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Enhanced Direct White Light Emission Efficiency in Quantum Dot Light-Emitting Diodes via Embedded Ferroelectric Islands Structure

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1 **Abstract**

2 White light emission is of great importance in our daily life as it is the primary source of light
3 indoor and outdoor as well as day and night. Among various materials and lighting technologies,
4 intensive efforts have been made to quantum dots based-light-emitting diode (QLEDs) because
5 of outstanding optical properties, facile synthesis, and bandgap tunability of QDs. Despite the
6 fact that QLEDs are able to present various colors in a visible range, realizing efficient direct
7 white light emission has been a challenge as white light emission can only be achievable
8 through stacking and patterning of QD films or mixing of different sizes of QDs. This
9 inevitably involves energy band mismatch at interfaces, leading to degradation of device
10 performance. Here, we introduce a new effective method to improve white QLED
11 performances through embedding a ferroelectric islands structure which induces an electric
12 field to effectively modulate the energy band at the junction interface. The formation of
13 favorable energy landscape leads to efficient charge transport, improved radiative
14 recombination, and consequently high EQE in the white QLEDs. In addition, we demonstrate
15 that our new approach is proved to be effective in different color temperature ranging from
16 3000 to over 120,000 Kelvin.

17 **Introduction**

18 In 2014, Nobel prize was given to researchers who invented gallium nitride (GaN)-based blue
19 light emitting diodes (LEDs). This opened up great advancement in white light emission, which
20 contributed to saving massive amount of energy as one fourth of electricity is being consumed
21 for the lighting purpose over the world.^[1] Ever since, tremendous research efforts have been
22 paid to improve the efficiency of white LEDs.^[2-9] However, white light emission was mostly
23 achieved by wavelength conversion because direct white light emission required the LEDs to
24 simultaneously emit different color spectra. Therefore, over the past decades, synthesis of the
25 active materials with the appropriate bandgaps was one of the major challenges to achieve
26 direct white light emission.

27 Colloidal quantum dots (QDs), in particular, cadmium selenide-zinc sulfide core shell
28 QDs (CdSe@ZnS), are considered to be the prospective active materials in lightings and
29 displays as they possess outstanding optical properties, such as color tunability, narrow
30 emission width, high photoluminescence quantum yield (PLQY), high stability, and solution-
31 processability for facile fabrication.^[10-13] The QDs can be driven electrically in QD-LEDs (in
32 short, QLEDs hereafter) and they have demonstrated high brightness, high external quantum
33 efficiency (EQE), device stability, and low power consumption.^[14-18] In particular, white
34 QLEDs have attracted considerable attention because the QDs are technologically favorable to
35 achieve direct white light emission by simply mixing red (R), green (G), and blue (B) color
36 QDs.^[19-22] More importantly, for future displays with high definition, industries have put
37 intensive efforts in integrating white light into a pixel together with RGB. The solution
38 processability of the mixed white QD provides cost-effective and facile fabrication process,
39 which is attractive and desirable to industrial applications. Nevertheless, the existence of
40 different sizes of QDs in a mixed RGB QD solution can limit the overall performance of white

41 QLEDs due to the difficulties in predicting the energy band alignments that govern charge
42 balance, radiative recombination, and driving current. This has limited to develop an effective
43 method to improve the performance of a white QLED. As a result, a new universal approach is
44 required to add a driving force to tailor the energy band alignment so that charge transport and
45 luminescence within the LEDs can be improved to achieve high performance in direct white
46 light emission and high resolution in future display technology.

47 Here, we introduce a ferroelectric islands layer using poly(vinylidene fluoride-
48 trifluoroethylene), P(VDF-TrFE), to effectively modulate energy band levels and induce an
49 additional electric field which facilitates charge carrier transport. This structural modification
50 provides direct white light emission via a much simpler way to fabricate white LEDs with
51 higher device performance. In addition, our new method is applicable to devices with different
52 color temperature for direct white light emission without a wavelength conversion. White
53 QLEDs with the P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer exhibit 37 and 48% improvement in EQE
54 compared to reference devices for warm white and daylight white color, respectively. In
55 addition, we demonstrate universality of our new method in various white color temperatures
56 ranging from 3,000 to 120,000 Kelvin (K), corresponding to from warm to cool white color.
57 The white QLEDs with different color temperatures all exhibit significant improvement in
58 device performances, which suggests that our new method is a facile and effective way to
59 enhance direct white light emission efficiency.

60

61 **Results and Discussion**

62 **Figure 1(a)** illustrates the structure of a ferroelectric effect QLED (FE-QLED), consisting of
63 indium tin oxide (ITO), poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) polystyrene sulfonate
64 (PEDOT:PSS), Poly(9,9-dioctylfluorene-alt-benzothiadiazole) (TFB), CdSe/ZnS QDs, zinc

65 oxide nanoparticles (ZnO NPs), and aluminum (Al) electrode where P(VDF-TrFE) is deposited
66 either between the TFB and QD layer or between the QD and ZnO NP layer. To fabricate a FE-
67 QLED, we used a spin-coating method to demonstrate the solution processability of the FE-
68 QLED (details of fabrication method are shown in Methods). As the transmission electron
69 microscopy (TEM) cross sectional image of the FE-QLED shows in Figure 1(b), the thickness
70 of each layer was approximately 45 nm for both PEDOT:PSS and TFB, 15 nm for CdSe/ZnS
71 QDs, and 30 nm for ZnO NPs. The TEM image in Figure 1(c) shows RGB mixed CdSe/ZnS
72 QDs in a ratio of 1:2:9 without any aggregation where the photoluminescence quantum yield
73 (PLQY) of red, green, and blue QDs was 84%, 81%, and 83%, respectively. Figure 1(d) shows
74 PL characteristics of the RGB mixed QD solution with 75% PLQY, exhibiting three distinct
75 wavelengths at ~625 nm, ~525 nm, and ~450 nm. A slight decrease in PLQY of the mixed QD
76 solution compared to the PLQY of each RGB QD solution is due to Förster resonance energy
77 transfer (FRET) from large bandgap QDs to small bandgap QDs, namely from blue to green
78 and red light emissive QDs.^[21-25] This phenomenon becomes more apparent by exhibiting the
79 decrease in the PLQY in the QD film where the distance between QDs is reduced as shown in
80 Figure S1 in Supporting Information (SI).^[26] The PL characteristics of QD films showed an
81 opposite trend compared to those of the QD solutions: the intensity of PL in the films is $I_{red} >$
82 $I_{green} \approx I_{blue}$ whereas the PL intensity in the solutions is $I_{blue} > I_{green} \approx I_{red}$. This resulted from the
83 increased FRET process in the film state due to reduced distance between QDs.^[23,27] As a result,
84 a much higher volume of blue QDs were required than that of green and red QDs in the mixed
85 QD solution for white light emission evidenced by the RGB mixing ratio 1:2:9, which is well
86 consistent with previous reports that employed larger fraction of the QDs with higher bandgap
87 than the QDs with lower bandgap.^[19,23,28]

