

The United States raised concerns about Japan's trade deficit

During the first round of negotiations between the United States and Japan on the new bilateral trade agreement, the United States expressed concern about the "huge" trade deficit between the United States and Japan.

Japan's Minister of Economic Regeneration, Mitsuki Maki, said that after the two-day talks between the United States and Japan, no consensus had been reached on a single issue. But the two countries said the trade issues they discussed focused on commodities, including agricultural products.

Maki Minchong and U.S. Trade Representative Letter Hitzer agreed that digital trade would also be discussed "in due course".

"The two officials reiterated their common goal of achieving substantial results in trade," the U.S. Trade Representative Office (USTR) said in a statement after the talks ended Tuesday.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has stressed that the new framework will be the Trade Agreement on Goods (TAG), rather than the broader free trade agreement covering investment and services that Japan has been opposed to.

"We have not yet reached consensus on individual issues," Maki told reporters after the talks. "Japan hopes to launch mutually beneficial and win-win trade negotiations."

Maki Minchong said the two countries have not yet reached an agreement on the car issue and did not comment on the details. Japanese officials have said that Japan would not accept the US request to impose restrictions on Japanese automobile exports.