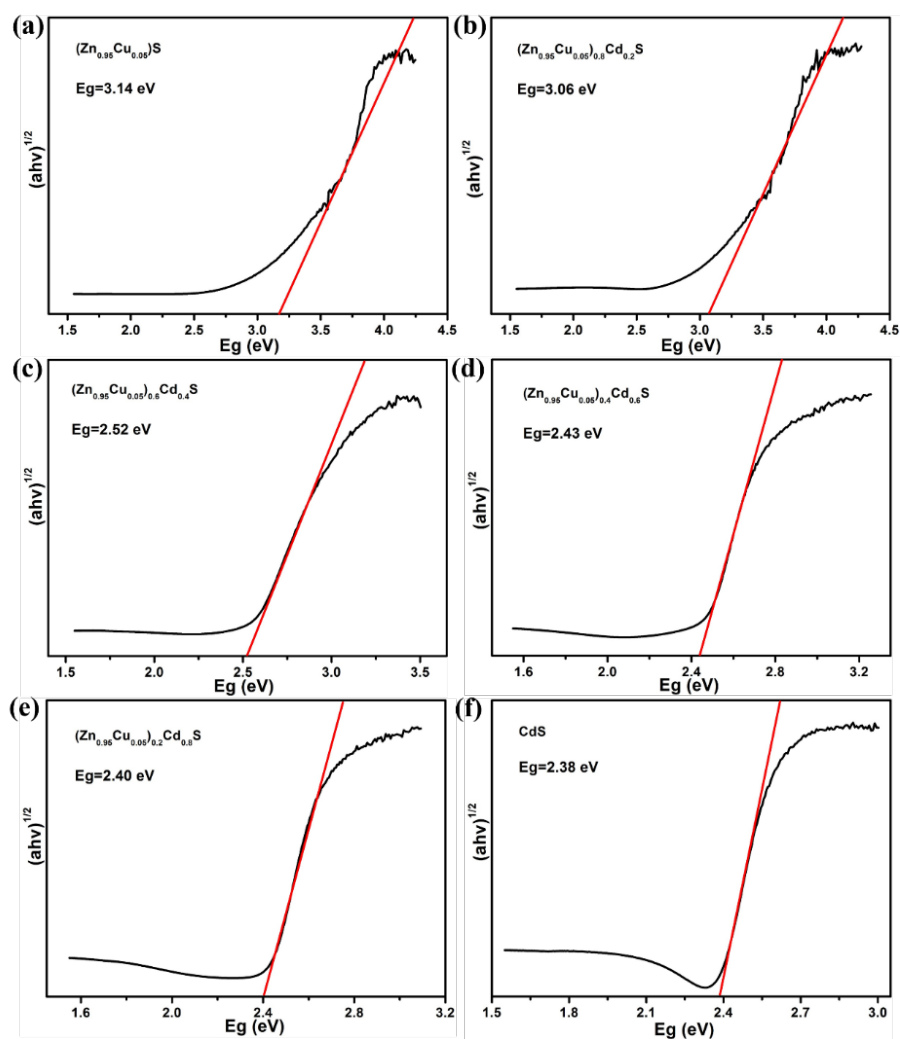


Figure S19 The bandgaps of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})\text{S}$ (a), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{S}$ (b), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ (c), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{S}$ (d), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{S}$ (e) and CdS (f) calculated according to the Kubelka-Munk (KM) method.

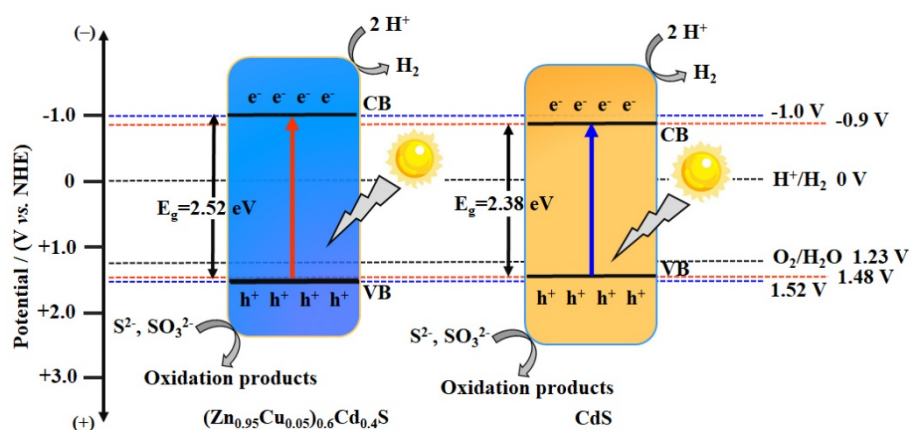


Figure S20 Mechanism of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ and CdS for photocatalytic hydrogen production.