88 For a ferroelectric layer, we employed ferroelectric polymer P(VDF-TrFE) due to the

89 fascinating material properties of P(VDF-TrFE), such as chemical inertness, low fabrication
90 temperatures, photostability, and its large electric polarization at even one nanometer
91 thickness.^[29,30] Ferroelectric P(VDF-TrFE) polymer was directly deposited on either the TFB
92 or QD layer. Well-distributed P(VDF-TrFE) islands were formed when it was spin-casted on
93 both films as shown in Figure 1(e) and Figure S2(a) and (b) in SI, which is due to the similar
94 surface energy of the TFB and QD layer as indicated by the contact angle (Figure S3 in SI).
95 The size and coverage of the P(VDF-TrFE) island structure on TFB and QD layer was
96 controlled by employing either spin-coating or spin-casting method as well as changing the
97 concentration of P(VDF-TrFE) solutions and the optimum condition was attained at the
98 concentration of 0.2 wt% with the spin-casting method as shown in Figure S4 in SI. The
99 average height of the P(VDF-TrFE) islands was approximately 7 nm as shown in Figure S2(c)
100 in SI. It is worth noting that P(VDF-TrFE) does not absorb light in the visible range due to its
101 high bandgap, ~ 6 eV, which holds the same for the ZnO layer (~ 3.4 eV).^[31,32] As shown in
102 Figure S5 in SI, the transmittance of the P(VDF-TrFE) and P(VDF-TrFE) on the ZnO layer in
103 the visible range was almost similar, which demonstrates that there was negligible light
104 reflection from the P(VDF-TrFE) islands structures. In order to confirm the ferroelectric
105 properties of the islands layer, X-ray diffraction (XRD) was performed and monitored its
106 distinctive peaks. As shown in Figure 1(f), the P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer deposited on the
107 ZnO/ITO layer exhibited the peak near $2\theta \sim 20^\circ$, indicating that the P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer
108 formed the β -phase, i.e., a ferroelectric phase.^[30] To further confirm that the island structures
109 are formed by the P(VDF-TrFE) solution, we further analyzed X-ray photoelectron spectra
110 (XPS). Figure S6(a) shows four prominent C states in C 1s deconvoluted spectra: ~ 284.50 eV
111 of organic contaminants, ~ 286.00 eV of saturated hydrocarbon CH_2 , ~ 288.40 eV of C–F–H,
112 and ~ 290.50 eV of CF_2 . In addition, F 1s spectrum with the peak position ~ 687.40 eV was

113 identified in Figure S6(b).^[33,34] These results indicate that the island structure is formed by
114 coating the P(VDF-TrFE) solution.

115 When negative and positive voltages are applied to the Al and ITO electrodes, respectively,
116 electric dipoles are aligned in a way that negative charges to the ITO side and positive charges
117 to the Al side in the β -phase P(VDF-TrFE) layer, which modulates local energy band levels
118 near the P(VDF-TrFE) layer. By judiciously using this phenomenon, we observed significant
119 enhancement in the QLED performances, which will be discussed shortly.

120

121 **Figure 2** illustrates the schematics of energy band diagram in three different types of QLEDs
122 used in this study. The energy level of each layer was referred to literature reported previously.
123 ^[20,21] We define each FE-QLED with respect to the location of P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer as
124 follows: (1) a reference device without the P(VDF-TrFE) layer (Figure 2(a) and (d)); (2) a T/Q
125 FE-QLED with the P(VDF-TrFE) layer between the TFB and QD layer (Figure 2(b) and (e));
126 and (3) a Q/Z FE-QLED with the P(VDF-TrFE) between the QD and ZnO layer (Figure 2(c)
127 and (f)), respectively. At low forward bias (Figure 2(a)-(c)), electric dipoles in the P(VDF-TrFE)
128 islands layer start aligning towards negative to ITO (anode) and positive to Al (cathode). Due
129 to the low forward bias condition, a dipole polarization field is relatively weaker than the
130 polarization field at high forward bias condition (Figure 2(e) and (f)). As a result, energy levels
131 near the P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer are slightly bent whereas the reference cell does not show
132 any band bending effect as shown in Figure 2(a)-(c).

133 When higher potential is applied to the QLEDs, there are two mechanisms causing energy
134 band shift: (1) shift of conduction and valence levels of the TFB and ZnO layers by the applied
135 bias; and (2) the energy band bending at the edge between the TFB and QD layer (Figure 2(e))
136 or between the QD and ZnO layer (Figure 2(f)) due to the ferroelectric field of the P(VDF-

137 TrFE) layer. As shown in Figure 2(f), the energy band bending in the Q/Z FE-QLED is
138 favorable for electron transport, and therefore, charge carrier transport is facilitated in this
139 device structure. However, the T/Q FE-QLED (Figure 2(e)) forms a higher barrier for holes at
140 the interface between the TFB and the QD layer, which limits the efficient transport of charge
141 carriers. Moreover, the energy band bending in the T/Q FE-QLED (Figure 2(e)) causes a
142 leakage current and consequently non-radiative recombination at the TFB and QD interface
143 due to the proximity of energy levels between the valence level of TFB and the conduction
144 level of the QDs, leading to the degraded device performance.

145

146 To confirm our conjecture, we characterized the performance of each device type. **Figure 3**
147 illustrates the device characteristics of warm and daylight white FE-QLEDs where the terms,
148 warm and daylight white, were used based on the color temperature of the device.^[35] As it was
149 predicted, the device performance was modulated depending on the existence of the P(VDF-
150 TrFE) islands layer and its inserted location in the device. All the devices were measured by
151 applying from low to high potentials to effectively investigate the dipole polarization effect in
152 the QLEDs.^[36-38] For both warm and daylight white Q/Z FE-QLEDs (Figure 2(c) and (f)),
153 higher luminance (approximately 20% and 30% improvement, respectively) and EQE
154 (approximately 37% and 48% improvement, respectively) were observed compared to the
155 reference cells as shown in Figure 3(a) and Table 1. It is worth noting that the turn-on voltage
156 (V_{on}) of the Q/Z device was 0.1 V higher than that of the T/Q one (Table 1). This is because of
157 a notch formed between the conduction band level of QD and ZnO layer at the low applied bias
158 condition (Figure 2(c)). The significant enhancement in the device performance is attributed to
159 the energy band level modification by the dipole polarization of the P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer,
160 constructing a favorable energy band structure for the efficient charge carrier transport as well

161 as increased radiative recombination. In addition, the FE-QLEDs exhibited high long-term
162 stability, maintaining 90 % of the L/L0 ratio with an initial luminance (L0) of ~ 1000 cd/m² for
163 more than 250 min as shown in Figure S7 in SI. QLEDs were encapsulated using an epoxy and
164 a glass coverslip. Measurement was conducted in ambient air condition at room temperature.
165 On the contrary, increased leakage current was observed in the T/Q FE-QLEDs as shown in
166 Figure S8 and S9 in SI, which is due to the lowered energy level difference between the valence
167 band level of TFB and conduction band level of QDs caused by the electric dipoles. This led
168 to the inefficient charge carrier transport and accordingly higher rates of non-radiative
169 recombination. As a result, both luminance and EQE of the devices were deteriorated. Details
170 of device performance are shown in Figure S8, S9, and Table 1. It is worth noting that there is
171 a trade-off between the induced ferroelectric field and more coverage of the P(VDF-TrFE)
172 layer on either TFB or QD layer due to the insulating nature of P(VDF-TrFE). Therefore, the
173 introduction of the P(VDF-TrFE) island structure is crucial to open an enough channel for
174 charges to be transported (Figure S4 in SI). In addition, the height of P(VDF-TrFE) was
175 carefully controlled for our study so that the P(VDF-TrFE) island structure did not penetrate
176 through the layer deposited on it.

177 Figure 3(b) and (e) show the distinct EL characteristics of the Q/Z devices for warm and
178 daylight white devices, respectively. Correlated color temperature (CCT) at maximum
179 luminance (at 8 V of applied bias) was found to be 3000K for the warm white and 6500K for
180 daylight white QLED. Interestingly, to tune the color temperature, far larger amount of blue
181 QDs were needed: for warm white, the ratio of RGB QDs was 1:3.5:3.5 whereas RGB ratio
182 was 1:2:9 for daylight white emission. This is due to the FRET from blue to green and red QDs,
183 which is well consistent with the PLQY measurement, i.e. when the mixed QDs formed a QD
184 layer, PLQY of blue QDs significantly decreased as FRET increased due to the reduced dot-to-

185 dot distance which was discussed in Figure 1.^[21-26,28] However, the severe imbalance of the
186 RGB ratio leads to degradation of white QLED performance because a turn-on voltage of a
187 QLED would increase due to the high ratio of blue QDs with the larger bandgap as evidenced
188 by the turn-on voltage of warm and daylight white QLEDs in Table 1. Therefore, smaller
189 amount of blue QDs is desirable with the same CCT value. In this regard, for daylight white
190 emission, we employed QDs with a deep blue color, or shorter wavelength, to avoid
191 performance degradation. Commission internationale de l'éclairage (CIE) chromaticity is
192 shown in Figure 3(c) and (f) where CIE coordinate for warm and daylight white was found to
193 be (0.4473, 0.4165) and (0.3151, 0.3039) at maximum luminance, respectively. Gradual color
194 modulation from red to white color in CIE chromaticity was observed as the applied potential
195 increased.

