Nanotek-2013

OMICS Group Conferences
Accelerating Scientific Discovery

3rd International Conference on
Nanotek & Expo

December 2-4, 2013 Las Vegas, USA

Gold nanoparticle/rutile Titanium (IV) Oxide Plasmon photo catalyst as environmental catalyts: Removal of phenol derivatives

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Abstract

Phenol derivatives use for the synthesis of many industrial chemical products, e.g., p-cresol for an antiseptic substance, bisphenol A for polycarbonate, and 2-naphthol for azo dyes. Among them, nonylphenol and bisphenol A are a well known endocrine disruptor, and the concentration in environmental water should be restricted below 0.1 ・M. Thus, a sunlight-driven process for completely removing phenol derivatives, particularly nonylphenol and bisphenol A, from the wastewater is of great importance for environmental conservation. On the other hand, gold nanoparticles (NPs) show the strong visible light absorption due to localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR). The LSPRdriven photocatalyst called as “plasmon photo catalyst” has recently attracted much attention as a new type of visible-light photocatalyst. In this talk, we show that visible light irradiation of gold nanoparticle (NP)-loaded rutile TiO2 (Au/rutile TiO2) Plasmon photo catalyst leads to rapid and complete removal and degradation of nonylphenol from its dilute aqueous solution. Au/rutile TiO2 exhibits much higher activity than Au/anatase TiO2 and BiVO4. Based on the results of the action spectrum analysis, the adsorption and Fourier-transformed infrared spectroscopic measurements, we show a unique reaction scheme consisting of a series of events, 1) the large adsorption and concentration of nonylphenol on the Au NP surface, 2) the successive efficient oxidation induced by the LSPR-driven interfacial electron transfer from Au NP to rutile TiO2, and 3) the regeneration of the adsorption sites by the surface transport of the intermediates from Au to TiO2.

Biography

Shin-ichi Naya received his BS in 1996, MD in 1998 and PhD in 2001 in Chemistry from Waseda University. He joined the research group of Prof. M. Nitta at Waseda University as a research associate in 2000 and subsequently served as a postdoctoral fellow of 21COE “Practical Nano-chemistry” at Waseda University in 2003. In 2006 he served as a postdoctoral fellow of 21COE “New Functional Materials for Highly Efficient Energyy stems” at Aoyama Gakuin University. In 2007 he joined the staff of Environmental Research Laboratory at Kinki University.