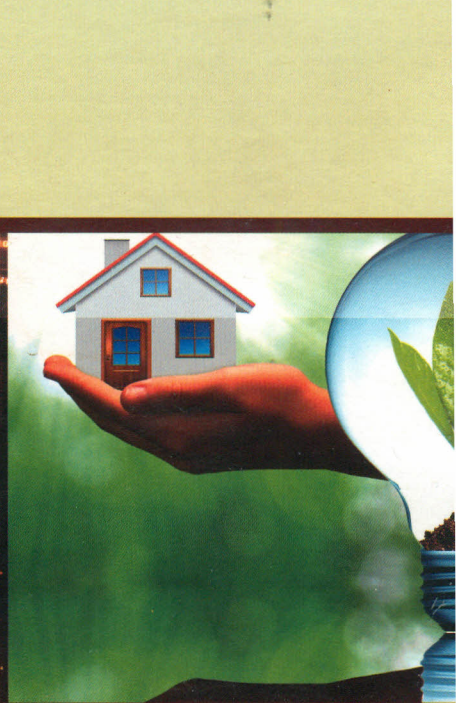
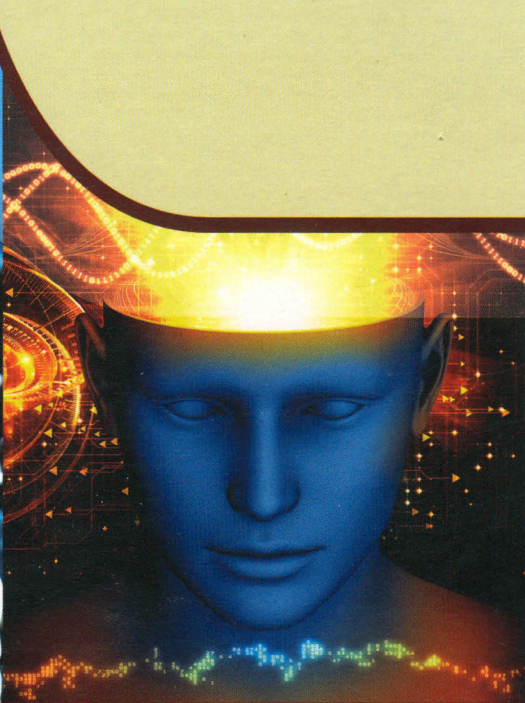


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The International Conference
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**Proceedings of the International Conference on
Nanoscience and Nanotechnology - 2014**

ICNSNT- 2014

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12th- 13th August 2014

The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM)

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Committee of the ICNSNT & ICOE - 2014

The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM)

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Proceedings of the International Conference on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology & the International Conference on Energy, 2014

Edited by Dilan Rathnayake and Others

86 pages

ISSN: 2386 – 1223

ISBN: 978-955-4903-15-9

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Published by ICNSNT/ICOE 2014 and The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIIKM)

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**CADMIUM SULPHIDE (CDS) QUANTUM DOTS (QD) ON VERTICALLY
ALIGNED ZINC OXIDE (ZNO) NANORODS FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC
APPLICATION**

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ABSTRACT

Nanostructured metal oxides are promising candidate for cost efficient solar cells. A key advantage of using metal oxides as electron acceptors is the capability to produce rigid, nanocrystalline structures that present a direct and ordered path for photo-generated electrons to the collecting electrode. This may be done using templated porous structures, tetrapods, or vertically aligned nanorods. In this work, ZnO nanorods were synthesized via a low temperature hydrothermal process on a ZnO thin film coated FTO substrate. CdS quantum dots (QD) were then deposited on ZnO nanorods by chemical bath deposition. Fabricated ZnO nanorods and CdS QD coated ZnO nanorods were characterized using Field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), Transmission electron microscopy (TEM), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and UV-Vis spectroscopy techniques. FESEM micrographs confirm that the nanorods were vertically oriented and well-aligned over the substrate. The length of the ZnO nanorods was determined as 500 nm with diameters ranging from 25 to 50 nm. An XRD diffraction pattern indicates the presence of ZnO and CdS phases adopting the typical hexagonal wurtzite and cubic zinc blende structure, respectively. TEM image shows the average size of fabricated CdS quantum dots was about 5 nm. The strong absorption peak over the near infra-red region in UV-Vis-NIR spectra also ensured the presence of crystalline CdS on the ZnO nanorods array. Quantum dots sensitized solar cell (QDSSC) was successfully fabricated using CdS QDs and vertically aligned ZnO nanorods. The cell yields a short circuit current density over 1 mAcm^{-2} and resulting an overall power conversion efficiency over 0.3 % under AM 1.5 irradiation (80 mW/cm^2).

Keywords: ZnO, CdS, nanorods, quantum dots, QDSSC