196
197 To demonstrate the universality of our new approaches for enhanced white light emission,
198 white QLEDs with various CCT values with and without the ferroelectric islands layer were
199 fabricated. The details of RGB mixing ratio are shown in Table S1 in SI. **Figure 4(a)** illustrates
200 EQE improvement of various FE-QLEDs where higher CCT values indicate that the light
201 emission includes higher portion of blue light. Luminance-EQE plots and EL characteristics
202 are shown in S10-S12 in SI and device parameters are summarized in Table S2 in SI. It was
203 found that the improvement in EQE was more prominent in devices with higher CCT values.
204 We ascribed this to larger amount of surface traps in blue QDs due to the high surface area to
205 volume ratio than those of red and green QDs.^[39,40] Because larger amount of blue QDs was
206 required to have higher CCT values as shown in Table S1, the RGB mixed QD solution with
207 more blue QDs have more surface traps that lead to non-radiative recombination, deteriorating
208 intensity of light emission, power efficiency, and EQE.^[41-44] This phenomenon was also

209 observed in PLQY measurement of the mixed QD solutions with higher volume ratio of blue
210 QDs. As shown in Figure S13, addition of blue QDs to the mixed solution exhibited relatively
211 small increase in PL at blue wavelength whereas decrease in PL at green and red were
212 noticeable, which led to decrease in PLQY from 26.35% to 24.14%. Therefore, the EQE
213 improvement was more prominent in devices with higher CCT values by the employment of
214 P(VDF-TrFE) layer which facilitated charge carrier transport and consequently reducing non-
215 radiative recombination at the surface traps in small size blue QDs. Corresponding CIE
216 coordinates were marked in the Figure 4(b), demonstrating the universality of the ferroelectric
217 effect-enhanced QLEDs performance for direct white light emission with various color
218 temperatures. Finally, performances of white QLEDs in this work were compared with other
219 works reported in recent 10 years as shown in Table S3 in Si.

220

221 In summary, we have demonstrated an enhanced direct white light emission by judiciously
222 employing a ferroelectric polymer P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer. Electric dipoles in the
223 embedded P(VDF-TrFE) layer were polarized by the application of bias, which resulted in
224 energy band bending at the local area. Favorable energy band bending, formed by the P(VDF-
225 TrFE) layer between QD and ZnO layer, facilitated charge carrier transport and consequently
226 enhanced device performance with high luminance. Our new strategy further demonstrated its
227 versatile ability to improve performances of white QLEDs with different CCT values, ranging
228 from warm to cool temperature. The facile but effective and versatile new approach would
229 bring great opportunities in advancing direct white light emission which is necessary for
230 pursuing our daily lives.

231 **Methods**

232 *Material preparation:* Pixelated ITO substrates, PEDOT:PSS solution and TFB powder were
233 purchased from Ossila. CdSe@ZnS QDs were synthesized following previous works with
234 some modifications.^[45,46] ZnO nanoparticles (NPs) were synthesized using previously reported
235 recipe by our group.^[47,48] Pixelated ITO substrates were cleaned using acetone, 1-propanol, and
236 warm deionized water for 10 minutes, respectively. Cleaned ITO substrates were dried by
237 blowing nitrogen, and then, UV-Ozone treatment was carried out on the substrates for 5
238 minutes. A concentration of a TFB, P(VDF-TrFE), CdSe/ZnS QDs, and ZnO NPs solution was
239 8 mgml⁻¹, 0.2 wt%, 12.5 mgml⁻¹, and 25 mgml⁻¹, respectively.

240 *Device fabrication:* PEDOT:PSS was spin-coated at the speed of 3000 rpm for 45 seconds and
241 then baked at 150 °C in ambient air for 20 minutes. After the annealing, the PEDOT:PSS coated
242 substrates were transferred to a nitrogen-filled glove box, and then annealed again at 150 °C
243 for 15 minutes. TFB (8 mgml⁻¹) in chlorobenzene was spin-coated on the PEDOT:PSS layer at
244 the speed of 4000 rpm for 45 seconds, which was followed by thermal annealing at 130 °C for
245 30 minutes. CdSe@ZnS QDs (12.5 mgml⁻¹) in hexane were spin-casted on the TFB layer at a
246 speed of 4000 rpm for 30 seconds, and then thermally annealed at 90 °C for 10 minutes. ZnO
247 NPs (25 mgml⁻¹) in ethanol were spin-coated on the QD layer at the speed of 3000 rpm for 30
248 seconds, which was followed by thermal annealing at 80 °C for 10 minutes. P(VDF-TrFE) (0.2
249 wt%) in 2-bunatone was spin-casted on either TFB layer or QD layer at 4000 rpm for 30
250 seconds. Then, thermal annealing was performed to form β -phase at 130 °C for 20 minutes.
251 Finally, Al electrode (100 nm) was deposited using a thermal evaporator. The active area of a
252 QLED was 0.045 cm².

253 *Device characterization:* All QLEDs were passivated in the glove box after deposition of the
254 Al electrode, and then, measurements were performed using HAMAMATSU PMA-12

255 connected with Keithley 2400 source meter. The cross-sectional TEM images of the QLEDs
256 were characterized by a high-resolution (HR)-STEM (FEI Tecnai F20 FEGTEM), and the
257 samples were sliced using a focused ion beam (FIB) system (Dual-Beam FIB, FEI Helios
258 Nanolab SEM/FIB).

259

260 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

261 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal
262 relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

263

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269

270 **Author Contributions**

271 Y.C. and S.P. fabricated devices and performed materials as well as device characterizations.
272 B.H. synthesized materials. B.L. performed contact angle measurement. The manuscript was
273 written by Y.C., S.P., and S.C. and revised by all authors.

274

275 **Appendix A. Supporting information**

276 Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version.

