

Supporting Information

Enhanced separation of tetrafluoropropanol from water via carbon nanotubes membranes: insights from molecular dynamics simulations

Qing Li^{1, #}, Xiaomeng Wang^{1, #}, Ying Liu¹, Zhun Ma (✉)¹, Qun Wang¹, Dongmei Xu (✉)¹, Jun Gao¹, Ruirui Wu², Hui Sun³, Xueli Gao (✉)⁴

1 College of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Shandong University of Science and Technology, Qingdao 266590, China

2 SEPCOIII Electric Power Construction Co., Ltd., Qingdao 266100, China

3 State Key Laboratory of High-Efficiency Utilization of Coal and Green Chemical Engineering, Ningxia University, Yinchuan 750021, China

4 Key Laboratory of Marine Chemistry Theory and Technology (Ministry of Education), Ocean University of China, Qingdao 266100, China

✉Corresponding authors

E-mails: skdmaz919@sdust.edu.cn (Z. Ma); xudongmei.cn@163.com (D. Xu); gxl_ouc@126.com (X. Gao)

#These authors contributed equally to this work.

Table S1 The Lennard-Jones parameters and charges of CNTs and function groups.

| Interaction | | σ (Å) | ϵ (Kcal/mol) | Charge |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------|
| CNT | C-C | 1.9924 | 0.0700 | 0.000 |
| Function group-F | F-F | 1.6300 | 0.1050 | -0.250 |
| H ₂ O | O-O | 1.7682 | 0.1521 | -0.834 |
| H ₂ O | H-H | 0.2245 | 0.0460 | 0.417 |
| TFP | C ₁ -C ₁ | 2.0500 | 0.0420 | 0.447 |
| TFP | C ₂ -C ₂ | 2.3000 | 0.0200 | 0.500 |
| TFP | C ₃ -C ₃ | 2.0100 | 0.0560 | 0.027 |
| TFP | F-F | 1.6300 | 0.1050 | -0.250 |
| TFP | O _F -O _F | 1.7650 | 0.1921 | -0.557 |
| TFP | H _{F1} -H _{F1} | 1.3000 | 0.0300 | 0.053 |
| TFP | H _{F2} -H _{F2} | 1.3400 | 0.0350 | 0.053 |
| TFP | H _{F3} -H _{F3} | 1.3400 | 0.0350 | 0.053 |
| TFP | H _{OH} -H _{OH} | 0.2245 | 0.0460 | 0.424 |

* The atoms of TFP are shown below.

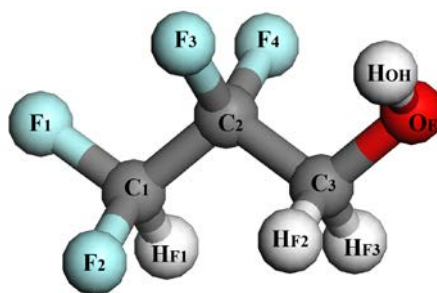


Table S2 The TFP and water flux of CNT membrane with different temperature under 4 atm pressure. All flux calculations are 10ns.

| Temperature(K) | Normalized flux(molecule/CNTs·10ns) | | | α_{TFP} | Mass fraction of TFP (%) |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | TFP | water | total | | |
| 283.15 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 2.63 | 86.52 |
| 303.15 | 24 | 13 | 37 | 5.54 | 92.96 |
| 323.15 | 29 | 15 | 44 | 5.80 | 93.41 |
| 343.15 | 32 | 11 | 43 | 8.73 | 95.52 |

Table S3 The diffusion coefficient of TFP and water in CNT membrane with different temperature.

| Temperature(K) | Diffusion coefficient ($10^{-5}\text{\AA}^2/\text{ns}$) | |
|----------------|---|-------|
| | TFP | water |
| 283.15 | 17.17 | 1.980 |
| 303.15 | 33.84 | 5.512 |
| 323.15 | 47.01 | 8.222 |
| 343.15 | 59.00 | 9.009 |

Table S4 The TFP and water flux of CNT membrane with different pore sizes under 4 atm pressure. All flux calculations are 10ns.