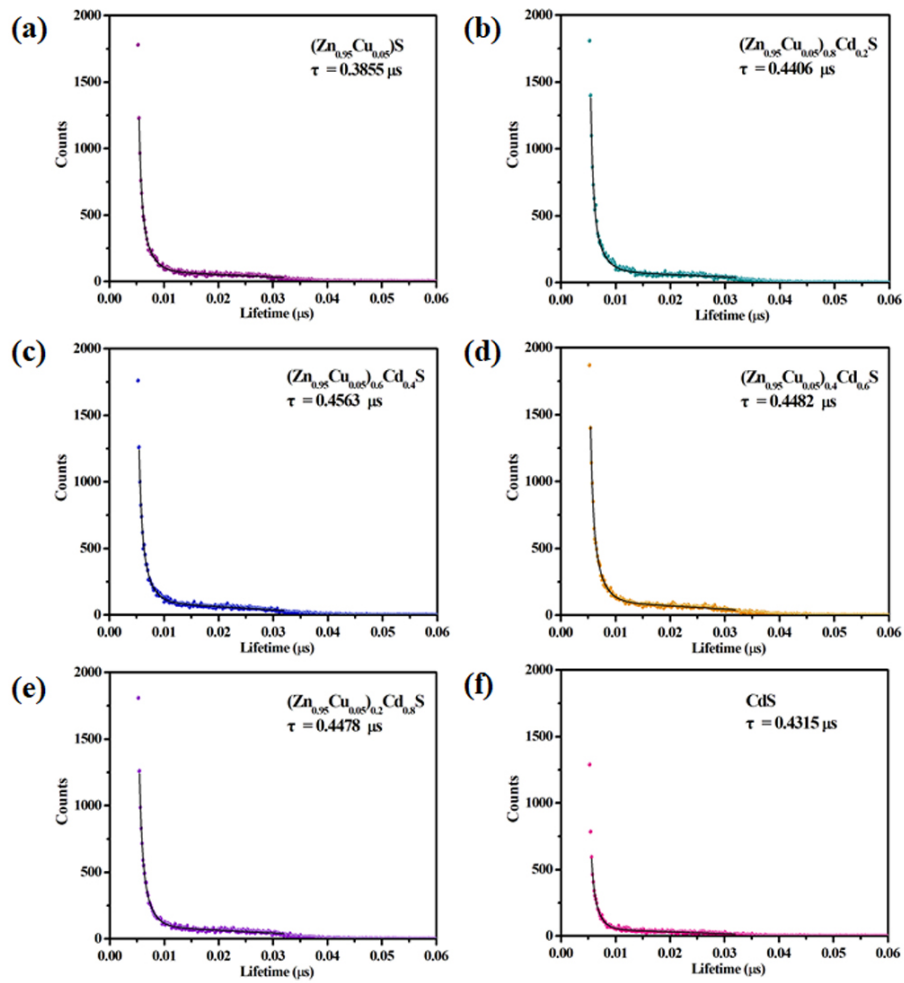


Figure S21 Decay curves and luminescent lifetimes of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})\text{S}$ (a), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{S}$ (b), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ (c), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{S}$ (d), $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{S}$ (e) and CdS (f).

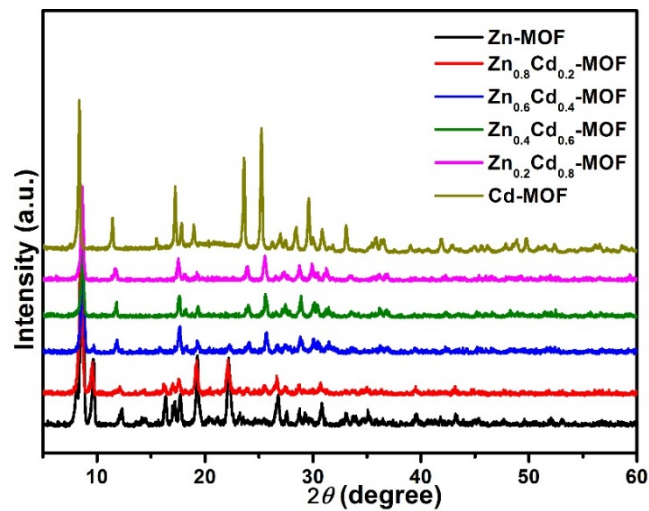


Figure S22 PXRD patterns of $(\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x)\text{-MOF}$ ($x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0$).