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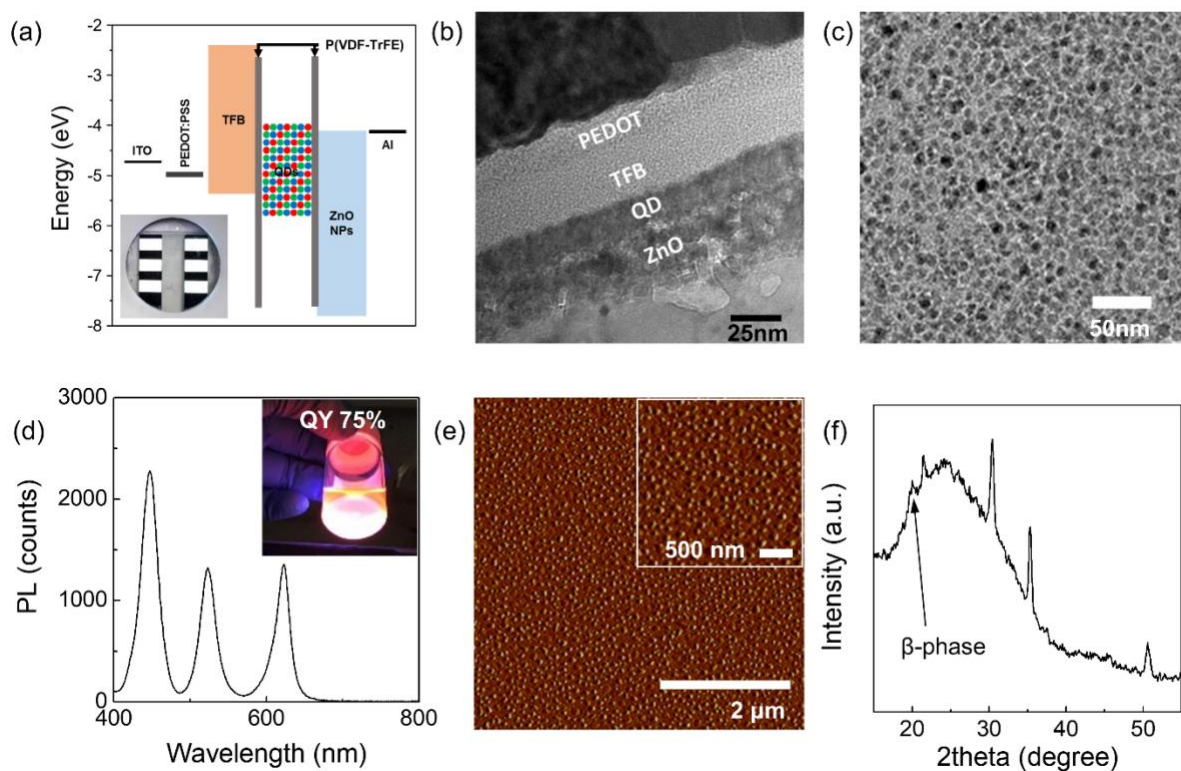
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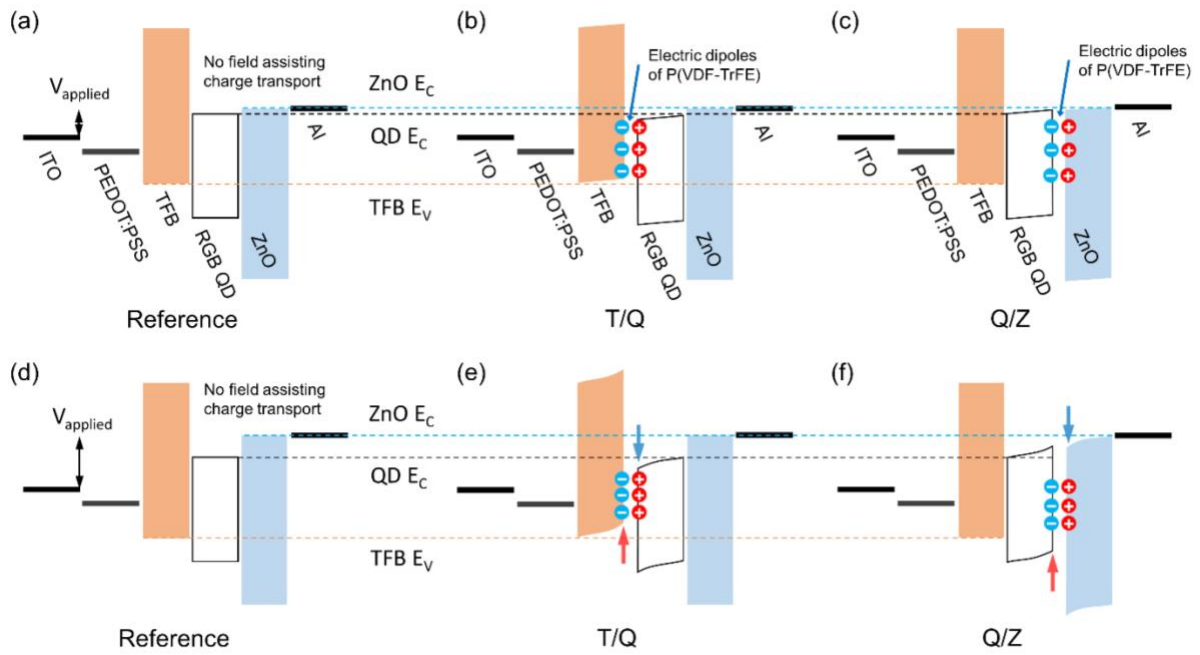
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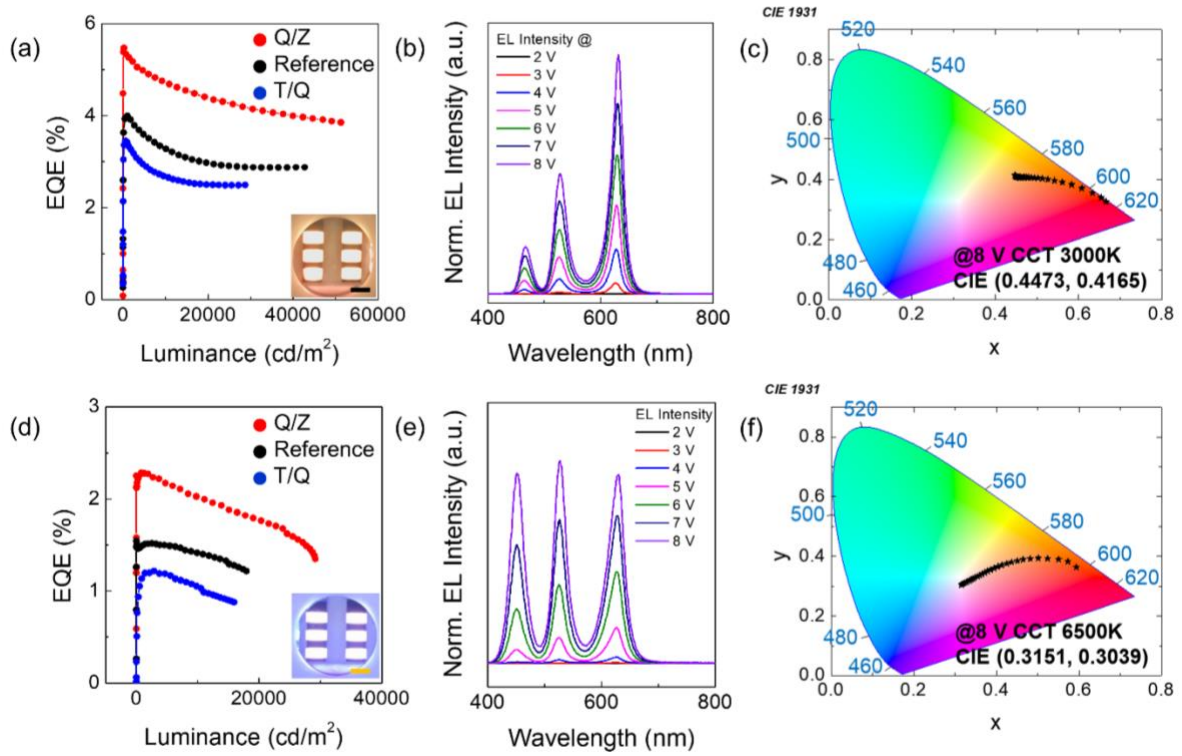
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362 **Figure 1.** (a) Energy band diagram of the white FE-QLED without an applied bias. (b) TEM
 363 cross section image of the white FE-QLED. (c) TEM image of RGB mixed QDs. (d) PLQY of
 364 the RGB mixed QD solution where the inset shows the light emission of the mixed QDs under
 365 the UV light. (e) AFM image of the P(VDF-TrFE) islands layer on the QD film. (f) XRD
 366 patterns of FE-QLED.



367

368 **Figure 2.** Energy band diagram of QLEDs for (a) a reference cell, (b) a T/Q cell, and (c) a Q/Z
 369 cell at low forward bias. (d)-(f) Energy band shift of QLEDs at high forward bias where (d),
 370 (e), and (f) corresponds to the devices shown in (a), (b), and (c), respectively. Negative and
 371 positive dipoles of P(VDF-TrFE) are depicted as blue and red circles in the figures.