| diameter | Normalized flux(molecule/CNTs·10ns) | | | α_{TFP} | Mass fraction of TFP (%) |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | TFP | water | total | | |
| (5,5) | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| (6,6) | 0 | 327 | 327 | 0 | 0 |
| (7,7) | 16 | 3 | 19 | 16 | 97.51 |
| (8,8) | 32 | 11 | 43 | 8.73 | 95.52 |
| (9,9) | 27 | 38 | 65 | 2.133 | 83.90 |
| (10,10) | 36 | 44 | 80 | 2.453 | 85.72 |
| (11,11) | 39 | 37 | 76 | 3.163 | 88.55 |
| (12,12) | 44 | 41 | 85 | 3.22 | 88.73 |
| (13,13) | 44 | 60 | 104 | 2.2 | 84.33 |
| (14,14) | 47 | 54 | 101 | 2.61 | 86.46 |

Table S5 Diameter of CNTs.

| Size | Diameter of CNT (\AA) | |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------|
| | C-C | internal |
| (5,5) | 6.78 | 3.28 |
| (6,6) | 8.14 | 4.64 |
| (7,7) | 9.49 | 5.99 |
| (8,8) | 10.85 | 7.35 |
| (9,9) | 12.2 | 8.7 |
| (10,10) | 13.56 | 10.06 |
| (11,11) | 14.92 | 11.42 |
| (12,12) | 16.27 | 12.77 |
| (13,13) | 17.63 | 14.13 |
| (14,14) | 18.98 | 15.48 |

Table S6 The TFP and water flux of entrance modified CNT membrane with different pore sizes under 4 atm pressure.

All flux calculations are 10ns.

| diameter | Normalized flux(molecule/CNTs \cdot 10ns) | | | α_{water} | Mass fraction of water (%) |
|----------|---|-------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | TFP | water | total | | |
| (7,7) | 0 | 41 | 41 | $+\infty$ | 100 |
| (8,8) | 2 | 110 | 112 | 18.333 | 88.231 |
| (9,9) | 1 | 208 | 209 | 69.333 | 96.593 |
| (10,10) | 3 | 382 | 385 | 42.444 | 94.552 |
| (11,11) | 5 | 431 | 436 | 28.733 | 92.156 |
| (12,12) | 9 | 681 | 690 | 25.222 | 91.161 |
| (13,13) | 19 | 604 | 623 | 10.596 | 81.249 |
| (14,14) | 38 | 661 | 699 | 5.798 | 70.335 |

Table S7 The TFP and water flux of interior and/or entrance modified CNT membrane with different pore sizes under 4 atm pressure. All flux calculations are 10ns. (9,9)-m represents interior modified of (9,9) CNTs and (9,9)-e-m represents interior and entrance modified of (9,9) CNTs.

| diameter | Normalized flux(molecule/CNTs·10ns) | | | α_{water} | Mass fraction of water (%) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | TFP | water | total | | |
| (9,9)-m | 0 | 135 | 135 | $+\infty$ | 100 |
| (10,10)-m | 1 | 167 | 168 | 18.333 | 88.231 |
| (10,10)-e-m | 0 | 239 | 239 | 69.333 | 96.593 |
| (11,11)-e-m | 0 | 356 | 356 | 42.444 | 94.552 |
| (12,12)-e-m | 2 | 230 | 232 | 28.733 | 92.156 |
| (13,13)-e-m | 2 | 125 | 127 | 25.222 | 91.161 |
| (14,14)-e-m | 18 | 108 | 623 | 10.596 | 81.249 |

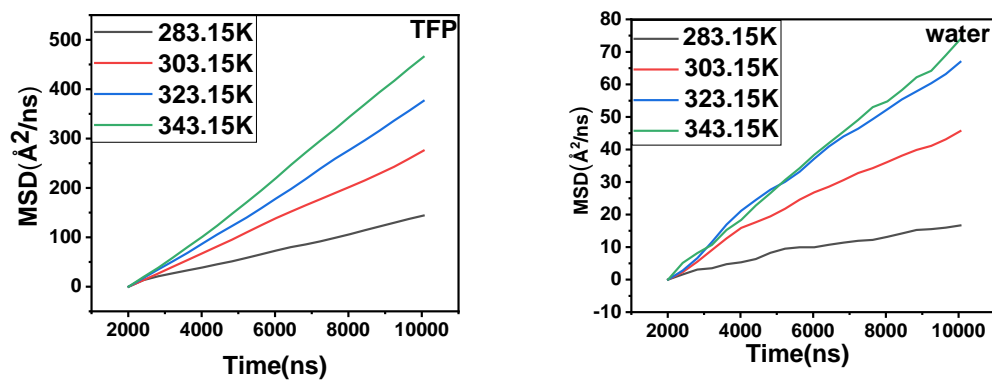


Fig.S1 The MSD of TFP and water in CNT membrane with different temperature.