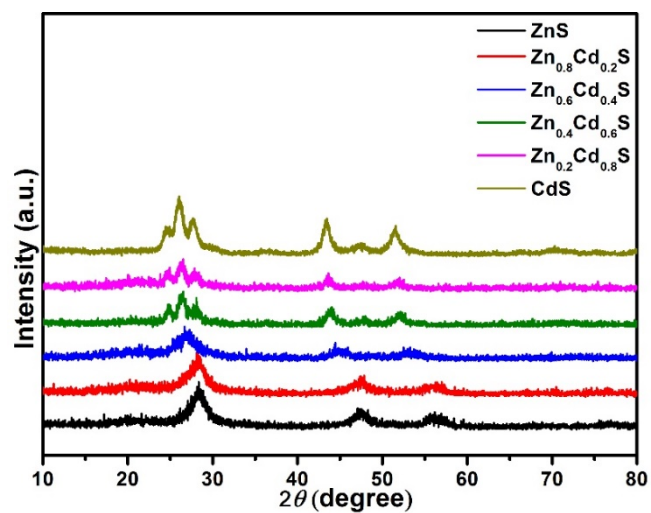


Figure S23 PXRD patterns of $(\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x)\text{S}$ solid solutions ($x=0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0$).

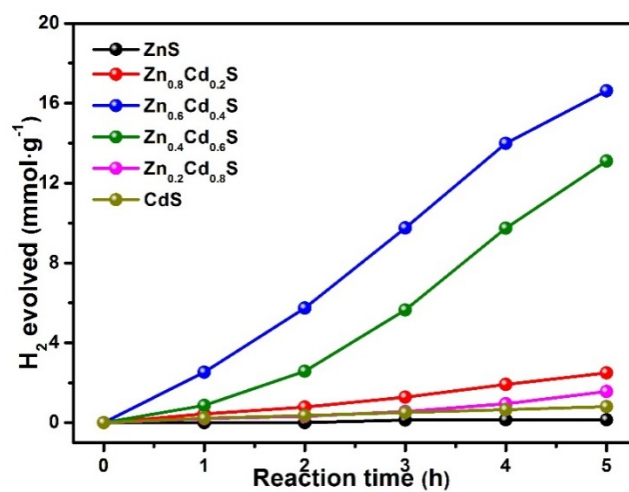


Figure S24 Photocatalytic performance of $(\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x)\text{S}$ solid solutions.

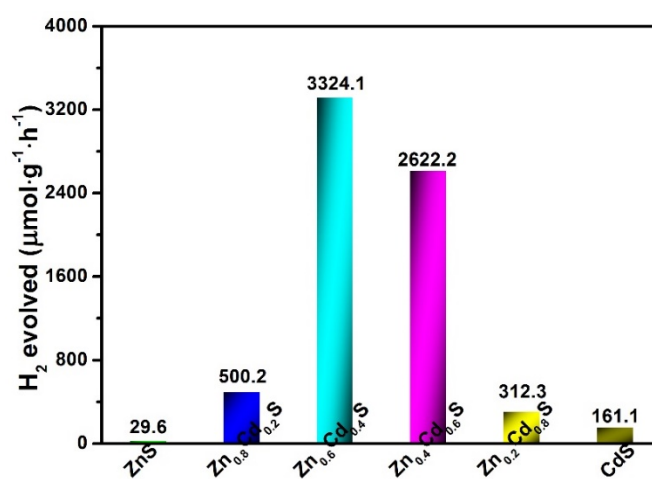


Figure S25 Comparison of photocatalytic HER of $(\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x)\text{S}$ solid solutions.

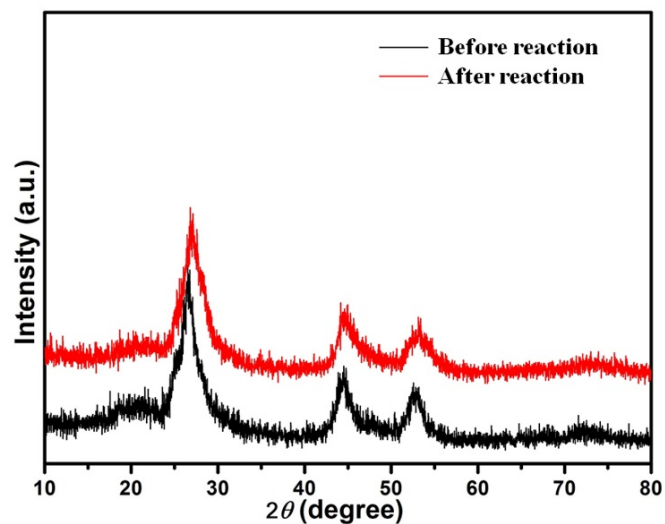


Figure S26 XRD patterns of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ collected after photocatalytic hydrogen evolution experiment.