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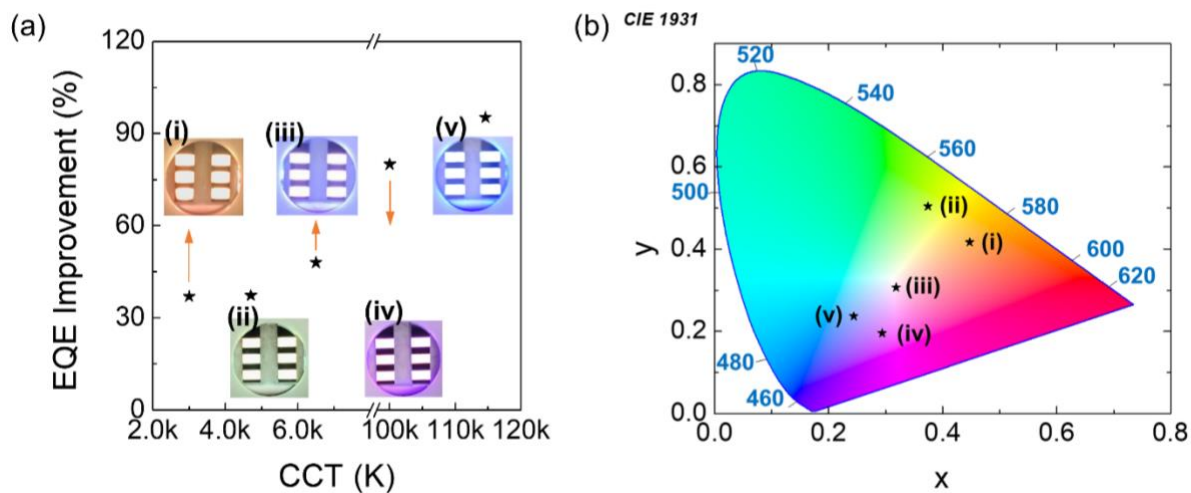
373 **Figure 3.** (a)-(c) Performance of warm white FE-QLED. (a) EQE as a function of Luminance,

374 (b) EL spectra of FE-QLED and (c) CIE coordinate and CCT value of FE-QLED of the red line

375 in Figure 3(a). (d)-(e) Performance of daylight white FE-QLED. (d) EQE as a function of

376 Luminance, (e) EL spectra of FE-QLED and (f) CIE coordinate and CCT value of FE-QLED

377 of the red line in Figure 3(d). The scale bar in (a) and (d) is 3 mm.



378

379 **Figure 4.** (a) CIE coordinates with respect to the FE-QLEDs with CCT values and
 380 corresponding digital images. (b) EQE improvement in FE-QLEDs with different CCT values
 381 using the P(VDF-TrFE) islands structure.

382 **Table 1.** Device characteristics of warm and daylight white QLEDs.
 383

		Turn-on	Max. Luminance	Max. EQE	CCT	CIE coordinate	Avg. EQE [#]
		[V]	[cdm ⁻²]	[%]	[K]	[x, y]	[%]
Warm white	T/Q*	2.0	28680	3.454	~2000	0.5263, 0.4071	3.28 ± 0.21
	Ref	2.0	42670	3.998	~2000	0.5242, 0.4092	3.91 ± 0.26
	Q/Z**	2.1	51220	5.476	~3000	0.4473, 0.4165	5.10 ± 0.35
Daylight white	T/Q*	2.6	15900	1.218	~25000	0.2404, 0.2630	1.07 ± 0.10
	Ref	2.6	17338	1.542	~19000	0.2490, 0.2686	1.41 ± 0.15
	Q/Z**	2.7	22710	2.284	~6500	0.3151, 0.3039	2.16 ± 0.12

384 *T/Q – ITO/ PEDOT:PSS/ TFB/ P(VDF-TrFE)/ QD/ Al

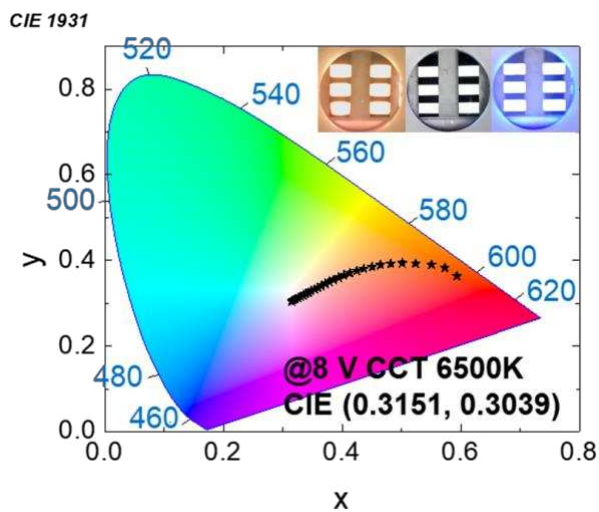
385 **Q/Z – ITO/ PEDOT:PSS/ TFB/ QD/ P(VDF-TrFE)/ Al

386 #Average EQE from 10 QLEDs of each type of the devices

387

388

389 **Table of Contents**



390

391

392 **Short summary**

393 Efficient direct white light emission has been a challenge due to inevitable energy band
394 mismatch at interfaces between quantum dots with different bandgaps. The embedded
395 ferroelectric island structure effectively modulates the energy band at the junction interface,
396 and this leads to improved direct white light emission efficiency with various color
397 temperatures.

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406 *Supporting Information*

407

408 **Enhanced Direct White Light Emission Efficiency in Quantum Dot**
409 **Light-Emitting Diodes via Embedded Ferroelectric Islands**
410 **Structure**

411

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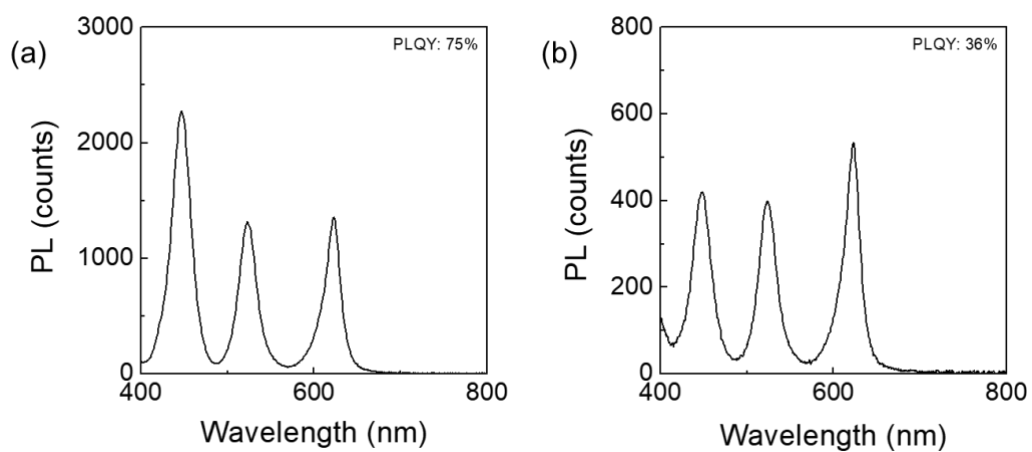
428 Bo Hou

429 School of Physics and Astronomy, Cardiff University, 5 The Parade, Newport Road, Cardiff,
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431

432 **Keywords:** Quantum dots, White light, Light-emitting diodes, Ferroelectricity, P(VDF-TrFE)

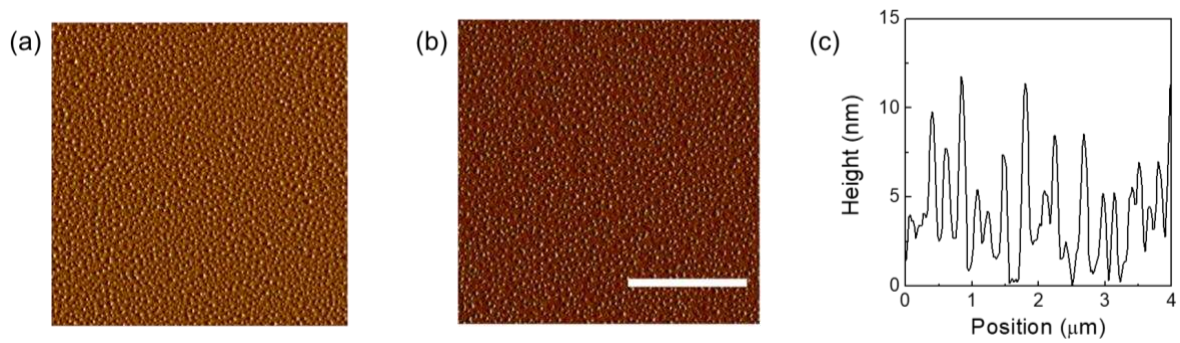
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435 **Figure S1.** PLQY of (a) a QD solution and (b) a QD film.