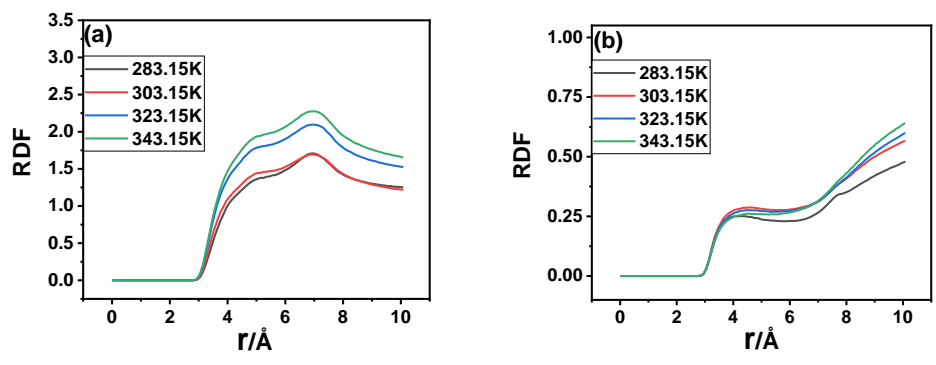


Fig.S2 The RDF profiles of oxygen atom of CNTs(C) and TFP(OT) (a), water (OW) (b).

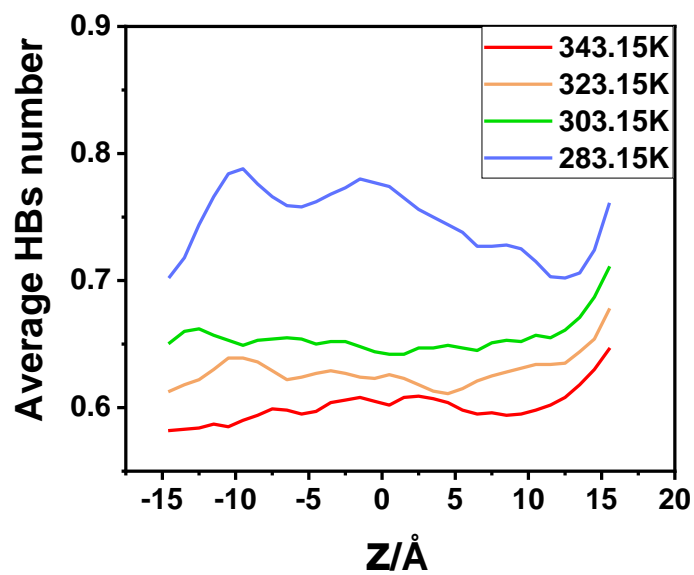


Fig.S3 HBs in CNTs with different temperatures.

