

## Supplementary Material

## 1 Supplementary Figures

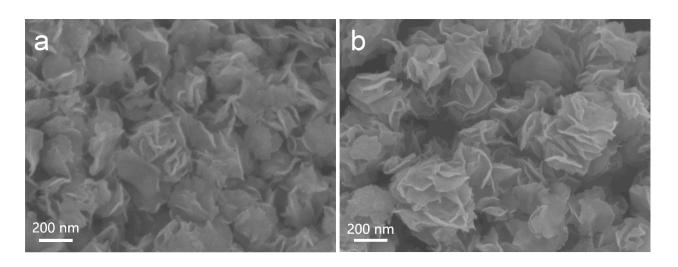


Figure S1. SEM image of  $MoS_2$  (a) and  $MoS_{2-x}$  (b).

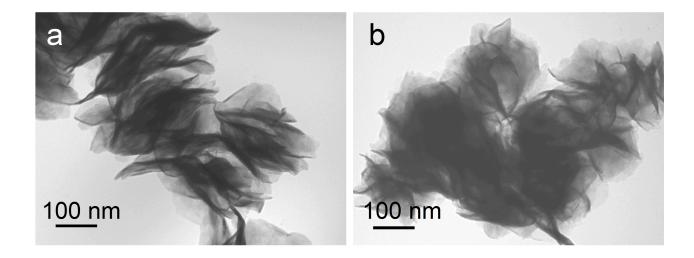


Figure S2. TEM image of  $MoS_2$  (a) and  $MoS_{2-x}$  (b).

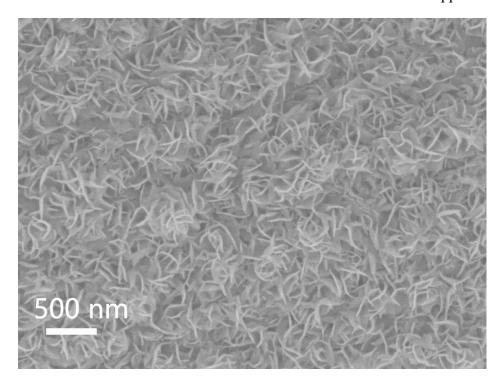
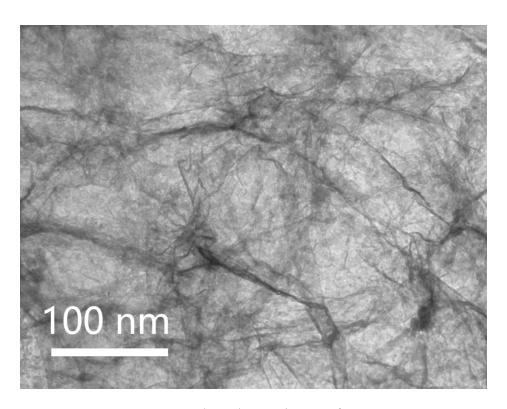
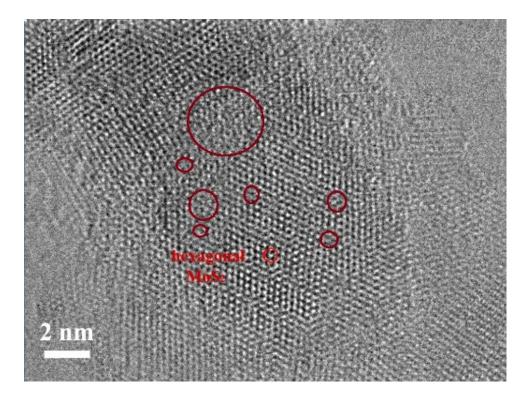


Figure S3. Enlarged SEM image of MoS<sub>2-x</sub>.



**Figure S4.** Enlarged TEM image of MoS<sub>2-x</sub>.



**Figure S5.** HRTEM image of hexagonal MoS<sub>2-x</sub> basal plane.

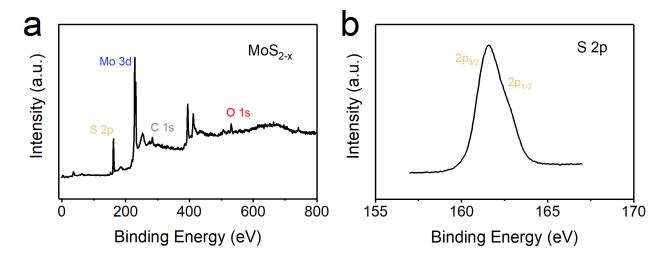


Figure S6. XPS survey scan (a) and S 2p spectra (b) of MoS2-x.