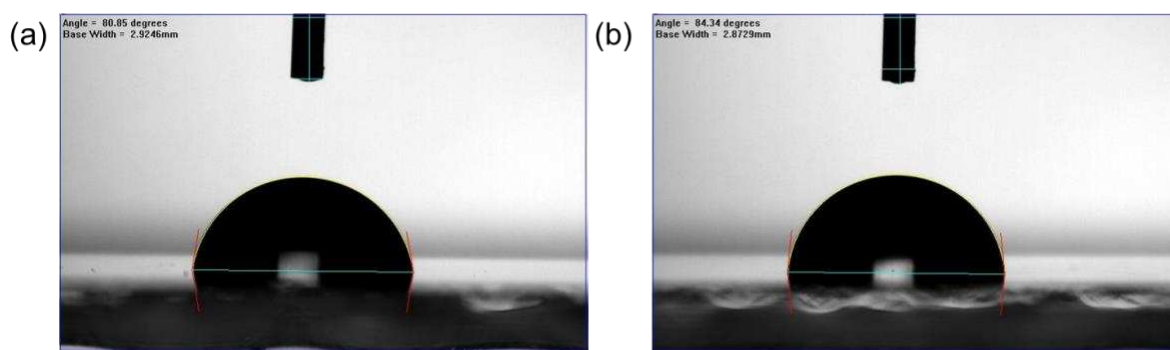
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437

438 **Figure S2.** P(VDF-TrFE) on (a) a TFB layer and (b) a QD layer. (c) Morphology of a P(VDF-
439 TrFE) islands structure.

440

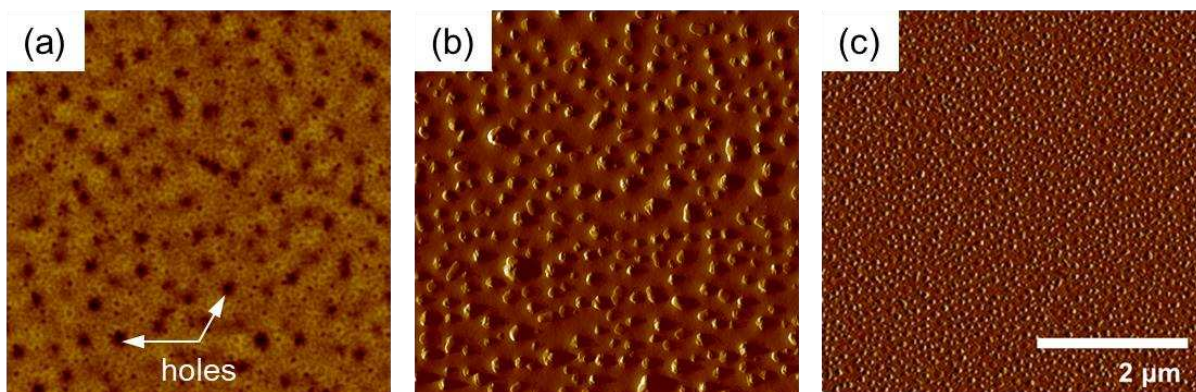


441

442 **Figure S3.** Contact angle on (a) TFB (80.85°) and (b) QD (84.34°).

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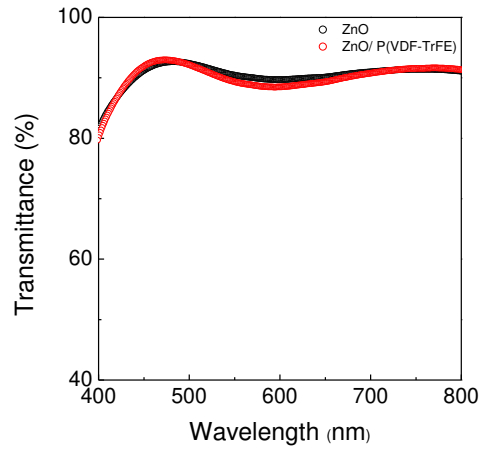
445

446 **Figure S4.** AFM images of a P(VDF-TrFE) layer prepared by (a) spin-coating 1 wt%, (b) spin-
447 casting 1 wt%, and (c) spin-casting 0.2 wt% P(VDF-TrFE) solution. (a)-(c) are in the same
448 scale with the scale bar of 2 μm .

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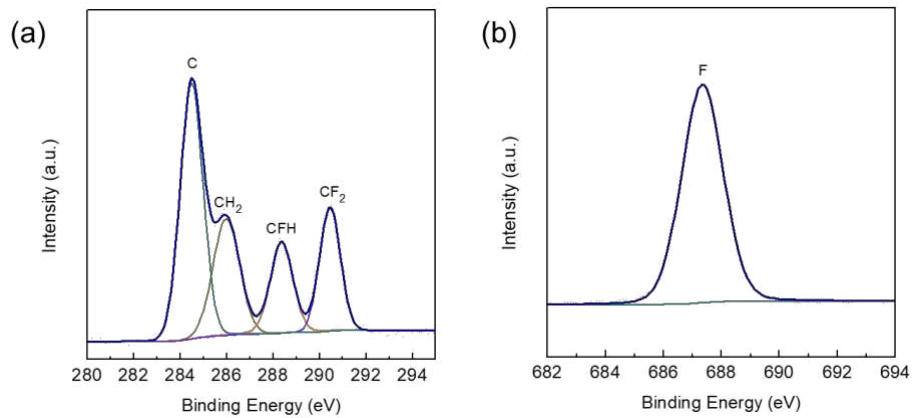
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452

453 **Figure S5.** Transmittance (%) of the ZnO nanoparticle film and the P(VDF-TrFE) island layer
454 on the ZnO nanoparticle film.

455

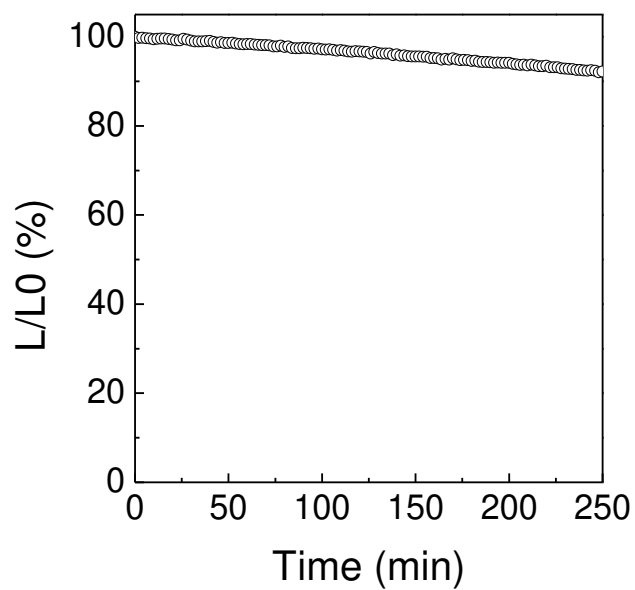


456

457 **Figure S6.** Core-level X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) of each composition in P(VDF-TrFE)
458 island layer (a) C 1s and (b) F 1s.