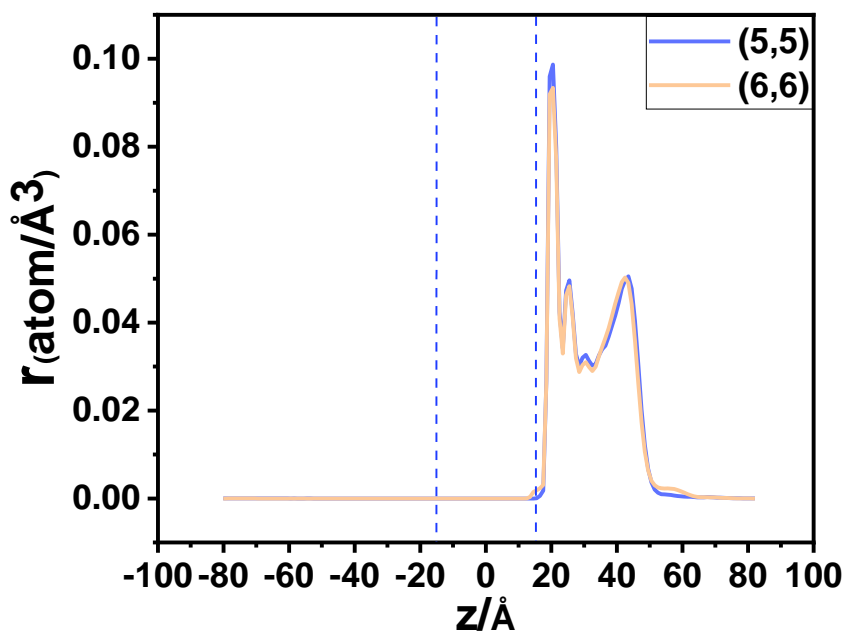


Fig.S4 The z-axis density distribution of TFP in the CNTs membrane, where the CNTs lies from $z=-1.4$ to $z=1.4$ nm.

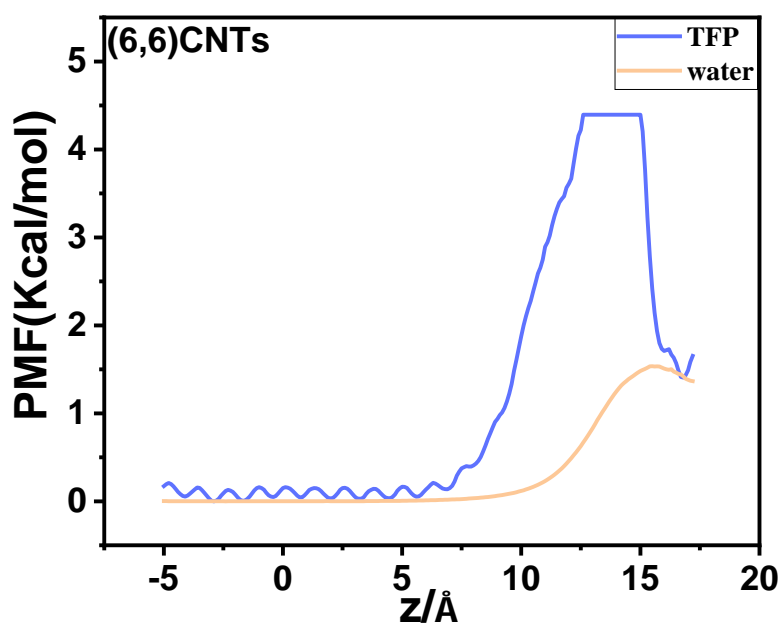


Fig.S5 PMF (potential of mean force) for TFP and water molecules across the (6,6) CNTs membrane (from bulk to the center of CNTs, CNTs locate at $z=-14$ Å to 14 Å).

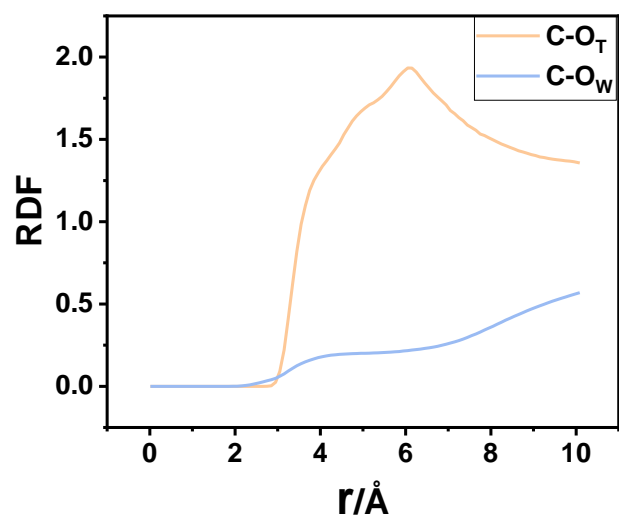


Fig.S6 The RDF profiles of oxygen atom of TFP(O_T), water (O_w) and CNTs(C).