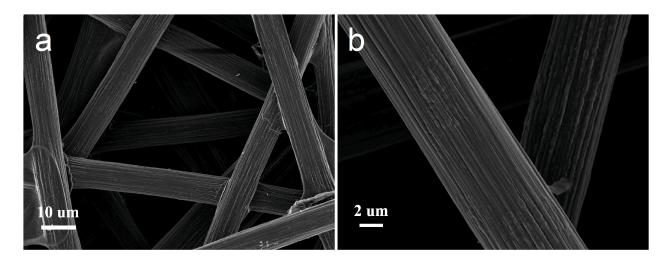
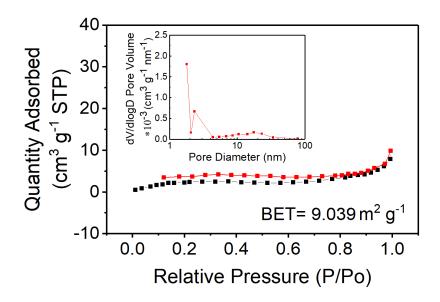
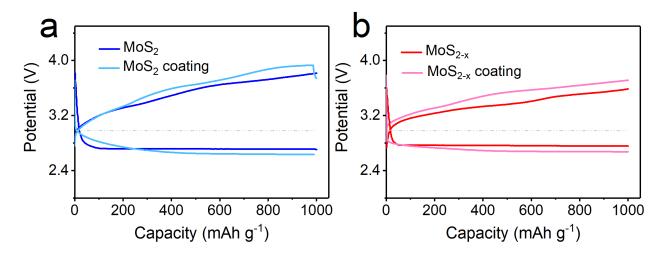


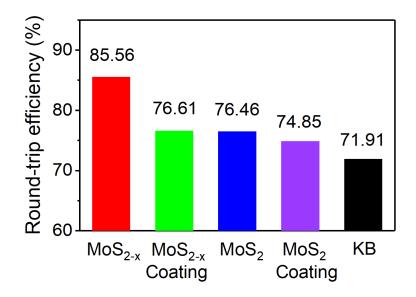
Figure S7. SEM image of carbon paper (a) and enlarged view (b).



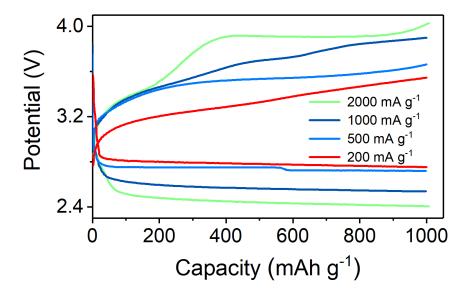
**Figure S8.** Nitrogen adsorption and desorption isotherms and pore-size distribution (insert) of carbon paper.



**Figure S9.** Galvanostatic discharge and charge profiles of MoS<sub>2</sub> and MoS<sub>2</sub> coating (a) and MoS<sub>2-x</sub> coating (b) at the current of 500 mA g<sup>-1</sup> with the capacity cutoff of 1000 mA h g<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S10.** Round-trip efficiency of MoS<sub>2-x</sub> (growing), MoS<sub>2-x</sub> (coating), MoS<sub>2</sub> (growing), MoS<sub>2</sub> (coating) and Kejen Black (coating) on carbon paper.



**Figure S11.** The rate performance of Li-O<sub>2</sub> battery with MoS<sub>2-x</sub> cathode under current density varying from 200 mA  $g^{-1}$  to 2000 mA  $g^{-1}$ .

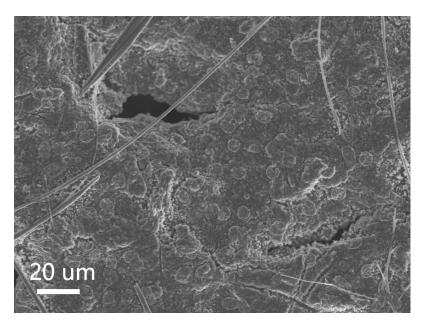


Figure S12. SEM image of MoS<sub>2</sub> cathode after discharge to 1000 mA h g<sup>-1</sup>.