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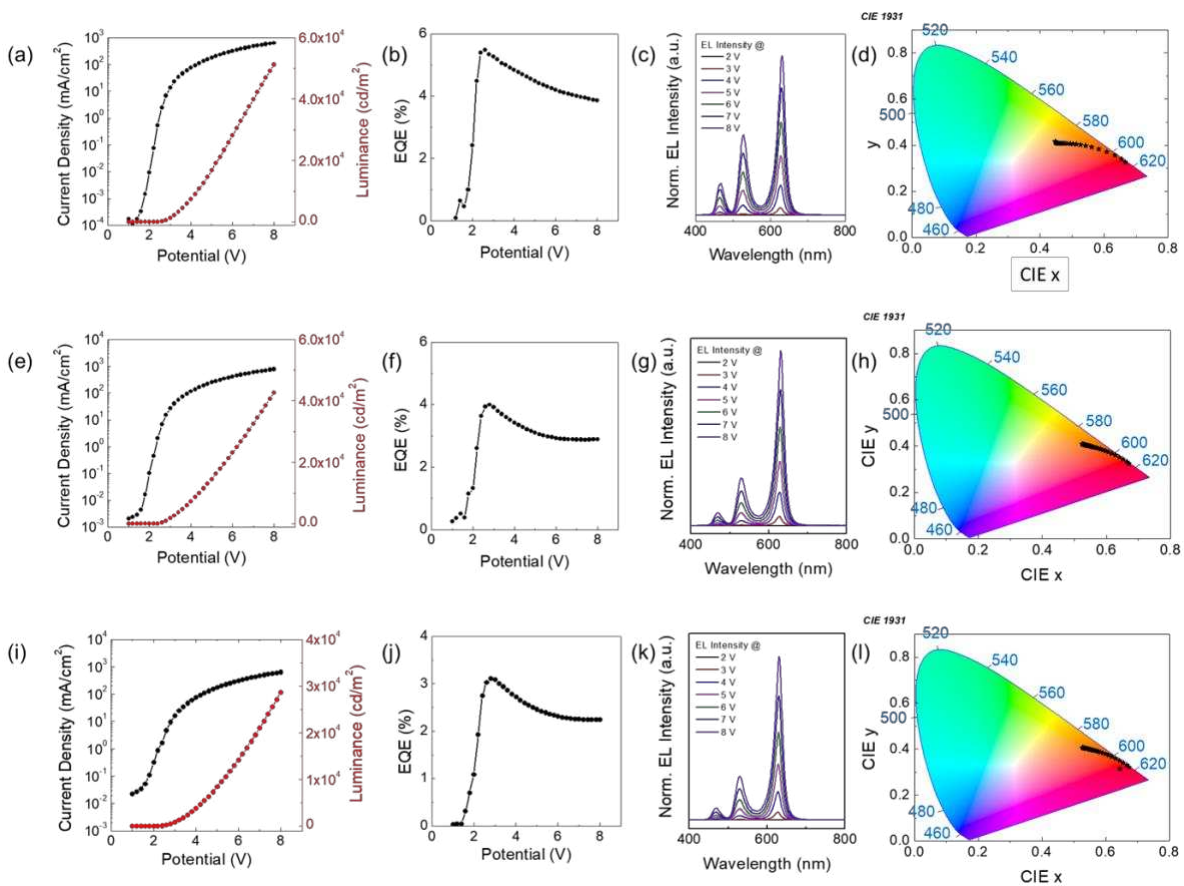
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462 **Figure S7.** Long-term stability measurement of FE-QLED under continuous DC bias.

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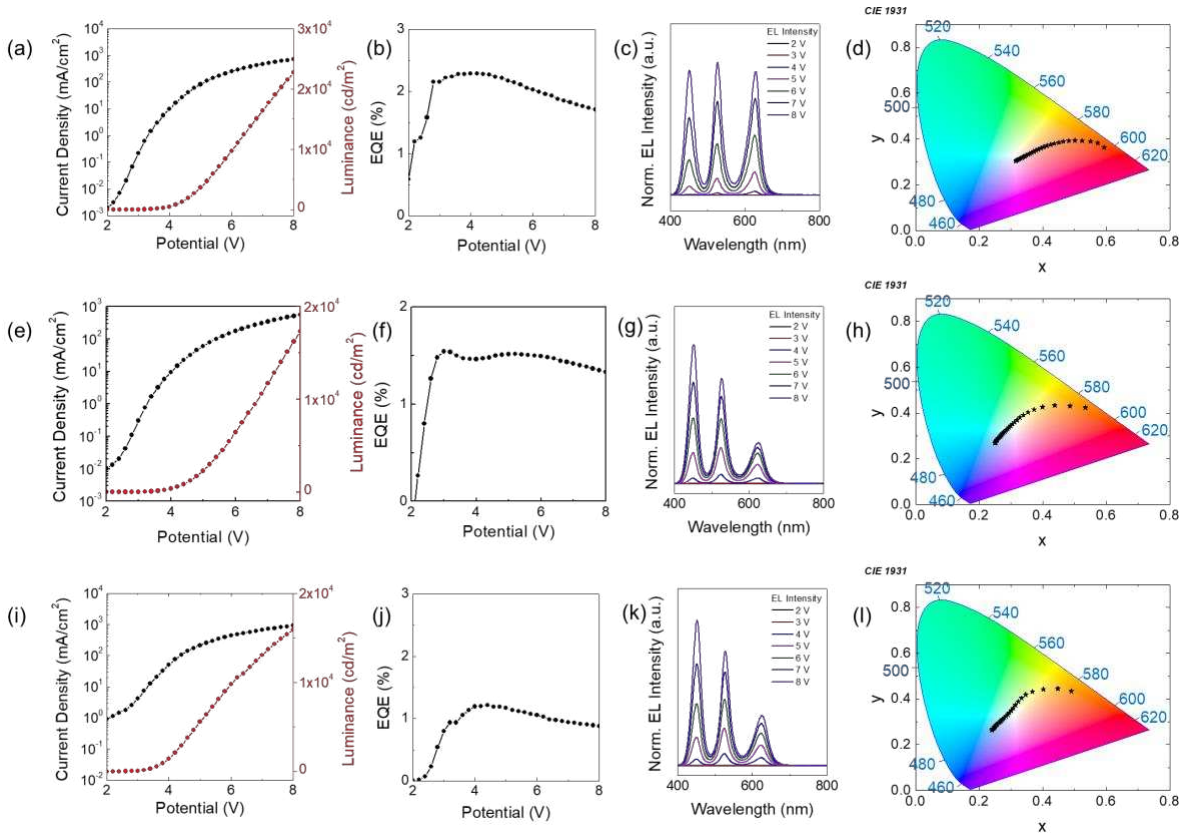


464

465 **Figure S8.** Characteristic behaviors of warm white QLEDs. (a)-(d) Q/Z FE-QLEDs, (e)-(h)

466 references, and (i)-(l) T/Q FE-QLEDs.

467



468

469 **Figure S9.** Characteristic behaviors of daylight white QLEDs. (a)-(d) Q/Z FE-QLEDs, (e)-(h)

470 references, (i)-(l) T/Q FE-QLEDs.

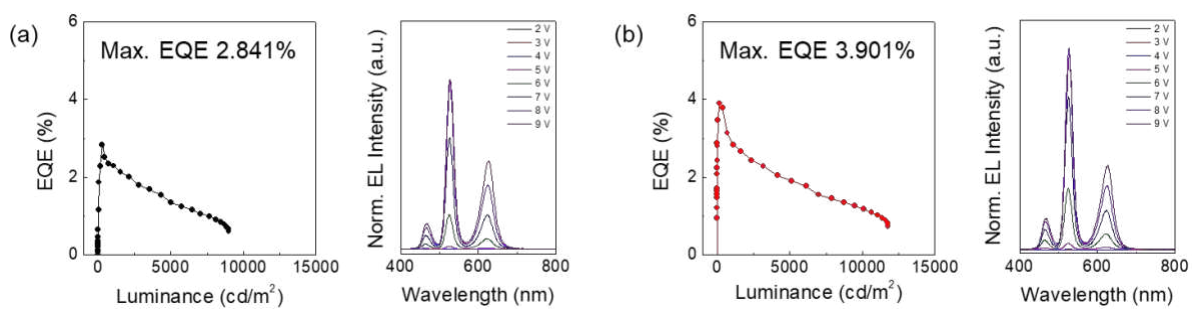
471

472 **Table S1.** CCT values and CIE coordinates with respect to the RGB QDs mixing ratio.