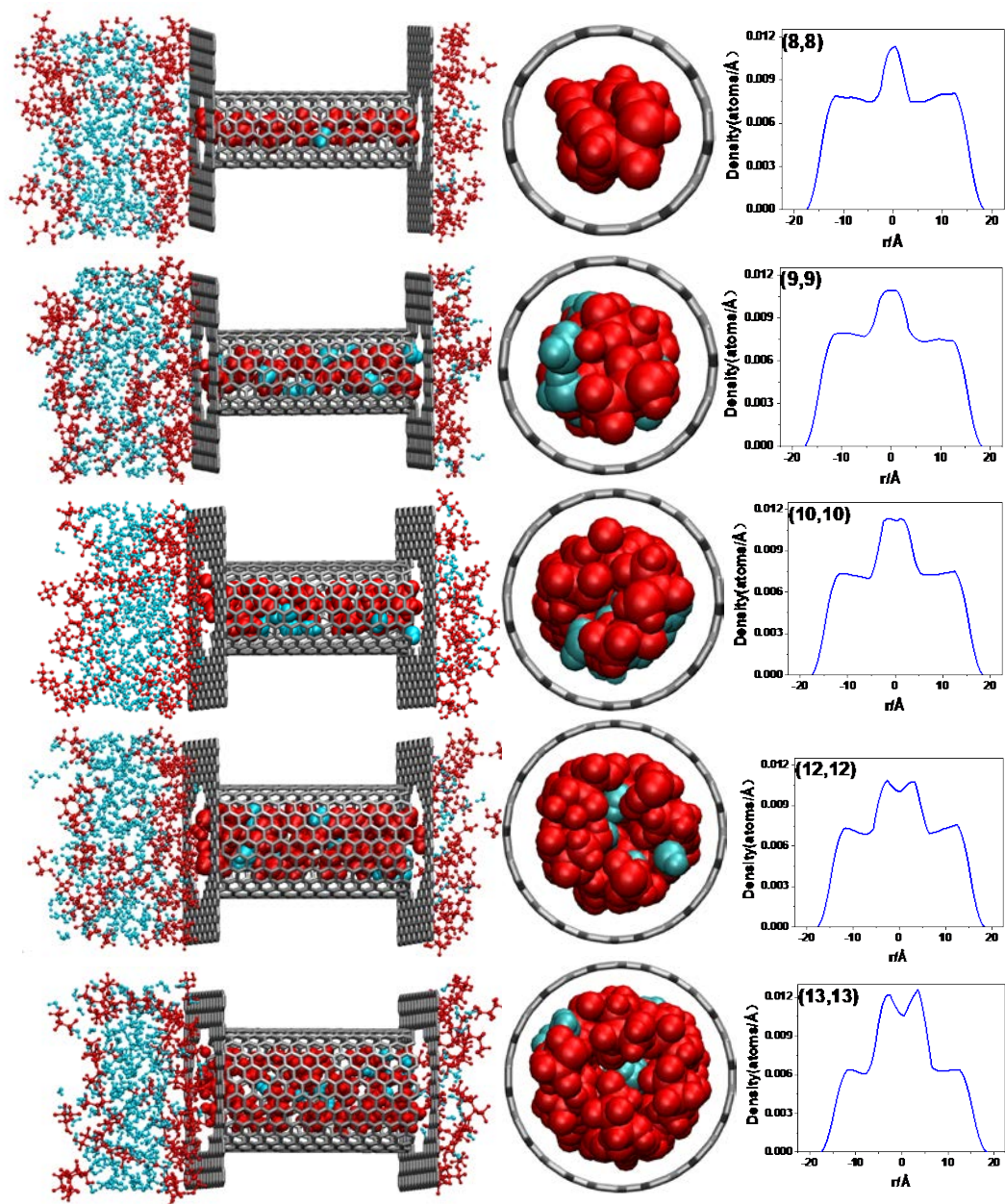


Fig.S7 TFP/water structures inside (8,8), (9,9), (10,10), (12,12) and (13,13) CNTs (red: TFP molecules; blue: water molecules) (a); Density distribution profiles of TFP molecules in the CNTs, and $y=0$ corresponds to the middle position of CNTs(b).

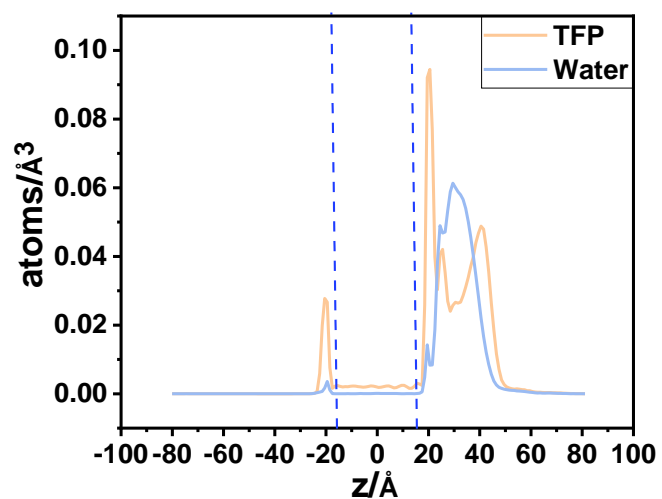


Fig.S8 The z-axis density distribution of TFP and water in CNTs membranes, where the CNTs lies from $z=-14$ to $z=14$ Å (dotted line areas).