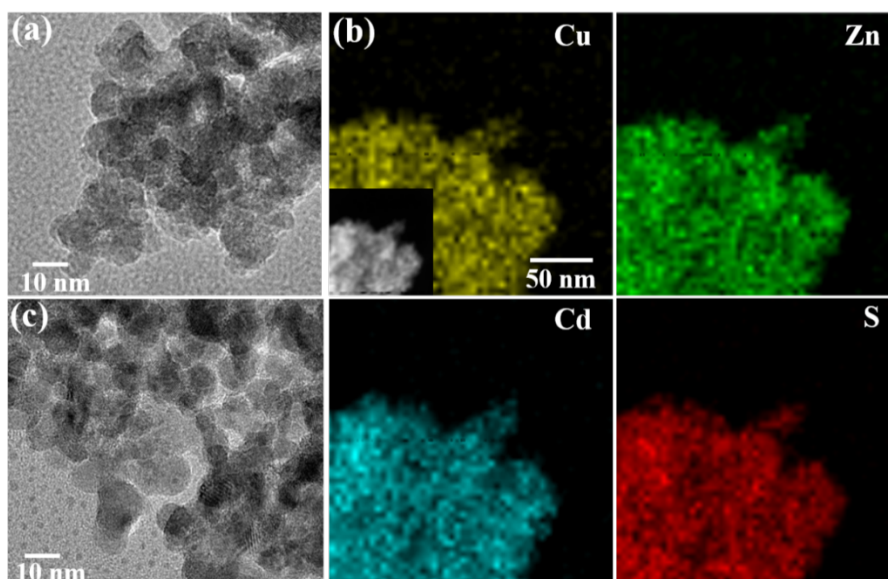


Figure S27 (a) TEM image of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ before reaction, (b) elemental mapping images, and (c) TEM image of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ collected after photocatalytic hydrogen evolution experiment.

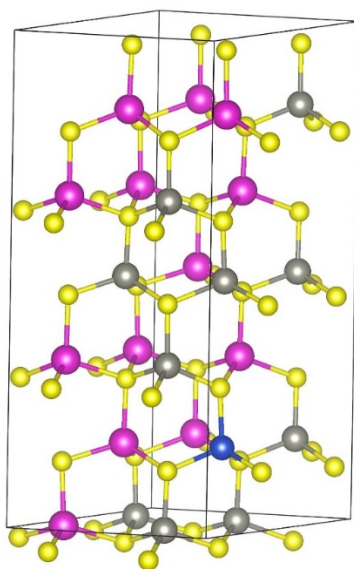


Figure S28 Solid solution model of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$ (grey: Zn, blue: Cu, pink: Cd, yellow: S).

Table S1. The experimental data of inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) and elemental analyses of $(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{1-x}\text{Cd}_x\text{S}$ solid solutions.

Sample	Weight percentage (wt %)					Atomic percentage (at %)				
	Zn	Cu	Cd	S	C	Zn	Cu	Cd	S	C
$(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})\text{S}$	52.80	4.37	-	35.86	6.97	31.62	2.63	-	43.46	22.29
$(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{S}$	49.00	4.31	6.72	32.74	7.23	31.11	2.54	2.40	40.95	23.00
$(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.6}\text{Cd}_{0.4}\text{S}$	21.70	2.58	51.7	20.83	3.19	19.41	2.27	26.14	37.5	14.68
$(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.4}\text{Cd}_{0.6}\text{S}$	5.97	1.42	69.90	21.34	1.37	6.61	1.30	40.91	43.99	7.19
$(\text{Zn}_{0.95}\text{Cu}_{0.05})_{0.2}\text{Cd}_{0.8}\text{S}$	2.58	0.47	75.30	20.73	0.92	2.78	0.48	46.50	44.97	5.27
CdS	-	-	81.00	18.21	0.79	-	-	53.21	41.99	4.80

Table S2 The energy positions of conduction and valence bands of samples. (ECB based on Mott-Schottky plots)

Sample	E _g (eV)	ECB (vs. NHE)	EVB (vs. NHE)
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05})S	3.14	-1.11	2.03
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05}) _{0.8} Cd _{0.2} S	3.06	-1.22	1.84
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05}) _{0.6} Cd _{0.4} S	2.52	-1.00	1.52
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05}) _{0.4} Cd _{0.6} S	2.43	-1.38	1.05
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05}) _{0.2} Cd _{0.8} S	2.40	-1.31	1.09
CdS	2.38	-0.50	1.88