RGB Volume Ratio	CCT [K]	CIE (X, Y)
1:3.5:3.5	3000	0.4473 0.4165
1:2:4	4700	0.3743, 0.5042
1:2:9	6500	0.3183 0.3065
1:1:10	100,000	0.2938 0.1951
1:1.5:15	114,600	0.2440 0.2367

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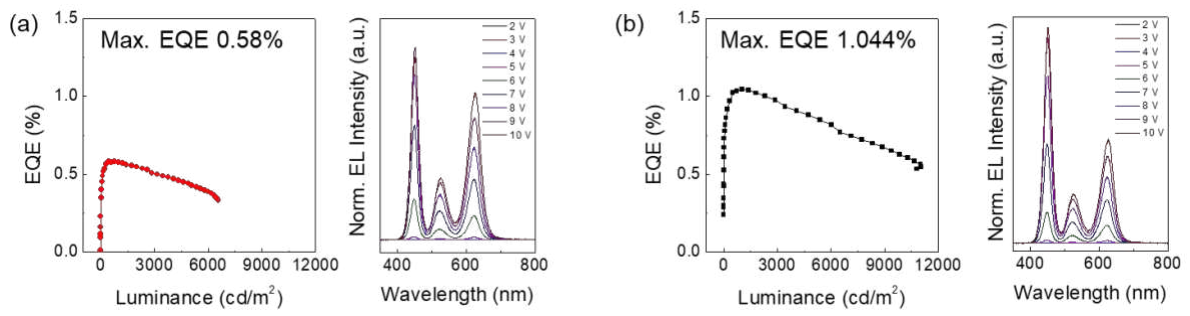


475

476 **Figure S10.** QLEDs with 4700 K of the CCT value (a) without P(VDF-TrFE) island layer and

477 (b) with P(VDF-TrFE) island layer between the QDs and ZnO layer.

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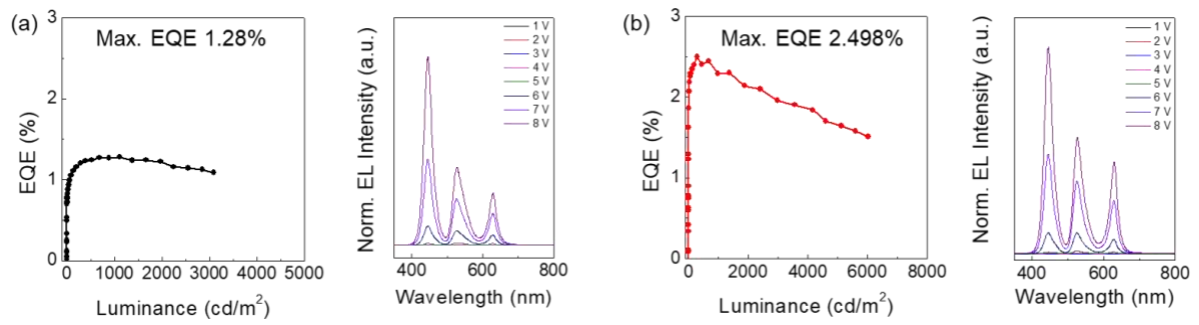


479

480 **Figure S11.** QLEDs with 100,000 K of the CCT value (a) without P(VDF-TrFE) island layer

481 and (b) with P(VDF-TrFE) island layer between the QDs and ZnO layer.

482



483

484 **Figure S12.** QLEDs with 114,600 K of the CCT value (a) without P(VDF-TrFE) island layer

485 and (b) with P(VDF-TrFE) island layer between the QDs and ZnO layer.

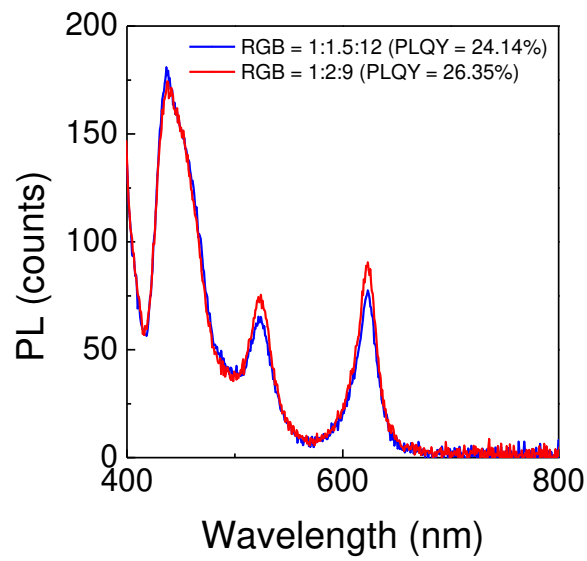
486

487 **Table S2.** The summary of device parameters of white QLEDs with various CCT values.

CCT [K]		Turn-on [V]	Max. Luminance [cdm ⁻²]	Avg. Luminance [cdm ⁻²]	Max. EQE [%]	Avg. EQE [%]	CIE coordinate [x, y]
3000	Ref	2.0	42670	39278 ± 2193	3.998	3.91 ± 0.26	0.5242, 0.4092
	Q/Z	2.1	51220	49023 ± 3753	5.476	5.10 ± 0.35	0.4473, 0.4165
4700	Ref	3.6	8995	8306 ± 792	2.831	2.96 ± 0.15	0.3743, 0.5042
	Q/Z	3.8	11750	10885 ± 1208	3.901	4.17 ± 0.28	0.3509, 0.5136
6500	Ref	2.6	17338	17477 ± 1426	1.542	1.41 ± 0.15	0.2490, 0.2686
	Q/Z	2.7	22710	22638 ± 1929	2.284	2.16 ± 0.12	0.3151, 0.3039
100,000	Ref	3.4	6656	6117 ± 420	0.580	0.50 ± 0.12	0.2938, 0.1951
	Q/Z	3.4	11040	10045 ± 1313	1.044	0.93 ± 0.18	0.3006, 0.2054
114,600	Ref	3.4	3094	2332 ± 360	1.280	1.13 ± 0.12	0.2387, 0.2387
	Q/Z	3.4	6016	5539 ± 423	2.498	2.26 ± 0.17	0.2440, 0.2367

488

489



490

491 **Figure S13.** PLQY measurement with the structure of Glass/ PEDOT:PSS/ TFB/ QDs/ ZnO
492 results of the different ratio of RGB in the mixed QD solutions: one with R:G:B = 1:2:9 and
493 the other with higher blue QD ratio, R:G:B = 1:1.5:12.

494

495 **Table S3.** Comparison of Cd-based white QLEDs performances.

Ref	Material	Type	V _{on} [V]	Max L. [cd/m ²]	EQE [%]	CIE	Year
[1]	CdSe/ZnS	BY mixed	5.3	6390	1.0	0.28, 0.33	2014
		RGB mixed	4.3	1440	1.3	0.39, 0.40	
		BCYR mixed	6.1	5340	0.9	0.29, 0.29	
[2]	CdSe/ZnS	RGB mixed	5	23352	10.9	0.20, 0.17	2015
[3]	CdZnSeS/ZnS	RGB mixed	3.1	60810	6.39	0.33, 0.32	2018
		Three-unit tandem	9.0	65690	23.9	0.33, 0.34	
[4]	CdSe/ZnS	RGB mixed	8.5	2953	5.0	0.28, 0.31	2018
[5]	CdSe/ZnS	RGB mixed	4.0	58361	10.6	0.38, 0.35	2020
		Light outcoupling	3.2	74363	28.4	0.33, 0.34	
This work	CdSe/ZnS	RGB mixed, ferroelectric coupling	2.1	51220	5.48	0.44, 0.42	2021
			2.7	22710	2.23	0.31, 0.30	

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