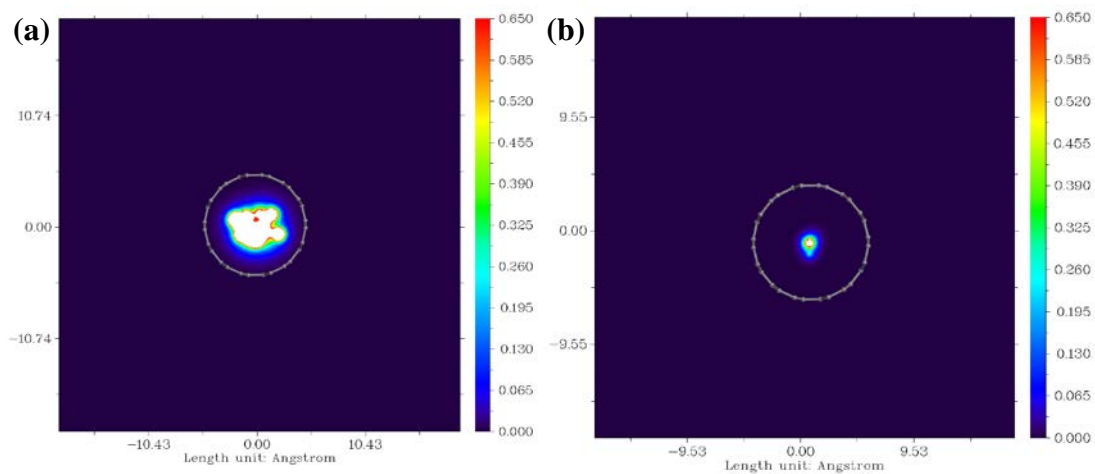


Fig.S9 The x-y plane average density distribution of TFP(a) and water(b) molecules inside CNTs pores.

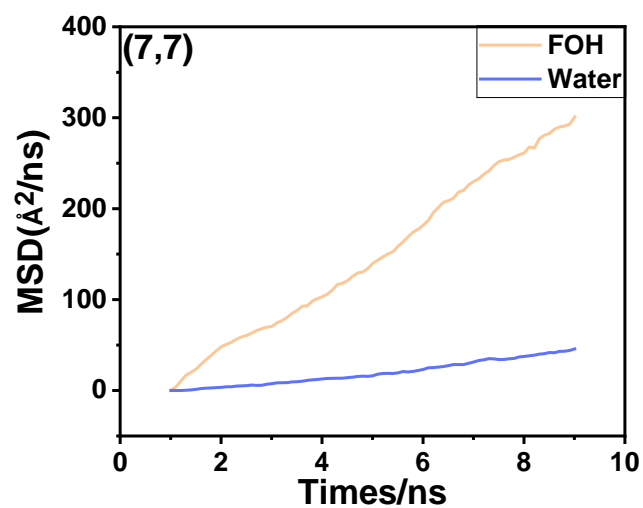


Fig.S10 MSD of TFP and water molecules in (7,7) CNTs.

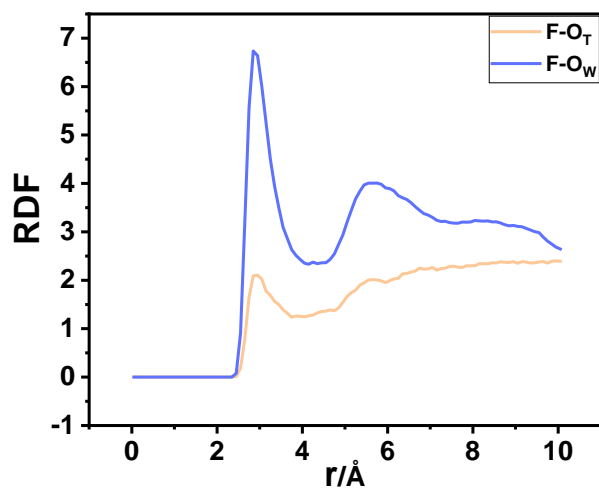


Fig.S11 The RDF profiles of oxygen atom of TFP(O_T), water (O_w) and functional groups(F).