Table S3. Comparison of the H₂-production rates of CuS_x cocatalysts solid solution for water splitting

Catalysts	Light source	Photocatalytic reactions	Activity μmol·h ⁻¹ ·g ⁻¹	AQE	Stability	Ref
CuS/Cd _{0.4} Zn _{0.6} S	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	1000	-	> 4 h	[5]
Cu _{1.94} S-Zn _{0.23} Cd _{0.77} S	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	7735	26.4% at 420nm	<20 h	[6]
CuS/Zn _{0.8} Cd _{0.2} S	(500 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	2792	36.7% at 420 nm	-	[7]
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05}) _{0.6} Cd _{0.4} S	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	4150.1	7.91% at 420nm	> 40 h	This work

Table S4. Comparison of the H₂-production rates of CdS-based solid solution for water splitting

Catalysts	Light source	Photocatalytic reactions	Activity $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	AQE	Stability	Ref
Cd _{0.5} Zn _{0.5} S nanorod	(300 W Xe) > 430 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	2580	62% at 425 nm	28 h	[8]
1D Cd _{0.8} Zn _{0.2} S	(300 W Xe) > 400 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; DMF	157.46	-	<12 h	[9]
Zn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S porous nanosheets	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	1667	-	15 h	[10]
Cd _{0.5} Zn _{0.5} S	(300 W Xe) > 430 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	1790	43% at 420 nm	30 h	[11]
Hollow Zn _{0.6} Cd _{0.4} S cages	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	5680	-	30 h	[12]
Zn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S	(350 W Xe) > 400 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	7420	9.6% at 420 nm	-	[13]
ZnS/Zn _{1-x} Cd _x S/CdS	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	106500	-	60 h	[14]
Zn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S/PdP _{-0.33} S _{-1.67}	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	ascorbic acid; None noble metal cocatalyst	372120	19.7% at 420 nm	50 h	[15]
Ni ²⁺ -doped Zn _x Cd _{1-x} S	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	18820	22.8% at 420 nm	4 h	[16]
NiS/Zn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S/RGO	AM1.5, 100 mW cm ⁻²	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	7514	31.1% at 420 nm	12 h	[17]
NiS-Zn _{0.8} Cd _{0.2} S	(300 W Xe) ≥ 420 nm	Triethanolamine; None noble metal cocatalyst	2507	-	9 h	[18]
Ni(OH) ₂ -Zn _{0.8} Cd _{0.2} S	(300 W Xe) ≥ 420 nm	Triethanolamine; None noble metal cocatalyst	7160	29.5% at 420 nm	9 h	[18]
Ni-Zn _{0.8} Cd _{0.2} S	(300 W Xe) ≥ 420 nm	Triethanolamine; None noble metal cocatalyst	3242	-	9 h	[18]
NiO-Zn _{0.8} Cd _{0.2} S	(350 W Xe) ≥ 420 nm	Triethanolamine; None noble metal cocatalyst	117	-	9 h	[18]
NiS/Zn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S	(300 W Xe) > 420 nm	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ; None noble metal cocatalyst	16780	-	> 20 h	[19]
1T-1Li _x MoS ₂ /Cd _{0.5} Zn _{0.5} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	7699	-	20 h	[20]

$_{5S}$	≥ 420 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst				
MoS ₂ /Mn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	3938	-	12 h	[21]
	> 420 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst				
PdS/Mn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	12280	-	<12 h	[21]
	> 420 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst				
Cu _x S/Mn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	6940	-	12 h	[21]
(1≤x≤2)	> 420 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst				
MoS ₂ /Mn _{0.25} Cd _{0.75} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	12470	2.37% at	<24 h	[22]
	> 400 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst		420 nm		
Cu-doped Zn _{0.5} Cd _{0.5} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	21400	18.8% at	<9h	[23]
	≥ 420 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst		428 nm		
Cd _{0.1} Cu _{0.01} Zn _{0.89} S	(350 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	1167	9.6% at	10 h	[24]
	≥ 430 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst		420 nm		
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05}) _{0.67} Cd _{0.33} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	1693	15.7% at	<12 h	[25]
	≥ 420 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst		420 nm		
(Zn _{0.95} Cu _{0.05}) _{0.6} Cd _{0.4} S	(300 W Xe)	S ²⁻ /SO ₃ ²⁻ ;	4150.1	7.91% at	> 40 h	This
	> 420 nm	None noble metal cocatalyst		420 nm		work

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