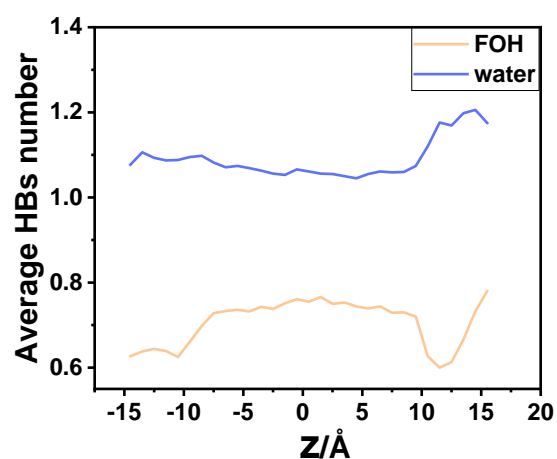


Fig.S12 HBs of TFP and water molecules in fluorine modification CNTs (including the intermolecular hydrogen bonds of water or TFP molecules), where the CNTs lies from $z=-14$ to $z=14\text{\AA}$.

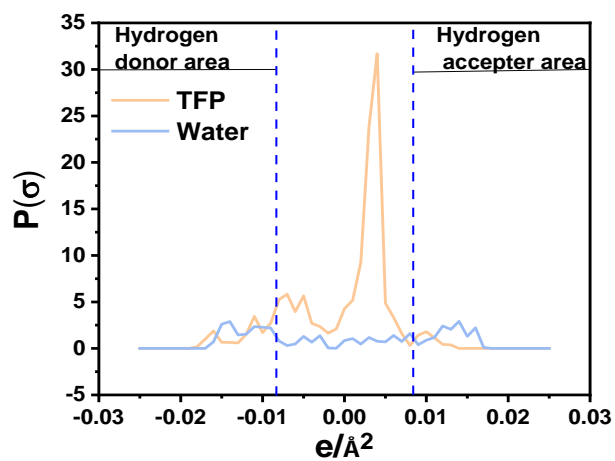


Fig.S13 σ -profile comparison of TFP and water.

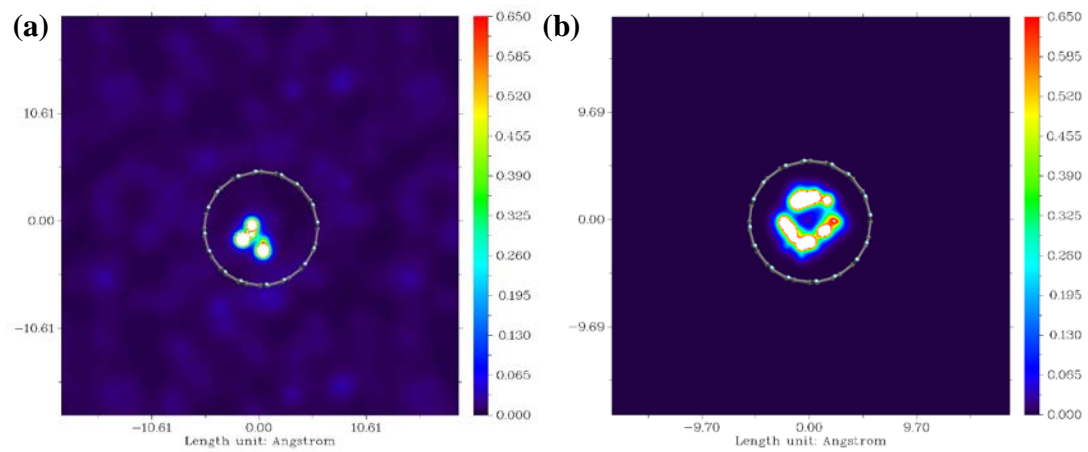


Fig.S14 The x-y plane average density distribution of TFP(a) and water(b) molecules inside fluorine modified CNTs pores.